

No proper fact-finding was carried out regarding purpose of the Dojo and student demand for it. The BF Manager held no consultation with Dojo users who had no opportunity to offer informed advice and feedback. **Reported demand for Squash was exaggerated:** Squash continues to be free in the morning – indicating continuing low demand (free morning squash was introduced c.2005 because the courts were empty in the mornings). It is unusual for 3 squash courts to be in use at the same time. Court B (previously the permanent Dojo) stood empty for much of Term 2 of 2014 because newly laid plaster was coming off a wall. There did not appear to be any urgency to repair it.

Practical problems: *see Appendix 1 for additional details*

- Dojo users have been deprived of a place to practise skills. Now some students have nowhere within the UCL campus to train in their chosen activity although they joined the BF in order to do this. An inadequate amount of dojo time has been allocated during the week to the m-p room. After the evening classes, mats should remain on the floor the following morning for the duration of the free Squash (low Squash usage) period, for the benefit of members: So that individuals can practise and any BF member can come and do floor exercises and stretching. The mats can be taken up when squash becomes chargeable. Charging is appropriate because **two people have exclusive use for Squash of a room that could accommodate 10-20 members.** Given the bias already demonstrated, it is easy to envisage the m-p room being allowed by the BF Manager to default into being primarily a squash court, with martial arts and the other activities moved about at short notice to fulfil the demands of squash users. It is important for the Dojo-users to be given assurance that their needs for the operation of the m-p room, including reservation of a percentage of time when the Room is free for breakfall practice, grading preparation etc. will not be subordinate to those of Squash.
- Room requirements for Dojo and Squash are not compatible. The BF Manager's m-p room plan has taken only the requirements of squash into consideration. This also raises Health and Safety issues. **Was a risk assessment for all types of activities prepared to inform the planning of converting the permanent dojo to a multipurpose room?** The traditional dojo's wooden panelling functioned as impact protection in case anyone taking a breakfall accidentally hit a wall. More Judo mats are needed to lean against the walls as a substitute for the panelling. The m-p room door opens inwards to 90 degrees - not good for classes. The permanent Dojo door opened inwards but most of the way back so we were able to leave the door open to air/cool the room during class without it being a collision hazard. N.B. 2 squash players at a time compared to up to 20 people at a time in any class.
- Time consumed in laying the mat. Gaps between mats. Irregularities in Walls: The BF Manager's mat layout plan is of limited assistance because irregularities in the walls and the mats make it difficult to lay the mats so that there are no gaps between them. It takes 15-20 minutes to lay the mat and longer to adjust if it has already been laid with gaps. Gaps can cause broken toes. It also takes longer if some of the mats have been left in an untidy heap in the room or if some of the cut mats have been carried off elsewhere by members. It transpires that there are **irregularities in the walls** of the m-p room. The opposing walls are of different lengths, the two side walls measure 9650mm and 9670mm on the floor up to the tin structure. **This does not seem to comply with standards for Squash matches.** The mats differ in length and width by up to 1cm, depending on age and amount of use of mat. Because of these circumstances, laying the mat in this room is like constructing a jigsaw puzzle. We have to start at one end of the room and fit each mat carefully to the next, one at a time.
- Poor communication from the BF Manager has resulted in confusion regarding when the mats go up or down. His schedule, posted by the m-p room, has been incorrect from the start.
- The burden of moving mats has been laid on the dojo-using members. The burden should be distributed evenly. Dojo users can lay the mats at 5pm; Squash users can take them up the next day.
- Mats are dirty due to incorrect stacking and because the cleaners are now unable to clean them.
- A comprehensive Dojo Etiquette notice is needed to address hygiene, cleanliness, footwear, mat storage system **and to tell players not to play Squash on the mats.** Clubs and individual users should be requested to advise on what is necessary. Care should be taken of the Judo mats and they should only be used for the purpose for which they have been designed (and accordingly priced).

THE PROBLEMS CAN BE ENTIRELY RESOLVED BY RESTORING PERMANENT DOJO