



The Kano Society Bulletin



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News

It is with great sadness that we must report the passing of John Cornish *judo* 7 *dan*, *aikido* 8 *dan*, who died, at the age of 89, on Wednesday 11 April 2018.



Japan-trained at source, John was a highly distinguished *judo* and *aikido* *sensei*, and a great *Budokwai* man. Also a very kind man, who will be deeply missed, his death represents the passing of yet another titan from the golden age of British *judo*.

The next issue of this Bulletin will be a special tribute edition to John.

Diana Birch & Llyr Jones

In this edition

Contributions issue of the Kano Society Bulletin have been provided by John Pinnell, Llyr Jones and David Finch. Llyr Jones also prepared and edited this edition.

Thank you all.

Regards Diana Birch

The *Budokwai* Centenary Celebratory Dinner By John Pinnell. Photographs by David Finch

On Saturday 26 January 1918, as the First World War was gradually drawing to its' end, The *Budokwai* – or in full, The *Budokwai* (The Way of Knighthood Society) was opened by Gunji Koizumi (GK), and by the end of the first year had some 54 members, mostly drawn from the Japanese community in London. A hundred years on, the time arose to reflect on the role the club and its' members have played in the history of *judo*.



The 240 guests gather to watch The *Budokwai* 100th Anniversary film during the 2018 *Budokwai* Centenary Celebratory Dinner at the Rembrandt Hotel, London on 3 February 2018

To celebrate The *Budokwai*'s centenary, a dinner was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, situated right between two of London's most fashionable areas – South Kensington and Knightsbridge, and opposite the Victoria and Albert museum. The event proved such an attraction that the main room capable of holding 180 people was fully sold out and also the adjoining suite. A number of eminent Japanese guests were present, several of whom had travelled specifically to the United Kingdom (UK) for the centenary. Most notable among these was Kisaburo Watanabe, a former Asian Games *judo* champion, and who placed third in 1959 All Japan Judo Championships. Watanabe-*sensei* was resident instructor at the club in the 1960s and was responsible for laying much of the foundation that made British *judo* successful at that time, and onwards into the 1970s. Sadly, the links to those early days are few, but one notable connection was the attendance by Hana Sekine, GK's daughter, who went on to marry Percy Sekine, who ran the successful *Judokan* at Hammer-smith until the expiration of its lease in 2004.

The event also drew a number of distinguished former members, now resident overseas. These included John Bowen, brother of Dicky (former *Budokwai* Vice President), and now a Tokyo resident, as well as Olympians such as Brian Jacks (Thailand) and Angelo Parisi (France). Other Olympians present included Alan Petherbridge, Neil Adams, Ray Stevens, Chris Bowles, and Tony Sweeney. Also present was Christine Gallie (*née* Child) who was one of the country's most successful female international players but was at her peak prior to women's *judo* being included in the Olympics or World Championships.



Watched by BJA Vice-President, Brian Davies, *Budokwai* President Tony Sweeney, presents an Honorary Membership to legendary *Budokwai* coach, Kisaburu Watanabe of Japan during the 2018 *Budokwai* Centenary Celebratory Dinner



Peter and Christine Gallie during the 2018 *Budokwai* Centenary Celebratory Dinner



Gunji Koizumi's daughter Hana Sekine and John Bowen during the 2018 *Budokwai* Centenary Celebratory Dinner



Budokwai members who took part in the 1980 Moscow Olympics (L-R): Chris Bowles, Angelo Parisi (Gold and Silver), Neil Adams (Silver) during the 2018 *Budokwai* Centenary Celebratory Dinner

Christine's achievements should not be forgotten - she was a double European Champion (1974 and 1975) and was truly a trail blazer for women's competitive *judo* in the UK.

Whilst the national governing body now see national training centres as the way of producing top competitors, we should remember that this has not always been the case. In the 1960s through to the early 1990s The *Budokwai* a genuine the centre of national excellence and responsible for producing many of the country's top players or assisting them in taking that next step up the ladder. This was made possible due to the quality of coaching available, often guest instructors from Japan, or by providing the quality of players for *randori* [free practice] that they needed to practice with if they were to become world class competitors.

At one stage The *Budokwai* was synonymous with British *judo*, as players from the club set up their own affiliated clubs, and also took the lead in administration at a national level. The late Charles Palmer, was one such key individual. A leading competitor and captain of the British team in the 1950s he went on to become an instructor and president of The *Budokwai*. However, his impact can be more clearly seen on the world stage, for many years he was Chairman of the British *Judo* Association (BJA), he was also a chairman of the British Olympics Association (BOA), the first non-Japanese president of the International *Judo* Federation (IJF) and the first British recipient of grade of 10th *dan*.

The evening proved to be very successful. Many attendees having a long history in *judo* as players, and later often as coaches and as administrators. Inevitably this meant much catching-up to do and reminiscing on old times. Indeed, whilst the formal dinner ended about 10.30, many people continued to talk either in the dining suite or the bar area, long into the night. Of course, many people had decided to stay either at the hotel or in one nearby and the following morning further discus-

sions continued as people re-established old friendships. This was much in keeping with The *Budokwai's* motto – “In Skill Opposed, In Spirit United”.

Budokwai Kime-no-kata

By Llyr Jones, John Bowen and David Finch

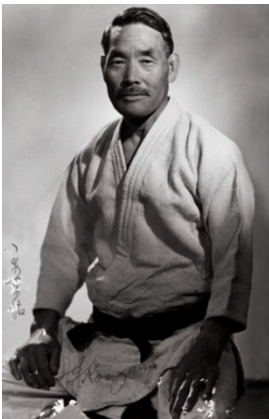
The Budokwai

Founded on 26 January 1918, by Gunji Koizumi, The *Budokwai* is a prominent and highly influential institution for the Japanese martial ways located in London, United Kingdom (UK). Originally situated at 15 Lower Grosvenor Place, near Buckingham Palace, it relocated on 19 September 1954 to a new, larger, premises at 4 Gilston Road in South Kensington, where it remains to this day.



The present-day exterior of The *Budokwai* at 4 Gilston Road, South Kensington, London

Yukio Tani, who had fame as a professional challenge wrestler, was the Society's first lead instructor. The *Budokwai* originally provided instruction in *jujutsu*, but soon switched to *judo* as the result of a visit by Jigoro Kano in July 1920.



Gunji Koizumi
(1885-1965)



Yukio Tani
(1881-1950)

Budokwai Kime-no-kata

Budokwai Kime-no-kata, a formal exercise not officially recognised by the *Kodokan*, consists of defences (throws and locks) against common types of unarmed and armed attacks. The *kata* has not been seen for over 25 years, though at one time, it regularly featured at martial arts demonstrations organised by The *Budokwai*.

Writing in his comprehensive two-volume work “100 Years of *Judo in Great Britain: Reclaiming of Its True Spirit*” the eminent *judoka* and *judo* historian Richard (Dicky) Bowen suggests that *Budokwai Kime-no-kata* was the joint creation of Tani and Koizumi.

“The Budokwai uses two kime no kata; one being the Kodokan kata, which is in many senses archaic but nonetheless is an extremely valuable training method, and one anybody professing to be a judo teacher should be able to perform and teach, along with nage no kata and katame no kata; the other is the Budokwai kime no kata, which was devised by Tani and Koizumi, and for many years the kata favoured for display work.”

However, further work, published elsewhere, by this author, writing with others, concluded that most likely it had been developed solely by Koizumi – principally for display purposes:

“... the Self Defence Kata – Kime no Kata – which differs from that normally shown elsewhere as Koizumi had devised it so that it could be visually pleasing, and that which is shown is known as the Budokwai Kime no Kata.”

1932 – Oxford University Judo Meet and The Budokwai Annual Display

Perhaps the earliest public demonstrations of *Budokwai Kime-no-kata* took place between the 29 November and 3 December 1932 when a German team was invited to the United Kingdom. Arranged by The *Budokwai*, the *kata* displays supported team matches at five locations with the Germans against Oxford University *Judo* Club, Ealing *Judo* Club, the Midlands *Judo* Club, Cambridge University *Judo* Club and a British team of five at the Stadium Club in London, formerly known as the Stadium Theatre. The initial Oxford programme mentions a “*Kime-no-kata display*” by Tani and Koizumi which is described as: “*Self-defence against attack with knife, pistol, stick...*”.

Since such attacks do not feature in the official *Kodokan Kime-no-kata* it is quite possible that what they showed was a very early version of *Budokwai Kime-no-kata*. Unfortunately, there are no programmes of the other events except for a large poster for the “British” team, masquerading as The *Budokwai* team, at the fifteenth annual *Budokwai Display* on the 3 December. It was held at the Stadium Club and includes the shortened wording of “*Defence Against Knife and Revolver Attacks*”. There is little doubt that this would have been a repeat of the Tani and Koizumi displays that took place in the days earlier.



Advertising poster for the Fifteenth Annual Display of The Budokwai, 3 December 1932

1948-49 – Judo – “Budokwai Quarterly Bulletin”

From October 1948 to April 1949, the only known technical work on *Budokwai Kime-no-kata* was serialised, over three issues, in the journal “*Judo, the Quarterly Bulletin of the Budokwai*”. This took the form of a nine-page article by Koizumi, which contained simple instructions on how to perform the 13 techniques in the *kata*. “Stickman” illustrations were provided for the first 11 techniques, and black and white photographs for the final two, with the 13 techniques being:

1. Hold from behind over both arms [*Daki-kakae*]
2. Pistol in right hand [*Shomen-zuke*]
3. Downward attack with knife [*Kiri-oroshi*]
4. Upward stab with knife [*Age-tsuki*]
5. Both hands hold [*Ryote-dori*]
6. Belt pull and chin push [*Ago-oshi*]
7. Blow to side of chin [*Ago-tsuki*]
8. Uppercut [*Tsuki-age*]
9. Downward blow with stick [*Furi-oroshi*]
10. Side blow with stick [*Furi-mawashi*]
11. Two handed attack on throat [*Mae-jime*]
12. Dash to the side [*Yoko-tosshin*]
13. Dash to the front [*Shomen-tosshin*]

Throughout the *kata*, apart from the final two techniques, the role of the attacker and attacked alternate, and Koizumi suggests that this feature was only introduced to make demonstrations more interesting:

“.... Generally, the parts of attacker and defender are played by the same persons throughout the

whole series, but in order to make the demonstration more interesting, we arranged to act the parts alternately.”



Downward attack with knife [*Kiri-oroshi*] as illustrated in Koizumi's 1948-49 article in “*Judo, the Quarterly Bulletin of The Budokwai*”

1948 – The ‘Budokwai’ Film

In 1948, “*The ‘Budokwai’ Film*” was made to mark the thirtieth anniversary of The Budokwai. The black and white 16mm film shows some basic *judo* throws and holds, as well as combinations, self-defense techniques, and five definite *kata* – including *Budokwai Kime-no-kata*, which on the film is done by Gunji Koizumi and Edward (Ted) Mossom. The *kata* they demonstrate is identical to the one described in Koizumi's article, however inexplicably, the fifth technique – *Ryote-dori* is omitted.

1964 – Royal Albert Hall Demonstration

At the 1964 *Budokwai* Show, held at the Royal Albert Hall on 31 October 1964, a *kata* labelled “*Goshin-Jitsu-no-kata*”, supposedly created by Koizumi was demonstrated by Masami Nishimura and Senta Yamada. Writing in the magazine “*Judo*”, Alan Menzies described the performance:

“*The Goshin-Jitsu-no-kata, performed by Mr. M. Nishimura, 7th Dan and Mr. S. Yamada 6th Dan, was a celebrated first time event for this special kata devised by Mr. Gunji Koizumi, 8th Dan for the Budokwai many years ago. Mr. Koizumi was, of course, there to watch, and no doubt approved of the rendering of his composition. Both of the performers are very experienced and their exposition of this highest form of Judo attainment was exceedingly exciting to watch.*”

M. Nishimura was Masami Nishimura who had taught judo in South East Asia, and S. Yamada was Senta Yamada who had come to the UK in 1959 to teach *judo* and *aikido* at the London Judo Society (LJS). Yamada had been a live-in student with Morihei Ueshiba the founder of *aikido* and had also met and studied with Kenji Tomiki – a prominent *aikido* and *judo* teacher, who had played a vital role in the panel of *Kodokan* experts that created *Kodokan Goshin-jutsu*.

Despite Alan Menzies' report in the magazine “*Judo*” stating that Gunji Koizumi was the originator of the demonstrated exercise – hence making it *Budokwai Kime-no-kata*, it is more likely that what was shown was in fact *Kodokan Goshin-jutsu*, and not Koizumi's creation – particularly as

the demonstration is described as a “first time event”, and since one of the demonstrators, Yamada, had strong connections to Kenji Tomiki, a key figure in the development of *Kodokan Goshin-jutsu*. To a degree this confusion is understandable given that the weapons used in both *kata* are identical – namely a knife, a stick and a gun.

1968 – Royal Albert Hall Demonstration

On 30 November 1968, a martial arts display, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of The *Budokwai*'s founding, was again held at the Royal Albert Hall. The seventh item during the evening's display was *Budokwai Kime-no-kata*, done by George Kerr and his protégé Maurice Allan. In dialogue with the author, Allan stated that he learnt and practiced the *kata* under the direction of Kerr in their native Edinburgh – adding that, for him, it was a highlight of their *kata* activity together.



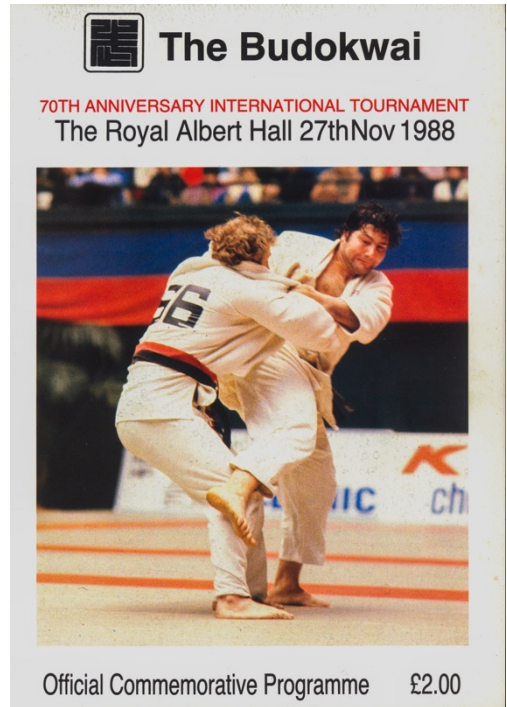
Official Commemorative Programme for The Budokwai's Fiftieth Anniversary Show. Courtesy of Robert John Mewett



Maurice Allan (born 1945) and George Kerr (born 1937).
Courtesy of Edward Ferrie

1988 – Royal Albert Hall Demonstration

Twenty years later, on 27 November 1988, a show was yet again held at the Royal Albert Hall – this time to mark the seventieth anniversary of The *Budokwai*'s founding.



Official Commemorative Programme for The *Budokwai*'s Seventieth Anniversary Tournament

During the evening, a *Budokwai Kime-no-kata*, containing significant differences to that described and shown by Koi-zumi, was done by George Kerr and Rodger Bornowski.



George Kerr defending against a *Shomen-zuke* attack by Rodger Bornowski (born 1958) during a *Budokwai Kime-no-kata* display at The *Budokwai*'s Seventieth Anniversary Tournament

Kerr and Bornowski's *kata* contained a total of 15 techniques – including additional attacks and defences, and also different defensive responses to identical attacks. The basis for these additions and differences is not known, and may very well have been personal modifications. This demonstration was the last time *Budokwai Kime-no-kata* is known to have been shown.



George Kerr attacking with *Kiri-oroshi* during a *Budokwai Kime-no-kata* display at The *Budokwai's* Seventieth Anniversary Tournament.



Rodger Bornowski defending against *Naname-uchi* [Hit the face from sideways] during a *Budokwai Kime-no-kata* display at The *Budokwai's* Seventieth Anniversary Tournament. *Naname-uchi* is unique to this most recent version of the exercise

Concluding Remarks

Budokwai Kime-no-kata offers a glimpse into a time when self-defence was still a significant part of *judo* – which had yet to suffer from the overwhelming emphasis on sports-competition, and winning medals, so prevalent today. As an original creation of The *Budokwai's* highly influential founder, Gunji Koizumi, the *kata* is an important element of British *judo* history. Every effort should be made to preserve it for future generations of *judoka*.

“*Judo in the West*” an anthology of articles by Michael A. DeMarco



The Society is pleased to recommend this 197-page, lavishly illustrated, anthology of articles from the “*Journal of Asian Martial Arts*”. Compiled by Michael A. DeMarco and published by Via Media, the book includes several scholarly overviews of how *jujutsu* and *judo* took an early foothold in the West. Naturally, there is a strong emphasis on the United Kingdom and the essential role played by The *Budokwai* in those formative years. As such, it is a must read for all those interested in this aspect of the evolution of *judo*.



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