



Welcome...

To the first edition of the Cambridge University Judo Club Newsletter – keeping alumni up to date on all things CUJC. So read on for news of Varsity, individual success and foreign excursions.

2012 Varsity Match

Cambridge Women went into the match defending their trophy for the first time in nine years, while the Men's A, Men's B and City Teams were all looking to avenge narrow losses at last year's event.

The two City Teams opened the day's proceedings. After a close match Cambridge took the shield 3-5, showcasing the high standard of the club's non-student contingent.

Following the City Team's victory, the club's Men's B Teams also had a very close match. With six fights over the scores were tied at 3-3, and one fight had to be refought. Cambridge won the refight to take the shield 3-4. The B-team is mostly made of students who took up the sport as beginners at Cambridge, and this result demonstrates that our yearly beginners' programme is in healthy shape.

Next up were Cambridge Women's Team, defending the trophy that they had won brilliantly the previous year. Unfortunately, they were severely weakened this year having lost a few key members, and they found themselves up against a vastly more experienced Oxford team. Despite fighting bravely, they were beaten by the Oxford outfit 4-0 with one fight drawn. A mention goes to Rachel Moore, who managed to achieve the draw in an exhausting contest against an exceptional Oxford player.

The final match of the day was between the clubs' Men's A Teams, featuring eight fights. This was another tough year for Cambridge, as they once again found themselves at a weight disadvantage to their opposition. Team captain Tobias Schmidutz and next year's captain Jesse Olszynko-Gryn both registered wins. But despite some other good performances, Cambridge succumbed to a 6-2 loss. It should be noted that this has been something of a transitional year for the Cambridge Men, and despite the scoreline there is good reason to be optimistic for the future.

“All four Cambridge teams fought incredibly well. They should be proud of the dedication that they have shown to training and of their accomplishments on the day.”- R. Blackburn, President



2012 Varsity Team

Marburg Judo Exchange – April 2012

In April, twelve Cambridge judoka spent a week in Marburg, Germany, for the 35th anniversary of the Marburg-Helsinki-Cambridge judo exchange. The trip struck an excellent, if exhausting, balance between training, socialising and experiencing local culture. Training sessions were led by a mix of German, British and Finnish coaches, allowing each judoka the chance to see new methods on the mat. With exchange participants covering the full range of judo abilities, from novice to ex-world champion, the coaches ensured that there was something for everyone. Participants' ages ranged from around twenty all the way to around fifty. For the energetic folk, local culture offered amongst other things an aerial assault course and a karaoke night. More sedate activities came in the form of overnight camping, currywurst eating, and sauna visits. In the evenings, pub crawls and late-night parties ensured that everyone got to know each other well. For many people this was the first time they had taken part in the yearly exchange. But after seeing how much everyone enjoyed the laidback and welcoming tone of the trip, I have no doubt we'll see many of their faces again in Helsinki next year. As ex-world champions Florian Wanner and Michael Esser remarked at the week's last training session, "This is what judo is all about."



Club coach Nick Palmer takes to the high wire

"As ex-world champions Florian Wanner and Michael Esser remarked at the week's last training session: This is what judo is all about."

Kane Proves He's Able...

PHD Student Kane Chandler qualified for the Judo Commonwealth Championships, held in Cardiff, January 2012.

After a season that saw him win the British Universities Championship and achieve a national ranking of ninth, Kane attended the English Squad selection trials, held in Thetford on in December 2011. Kane, a second degree black-belt in Judo who will soon be completing a PHD in Engineering, fought a number of nationally ranked players, eventually finishing second in his group earning a place on the England Squad.

After the trials event Kane stated: *"Competing at this level is physically intense- every match was hard fought. I'm immensely proud to have to chance to represent my college, club and country at international level."* CUJC President, Rob Blackburn stated: *"This is a great achievement and reflects not only the huge effort that Kane has put in to preparing for this competition but also the top level coaching and sparing available at the club."*

At the championship itself, Kane placed 7th. His accomplishments were covered in the Cambridge Evening News, the full story can be found at this link:

<http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/Sport/Kane-proves-able-to-find-Common-purpose-16122011.htm>

Work Begins on Cambridge Sports Centre

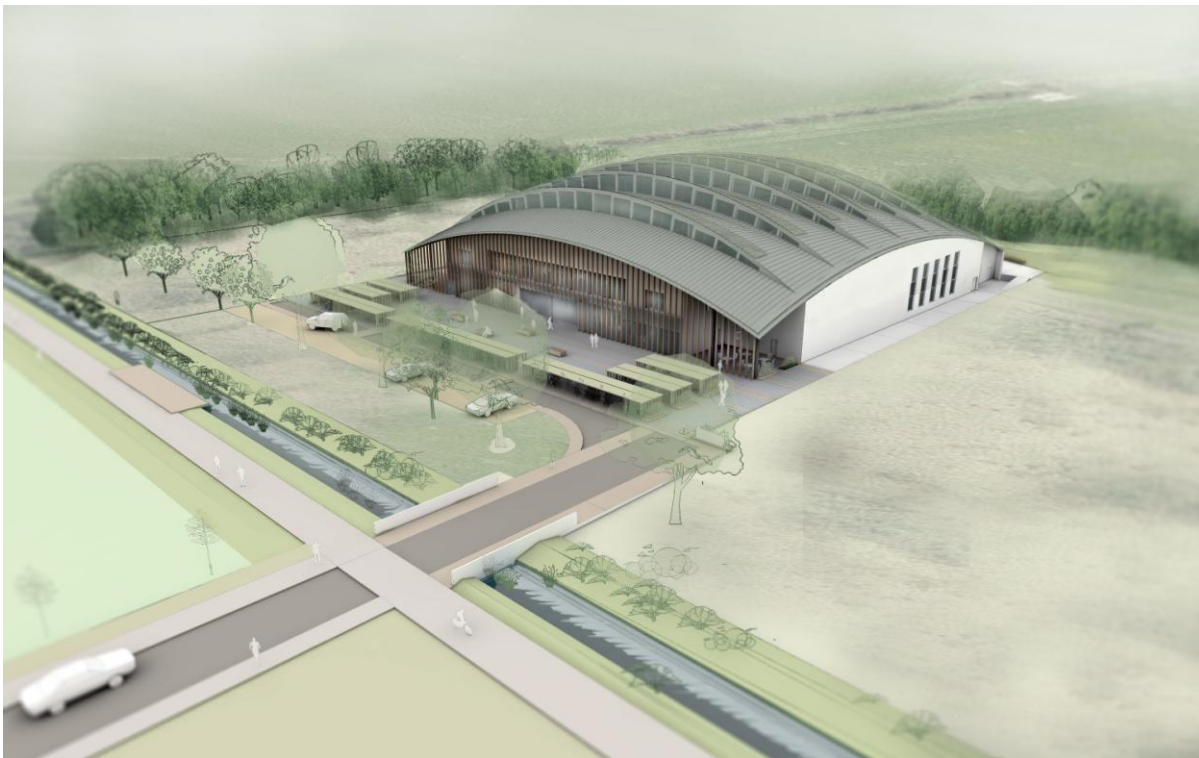
In February of this year construction work has begun on the site of the £16 million Cambridge Sports Centre at West Cambridge. The Centre is due to open in October 2013.

The architecturally stunning Cambridge Sports Centre, designed by Arup Associates, will welcome patrons into a grand lobby and lounge area complete with audio-visual space to catch the latest match or lunchtime lecture, and a café for the enjoyment of all pre- and post-game. From this area, through an elegant glass partition, will be visible the spacious fitness suite with a full range of state-of-the-art cardiovascular equipment.

At the core of the Centre will be a vast sports hall, housing two full-size courts for basketball, badminton, boxing, five-a-side football, volleyball, netball and other court games.

There will be an impressive strength and conditioning wing, with free-weights platforms and a three-lane plyometric track. This will be an important resource for students and members of the public alike, whether their focus is on training for health and wellbeing, rehabilitation or in support of sports performance.

A large multi-purpose room will cater to the martial arts (including Judo), yoga, spinning, and floor-based exercises including fencing, dancing and gymnastics.



Plans for the new Sports Centre

In Other News...

- City team captain Chris Coward and Women's team captain Megan Sorensen were both awarded their black-belts this year.
- Breaking from the conservative norm, recent CUCJ merchandise featured Godzilla wearing a judo gi, standing over the flaming ruins of Oxford University!
- Ndollo Eboumbou put on a sterling display and achieved a bronze medal in the women's O78 Dan grade division at BUCS 2012. In a competitive group that included two international players, she put in some solid performances and earned a place on the podium.
- Club members benefited from elite level training from World and ex-Olympic champion Ilias Iliadis at neighbouring Comberton Judo Club.

Stay in touch! You can find us at

<http://cujc.soc.srcf.net>