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Inside this Issue

- 1 News from the Board of Directors
- 2 Tomodachi Events
- 2 What else happened?
- 3 Coming Events
- 3 Re: This Newsletter

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Tomodachi News

News from the Board of Directors

Hans Vogt

Board meetings are open to all Tomodachi members and their families. Active members and especially parents and older teenagers are encouraged to participate in these meetings, find out what is happening with the club, and get involved. Remember, it's **your** club!

Board meeting on May 22, 2004

On May 22, 2004 the most recent monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was held in the community Center in Boca Raton. Here is a summary of the major discussion points and decisions.

New Board member

Scott Huitt, Sandan, has been approved by as the newest board member. This brings the board to the uneven number required by the club's bylaws.

More mats

The board voted to purchase the number of mats needed to complete the fourth mat area, 20 mats, from Swain Sports.

Parents Committee

Judo players have many more options to use their spare time, and Judo is competing for time with a lot of other popular sports and activities. The Tomodachi membership is always fluctuating, To offer better service and make Judo more attractive a parents committee has been set up to follow up

on people who stop showing up on class. We want to know why someone stops coming, and correct the underlying issue if possible. If you would like to join this committee, please contact the club via the web site <http://www.judous.com/>.

Junior Nationals

Tomodachi has been awarded the 2006 Junior National Shiai and Kata Championships by the USJA. This is a one of the biggest Judo events in the US. Some of you may remember that Tomodachi hosted the 2002 Junior Nationals. Tournaments of this size and scope are a lot of work and require broad participation from all members. This ranges from initial committees organizing the different aspects of the tournament, until active help on the days of the competition. We need your help. Please come to the board meetings of find out how your contributions can help.

Permanent Dojo

Currently we are limited to the public facilities in the Boca Raton Community Center and Congress Middle School with fixed access times. Tomodachi is looking to establish a permanent facility where members can train at all hours or have special instruction lessons. At this board meeting, a committee has been established to take a closer look at requirements and to take first steps into developing a permanent dojo. If you have interest in or feel you can contribute to this committee, please contact Tomodachi via the phone numbers or email address listed on the web site <http://www.judous.com/>.

Dragons Challenge Tournament

One of the tournaments held by Tomodachi later in the calendar year, but at the start of the Judo Season, is the Dragons Challenge Tournament. Usually this tournament is held around the end of August or beginning of September. By the next monthly meeting, a date for the tournament will be set.

National Team Championship

Mike Szejter proposed that Tomodachi offers to host a USJA National Team Championship tournament. We hosted the NTC previously in 1999 and 2000. Then in 2002 the tournament was held in Bristol, Connecticut. The tournament never took off as a national, annual event. Attendance in Bristol was boosted by the offer of prize money (\$1000 for the winning team, \$500 for second place, and \$200 for third). The tournament also was partly sponsored by ESPN.

To make such an event a success the team championships should be bundled with another tournament. One proposal is to host the NTC in combination with the Dragons Challenge. The National Team Championships would be held on a Saturday, followed by a regular tournament on Sunday. A decision will be made at the next board meeting.

Tomodachi Events

Hans Vogt

The past month since the last board meeting was a busy time for the club.

Tomodachi Family Picnic

The annual Tomodachi Family Picnic on April 25 at Lake Ida Park in Delray Beach had the sun smiling. Lots of food offerings pleased every stomach. With everyone sated, Tomodachi's coaches announced recent rank promotions and a number of awards for special contributions to the club. Camp

Tomodachi Scholarships were given for students with the best attendance during the last year. The weather was especially conducive for the highlight of the event, the big Squirt Gun fight. During warm-up skirmishes and later in the heat of the battle the grass got a good watering.

Rattler Roundup

Tomodachi hosted the tenth annual Rattler Roundup tournament. An unusual high number of competitors signed up, close to 200, almost twice the number expected. After computer problems caused a short delay in the start of the competitions, everything worked just right. With the Shiai proceeding on three mat areas, Tomodachi volunteers on the three scoring tables worked efficiently through the pairing sheets. Despite the late start, close to noon instead of 11am, and the large number of competitors, the last mat closed at 6:30 pm.

The tournament results are posted on [the Tomodachi web page](#).

A big "Thank you" goes to all the table workers, food providers and the people behind the scenes making this event a success.

Judo Demonstration

On behalf of the City of Boynton Beach, Tomodachi staged a Judo demonstration in the Ezell Hester Center in Boynton Beach. The event was advertised extensively by the city. Many Tomodachi members with their

parents heeded the call to show what Judo is like to an outside audience. What was missing was the audience. It seems that in Boynton Beach Basketball has a bigger draw than Judo.

Many thanks to all the participants who went out of their way to promote Judo.



What Else Happened?

Hans Vogt

USJA State Championships

Tomodachi Judo Club was represented with a sizeable force in the Groveland High School, where the Florida State Championships were hosted by [Central Florida Judo and Ju-Jitsu](#). In addition, Tomodachi supported the tournament by sponsoring the tournament mats, running a scoring table, and providing



Rei-in at the Hester Center

referees.



Scott Huitt takes the win!

The list of medals scored by Tomodachi competitors is impressive:

Hans Vogt and Scott Huitt : 1st places in Kime no Kata and Koshiki no Kata,

Hans Vogt and Mindy Buehman: 1st place in Goshin Jitsu no Kata.

Scott Huitt and Garrett Corbo: 1st place in Renraku no Kata

Scott Huitt scored a second place in the Masters division.

Brandon Smith 1st place Bantam 3

Jacob Victor 1st place Juvenile A

Shaan Hogun 3rd place Juvenile B

Ricardo Silva 3rd place Male Senior

Kaitlyn Smith 2nd place Intermediate 2

Karyna Martinez 2nd place Juvenile A

Great results, Go Team Tomodachi!



Jake Victor gets serious ...

In addition, Mindy Buehman went on to work as referee throughout the day, earning her certification as a Regional Referee Level 2. Next stop is National Referee.

Let's not forget the parents, who drove all the way to let their children compete.

And last not least, special thanks to the helpers at the storage unit, who unloaded the mats from the truck on Sunday morning.

USA Judo Senior National Championships

San Diego, CA, hosted this years Senior National Shiai and Kata Championships. Mindy Buehman competed for Tomodachi in Nage No Kata and Goshin Jitsu No Kata. Her partner was Michelle Holtze, who some of you may remember as a coach from last years Camp Tomodachi. Mindy ended up with two 4th places. Well done, Mindy!

Re: This Newsletter

Hans Vogt

Dear members, parents and friends of Tomodachi:

With this Newsletter we are trying to keep you informed on current events, board meetings and decisions, successes of our players in tournaments.

All readers are invited to contribute to this Newsletter. Please contact me at <mailto:havog2001@yahoo.com>.

Coming Events

Tomodachi encourages players to attend other events and supports those going to tournaments hosted by other clubs. If you are interested to go to tournaments, please enter your name in the sign-up lists available at class.

6/12/04 FIU

Ki-Itsu-Sai is holding a tournament at FIU. Pre-registration with the lower price ends June 5. Speak to your coach if you want to compete in this event.

6/18 to 6/20/2004 Sunshine State Games

The Sunshine State Games are held in Tallahassee, FL. For the first time in many, many years the event is sanctioned through the USJA. As a USJA chartered club Tomodachi should make a good showing at the Games.

Traditionally, the Sunshine State Games are a good event even for beginners. Both Shiai and Kata are offered at the event. Details can be obtained at <http://www.flasports.com/> or via the link on the [Tomodachi home page](#).

Speak to your coach if you want to compete and to organize travel sharing arrangements.