



The Bulletin

Issue No 27

July 2015

In This Issue

- Roy Inman OBE 9th Dan (1946 – 2015)
- Obituary Roy Inman OBE 9th Dan by Mike Callan
- *Judo* – “A Family Business” – Roy Inman OBE by Karen Inman (née Briggs)
- Remembering Roy Inman, Our Coach
- Remembering Dad by Jennifer Long

The Bulletin

This issue has been produced and edited by Llŷr Jones.

News: We sadly report the premature death, on 30 May 2015, of Roy Inman OBE 9th Dan—best known as an innovative and pioneering *judo* coach, who achieved outstanding levels of success with elite female *judoka*, and who was a much loved and respected member of the *judo* family.

In this edition: Contributions to this special tribute issue of the Bulletin have been provided, from the *judo* community, by Jane Bridge, Mike Callan, Karen Inman (née Briggs), Loretta Doyle, Nicola Fairbrother, Kate Howey and Ann Hughes. We also have a short piece by Jennifer Long, Roy's daughter.

The photographs for this specially extended issue, entirely devoted to Roy Inman, were generously made available by David Finch, Richard Goulding and Judospace Limited.

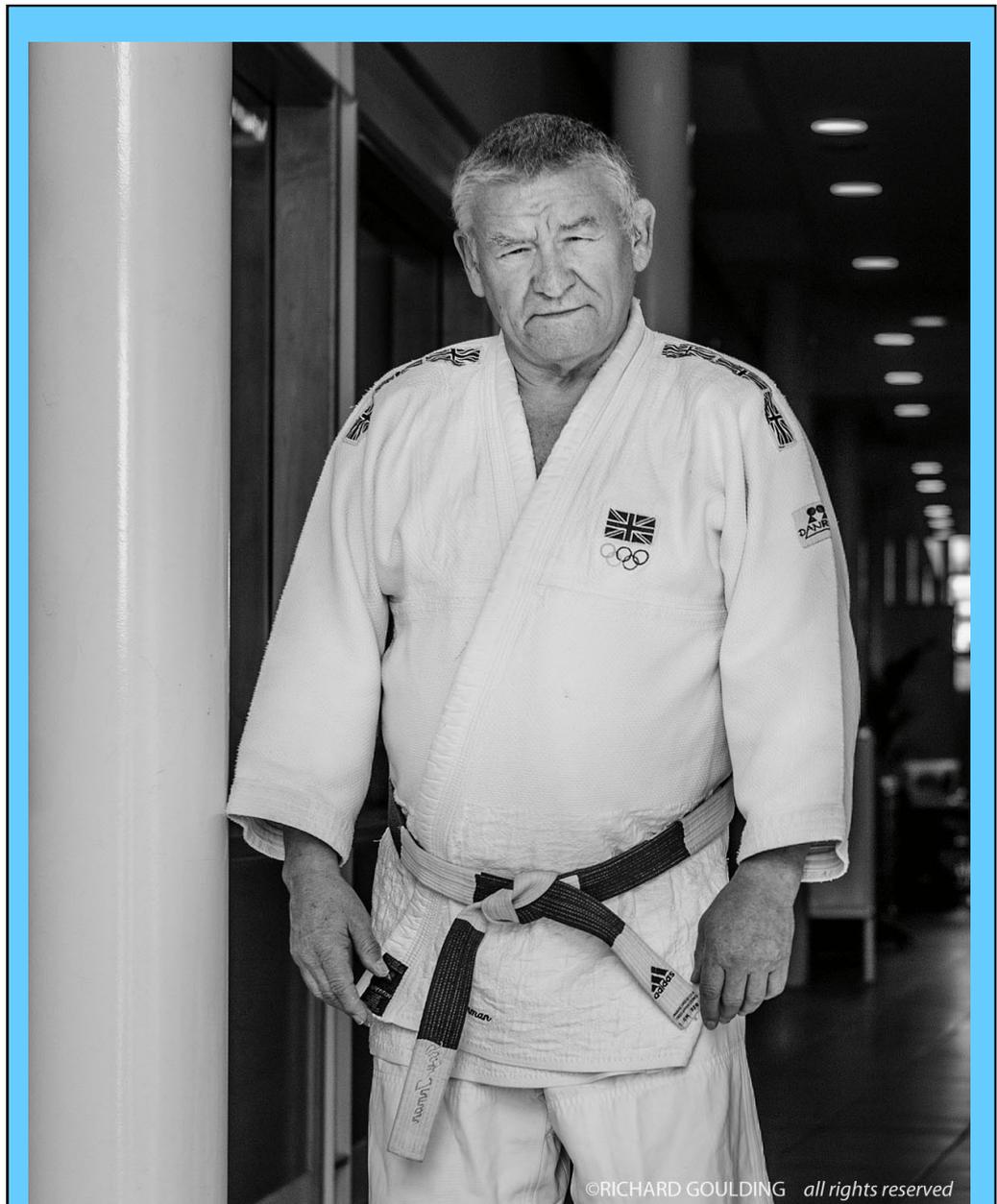
Thanks are also due to Nicola Fairbrother for coordinating the contributions from some of Roy's World Champions, and also to David Finch for his kind assistance.

Thank you all.

Regards Diana Birch

The Kano Society

Roy Inman OBE 9th Dan (1946 – 2015)



©RICHARD GOULDING all rights reserved

Roy Inman then 8th Dan (later 9th Dan) in a photograph taken at the Walsall Sports Centre on the University of Wolverhampton's Walsall Campus during a break in squad training, leading up to the London 2012, Summer Olympics

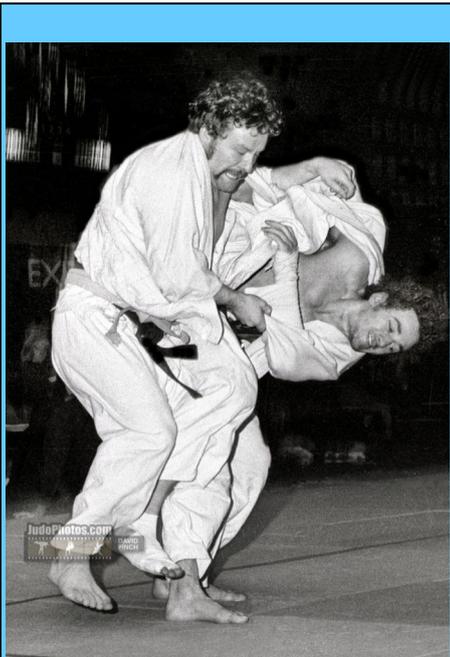
[© Copyright Richard Goulding—2012—All Rights Reserved]

Obituary Roy Inman OBE 9th Dan by Mike Callan

Roy Inman OBE, who has died aged 69, was one of the most influential British *judoka* of his generation. Hugely respected and admired, he achieved success as an athlete, coach, coach educator, administrator and author.

Born and brought up in Hounslow, Middlesex, he was English Schools pole-vault champion, and married to childhood sweetheart Carol, before turning to *judo* at the relatively late age of 23.

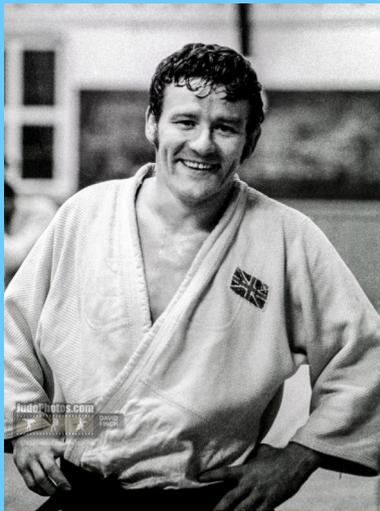
In 1968 as a yellow belt he joined the *Budokwai* beginner's class, under Tony Reay and remained a lifelong member. He progressed rapidly, gaining his 1st and then 2nd *Dan*, both within 18 months. He won the British Open in 1969 at Light Heavyweight, and retained his title the following year—beating Angelo Parisi in the semi-final. The same month he also won the British *Judo* Council (BJC) Open Championship defeating Robin Otani by 2 *wazari* scores to end a gruelling 10 minute final.



Roy Inman (GBR, left) defends against an attack by Jean-Luc Rouge (FRA) during the 1973 Team event between Great Britain, France and Germany at Meadowbank, Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom on 22 January 1973

[© Copyright David Finch—1973—All Rights Reserved]

Representing Great Britain for the first time in 1970, in 1972 he won the Swedish Open beating East Germany's Dietmar Lorenz. In 1975 he came down from -93kg to -80kg to compete in the World Championships in Vienna. In Japan he trained at Sekijuku under Isao Okano, who shared his love for Cliff Richard records, and furnished Roy with an armchair and a fork to alleviate the difficulties of a foreigner living in Japan.



British international and later world class *judo* coach, Roy Inman enjoying the evening practice at The Budokwai *Judo* Club's Kensington *dojo*, Gllston Road, London on 1 September 1975

[© Copyright David Finch—1975—All Rights Reserved]

Whilst still an active athlete, in 1974 Roy was the Official GB coach for the 1st Women's European Tournament in Genoa, where both Lynn Tilley and Christine Child won Gold medals. This was the start of a remarkable international coaching career which saw him coach at 4 Olympic Games, winning 6 Olympic medals. Under his leadership Great Britain's women won 14 World Championship and 26 European Championship Gold medals. These athletes included the first ever women's World Champion Jane Bridge, four times World Champion, and daughter-in-law Karen Briggs MBE, current BJA Director Loretta

Doyle, and current Great Britain Lead Coach Kate Howey MBE.

Fairholme *Judo* Club, in Bedfont was the factory where for many years his coaching genius was crafted. He welcomed all comers, and taught the children's classes before training himself, coaching the national team members, and enjoying a cold lager after a sauna. Sharing stories, of past *judoka*, that grew with humour each time they were told.

He was Head Coach for England at the 1990 Commonwealth Games in Auckland, winning seven of the eight available gold medals. He built a legacy for British Women's *judo*. Incredibly, athletes he coached won a medal in every Senior World Championships over a 21 year period, between 1980 and 2001. In 1999 he was appointed Head Coach at the University of Bath, and had the opportunity to develop another generation of *judoka*, and was awarded a Full Blue.

He instigated the practice of *uchikomi* to music, and leaves a legacy of *judoka* who know every beat of the Suzi Quatro and The Osmonds playlists. As a *karaoke* singer, his favourite was Sinatra's "Summer Wind".

He was awarded International Coach of the Year, by the Princess Royal in 1991, and the Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty the Queen in 1992.

Roy was extremely active as a coach educator with his Technical Review of the Year at the High Wycombe *Judo* Centre, becoming a key date in the calendar. He delivered countless Club Coach Award courses, instigated the British *Judo* Association (BJA) Instructor award, and taught on the European *Judo* Union (EJU) Level 5 Coach Award. He joined the Judospace delivery team as Technical Advisor, helping develop more coaches in Australia and around the world.

As an Administrator he made a significant contribution to the development of British *Judo*. Serving on the Board of Directors of the BJA for 12 years and serving on several sub-committees including the Coaching Commission, and the Promotions Panel. On retirement from the Board

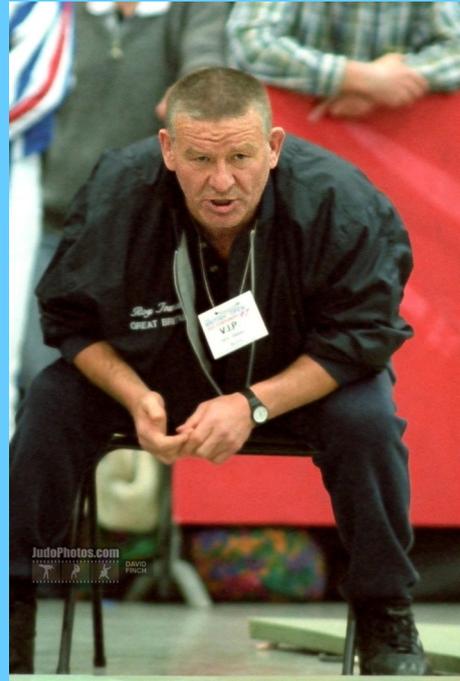
of the Directors of the BJA in 2013 he was appointed as a Vice-President.

He had been Chairman of the Northern Home Counties for 18 years, a Director of the High Wycombe *Judo* Centre for 23 years, and Chair of Fairholme *Judo* Club for over 30 years. He believed that *judo* should be run by *judo* people, and that funds should find their way to the youngsters competing and the clubs that supported them.

Author of 10 books, including the BJA Dan Grade Syllabus (1981), and the BJA Technical Dan Grade Syllabus (2008), in 2003 Roy authored an academic poster for the International Science of Judo Symposium in Osaka.

Roy received his 1st *Dan* from Trevor Pryce Leggett (TPL) in 1969, and in 2013 he was awarded his 9th *Dan* by the International *Judo* Federation (IJF).

Roy is survived by his loving wife Carol, his three children, his adoring grandchildren and great grandchildren. Our thoughts are with them.



Roy Inman coaches from the side of the mat at the 1997 British Open held at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham

[© Copyright David Finch—1997—All Rights Reserved]



Roy Inman proudly wearing his Japanese-made Aka Obi [Red Belt] having been promoted to the grade of 9th *Dan* by the International *Judo* Federation on 16 April 2013. (Certificate presented on 12 May 2013)

[© Copyright Judospace Limited—2013—All Rights Reserved]

Judo — “A Family Business” — Roy Inman OBE by Karen Inman (née Briggs)

My Coach, my Father-in-Law, my Friend, Jade and Harry Inman’s Grandad and my Husbands Dad, how can one man be all of the above and be inspirational in every way?

Roy made me into the champion I am today, taking me under his wing when I was 15 years old. He was such a remarkable coach that I felt I did not belong, and it took me a long time to look at him and speak to him face to face. Yet almost every Friday, Roy picked me up from Hatton Cross as I travelled from Hull on the train and there was always a surprise, as I never knew what car he would turn up in as Roy loved his cars. I stayed at the Inman family home nearly every weekend and Carol was a diamond something one took for granted when you are a selfish sportswoman headed for the top as four time World Champion. But what a family I eventually married into.

Roy would always say “It will never last”, from the day Pete, his son, and I got together. We married though in 1994, then Jade and Harry arrived, and now 20 years on it is a comment that he still used to make “It will never last”,

but with a loving smile on his face. He was so proud of us, and words cannot express how much we will miss him, and how much we all loved him.

Roy’s granddaughter, Jade, became a British Champion in *judo*, and what a great moment to have the most successful women’s judo coach ever, and her Grandad, present her with her with her Gold Medal. They were both so proud.

Roy’s grandson, Harry, is on the England Rugby League team and is also a very talented sportsman. His Grandad watched him play, and although it was not judo, Roy would often comment how outstanding Harry was, and what a hard Sport Rugby league is.

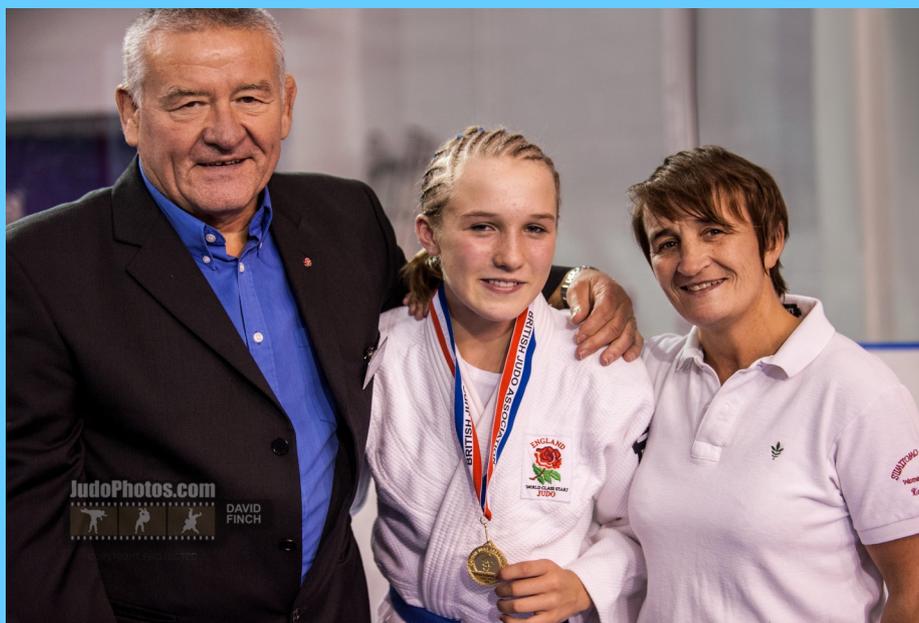
1983 European Championships

Myself and Loretta were both in the final of our categories, and whilst warming up just before, Loretta managed to accidentally knock my front tooth out completely. There was blood everywhere, and we were both in tears—Loretta because she was upset over the accident, and me be-

cause of the pain I was in and I had lost my front tooth. Roy had 15 minutes to calm us both down before we fought in European Finals and this was a hard task. Things were calm when along came Arthur Mapp, the Men’s Team Manager, who took his false front tooth out and said “It will be okay, you can have one like this”. Well that set us both off again and I remember Roy was not very happy. But all was good in the end - we both became European Champions. Happy Days.

1984 World Championships

The Gold medallists at this event received a Clarion car stereo, and I did not know, but Roy being into cars, said it was top of the range and very expensive. This did not really mean a lot to me as I was a *judo* player. He said to the whole team “If anybody wins can I have the stereo?”, and without hesitation I said to Roy “When I become World Champion again, you can have the stereo”. I felt it belonged to Roy, for all his hard work and dedication, and just for putting up with the women’s team, which I know was hard work at times, though rewarding.



“A Family business”—Roy Inman, BJA board director and former world class coach, Jade Inman -52kg cadet champion and granddaughter to Roy, and Karen Inman (née Briggs) -48kg four times world champion and mother to Jade, during the second day of the pre-cadet girls and junior men and women categories at the Sheffield ICE Centre, on 10 October 2009, Sheffield, United Kingdom

1986 European Championships

Roy was so pleased when I became European Champion on home ground at Crystal Palace, as it was he himself who accidentally broke my foot in training just 2 weeks before the event. He threw me with *tai-otoshi* in training and I landed awkwardly hurting my ankle—but no matter what I was not missing the Europeans. Pain was an understatement as I limped onto the mat with my heavily strapped foot - not even being able to weight bear properly - and knowing that when I had finished the event it would have to be re-fractured for it to heal properly. Those were the days, and fighters were really fighters.

US Open—Cañon City Skyline Drive

Skyline Drive is a scenic roadway in Cañon City, Colorado which winds, climbs and falls like a roller coaster. I have memories of Roy driving a larger than average American car along this road, which was only as wide as the car itself, at a height that I cannot begin to explain. The car was full of all the women's Team and I remember that we were speechless with none of us saying a word. This was very unusual indeed. We also had to keep stopping to wipe away the sweat off Roy. I had never seen him under so much pressure—not even during World finals.

Swiss Open

After the competition in Switzerland all the teams knew it was a fancy dress event except for the British team. Upon asking Roy what we could wear he replied "Take the white sheets off the bed, wrap them around yourselves and apply some makeup". This is exactly what we did. He always had the answer to everything.

Training in Venezuela

I remember Ann Hughes and Diane Bell sitting in our rented flat in Bedford were we lived for many years whilst training at Fairholme Judo Club. We were waiting for a phone call to see whether the trip to train in Venezuela was on. As with everything the British team, did Roy was trying to organise it. We were all really excited as we had not been there before. The trip that turned out to be a nightmare—we slept in bunk beds and under the mattresses were cockroaches and creatures which were really big and still alive! It was at this point that we wished we had not received that phone call, but Roy being the person that he was, decided to take us all away from it for a few days to a first class beach resort. However, Roy ended up being unhappy as many of the team ended up with second degree burns and blisters after enjoying

the sun too much. This was not good when you have to put a *judogi* on. All in all it was a trip from Hell.

Training at Fairholme Judo Club

On many occasions when we used to train at Fairholme Judo Club there was frost on the mat, and so we had to start warming up with our socks on until the heat started to kick in. Roy was the first person to introduce music into the training sessions and he also created a session called Devil Training, or DT, with songs like Queen's "We are the Champions" and The Osmonds' "Crazy Horses". Roy's famous words to us would be on the music then we knew training had started and nobody stopped until you dropped there was simply no skiving. That is why he produced the best British team in the world and that stayed that way while he remained British Team Manager.

One of the most common things I would hear Roy saying when talking to people about me was "The only problem I have with Briggsy is stopping her training". Thank you Roy for my competitive *Judo* career and for being my Father-in-Law, and Jade and Harry's Grandad. We all have memories we will cherish forever.

Karen and Your Loving Family.



Great Britain's women's team for the 1989 Belgrade World Judo Championships taken during a preparation day at the High Wycombe Judo Centre, High Wycombe, United Kingdom on 26 August 1989. The women's team, managed by Roy Inman, won 2 gold medals (Briggs & Rendle) and 2 silver medals (Hughes & Lee).

(L-R standing): Sharon Lee (silver), Jane Morris (5th), Diane Bell (5th), Sharon Mills (5th), Roy Inman, (L-R Kneelling) Ann Hughes (silver), Sharon Rendle (gold) and Karen Briggs (gold)

[© Copyright David Finch—1989—All Rights Reserved]

Remembering Roy Inman, Our Coach

Roy Inman produced eight female *judo* World Champions—Diane Bell (1986 & 87), Jane Bridge (1980), Karen Briggs (1982, 84, 86 & 89), Loretta Doyle (1982), Nicola Fairbrother (1993), Ann Hughes, (1986), Kate Howey (1997) and Sharon Rendle (1987 & 89). Here some more of these champions remember their times with Roy.

Jane Bridge,

Roy always used to say, "I didn't teach Jane any *judo*, I just taught her to fight!" It was true that I had a very good technical grounding from my BJC club. Did Roy teach me how to fight? Maybe, probably, I'm not sure. However in those pioneering times for women's *judo* he certainly helped shape my life in the present and, though little did I know at the time, also my future.

At that time, when women did not have that much space on the mat, Roy recognised the potential that we women showed through our hard training, true grit and hunger to improve.

It was in those early 70's when, internationally, women's *judo* started to take off. The first European Championships took place in 1975 and I won my first title the year after in '76. Roy was already our coach. At that time there was lots of talk of a first World Championships for women but Europe (the strongest continent at the time for women *judo*) couldn't manage to get it off the ground. I know that Roy was very supportive of Rusty (Kanakogi) when she had so much struggle to organise the Worlds in New York.

Roy always seemed to make things work out, juggle, manage and get things that no one else would be able to obtain. For the run up to the World Championships in 1980 he managed to organise what we would probably call now a training cell. He simply acquired two apartments side by side, right opposite Fairholme *Judo* Club where 'his girls' could stay for free.

I had a mixed year that year. Although I had retained a third European title and British Open title I had a set back in a

couple of competitions and a knee injury. I felt that I needed a boost going into the Worlds. When I heard that my good friend and training partner Ann Hughes had moved down (we were both from the North West) I didn't hesitate, barely mentioned it to anyone and made the journey to Hounslow Middlesex.

Those were amazing moments for me. Roy organised training sessions during the day, brought down partners for us to throw around, organised great *randori* sessions in the evenings at the club. Ann and I would even cycle to the *Budokwai* on a Friday evening such was our feeling of well-being and motivation. And his wife Carol would always be there if we needed a feeling of "home". We could go round to her home and she would make us a cup of tea and chat to us of other things rather than *judo*. Just like a mother and a friend.

I was extraordinary lucky to be part of that first adventure which was the women's worlds. With my title Roy was able to bring back the first World title (man or woman) to Great Britain. This was a title that helped shape my future and without Roy would probably have never happened.

I am forever in your debt Roy. God Bless and Rest In Peace.

Loretta Doyle

I always had a love-hate relationship with Roy, though "hate" is too harsh a word, as neither of us ever fell out, or took things personally. Why? Well in the early days of my *judo* career Roy, as my National Coach, pushed, provoked and put obstacles in my way. Given my limited experience at that time I believed I was never going to be one of his favourite players, and felt he was out to stop me from being successful in my achievements.

I couldn't have been further from the truth! He pushed me beyond my limits to prepare me for the toughest fight, he provoked me and put obstacles in my way to ensure I always rose

to all my challenges, and gave my best.

At the 1982 World Championships in Paris, I jokingly stated to Roy that knowing my luck I would draw the current world champion in the first round. This, based on a certain law, came true. After attending the draw Roy swaggered out, bum-bag weighing heavily on his hip, smirked and stated "For the first time you were right". I laughingly replied "Roy—if you think after doing all those 'Devil Training' sessions, I'm going out first round, you can forget it". Roy's only reply was "That's my girl!" and continued on his way. I subsequently went on to win the World Championships.

In my later years Roy became a good friend, a man I felt I could ask a question and get an honest answer. As such we had mutual respect for each other, even though we did not always see eye-to eye on every subject. In one of our more heated, and interesting conversations, and after disagreeing with him, Roy responded "You will make a good coach, believe in your gut, lead by example and people will follow". These words I will never forget. Roy's early influences, the provoking, the debates etc. have made me the successful women in *judo* I am today.

I'm sure there will be a significant number of people who will miss him. One of these people will be me. Roy thank you for pushing me to success and shaping the person I am today, and I will miss our conversations.

Don't worry Roy I will make sure to push my fellow peers, I will follow my heart and our love of *judo*, continuing the successes in the future.

Roy Inman might not be in this world in body but in spirit will remain within the Association. God bless.

Ann Hughes,

Training with Roy Inman OBE was a pleasure and an honour. On one occasion Roy said to me "Ann your *newaza* is crap so we need to do something about it" we worked on one turnover

and if I couldn't secure a hold down from it could follow it up with *jugi-gatame*. I did repetition after repetition and it became part of my repertoire helping me win many a contest.

Having Roy as my coach at a competition was a big advantage before I stepped on the mat. He would just give you one bit of information about your opponent and just reinforce it throughout the contest. What I will always remember about Roy is when matte was called him shouting "Come on Annie".

Without Roy being my coach I can honestly say I would not have become World, European and Commonwealth Champion.

Nicola Fairbrother,

Pinewood Judo Club was saddened to hear of the death of Roy Inman, OBE, 9th Dan. British judo has lost one of its true greats, and Pinewood has lost a dear friend.

Don, like us all at Pinewood, held Roy in the highest esteem. When we lost Don last year, Roy was one of the first to step in to fill the void, and offer us all some guidance in our darkest hour. Roy spoke then of the mutual respect the two *sensei* had for each other. Don had once told him, "Roy, I do the graft-

ing and you do the polishing."

And that was true, because Roy Inman added the shine that took our judo to the highest level. Roy coached generations of Pinewood fighters, as they made the National Squad helping us to fulfil our international potential.

Roy was an extra-ordinary coach in many ways. He inspired, he motivated and he knew precisely what each individual needed to do to win a contest. Having Roy in the chair, as you fought was rather like starting the fight a *waza-ari* up—his ability to analyse a contest in real time won me many contests.

I will remember Roy in this way; a remarkable coach without whom I wouldn't have won a World title and without whom it just wouldn't have been so good—for it really was the best of times.

Here, at Pinewood, Roy will always be remembered as a friend of the club, and on behalf of Pinewood, and me personally—thank you Roy, your legacy is massive and it lives on in British Judo for all to see.

Kate Howey

Being the youngest of Roy's World Champions you would think he would be a bit softer on me when we were training, but that was not the case.

When I was 16 years old I used to travel to Fairholme every Monday to train with the team - returning home on a Friday. Roy always said to me "Make sure you run at the weekend!" This of course I did religiously (although I hated it) since at that age anything he told me, I did. I would get back to Fairholme on the Monday and we would again be training, normally "Devil Training" to his country music (which at my age was not cool, but I grew to know every word, of every tape he had, by the time I was 18 years old.

He also thought I was not fit enough, so he would tell me off and make me do more. As time went on I thought "This is not right" and so I was tested for asthma, which of course I had. I told Roy and he laughed, and then said "Oh never mind, all the extra judo will one day make you a World Champion!" Even now when I touch my left ear I think of him, as he left me with a cauliflower ear from practicing *morote gari* too many times on his rather



Roy Inman and his successful British team that included three World Champions and a bronze medallist. Back row Roy Inman, Karen Briggs (gold), Jane Bridge (coach), Ann Hughes (gold), Sharon Rendle (bronze) and Diane Bell (gold), front Joanne Spinks, Avrill Malley, Eileen Boyle and physio during Day 3 (Sunday) at the Sporthal Geusselt in Maastricht, Netherlands on 25 October 1987

[© Copyright David Finch—1987—All Rights Reserved]



The Kano Society

PO Box 45408
London SE26 6WG
England

Email: kanosociety@youthsupport.net

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

Please contribute to ...

The Bulletin



round, but solid belly! Roy was, as ever, correct. The extra training and the extra *morote-gari* practice did indeed make me a World Champion.

Roy did so much for me and was a great influence on my life as a player, a coach and more importantly a person. Thank you Roy.

Remembering Dad by Jennifer Long

We conclude this special edition of the Bulletin with a personal tribute to Roy by his daughter Jennifer.

We are all so proud of Dad—he was a brilliant father and role model. I never did *judo*—though I did try it for a while—it was not my thing. I did though share my childhood with *judo*-women from all over the world, and most of them slept in my room with their sweaty suits!

I was a “girlie girl” and remember insisting that Karen (Briggs) and Ann (Hughes) needed their eyebrow plucking—I nearly got punched! My poor mum used to wash so many *judo* suits every week and hang them on the line, or

around the house, to dry; she also cooked and for everyone. Her father lived with us, and then her two younger brothers, after her own mum died of cancer.

Our 3 bed semi was always bursting to its seams and I never once heard her complain. Us children were very lucky as Dad and Mum were brilliant parents. Without Dad we wouldn't have experienced what we did in life. Ann Hughes is now a dear friend and my daughter's god mother, and of course Karen is my sister in law. My Dad always said that his biggest achievement was his family, and he would completely agree that without Mum he would not have become the man he was.

Dad was a father role model to all his girls, and Mum was the mother role model who worked so hard. To us Dad was our dad and also a grandad and great grandad. As we grew up and had our own children, Mum and Dad were always there for us. We are a very close family and still cannot believe he is gone. He was always a strong man and two weeks ago was sitting sunbathing in Spain drinking a lager. He didn't have any pain and went peacefully with the woman he loved for 52 years and his adoring children hugging him.



The 1992 Barcelona Olympic British *Judo* team, including coaches, gather for a group photograph

Left to right: Tony Macconnell, Arthur Mapp, Ian Freeman, Nigel Donohue, Ryan Birch, Kate Howey, Karen Briggs, Ray Stevens, Diane Bell, Sharon Rendle, Billy Cusack, Elvis Gordon, Nicola Fairbrother, Densign White, Josie Horton, Sharon Lee, Anne Hughes and Roy Inman.

Photograph taken at the *Budokwal Judo Club's* Kensington dojo, Gilston Road, London, 12 May 1992.

[© Copyright David Finch—1992—All Rights Reserved]