

New look NZJJF

In early February the New Zealand Ju-Jitsu Federation was given an overhaul to ensure it was working efficiently and meeting your needs as best it can. Our goal at the start of the year was find out what the New Zealand ju-jitsu community had to say. We contacted a lot of clubs, we listened and we made notes. First, we found that the majority missed regular NZJJF events where they could catch up with other clubs. We also found that some of the things we did in 2003 are no longer as important in 2012. Above all, we found that people thought that New Zealand ju-jitsu had 'grown up' a lot in the past few years and a federation was needed that recognised that change.

One result is that all services and events provided by NZJJF will be named as such. The two branches: SJJ(NZ) and JJ(NZ) will be done away with, although there will still be a director of sport. Too many clubs, we found, considered themselves 'ju-jitsu clubs that also did sport' but found that they were being labelled either 'sport' or 'recreation' depending upon the events they attended. They didn't see the need for ju-jitsu to be segregated ... and we agree.

Website upgrade

Communication is a challenge in a country where there is 1,950km between our northern most and southern most clubs. It is vitally important that we have a central hub where we can access and share information. A lot of work is going into upgrading the website and providing features such as club pages for member clubs, a PayPal account so your students can pay on-line, videos and even a game for the kids! We will let you know as soon as the new and improved website goes live.

Membership

We were told that clubs wanted to be promoted by NZJJF. We have set the 2012 club membership fee at \$80. That gets your club recognised by the federation, gives you a webpage on nzjjf.org.nz so the public can find out about you, and keeps you up-to-date with everything going on.

Individual membership remains at \$10. For a tenner, members get to vote on federation matters and participate in tournaments and seminars at a discounted rate. The savings will add up nicely over a year.



Payments

Until the website goes live, cheques should be made out to 'NZJJF' and sent to:
New Zealand Ju-Jitsu Federation
902 Norton Road
Hastings 4122

Alternatively, automatic payments can be made to:
NZJJF Westpac 03-0179-0280064-00 (use your name / club as an identifier).

Please get club memberships in now so we can start planning your webpage. Individuals can pay now, too, or at the time of the next event they attend.

Congratulations!



On 22 February 2012 Stenfinn Olivecrona received his 5th Degree Black Belt from Shihan Gary Trail, OSA. Shihan Trail was one of three on an examiners panel convened by NZJJF for the purpose of the grading.

Sten's grading is a significant moment in the history of New Zealand ju-jitsu. His is the first grading of a New Zealand ju-jitsuka made on behalf of the New Zealand ju-jitsu community. In the past ju-jitsuka have had to look off-shore for high-level promotions or seek gradings from other martial art organisations. Shihan Trail is one such example, having received his 8th Degree from the NZ Sokeship Council. This grading sends a clear message that New Zealand ju-jitsu has come of age and we can look after our own.

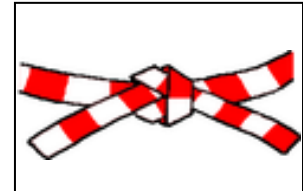
That said, we cannot take away from Sten's achievement. His is a well-deserved reward for 33 years of continuous ju-jitsu practice. A student of the Kawaishi system, Sten has created his own method of teaching ju-jitsu that is focussed on successful street outcomes. Many clubs around the country have benefited from his teaching, in-sight and humour, and will no doubt join us in congratulating him.

As a footnote, we are aware of a number of highly regarded ju-jitsu practitioners who, for whatever reason, are well overdue for promotion. Applications to convene a panel of examiners for the purpose of gradings can be made to NZJJF in writing. A comprehensive ju-jitsu résumé should be included. It must be stressed that NZJJF cannot constitutionally award grades and any such grades are made by the grading panel alone.

National seminar

What better way to launch the new look federation than to stage a national seminar? And what a seminar! Instructors for 19 May are:

- Shihan Gary Trail, OSA, 8th Degree - kicking
- Kyoshi James Salter, 6th Degree - control & restraint
- Shihan Graeme Catlin, 5th Degree - throws & takedowns
- Shihan Sten Olivecrona, 5th Degree - clinching & infighting



It is unlikely that such a line-up of New Zealand ju-jitsu masters has been seen before in this country.

Venue: Matamata, 19 May 2012

Cost: \$50 (members) / \$60 (non-members - includes \$10 NZJJF membership)

Registration details and accommodation options to follow soon ...

Annual General Meeting

The national seminar will also be the venue for the 2012 NZJJF AGM with the meeting following the seminar (expected to begin 5.30pm).

The purpose of the AGM is to receive an annual report, elect a committee, determine membership fees, and discuss any duly submitted general business. The five offices include chairman, secretary/ treasurer and three others. All nominees and nominators must be current Individual Members. Signed nominations and items for the agenda must be received by NZJJF at the above address by 25 April.