

Independent Wado-Ryu Karate-Do Association United Kingdom

July 2011



This Month

Passing of Tatsuo Suzuki 8th Dan Hanshi



Professor Tatsuo Suzuki was born in Yokohama in 1928 and became interested in Karate at the age of 14 and within six years of beginning his study of Karate, Professor

Suzuki was awarded his 3rd Dan at the age of 19. In 1951 at the age of 24 he was award-

ed the then highest grade in Wado-Ryu, 5th Dan for his outstanding courage and ability.

At 45 he was awarded his 8th Dan and also in the same year was given the title of Hanshi (Master) by the International Budo Federation and was presented with a special silver cup by Higashi Kuni no Miya, the uncle of the late Emperor of Japan. From 1945 to 1956 he received direct instruction from the founder of Wado Ryu, **Hironori Ohtsuka** Sensei at the Wado Ryu Headquarters. Thereafter, as Ohtsuka Sensei's most senior student, he travelled with Ohtsuka Sensei both domestically and internationally performing demonstrations and teaching at

the Headquarters and in such places as Hawaii.

From 1956 to 1964 Master Suzuki founded the first Wado Federation in England and from his base in London he spread Wado Ryu throughout Europe. Overcoming many difficulties, he brought senior students from Japan, taught them how to be instructors and sent them to various European countries. Within just a few years Wado Ryu became the most popular style in Europe. In 1991 Master Suzuki took over from Ohtsuka Sensei in protecting the essence of Wado Ryu and established the Wado International Karate-Do Federation (*WIKF*).

*Wado UK despite the odd name change along the way can trace its lineage back through to Suzuki Sensei and through John Moreton's earliest training days back to the Founder of Wado Ryu **Hironori Ohtsuka**, (1892-1982). During the golden years, as they are viewed, of the late 60's and 70's, Suzuki Sensei was the most important figure in Wado Ryu Karate in the UK. Along with his team of Japanese instructors courses, grading's and competitions were held across the nation. Many members of John Moreton's early Baker Street Dojo attended these events and some of those students still train today.*

One of the most popular of these events was the summer camp to Ramsgate and Guildford. These courses were followed by a Dan grading which many of John Moreton's students were successful at.

John himself was very well respected by Suzuki Sensei, as being one of those students who could stand out in a crowd. Despite not being directly linked to the Wado International Karate Federation over recent years, John has always remained respected by Suzuki Sensei. This was also a reciprocal respect from John to Suzuki Sensei (1928 - 2011).

Passing of Suzuki Sensei

British Championship Report

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British Championships 2011

The British Championships for this year were hosted by the English Karate Federation and took place at the Ponds Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield. All four home nations were in attendance and although numbers looked low the week before, it turned out to be a very busy event. Wado UK had several competitors at the event as usual and some managed podium finishes too. The medal successes going to Steve Balaam-Reed from the Chikara Dojo and Jessica Newton from the ShinKen Dojo.



Steve's success came on day one of the event, with a silver medal in the Male Veteran Kata category. Jessica was to double Steve's success with silver medals in both her Cadet Female Kumite category at her own weight and the Cadet Female Open weight category. Steve and Jess are both pictured above. Well done to both athletes!

Central England Karate Championships 2011



On Sunday 3rd July, Paul Braid took several Wado UK competitors to the Central England Karate Championships in Walsall. The event was a chaotic competition, but our competitors came home in the medals again. The best of these medals were gold for Jess Newton in her cadet female Kumite category and Brandon Greenwood in the children's Kata section. Bronze medals went to Brandon for his Kumite section with Joe Mun-



ro and Harry Oetegenn also taking bronze in the cadet male team event. The day was finally complete around 8.30pm with a further hard earned bronze medal for Ashleigh Clarkson in the Female Junior Kumite category. A very long day but the results made it a worth while trip.

Gold Medallists - Jess top left and Brandon bottom right!

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2nd Wado UK Junior Championships 2011

Following on from the success of the first Wado UK Junior Championships in 2010 held at the ShinKen Dojo, it was decided to hold the event again this year. For 2011 it was decided to hire a venue which would afford us enough space for two tatamis (Areas), to attempt a scheduled start/finish time of 10am-4pm. The Hull University Sports Centre proved ideal for the occasion and the planned timings were proven to work with the addition of a second tatami.

75 of our 15yrs and below students took part, making the day a fantastic event. In all but two events there were enough competitors to run a draw sheet for the category, with two round robins making up the days events. The Kick-Master events got the competition started and although this is unusual putting it before the Kata categories, it was a wise choice. All the youngsters were encouraged to shout for their

friends, helping to get some real feverish atmosphere into the venue. This proved really popular and perhaps helped quell a few nerves along the way. The Kata divisions were next and a new tactic was employed here also. As some of the competitors were new to competition and extremely young, both the competitors competed simultaneously. Only when the older competitors took to the mat did the usual red first blue second scenario come into play. The new way proved successful as it gave the youngsters the feeling of not being entirely alone with hundreds of eyes on them. The Kumite sections took their normal guise, with the judging panel looking exactly as it would at external competitions. There are plans however to adjust this also for next years event, for those youngsters perhaps under a certain age. This would hopefully give the really young ones a chance to compete for

the first time in an even safer and easier to understand way. These plans will be released well in advance however to give coaches and competitors plenty of opportunity to work with them in advance. Many many people helped make this day a resounding success, too many to mention by name. However roles undertaken with enthusiasm and commitment included officiating, the loan of a van and driving duties, buffet preparation, setting up and stripping down, table officials and entry table assistance. All of these roles were essential to the days proceedings and to the overall success of the competition. Thank you to everyone for their invaluable assistance.

Photos from the event will appear on the website as soon as possible, courtesy of Amie Rose.

30th July

Paul Newby Kumite Master-class at the Hull Zanshin Dojo, Cottingham.

7th August

South Yorkshire Open Karate Championships

Barnsley. *Please note this will be a coach trip on a first come first served basis.* Please contact your club instructor or Tony Dent.

11th September

North West Open. Details to be confirmed

1st/2nd October

British International Open - Glasgow.

30th October

3rd Wado UK Open Karate Championships, at the Bonus Arena, KC Stadium, Hull, HU3 6GA.

November

27th November

Western Karate Union. Winter Invitational. Weston-Super-Mare

December

9th December

Wado UK Presentation Evening. John McCarthy Suite, Hull University.

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