



15 April 2005

## **NEW HOME OF WARRINGTON SAMURAI JUDO CLUB OFFICIALLY OPENED**

British Judo is delighted to announce that the New Warrington Samurai Judo Club will be officially opened by Lord Hoyle at 2pm on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April.

The new club on Wellfield Street, Warrington, will offer some of the best facilities for judo in the North of England, with two permanent contest areas on a sprung floor. The new facility marks the end of uncertainty for the club, who were forced from their previous site shortly after its official opening in 1999.

From 1988 until 1997, the club was based in an old ex-works canteen on land owned by the Manchester Ship Canal Company (MSCC). In March 1997, work commenced on a permanent brick building on the same land. This work was almost entirely carried out by club members, a great achievement by any standards, and was opened by Lord Hoyle on 18<sup>th</sup> of December 1999.

However after only one month Peel Holdings, the new owners of the MSCC, gave notice of their intention to develop the land for housing. A long period of intense negotiations, a protest, petition and the involvement of the then Sports Minister Kate Hoey followed.

A demolition of the premises would have resulted in the closure of the club and the loss of the facility to the children of the community. Because of this, negotiations resulted in a loan of nearly £225,000 to the club from Peel Holdings, from which the new club dojo on Wellfield Street was financed.

The club are now calling for both old and new members to come along and enjoy the club and benefits of judo.

Glenis Bamber, Secretary of Warrington Samurai Judo Club said: " We are delighted with our new facility and hope that new members, previously experienced judokas, and visiting judo players from the North West will come along and enjoy it with us".

"Judo is an ideal sport for everyone of any age, both boys and girls, men and women, of varying sizes and abilities, and we hope that this new facility will encourage a few more people to come along and give it a try.

"The club members would like to thank Lord Hoyle, Kate Hoey, John Lawrinson and all who have helped in the re-location to the new premises".

### **Contacts:**

**Glenis Bamber** (Warrington Samurai Judo Club

**0151 259 3020**





t: 01509 631 692  
f: 01509 631 690  
e: emmareed@britishjudo.o

**Emma Reed** (British Judo Public Relations Officer)

**01509 631 692/07702 882951**

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Photo opportunities will be available at the Official Opening (including a plaque unveiling by Lord Hoyle and a judo demonstration by junior members of the club). Please inform Glenis Bamber of your intention to attend.

The club trains on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings and welcomes ages from seven to seventy, from beginners to experts. For more information, call Glenis Bamber on 0151 259 3020.

Coaches include British champion and Olympic squad member John Lawrinson (Warrington Samurai Judo Club Senior Coach). John, a 7th Dan, has over 44 years judo experience, much at international level. John has an excellent track record of passing his knowledge on to players, some who have subsequently gone on to the Olympics and international judo

The club operates on a non-profit making principle with its team of coaches offering their services for free.

The club now needs to extend its membership to cover its vastly increased costs in repaying the loan from Peel Holding.