

Kendal Judo Club

The Dojo, Parkside Road, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 7QJ

www.kendaljudoclub.co.uk

Local Taxation Team

SLDC

South Lakeland House

Ref: 52527298

SOUTH LAKELAND
DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECEIVED

17 JUN 2014

REVS & BENS

Friday, 13 June 2014

Dear Sirs,

We are writing on behalf of Kendal Judo Club to appeal against the withdrawal of our Discretionary Rate Relief for the current year.

The reason given for refusal is that our annual subscription exceeds £150 and may therefore deter people from seeking membership.

Our members all pay a monthly fee which the Judo Club has always called a "mat fee". Prior to our move to the new Dojo members paid an annual membership fee of £50 - £100 depending on the type of membership and then paid a "mat fee" for hire of the facilities each time they attended a judo class. This system was extremely hard to control as keeping records of who had paid for which classes was difficult. The current system where members pay 1 monthly fee which includes a portion for club membership and a portion for mat/facilities hire, which with the odd exception goes directly into the bank, was thus set up to make things simpler.

Our fees have been the same since moving to the new Dojo 8 years ago but following our recent AGM the difficult decision to increase them slightly was made.

The new monthly rates are as below

Sports Club – Membership £10 + Mat/Hire fee £10

Junior Judo – Membership £10 + Mat/Hire fee £15

Senior Judo – Membership £10 + Mat/Hire fee £20

Family Judo – Membership £20 + Mat/Hire fee £25 (2 or more family members attending judo classes)

Players have to be members of Kendal Judo Club in order to be covered by our insurances and the membership portion on the fee is for this and our affiliation to the British Judo Association.

Kendal Judo Club is a World Class facility with a double mat competition area which boasts the 2012 Olympic Judo mats. In addition to being a well renowned Club with an excellent reputation within the Judo world, Kendal Judo Club also provides a Community Sports Facility for the area.

Our reputation as a successful club means we are used as a venue by the British Judo Association and North West Area Judo for some of their training camps and courses, we were a pre-Olympic training venue for the Oceania Olympic Judo and Boxing Teams and have a team coming from Vanuatu for pre-Commonwealth Games training. We also continue to run a number of our own successful competitions and training camps throughout the year and are a centre for the BJA AASE programme which we currently have 5 athletes attending with a further 4 due to start in September. As a club we also help lead the way in some of Judo's national initiatives to ensure the sport is all-inclusive as we have visually impaired players and are also holding a women only training camp late next month.

As a community facility we run an elite sports training academy 3 mornings a week for athletes of all disciplines, run self-defence classes, run classes for Kirkble Kendal and Wings School, run sports events for local primary schools such as our Olympic Sports Day in 2012 and our up-coming Commonwealth Sport Weekend, and take judo classes into local schools. We aim to provide openings for young people to enjoy sport and inspire them to take up sport, specifically judo and no-one who shows an interest is turned away.

Other Sports organisations such as the fell Running Association, Kendal Rugby Club and the Jujitsu Association also make use of our Facilities and coaches.

The total revenue from membership subscriptions and mat fees, including the new increase will bring in approximately £19,000 in revenue at our current level of members. The actual basic running costs of The Dojo and Kendal Judo Club will be around £56,000 leaving a substantial shortfall of £37,000 for the current year.

With the exception of grant funding for specific purchases such as our new Olympic mat in 2012 and to help with putting on special events such as our Commonwealth Sports Weekend Kendal Judo Club is completely self-funded. All the extra events we hold which are hard work for the team of mainly volunteers who are involved in their organisation and running but are an essential and necessary source of income in addition to helping maintain the profile and continued success of Kendal Judo Club.

Running costs are always increasing and if we had to find a further £3374 to pay the extra rates from our current revenue we would have to make savings elsewhere. Our running costs have been cut back to the bare minimum over the last 2 to 3 years so any savings would now have to come from our player support fund meaning we could not support our athletes. This would be a move away from the ethos of the club where we have always supported our Judoka at all ages and levels in order that they can participate and develop in the sport of judo whatever their ability.

We would ask that you re-consider your decision in the light of the information given above and if you would like any further details please do not hesitate to contact one of the signatories below

Yours Faithfully

Nick Hill (Club Trustee)

Jackie Holmes (Club Treasurer)

Mike Liptrot (Club Coach)