

Local gets fund from English OneDentokan Charity to help others

ONEDENTOKAN is a small registered charity in England which in the past has assisted martial artists in the UK and in Southern Africa (namely Zimbabwe and Zambia) in improving their and their community's conditions of life.

For the first time in 2011, OneDentokan widened the range of countries to include the Solomon Islands, thanks to the efforts of Dr Andy Roosen, who represents Dentokan martial arts in the country and in Oceania.

Applicants can put in for a GBP200 (approximately SHDS2,490) bursary, if they are practising the martial arts and have an idea that can improve their community's social welfare and way of life.

The award is to be used to help others and not the applicant himself. This

is in line with the ethos associated with martial arts that the practitioner is to be a help to their family and community – and to become a better and stronger person through their training.

This year, eleven people from the Solomon Islands applied for the bursary. Their applications were considered with other applications received from the UK.

We are very happy to



Dr Andy Roosen, representative of OneDentokan, congratulates John Hollan on being awarded the OneDentokan Bursary and hands him a symbolic cheque.

report that the bursary committee decided to support an application from the

Solomon Islands. John Hollan Maake, who is a woodworker and

builder by trade, and a karate student, suggested using the award to buy

woodworking tools to start a community youth workshop.

He would teach his skills free of charge to local youths. He envisages them doing furniture repairs at an affordable price and also manufacturing new furniture for sale.

This way, he visualises effectively keeping the youths engaged and out of trouble and thus instilling a sense of value and self-respect in them.

At the same time he says a project like this will assist their families as the youths could bring home an income, and also the wider community who can benefit from a reasonably-priced service.

Under the conditions of the bursary, John is to provide a six-month and a twelve-month report to the committee to show how the award has been used and what progress has been made.

The committee recognises the benefit of this project and believes that with the right attitude of those involved, it will be a self-sustaining project which can grow and that will benefit many others.

OneDentokan will invite applications for the bursary again early next year and wishes John as this year's winner good luck in implementing his plan.