



# The Bulletin

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## The Kano Society

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### The Bulletin - Editor's comment

Welcome to the sixth edition of the 'Bulletin' - In this issue we continue to raise some Judo controversies in the hope that readers will respond with their opinions and articles of their own. This issue we look at Yukio Tani and the perhaps unorthodox way in which he conducted his martial arts career. Whatever we think of his 'showmanship' approach—it cannot be denied that he has had a lasting effect on martial arts, was one of the finest newaza exponents ever seen and influenced many schools including the Gracie movement of Anaconda Jujitsu.

Does traditional mean entrenched, old and perhaps an antique 'has been' approach? We in the Kano Society strongly disagree with that view. Although the founder members could be described as senior citizens of the Judo world we also have a thriving Junior division and welcome the new recruits from Scotland and wish them a long and fruitful Judo career.

Regards— Diana Birch



### Yukio Tani - Traditional Judo or Showmanship?

There are many controversies in Judo not least of which is around the question of 'What is Traditional Judo?' This is the basis upon which the Kano Society was founded and we have tried in previous issues to expound some of the views about that. However if we consider the manner in which Judo was practiced by the early masters we find further controversial approaches and a plethora of sensei behaving and practicing in variety of ways.

The early practitioners were a colourful number of individuals—some of their approaches would be frowned on by 'traditionalists' - but nevertheless they are part of our Judo tradition.

Yukio Tani was such an individual. A respected sensei and teacher at the Budokwai and also a music-hall showman. Some of the facts of his life are blurred as the man has drifted into the realms of martial arts mythology but an interesting account is given by Graham Noble in his article 'the Odyssey of Yukio Tani' - some extracts follow -

Yukio Tani was never too good with dates, and even the one date he did quote -- September 26, 1899, when he and his brother arrived in

London at the invitation of Edward W. Barton-Wright -- was wrong. Richard Bowen has established that the two came to Britain in September 1900, and were followed not long after by S. Yamamoto. Yukio Tani was to stay in England for the rest of his life, but his brother and Yamamoto returned to Japan within a year, possibly due to a disagreement on the use of jujutsu as "entertainment."

When Barton-Wright gave his lecture before the Japan Society of London in 1901 he took along Tani and Yamamoto to demonstrate jujutsu technique. The three men showed the throws and locks of the art and then Yamamoto performed what seems to have been pretty much a standard feat among many of those early jujutsu pioneers. He lay on his back with his hands tied and had a pole placed against his throat. Three men on either side of the pole held it down while two stood on Yamamoto and another two held his legs in position. At a signal these ten men pressed down to prevent Yamamoto moving, but within twenty seconds he had escaped the holds and was a free man.

At the same lecture Barton-Wright gave a demonstration of "locking" on a volunteer from the audience, the six-foot tall Lt. Douglas. "The lecturer," the report read, "a much smaller man than his opponent with the greatest of ease threw him down and in a variety of practical performances illustrated the modes of obtaining victory." Barton-Wright set up a school of arms with his Japanese instructors. It didn't attract a great deal of interest. Sadakazu Uyenishi's student William E. Garrud thought this was probably because of large entrance and instruction fees. But whatever the reason, the venture failed.

At this, Tani split with Barton-Wright and then went into the music halls under the management of William



Yukio Tani

Photograph donated to Budokwai from LJS

Bankier (the strongman Apollo). In the world of the music hall strongman and wrestler, with its challenges and counter challenges that meant he had to be able to prove his art against any opponent. But Tani had been ready to meet all comers from his first days in England. Bankier had first met Tani at Barton-Wright's school and tested him on the mat. He later wrote, "As Tani stands only 5 foot in height, the task before me seemed a particularly light one. To my astonishment however, he had me at his mercy in less than two minutes. How it was accomplished I did not know, but there I lay at the end of the bout, completely tied up with the Jap grinning from ear to ear and laughingly asking me if I had had enough?"

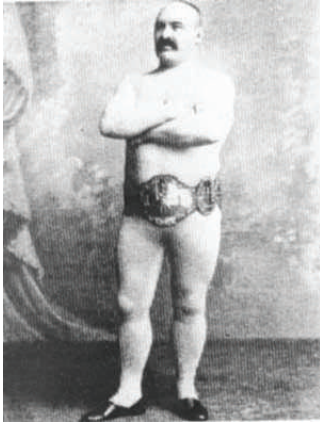
Bankier induced some of the top professional wrestlers of the day to visit Barton-Wright's school. The group included Jack Carkeek (the self-styled "King of Wrestlers"), Antonio Pierri, and the former English national champion Tom Cannon, but none of

*"... Yukio Tani, Budokwai member number 14, helped form the first generation of British judoka."*

these big guns could be persuaded to have a bout with Tani. A wrestler called

## Yukio Tani (continued)

Collins did go to the mat however and within a minute he was thrown heavily, falling outside the mat and on the stone floor. "Being a little stunned," wrote Bankier, "he was unable to renew the contest."



Tom Cannon  
Renowned wrestler refused to fight Tani

There is a long list of wrestlers who tried conclusions with Yukio Tani -- but, note, under jujutsu rules with which they were unfamiliar -- and they all seem to have succumbed to a stranglehold or armlock.

It's worth remembering that there was some skepticism about jujutsu when it originally appeared in England. William Bankier himself wrote that when "Tani and a fellow countryman" first made their appearance at the Tivoli Theatre, "the art was described as farcical, and the demonstrators knockabout comedians." Bankier put the blame for this on the managers of the Japanese, so maybe that was a cheap shot at Barton-Wright, but other people also wrote about their early reservations on the new Japanese art.

Percy Longhurst was one of England's leading writers on wrestling, and he too recalled those early demonstrations. "I have a very lively recollection of the first exposition of the science given to the public," Longhurst wrote. "I was on the platform with several others interested in antagonistics, and we were not impressed. I had witnessed several private exhibitions previously, and my incredulity as to the utility of the new system. The public demonstration left my unbelief somewhat shaken; but I was anything but satisfied that jiu-jitsu, although it provided an interesting spectacle, as a practical form of antagonistics, had any value worth consideration. Longhurst then went on to say, however, that thereafter he had been able to form "a more practical opinion, and original suspicion and disbelief have

not only been greatly modified, but changed to a sound respect."

... Tani had to live up to the hype, and he did it by being ready to meet all comers from his very first days in England. That willingness to go on the mat continued years later when he was instructing at the London judo club called the Budokwai. Shaw Desmond, a Budokwai veteran, remembered Tani throwing "an all-in pro-wrestling champion" and then working him over on the ground with a series of locks and strangleholds. He also threw "an 18-stone [224-pound] Greco-Roman style wrestler who had come to study judo with Desmond. But Tani's reputation, and the reputation of jujutsu, was really made in the boisterous world of the music hall, where he worked for years. He had to be ready to meet all comers, regardless of weight, so the worth of jujutsu was proved night after night, in town after town, throughout Britain. According to Percy Longhurst, writing in 1905, "The shrewd Scotsman Apollo, the professional strongman, has taken Yukio Tani in hand, carrying him from place to place until there is scarcely a town of considerable size south of Glasgow where Tani has not given a demonstration of Jiu-Jitsu."

... I don't know exactly when Tani joined with Bankier to begin his years-long odyssey through the music halls and theatres of Great Britain, but by 1903 he was a well-known figure to the public. Said Health and Strength in December 1903: "Yukio Tani the clever Japanese wrestler, has lately been appearing at the Tivoli music hall, Leeds. His offer of twenty guineas to anyone whom he fails to defeat in fifteen minutes, brought him before the best wrestlers from Lancashire and Yorkshire, but the twenty guineas still stands to Tani's account. In retrospect, the early propagators of jujutsu in Britain were fortunate in their timing. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Japan had emerged as a major world power and victories in wars with China in 1895 and Russia ten years later aroused international admiration for the "plucky little Jap". In addition, efforts to launch the art coincided with a vogue for physical culture and professional wrestling. This was, in the view of many writers, the golden age of professional wrestling, a period, which lasted from around 1898 to 1913, and the retirement of the then "world" champion Frank Gotch.

.... When Gunji Koizumi founded the London judo club known as the Budokwai in January 1918, Yukio Tani was member number 14, and much of his free time was spent at the dojo. Therefore he helped form the first generation of British judoka.



Gunji Koizumi  
Demonstrating during a visit to Holland 1949

Pupils received individual instruction, which meant that Tani would often be on the mat for four or five hours at a time. In person he was friendly and cheerful, but on the mat he was a strict taskmaster. One of his pupils, Marcus Kaye, wrote: "Throughout all his instruction there ran a steadfast devotion to the realities of judo, with a corresponding avoidance of anything flashy, unsound, or easy."

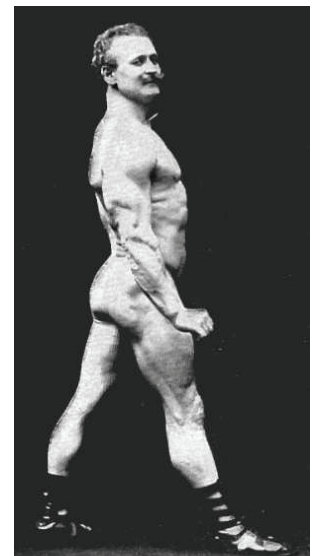
Tani was a man who believed in learning by doing, and students remembered the effects of his throws, particularly his hane-goshi ... But it was in groundwork where his real skill was felt.

At Barton-Wright's lecture to the Japan Society of London in 1901, given just after Tani arrived in London, the quality of his groundwork was noted against the much heavier Yamamoto. Richard Bowen, the historian of British judo, picked up an echo of Tani's skill when he did randori with Len Hunt, a veteran British judoka, during the late 1940s and early 1950s. Hunt had started training with Uyenishi's student William Garrud during the 1920s before moving over to Tani and the Budokwai. Dicky Bowen told me that "Hunt, in his mid-seventies, could even deal with some of the young internationals on the ground - it was Tani's groundwork. It was astonishing. I mean, I'm a former international and he just tied me in knots when he was in his late sixties or early seventies."

We know little about Tani's early training. Apparently his father and grandfather were teachers of ju-jutsu and he started training at a young age. So this must have been around 1890.

Shingo Ohgami told me that Tani

trained with Fusen-ryu groundwork specialists Torajiro Tanabe and/or Matauemon Tanabe. This is supported by information in Takao Marushima's Maeda Itsuyo: Conte Koma (1997), where it is said that Matauemon Tanabe was a friend of Tani's father. This is interesting because the latter Tanabe, the fourth headmaster of the Fusen-ryu, features in the early history of Kodokan judo.



Eugene Sandow c 1900  
Typical "Strongman" of the day

In the September 1952 edition of Henri Plée's Revue Judo Kodokan, Kainan Shimomura, 8-dan, wrote: Encounters between professors of the state were the exception. However, public opinion got so worked

## Yukio Tani (continued)

up that in January 1891 an inter-group combat took place in which Tobarī (then 3rd dan judo, he died an 8th dan) for the Kodokan opposed [Mataemon] Tanabe, expert of the Fusen-ryu school. One must not commit the error of considering the ancient jujutsu as being a priori inferior to modern judo.

Straightaway Tanabe sought the combat on the ground, but Tobarī succeeded in remaining standing up. After a fierce fight Tanabe won by a very successful stranglehold on the ground. Tobarī, bitterly disappointed by the defeat, began to feverishly study groundwork. The year after, he challenged Tanabe again. This time it was a ground battle and once more Tanabe won. He was now famous and, in the name of the ancient schools, challenged the members of the Kodokan, and even Isogai (then 3rd dan, at the time of his death he was a 10th dan) was put in danger from his ground technique. The Kodokan then concluded that a really competent judoka must possess not only a good standing technique but good ground technique as well. This is the origin of the celebrated 'ne-waza of the Kansai region'. And in conclusion to all this one may very well say that Mataemon Tanabe, too, unconsciously contributed towards the perfecting of the judo of the Kodokan.

So this may go some way towards explaining Tani's skill. All those years on stage must have had an effect, too. In those matches a clean throw was not enough to win: challengers had to be subdued by an armlock or stranglehold, and moreover Tani always had to work hard against the clock, too.

*“ ... Tani had to live up to the hype -He did it by being ready to meet all comers.”*

When he practised ground work with a student his method was to pick a weakness and work on it. Trevor Leggett, the late British judoka, recalled that his neck was relatively weak when he began his own study of judo. So Tani would take him to the ground and apply a stranglehold, then release it just as he was about to tap. Leggett would begin to fight back and then the hold would go on again. This was repeated time after time. Leggett wrote (Judo, July 1955): 'No, you're still alive!' he would say. When I thought I was absolutely exhausted he would give up on the necklock theme and come down over my face in a hold-down. It used to drive me

nearly frantic but after some years I appreciated the training. I now know instinctively how to get out of a necklock. I can feel the slightest hint of weakness in the attacking method and am also fairly difficult to hold.

As for contests, Leggett continued: "We were told to attack all the time. In one of my early contests at Cambridge I scored quickly with a foot throw. Then we went to the ground, where I got astride. He started to push at my throat with both hands, and I knew I ought to go for the armlock but was afraid of the risk of losing my position. So I clung on for the rest of the time, pretending to try for necklocks. With my one point I won the contest. Mr. Tani wouldn't speak to me after the contest or on the way back to London with the team. But just as we were all separating to go home, he said, 'Coward.' It took me some time to get over that, but it was a good lesson."

The full article by Graham Noble appears at the website of the electronic journal of Martial arts <http://ejmas.com> (extracts printed with permission of Joe Svinth editor). An earlier version appeared in Warriors Dreams, volume 1.

If you have any comments or views on this article—please write in for inclusion in a future Bulletin

## The Real World of Self Protection - Stan Brogan

### The Real World of Self Protection

Before self defence is even considered as an instructional medium it would be advisable to study the benefits of self protection. It is a very unwise person who would take training in how to handle an intruder in his house when he did not bother to secure his premises with suitable locks and other hardware in the first instance.

So it should be when giving advice or training to members of the public anxious to be able to deal with personal attacks. Simple safety precautions can be of great value in preserving ones safety. We have all heard the well worn phrases about darkened streets, self confidence, not showing expensive adornments in public places, etc. etc. but how many of us have bothered to stress the more simple precautionary measures that can greatly reduce the possibility of personal attacks.

Sometimes victims of violence have received severe injuries, even death, when they stood to lose a small sum of money. If one wishes to fight for a few pounds of cash then they must have a very low opinion of the value of life.

However, many persons who conduct training classes for 'self defence' are more interested in getting down to the physical aspect of per-

sonal safety. All too often there is a trainer who has acquired some knowledge of a martial art, etc. over a long period and expects his pupils to perform with some expertise when attacked.

What is learned in a training hall, with an instructor nearby to correct faults, working with a fellow trainee, both anxious to avoid injury is a far cry from an ugly surprise attack with the object of using violence if necessary carried out in the street where often no one nearby to assist or deter the assailant.

*“ ... there are those who believe that they can turn these elderly, unfit and unknowledgeable members of the public into fighting machines .”*

Another attribute which the trainer has is his physical fitness. Many persons who desire training are not physically fit and do not have the confidence and agility of the trainer. Also the trainer usually adapts some martial art trick to use as a self defence measure and seems to forget how long it took him or his martial art colleagues to master the same movement.

Often an assailant is armed and there are those who believe that they can turn these elderly, unfit and unknowledgeable members of the public into fighting machines able to disarm their attackers. When attacked by an armed person it takes great courage, skill and a great deal of luck to overcome the opponent and it is always advisable to do as one is told rather than risk your life. Of course there are exceptions but the majority of the criminal fraternity just want some easy pickings with no extra trouble.

What then is the answer to some of these problems? An instructor should carefully consider if he has the many attributes that one expects in this type of instruction. Some of the more obvious are listed below.

- ◆ Good interpersonal skills and presentation
- ◆ A presentable standard of dress and physical appearance
- ◆ A good knowledge of security and self protection skills
- ◆ The ability to assess what areas of instruction are relevant to the trainees



Samujrai  
Early photo c 1850



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### The Real World of Self Protection-(cont) - Stan Brogan

- ◆ An awareness of the physical capabilities of the trainees
- ◆ Ensure that adequate and safe equipment is available if necessary
- ◆ The instructor should have First Aid qualifications to a reasonable standard

It follows therefore that training in protection skills may vary widely according to the composition, age and specialist requirements of certain groups of trainees. A few examples illustrates this point quite clearly:

Female persons may be more interested on how to deal with indecent-behaviour, obscene telephone calls, rape and indecent assaults than male persons.

Elderly persons cannot be expected to take part in a physical struggle nor chase after a runaway thief.

Nurses in hospital may have to deal with inebriates or drug users who may be patients or relatives and friends of a patient. Unruly persons who may be ill or injured and demand instant attention or trespassers or intruders.

Door attendants or 'bouncers' at popular places of entertainment often have to vet the type of person seeking admission. Some may be unsuitably dressed, already banned from the premises, in possession of weapons or drugs or of a riotous or disorderly demeanour and likely to cause trouble.

These are but a few of the many variances of instruction that may be demanded of the instructor and, if not suitably qualified, the instructor should stand back from such a task and thus probably save a claim of negligence with possible litigation proceedings when accidents happen.

Litigious claims can be made when it is alleged that the injury was due to faulty instruction, unsafe equipment or contributory negligence whilst under instruction. This is also possible when 'instructors' have been trained and a third party is injured because of faulty instruction in the original training. Even if the claim never reaches a court hearing, the legal fees incurred in consultation and arbitration can most costly.

There is a great deal of truth in the assumption that if physical encounter is necessary then there is a good possibility that the situation may have been incorrectly dealt with in the first instance. It is therefore advisable to place much emphasis on the handling of confrontation skills, preventative measures in both the home and public places and other methods of avoiding physical contact.

What then is the answer? Persons taking on the task of self protection training should assess the class and have a structured programme of instruction compatible with the group seeking instructing. It is good to know what they expect, if they have a common problem by nature of their employment and can that problem be adequately addressed.

This is very much an abridged treatise on the many critical issues facing instructors in this field and they should not be averse to seeking guidance when they feel it is necessary or advisable..

Finally, if you have some high grading in one of the martial arts or Judo, do not go into a Court and expect them to consider you as an expert in the field of personal injury negligence. The author is on the Law Society List of Expert Witnesses and is a member of the Society of Expert Witnesses and even now, after over twelve years experience is subjected to rigorous questioning by skilled banisters.

### Kano Society News

The AGM took place late this year due to the venue having to be changed at the last minute—as a result the turnout was low and there was not a quorum to vote on a new committee. Members have been canvassed for their views. The present committee will continue for the present time with the exception of Wilf Hashimi who has resigned as secretary. Stan Brogan takes over as Hon Sec; Larry Ralph as Treasurer. Diana Birch and Malcolm Hodgkinson continue in post.

The Committee has written to members asking their views regarding KATA and whether they would be interested in a Kata course.

An article on Kata by John Cornish will appear in the next issue.

Please send your views in to the Bulletin or the website. How do you view kata? Should it be taught more widely?

There are more film shows planned for the future and old films are being digitalised and prepared at present—some will be on sale in the near future—watch this space!



Japanese Archer c 1830  
Old Photo on Albumen paper