

JVI Spring Newsletter 2016

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Welcome

Welcome to this special edition of the JVI Newsletter. I say special, because strictly speaking, we don't have a newsletter at this time, as we still don't have a newsletter editor! Submissions from potential volunteer newsletter editors were called for when our previous editor, Robyne Dawson, left us, but as yet no-one has put their hand up. I'm afraid this also explains the rather boring Word format of this newsletter!! If you would be interested in taking on this exciting role, and know how to make it look much more attractive, please send an e-mail to president@judovictoria.com.au.

Year to Date

2016 has been an eventful and successful one for Judo Victoria. The highlight of course was having three Victorian judoka compete at the Rio Olympic Games!! Heartfelt congratulations from the whole Judo Victoria community go to Eoin Coughlan, Katharine Haecker and Jake Bensted on representing Victoria and Australia so well at the very pinnacle of our sport, against the toughest opposition in the world.

This year has seen the move to the Broadmeadows Leisure Centre, which on the whole has proved to be a great success. Most people seem to be very happy with the venue, although I do acknowledge the inconvenience for our members from the Eastern and South Eastern regions. Hopefully one day in the near future JVI can grow sufficiently to warrant opening a second venue in that region, so that no-one will have to travel more than an hour to reach a judo tournament.

I'm glad to report that Judo Victoria is in a sound financial position. Thanks to the efforts of previous Committees, and to the diligent work of our current Treasurer Pat Quek, JVI is not only firmly in the black but is now able to start looking at how to invest money in the growth of our organisation. A modest start has been made in the decision to start paying referees for their time and effort at our tournaments. Hopefully we will soon be able to similarly reward our tournament volunteers as well.

JVI Memberships and tournament attendance have seen a steady increase in 2016. We have also seen an increase in the number of tournaments hosted by clubs, which JVI views as a very positive grass roots development. Club tournaments, and the Regional Tournaments, not only allow our young judoka a chance to experience tournaments in a friendly atmosphere, they are a great venue for club seniors and parents to learn how to referee, time-keep, score, organise weigh-ins and ribbon presentations.

In July JVI hosted on behalf of the JFA, the Australian Judo Championships, at the Geelong Arena. While this was organised by the JFA, much of the leg-work (and mat carrying!) was done by our hard-working Tournament Committee. I would like to pay particular thanks to Paul Bensted for putting in so much time behind the scenes to enable the Nationals to be such a great success. The venue received overwhelming support from our inter-state visitors.

In August JVI hosted the Melbourne International Judo Open. This tournament, formerly known as the Southern Cross Open, was notable for two things: friendliness, and sub-zero temperatures! Numbers of attendants were admittedly disappointing – this was put down to the timing of the event, so soon after the nationals in Geelong and the Olympics. However, an enormous amount of hard work by our Tournament Committee, led by Sandy Hollingsworth, Janet Lambert, Ian Wallis and Garry McPhee meant that the tournament ran like absolute clockwork. All of our interstate guests, while unimpressed by the Arctic weather, commented on the smooth running of the tournament and on the friendly atmosphere in the venue. In fact one visitor remarked that the Melbourne Open should be re-named the Friendly Games!! For those who weren't amused by the frigid air at MIJO, please note that in 2017 the tournament will be moved to October 28, which will be warmer and will enable the Melbourne International Judo Open to become a celebration of World Judo Day.

Two tournaments remain in 2016, the October 23 World Judo Day tournament, and the State Titles in December. I hope that all of our judoka are looking forward to competing and developing their judo on those days!

Spring Tournament 2016

I would like to make a brief mention of the Spring Tournament, which was beset by various glitches that resulted in very long waiting times for parents and our young judoka. Please note that the feedback received by people who had to wait a very long time for bouts to commence, and for medal presentations to be made, has been taken on board. The Tournament Committee is always conscious of how valuable time is to families on weekends and endeavours to minimise the amount of time spent at tournaments. A combination of a shortage of volunteers, and technical hitches meant that the September tournament did not run as smoothly as we would have wished. The Executive Committee and the Tournament Committee are considering suggestions and reviewing procedures to ensure that the next tournament runs more quickly and smoothly.

What's New?

I'm excited to announce some new initiatives that will kick in in 2017. These should help boost membership in JVI, and make membership in JVI more rewarding and more fun.

The first and most important development will be the implementation of our **School Clubs Program**. The JVI School Club Program will enable our school age judoka to get recognition for their efforts at their schools, because as of 2017, they will not only represent their clubs at JVI tournaments, but their school as well. School Leagues will be formed, and schools will be kept updated as to the progress of their school in their League.

Coinciding with the School Club Program will be the implementation of **team events** at our tournaments. Starting with composite teams, the aim is to give our judoka more competition time in a format that is universally recognised as more fun. It is hoped that within two or three years, clubs can recruit enough members to be able to field their own teams in each age group.

In 2017 JVI will also launch its **Club Incentive Program**. This program will recognise and reward clubs for their contribution to Victorian Judo. Points will be gained for things such as new memberships recorded, numbers of membership renewals, members graded to new belts, numbers of members attending tournaments, numbers of parents volunteering at tournaments etc.

Club Coaches forum 2nd October 2:00 to 4:00 pm

There will be a VERY IMPORTANT Club Coaches forum held on **Sunday October 2nd** at the **Broadmeadows Aquatic and Leisure Centre from 2:00 to 4:00 pm**. At this forum I (Doug Noack) will present in detail information on the **School Clubs Program**, the **Team Tournament** concept and the **Club Incentive Program**. I will also update coaches on our Strategic goals and progress, and time will be given to coaches to ask any other questions that they may have. *This will be doubly important, as I will not be present at the AGM to answer questions from members. I will also be seeking the advice and feedback from coaches on a number of issues, so this will be your chance to have your say.* If you cannot attend, it is highly advisable that you send a proxy from your club to attend the meeting. I look forward to meeting you for a productive session!

House-Keeping!!

Finally, a reminder that the **JVI Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Sunday 20th November** at the Broadmeadows Leisure Centre. All eligible JVI members who wish to nominate for positions on the JVI Board are warmly encouraged to do so. I encourage you to consider three things when nominating either yourself or a candidate:

1. The expertise of the candidate
2. The work ethic of the candidate
3. The willingness of the candidate to work with a team

The positions that will be open for election at the 2016 AGM will be:

President 2 year term

Vice-President 2 year term

Treasurer 2 year term

Secretary 1 year term

Ordinary Member x2 2 year term

Ordinary Member x2 1 year term

Nominations for any of the above positions, or motions for the AGM, must be received by no later than 28th October 2016.

Yours in Judo,

Doug Noack