



*December 2015*

## 2015

We see 2015 rapidly coming to a close with yet another good year for the club. The membership fluctuated during the first 4 months of 2015 but like many clubs was just a blip and soon returned to full strength of 157. The biggest increase again after suffering a fall was the adult class again numbers are on the up with now a good number of ladies showing the men how it's done. Next year's promise is to attend as many competitions as we are allowed to go to as my feeling some of the students are missing out on competitive work.

On my part due to injury of my knee and other commitments I have solely relied on our group of very good instructors and volunteer helpers to look after the club and its members. I thank them most sincerely and although I said I would take a step back I am not sure I can continue and hope very soon to take at least in part the Art that has been my life for 35 years.

A special thanks goes to Sam Harrington and Michael Kelly for their dedication every Saturday morning arriving at 8:45 to help me put out the mats ready for the 9:30 senior session. I will be looking for others to volunteer next year to take some of the load off of Sam and Michael.

Students remember every instructor is on the mat as a volunteer even paying for the privilege of helping you to learn the art of Judo. You must show them 100% respect and we will be tightening up on the noisy behaviour of some as it takes away valuable time teaching having to stop the mat.

## Gradings

We have had 2 good gradings this year and again I thank those that came along and helped on the day. Remember to put your grading results in the back of your Blackwater Judo packs as they will be required for next year.

## Christmas Party

Yet another good Christmas Party held Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December well turned out by parents and students. A big thanks to everyone who helped with the event as yet again without volunteers you as students wouldn't have had such a good time. Yet again Brendan Harrington supplied the now famous Chilli which didn't last long. The highlight of the evening was the Raffle raising £157. The last ticket winner Holly Hann was given the honour of the charity she would donate the money to, Teenage Leukaemia.

Then the surprise, one of our newest members Annie Cousins works for a Travel Agents and has worked hard to donate the best prize ever which because of the potential money we could raise for charity we decided on an Auction to run until 31<sup>st</sup> January. The prize is a 7-day all-inclusive accommodation ***ONLY*** (you pay for your flights/transfers) for 2-people unless you want to pay for an upgrade for others, to either St. Lucia or Antigua in the Caribbean. There are a few date restrictions. To everyone's amazement as soon as I announced what was to be auctioned bids flooded in and within 10-minutes the promise was £2,500.00. If anyone would like to bid submit the bid to Jane or myself either personally or email. Whatever we achieve Annie will be given the absolute pleasure in presenting the prize and deciding on a charity to do with children or the 3-services. A massive thank you to Annie. Updates will be added to our Facebook and Website over the coming weeks.

Also announced the £1,000.00 raised at our competition would go to Essex Air Ambulance.

## Key Christmas dates for your diaries

***Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December*** – catch up grading. No further catch up will be held. This catch up could go past the normal junior end time

***Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December*** – Judo games and sweets on the mats. Instructors will sort out the games.

***Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December*** – Judo Games and sweets on the mat followed by the annual awards, please be there.

***NO FURTHER JUDO WILL TAKE PLACE UNTIL THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016***

Finally remember our Facebook page and web site contains many interesting things and events. If you are not a Facebook member please ask your parents if you can join the **Official Blackwater Judo site** or look at **[www.blackwaterjudoclub.co.uk](http://www.blackwaterjudoclub.co.uk)**

So all is left for me to do is wish you all a very Merry Christmas and looking forward to a better 2016.