



The Bulletin

Issue No 15

January 2006

The Kano Society

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The Bulletin - Editor's comment

In this edition - We continue the series on Sexual Discrimination and harassment in Judo by Hervé Lemarechal which has been translated from the original French. Also another controversy— Do you have an opinion on the style of Gleeson? Please send in contributions. Antun Sisgoreo starts the ball rolling.

News - The Kata course in Epsom went very well and we are holding another on 5th March. We also have a special 'Dialogue' event at Bath University on 9th April. See website for details.

In view of the lateness of the Bulletin I thought that a clip from an earlier era was amusing. (p3)
Regards Diana Birch

Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in Judo Herve Lemarechal (Part II)

Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in Judo (from its initiation up to 1960)

The process of emancipation of women has, at least in the West, reached maturity. This process has encompassed several aspects - equality in political rights; access to the work place; exercise of electoral rights; freedom over one's body in terms of fertility control, sexuality, choice of dress and involvement in sport.

15 - First types of discrimination

With the general advancement of female judo we begin to see the first signs of sexual discrimination some of which persist today.

The accounts provided here stem from first hand accounts of participants.

Here are the most noted forms of

Sport de femme Le judo est aussi un sport de femmes! Sur cette photo, deux pratiquantes nous démontrent que le sexe faible sait aussi être fort. Méfiez-vous des femmes judokas !



The first French women judo championship, Paris, May 1950
(Kawaishi is refereeing from the background)

The Gleeson Controversy Revisited - Antun Sisgoreo

I have always found Geoff Gleeson's vilification of uchi komi at odds with the fact that uchi komi to this day, is practiced all over the world, by all level of judoka.

Because of Gleeson's obvious brilliance I could not simply discard his claims as incompetent. Yet I felt that something was amiss. Intuitively I knew that uchi komi can be useful. In my own uchi komi practice, at times I felt that it was definitely beneficial to my technique. At other times it felt that I could repeat a certain waza in uchi komi a million times, and I still would not be able to pull it off in randori (let alone shiai). This led to a realization that perhaps there were two types of uchi komi: GOOD and BAD (or right and wrong). Could it be that in his zeal to I think that is exactly what happened. Could it be that in his zeal to eradicate

all the wrong things he saw happening in judo, Geoff Gleeson may have made a mistake and gone too far?

Today I conclude that by saying "...not only will uchi komi not help to improve the skill of throwing, but will actually hinder any improvement", Gleeson threw out the baby with the bath water. In reality, it is only BAD uchi komi that will not improve the skill, and will hinder improvement. On the other hand, to paraphrase Yasuhiro Yamashita, "(Good) Uchi Komi is the backbone of the training process for any judo throw."

Recently I stumbled upon an old article on judo training by Trevor P. Leggett, which seems to confirm this view. Instead of good and bad uchi komi, Leggett uses the terms "alive"

and "dead" movement. Here is what Leggett has to say about uchi komi (aka butsukari)

"To get this feeling of live movement is one of the points of *butsukari*, and I might say here that some of the Budokwai members stop the *butsukari* movement too soon. It must be carried up to the point of *kuzushi*, when you can throw your opponent by the slightest twist of the loins. If it is cut short before that, the practice may simply degenerate into "dead" movement. You *must* get the feel of the moment of *kuzushi*, when, as they say, his toenails begin to scrape the ground. It is the lively attention directed towards this tiny moment that brings *butsukari* out of the category of dead movement. ... "Live movement" is one of the most valuable things judo can give to its

students!"
From Budokwai Quarterly Bulletin, January 1951

To fully understand Leggett's concept of live vs. dead movement, I highly recommend one reads this most excellent article in its entirety:

http://ejmas.com/jcs/jcsleggett_live_movement.htm

On a side note, it should be noted that Leggett was Gleeson's sensei/mentor.

Also, at the latter parts of their lives, the two men headed in two opposite directions (philosophically). Gleeson headed aggressively towards the West, while Leggett went towards the East - Far East. The implications of all this are numerous, and far reaching, but those we can discuss later ... at this moment let's stick to uchi komi

Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in Judo (cont)

discrimination which female judoka have had to put up with in the fifties and sixties. Such prejudice seems to have resulted from preconceived ideas. Such rigid opinions are expressed in articles written by the teachers of the day. Here are the main ones:-

The social role of a woman is that of keeping house and bringing up children;

Judo is a sport which is too violent for a woman and could prevent her from having children;

Judo compromises femininity, it is not the role of a woman to do judo;

Females are not sufficiently serious minded or disciplined to participate in judo.

151 – Barring from competition. The first form of discrimination is the exclusion of women from competition. Deprived of all evaluation, female judo was not recognised as a serious activity and seemed barely credible. Instructors insisted on the beauty of movements, the aesthetics of the kata, rather than on their efficacy. To quote J Liberman French revues, and gossip columns included jokes and ironical comments on female judoka.; women were afraid of falls, it became a private activity.

Female judo Female Judo was therefore not taken seriously. Eventually a female Judo championship was held in Paris in May 1950. This championship, open to all women of orange belt or over, took place on the fringe of the European championships and was refereed by Kawaishi himself. All techniques were allowed including strangles.

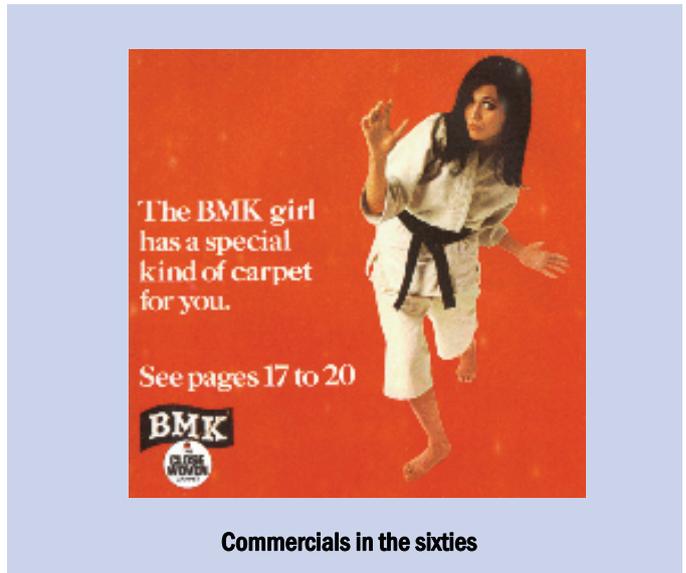
The scores which were given were somewhat restrained, most of the competitors lacked techniques and

used excess aggression.

Nevertheless this competition was not without importance since all the finalists became black belts within a few years. The second ranked (vice champion) Mme Levannier obtained her black belt the following year. We must wait until 1968 before Great Britain was to stage her first female judo championship won by Elaine Birch, JC Tipton.

152 - A female judo differing from male judo. Another form of discrimination, which stems from the preceding, is the adaptation of the teaching methods for females pupils. In consideration of the danger to the female body, judo had to be adapted to the female form. Let us remember that female participants were nearly all adult women or adolescents, child players were unusual. The teaching of female Judo was not uniform. One finds as many different teaching methods as there were teachers. However nearly all the instructors were convinced that judo was dangerous for women and needed to be adapted. Indeed all the techniques were generally taught but here and there, certain instructors avoided teaching sutemi or strangles, and in fact armlocks which were deemed too dangerous. The teaching of the kata was generally favoured. Randori was the only form of fighting allowed. Female judo tended to become a gymnastic exercise rather than a combat sport.

153 – Discrimination in the



Commercials in the sixties

organisation of classes. The classes were sometimes mixed and sometimes segregated. The first female instructors did not appear in France until the fifties. In the sixties we see more or less all over a veritable explosion of classes exclusively for women. There were also female clubs but their existence was merely fleeting.

Even in the mixed lessons, practice remained strictly separated the female pupils were segregated. At least at first, mixed randori were the exception. In fact the men balked at practicing with a woman and preferred to train among themselves. In the fifties, men who accepted being thrown to the mat by a female partner were rare! On the other hand differences in morphology and training resulted that at least in France, mixed

practice became almost an impossibility. We have to wait until the sixties before these obstacles were overcome. In fact the largely male Judo community resisted the integration of women. In addition the almost impossibility of females being able to practice with male partners compromised the standard of their technique at least at the level of self defence.

154 – Specific female grades. Naturally discrimination extended to the award of grades. A female belt could not have the same value as a male belt, female belts were in general distinguished with a white stripe along their length. Even nowadays this discrimination is seen in Japan. At the time many females considered this detail truly discriminating.

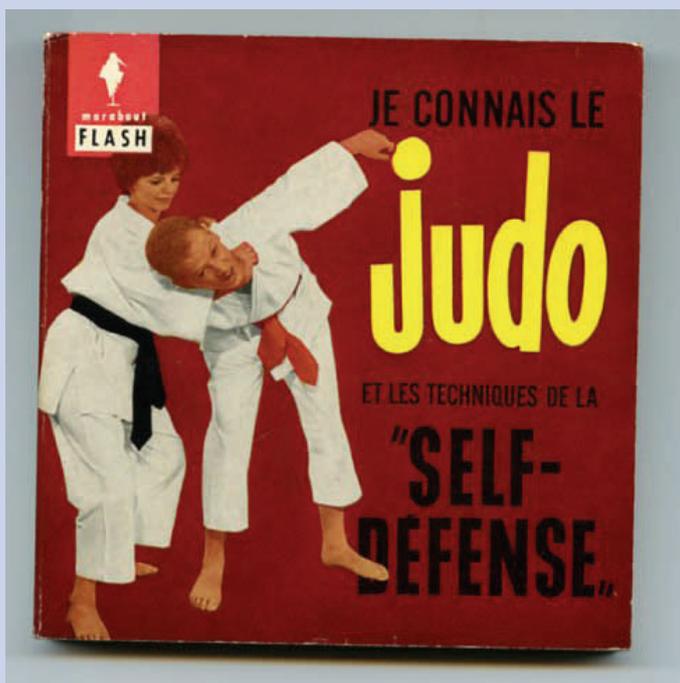
As far as the black belt was concerned it was limited by quota in order to guarantee the value of the grade. According to some the level required to obtain a black belt was deemed more rigorous for a woman than a man. In the fifties in France, the grading for women for their black belt was mixed. The first candidates were not in sufficient numbers to be able to fight amongst themselves and they therefore had to confront other male opponents. The number of candidates for black belt rose rapidly and the gradings rapidly became non mixed.

The acquisition of a black belt was therefore very difficult for the French at least until the seventies. In July 1966 the magazine 'Traditional Judo' gave the names of 52 French holders of the black belt. The same



Female Celebrities in Action

Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in Judo (cont)



A french judo book cover in 1963

publication also named the fourth dan males 41 As regards the number of female Judoka the estimate given by the publication 'Formidable No 5' was 'more than 10,000 in 1965.

155 - The attitude of male judoka. We understand that at the time females met serious obstacles in entering the judo community. In fact female judo was generally not taken seriously. The aim of instructors is to produce black belts and competitors in order to establish a fully fledged federation. On the other hand many accounts remarked on the lack of courtesy of male partners who refused to fall or refused to train with female partners. Equally, some of them were also lacking in their cleanliness. There were also inappropriate and crude suggestions.

The place of women in the Judo world reflected their place in society in general, under the domination of males It was to take several more

years before they would be fully accepted. A sixth dan instructor, presently deceased, Mr Birnbaum told me that Judo was not designed for women. However he did not find a way of excluding women from class.

Female pupils also upset other things. It should be understood that there was a rapid turnover of female participants, many misled by adverse publicity were rapidly discouraged.

Despite all these forms of discrimination of which some continue to exist at the present time, certain observations can be made which contradict the marginalisation of female judo - for example:-

Another point is the big appeal of female judo in promoting efficacy . Newspapers extol the efficacy of judo in portraying women apparently practicing with ease. Instances of successful self defence are widely reported. Numerous female personalities are publicised practicing judo. (To be continued)

Time Tunnel - An Unpunctual Bulletin

CLUB NEWS—From AN old Budokwai Bulletin of April 1947.

This is interesting both in terms of the humour of late Bulletins and also in terms of the comparison between the spreading nature of the affiliated clubs and the general propagation of Judo with the Budokwai at a central pivotal point. A marked difference from the current position when Judo has declined and the emphasis has shifted very much away from the Budokwai who has rested too long on the laurels of the past, whilst the midlands and Wolverhampton have had their periods in the leading position.

AN UNPUNCTUAL BULLETIN.

The Editor has been told off by the Assistant Secretary because the April Bulletin did not appear until the first week in May. While admitting that Fuel Crisis might have been beyond the power of even the Budokwai to sort out, the Ass Secretary points out that it is the practice of many members pay for their Bulletins in advance. When the weeks go by and no Bulletin

appears suspicions arise in their minds and letters begin to arrive inquiring whether postal orders and cheques have been safely received. This necessitates a reply and the affixing to the envelope of a 2 1/2d stamp, a deplorable waste of secretarial time and Club funds. The Editor wishes to apologize for the unpunctuality of the last number and to explain that the Bulletin is due to appear at the end of the month shown on the cover, If, however, there should be another crisis of a kind which might upset the Printer's time-table, members are asked to be kind enough to wait patiently and their copies will be sent to them as soon as possible.

GUESTS FROM FRANCE

Among the guests from abroad whom we have been delighted to welcome have been M. de Herdt, who has since won the French Judo championship, and M. Beaujean. both of the Jui-Jitsu Club de France Mlle, Jano Henroteau, of Le Stade de Jui-Jitsu, and Mlle. Claude Meuniez, of the St. Lazare Jui-Jitsu Club. Some reflections on French and English Judo styles, inspired by Mlle. Meuniez visit, appear on p.

25. Following her return to France, the St Lazare Club has invited any members of the Budokwai who happen to be in Paris to visit the Club premises at 7, rue du Cardinal Mercier, Paris 9.

AFFILIATED CLUBS

The Budokwai is beginning to resemble the hen whose out stretched wings can no longer cover her lusty brood. Hardly one more name of an affiliated club can be squeezed on to the inside of the back cover, and we are happily looking forward to an overflow on to the outside as well News from affiliated clubs and from members and friends of the Budokwai, wherever they may be is one of the most valued features of the Bulletin, and all are invited to send in scraps of news or information which they think might interest other members. A good harvest has been gathered together in this number and we hope that there may be an even bigger one in the next. News from the affiliated clubs is already so voluminous that it appears in this number as a

separate feature under the title 'Family Affairs.'

THE BUDOKWAI ABROAD

A Budokwai team visited Holland during the latter part of April to demonstrate Judo to the Dutch Forces. A spirited account of this tour by Lt Thieme, who organised it appears on p. 7. Mr. Sekine, who was a member of the team, managed also to work in a trip to Paris during which he, visited a number of French clubs with M. Sauvenière. of the Union des Sports de Combat. M Sauveniere writes that while some French Judoka are extolling M Sekine as a teacher others are trying to discover the secret of his tai-otoshi. Several other French Judoka have expressed appreciation of M. Sekine's visit, but as the injuries he received in Paris prevented him from completing the demonstration in Holland, we must ask our French colleagues not to smash up our members next time - at least not when they are due to take part in demonstrations.

News has been received from two other members who are upholding the traditions of the club in other countries



The Kano Society

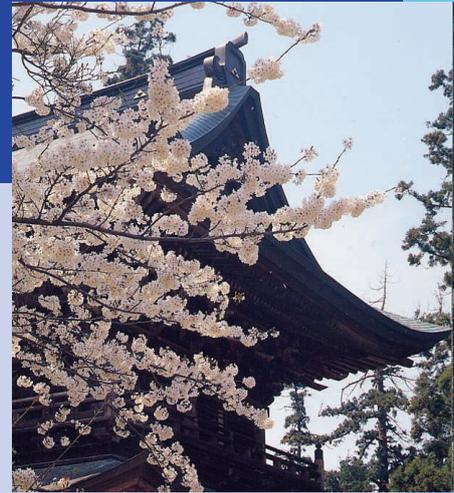
PO Box 45408
London SE26 6WG
England

Email: sensei@kanosociety.org

We're on the Web!
www.KanoSociety.org

Please contribute to ...

The Bulletin



KATA COURSE

KANO SOCIETY
SPRING KATA COURSE
At Epsom Judo Club

Address: Sleeping Storm Dojo,
Hook Road, Epsom, Surrey KT19 8TU

Date: Sunday 5th March

Please see website for details

Time: 12-4.30pm

The course will focus on the

Kime-No-Kata which is of interest to both
Judo and Aikido players and also to other
disciplines of Martial Artists.

Course Instructor John Cornish

John Cornish 7th Dan is a BJA Kata examiner.
A former Judo Kodokan Kenshusei who trained
in Aikido under Ueshiba and studied the Go-
Shin-Jutsu directly under Tomiki.

Price: £15 -Reduced Price for Students and
Kano Society Members - £10

Please sign up via the website or write to us

PO Box 45408 London SE26 6WG

enclosing cheque payable to Kano Society

Please see website for map and further details

Our host at Epsom is Adrian Tyndale

A Judo Dialogue
Sunday 9th April



The Kano Society are proud to announce a collaborative event
with Bath University. Mike Callan the director of the Judo
courses at Bath is hosting a joint session with the Kano Society
on Sunday April 9th 2006.

This session will be a dialogue between the Kano Society
members and Bath Judo. We hope to include traditional judo
concepts and some historical information as well as discussion
and demonstration of current training.

Our time will be spent on and off the mat -

* Watching judo video of archive material including Dickie
Bowen's interview and some classic judo footage -

* Learning the less known Katas such as Itsutsu-no-kata and
seeing our future Olympic hopefuls in action. The day will
include something for everyone!

Martial Arts and Zen

Titles Available from www.Dial-Media.com

Or email the Kano Society at sensei@kanosociety.org
Videos and DVDs

**NEW - 'An Interlude with Richard Bowen' - NEW
DVD or VHS 35mins £10 donation plus p&p**



Zen Titles

Sword and mind

The flowers of the heart

Judo for life

The soft and the hard

The Stone sermon

Tips and icebergs

Tapes by Trevor Leggett

All above titles £10 donation each plus p&p.

Coming soon - Gunji Koizumi; Go-shin jutsu;
Nagenokata

Teizo Kawamura technique and gokyō - 55 mins
- £15 donation plus p&p

An Englishwoman in Japan - Sarah Meyer and
Ichiro Hata - Based on letters to Gunji Koizumi
- 15 mins - £10 donation plus p&p

Budokwai advert 90 secs clip £3 donation

Allan Zipeure Judo Man at 90 £10 donation

Len Hunt - Judo Newaza Legend VHS or DVD

35mins £15 donation plus p&p

(Proceeds of sales to charity)



Martial Arts Videos

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY! If you attend one of
our courses or events this year - you can join
the Kano Society on the day and get free entry
to the event. - Don't miss out - come to Epsom
or Bath - or both! Second and subsequent
events are at reduced members rate with first
event free!