

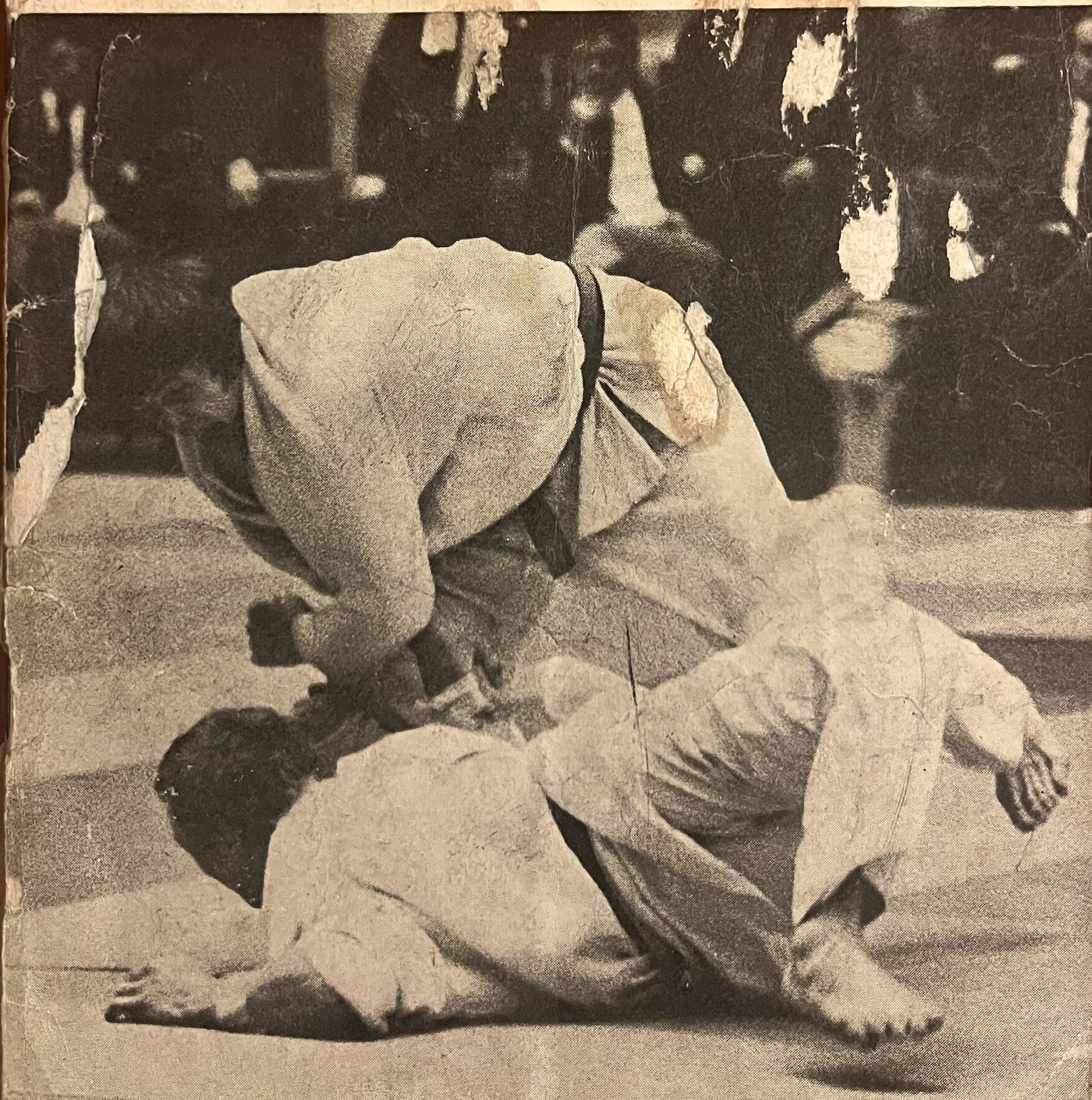
KARATE - AIKIDO - KENDO

JUDO

INCORPORATING BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Price 25p

July/August 1974



BRITISH KENDO ASSOCIATION

OFFICIAL NOTES

On 14th April, 1974. The First European Championships were held at Bletchley Leisure Centre, Bucks. This great occasion was preceded with the arrival from Japan of six kendo masters on the Wednesday. The Japanese mission consisted of Okuyama, *sensei*, 8th dan *kyoshi*; Kasahara, *sensei*, 7th dan *kyoshi*, Sec. Gen. I.K.F.; Matsunaga, *sensei*, 7th dan *kyoshi*; Hashimoto, *sensei*, 7th dan *kyoshi*; Murayama, *sensei*, 7th dan *kyoshi*; Satoh, *sensei*, 7th dan *kyoshi*. These masters were here in Great Britain to judge the European match at Bletchley, upon the evening of their arrival they were taken to the Nenriki Dojo, London, where there were approximately 50 kendo students waiting to practise with them. The Japanese mission was joined by Mr. Kikuchi, 7th dan *kyoshi* from the Japanese Embassy. A truly great kendo practice was had by all.

On the Thursday the mission split into two parties, one party to Leeds where they practised with the Leeds Dojo and the second to Bristol where they appeared on B.B.C. TV followed by practice with Bristol Dojo.

On Friday a further practice was held at Bishophalt School, Uxbridge, where the British kendoka were joined by many European friends who had arrived for the tournament.

On Saturday, 13th, the European Kendo Federation held its A.G.M. and Mr. Victor Harris, Hon. Sec. of the British Kendo Association was elected to represent the B.K.A. on the Board of Directors, also at this meeting the draw for the teams was made. A further practice was held in the afternoon at the new Michael Sobell Centre at Holloway.

Sunday, 14th April was started with the elimination of the teams

and individuals at 11 p.m. at Bletchley. There were 11 countries represented at this tournament which were, Holland, Switzerland, Sweden, Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal, Austria, Australia, Great Britain and Japan. From the countries, France, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium and Great Britain, sent teams for competition. In the individuals there were 47 competitors.

Mr. Ron Bennett who had travelled from Australia, to observe these Championships was invited on this special occasion to enter the individual match.

In the team event Pool 'A' consisted of France, Switzerland and Belgium. Pool 'B' was Great Britain, Sweden and Italy. Each team had five members plus reserve.

Pool 'A' France v. Switzerland
Winner: France

France v. Belgium, which Belgium won after a draw had taken place and a fight-off was done to take them into the next round.

Pool 'B' Great Britain v. Italy
Winner: Great Britain

Great Britain v. Sweden, which Great Britain won again after a fight-off took place.

The third place fight-off in the afternoon was between France and Sweden, which France won and the finals between Great Britain and Belgium, which also took place in the afternoon was won by Great Britain.

The individual events were very hard, each country was allowed to put in a maximum of eight individuals which could have been team members plus three others or no team members and eight others.

Great Britain decided to put in no team members but eight others.

After very hard bouts by all contestants. The semi-finals in the afternoon were between:

J. C. Tubi (France) v.
J. P. Niay (France)

A. Marki (Sweden) v.
D. Todd (Great Britain)

Tubi and Niay had a very hard contest, and Tubi emerged the winner. The contest between Marki and Todd was indeed a contest in style and size. After a very hard contest Todd emerged the winner. The final between Todd and Tubi was excellent and Todd won his match by two points to one, thereby becoming the European Individual Champion.

This day was indeed a cornerstone in British kendo, with the final state of the medals being:

Great Britain Team and Individual, 6 gold; Belgium Team, 5 silver; France Team and Individual, 1 silver, 6 bronze; Sweden Individual, 1 bronze.

Also given as prizes were 19 pair of Kote for the teams and individuals, from the Zen Nippon Kendo Remnei, and five special medals given for fighting spirit which were won by members of Holland, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Portugal. All prizes were presented by the Mayor of Milton Keynes, Councillor Fryer.

In conclusion it has been agreed that the strength of British kendo has been shown and we all look forward to further matches between ourselves and our European friends.

Mr. Kazuto Ishida has been appointed President of the Z.N.K.R. following the resignation, after many years, of Kimura Sensi.

Ishida Sensi was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Japan for a four-year period, and was always uncompromising at Law and unmoving regarding his principles.

He said he had decided to retire to a life of seclusion in nature, but was specially recommended for the job of President of Kimura Sensi.

Ishida Sensi first held a shini when he was 10 years old at the Butokuden Dojo in Shinmei shrine Fukui City, and first felt the meaning of kendo as a student in the old Tokyo University, kendo section.

He studied Shindo-numen Rya at university and later Yamaoka Teshei's Itto Shodan Tyu, and was determined to inherit the essence of Ohna-Ha-Itto Tyu. He says, "I have no Dan. The sword is to temper and polish the spirit. It is like Zen. The Priest has no grade and I put no importance on it".

The B.K.A. would like to publish the small extract from a letter received from the visiting six Japanese senshi, after their visit to Bletchley for the first European Championship:

"This is to thank you and all other kendo people for the warm hospitality shown to us kendo mission during our visit to your country . . . The friendship which has grown up between your kendo people and us at your Dojo's is one of the most precious things that we have obtained during that visit. We will long remember the nice people whom we encountered in towns and countrysides.

"Again thanks to you for all that you have done for us. We hope you could be so kind as to convey our cordial thanks and best wishes to all your kendo people since we do not have possible way to reach them all respectively.

"We are looking forward to seeing you and your other kendo people again in London in April 1976".

Fixture: We have an unconfirmed match arranged with Germany in the U.K. for September this year.

National eliminations for the team will be held in August. Further information will be sent to all Dojos as soon as confirmation from Germany has been received.

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When I recovered I went back to judo. At 33 I realised the resolution that one day I must learn judo is still with me. You might chuckle, but I now have to do push ups, sit ups and run about in a discreet track suit to be able to last the Budokwai's gentler evenings. I spent a few months out of the U.K. recently and was glad to get the chance to slack. It's so difficult to find the time. To

feel a bit of a cheat even buying the magazine, it's not so. You too can go along to the local dojo, buy or hire judogi. Get your toes broken. Gasp and groan the next day. Don't be shy. It's hell, but everyone will begin to say how well and fit you look and if you feel it's too much for you, give it up. You can always go back.

M. Smith.

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Courses: Kendo is included in the second half of the 12th International Martial Arts Course at Royan, France, between 31st July and the 24th August. Under Katayama Sensi or Fujii Sensi. Cost is 20 French francs per day including meals.

Those who are interested should apply to:

Mr. J. Cl-Tuvi,
17 Rue des Cotes,
78600 Maison Laffitte,
Paris, France.

Membership: You are reminded that Individual membership and Official Record Books can be obtained on application to the Membership Secretary:

Mr. J. Howell,
31 Woodstock Rise,
Sutton, Surrey, SM3 9JE.

Grading: The following are congratulated on being the only success-

ful candidates among 30 at the April 15th European Kendo Remai Grading.

To 2nd Dan:

Mr. T. Crawford	Mumeshi
Mr. D. Tubb	Mumeshi
Mr. S. Bean	Hagakule

To 1st Dan:

Mr. D. Wiseman	Nenriki
Mr. B. Karet	Nenriki
Mr. E. Babadoll	Nenriki
Mr. D. Day	Hizen

The B.K.A. regrets the postponement of the Japan Airlines match, which was to be held at Crystal Palace on the 27th July, until later in the year. This is due to circumstances beyond their control.

For further information on the B.K.A. please write to: Hon. Sec., Mr. V. Harris, 709 Howard House, Dolphin Square, S.W.1.