



# The Kano Society Bulletin



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## In This Edition

The highlight of this issue of “*The Bulletin*” is a lavishly illustrated article by Bill Musgrove celebrating Hana Sekine’s milestone 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

In sad contrast we also report the deaths of *judo* colossus, Alan Petherbridge MBE, and referee, coach and pioneering equality champion, Belinda Petty. Tributes to both these leaders are provided herein.

## Publisher’s Comments

As this issue of “*The Bulletin*” (produced by Llyr Jones) is published, the effects of COVID-19 continue to flow through all aspects of our lives. *The Bulletin’s* production team hope that in some way it helps its readers to enjoy *judo* at a time when physical practice is constrained.

The Society was also delighted to learn of the International *Judo* Federation’s decision to promote 1963 European Silver Medallist, Dennis Penfold to 8<sup>th</sup> *dan*.

In further sad news we note the death of 1965 Junior European Champion, David Peake 8<sup>th</sup> *dan*. A tribute will be prepared for the next *Bulletin* issue.

## Contributions

The backbone of the Kano Society’s activities is this on-line publication. We welcome contributions in the form of articles or photographs etc. to “*The Bulletin*”.

Diana Birch



## Hana Sekine – Celebrating 100 Years



Bill Musgrove



Hana Sekine, stands next to a picture of her father, Gunzi Koizumi at The Budokwai, on October 12, 2014

**Hana Sekine**, daughter of **Gunji Koizumi** (the “Father of British Judo” and founder of The *Budokwai*) and Ida Celine, nee Winstanley (the Winstanley family of lighthouse fame), was **one hundred on 29 July this year (2020)**.

Hana lived her very young life in Ebury Street, London and from the age of six in Kemptown, Brighton, moved back to London at eleven and went to The Greycoat Hospital School for six years and then finished her education at a commercial school in South London. She was a quiet, happy and intelligent young girl according to her godmother who knew her well, strangely enough Hana’s godmother lived in Brook Green, Hammersmith, where Hana now lives.

As a young lady of fifteen Hana started *judo* and was taught, of course, by her father at The *Budokwai* in Lower Grosvenor Place. Two other young ladies trained with her, Miss Woolhouse and Miss Anderson. Hana does now admit that she never really enjoyed *judo* and never proceeded beyond green belt.

As the Second World War approached Mr Koizumi was in America, his lacquer shop in Eccleston Street had closed and his two assistants had been called up for military service. It was then that Hana's mother decided to open a small café, in the old lacquer shop, serving teas and cakes. She had always wanted to do this, and Hana seemed to like the idea and in no time had joined in as 'head' waitress. By chance a customer sat down one day and asked for lunch, this caused a little confusion as they had never served lunches before, however lunch arrived and from then was served on a daily basis. The café continued during the war and their menus stated - 'Meals served in the air raid shelter if necessary!' Hana has often remarked how surprising it was that although her home and the café were very close to Victoria Station, they suffered very little bomb damage.

During the war Hana was also working as a nurse in Mill Hill, North London. The Hospital was originally Mill Hill Public School and had been converted for the duration of the war for mentally shocked and sick soldiers. Unfortunately, she had to give up this work after about two years as her mother suffered a stroke and needed to be looked after.



**Budokwai Dinner c. 1947 shows a young Hana turned towards the camera on the nearest table and the second from the left. Gunji Koizumi is on the top table seated third from the right and her mother, Ida Celine Koizumi is standing, fifth from the left**

In 1947 Hana married Percy (Yasuji) Sekine and in 1949 their only son Douglas arrived.



**Hana and Percy on their wedding day in 1947**

In 1954 they opened The *Judokan*, London. Percy was chief instructor, Dicky Bowen and Dennis Bloss also taught on a regular basis, with many famous Japanese as Watanabe, Yamashita, Nakanishi and Matsushita visiting the club whenever they were in London. The standard of *judo* at the club was extremely high and even Mr Koizumi was proud of its success and development. Hana was club secretary and worked hard and continuously over the club's fifty-year history, not only with the secretarial work but also behind the bar and nursing injured *judoka*. In 1976 when The *Judokan* London celebrated its 21st anniversary among many of the congratulations that Hana and Percy received were cards from Kano, Matsushita, Abe, Kawamura and Daigo, famous names indeed.



**Risei Kano, then head of The *Kodokan*, during a visit to the UK. Hana with son Douglas, husband Percy, and father Gunji Koizumi.**



**Percy and Hana Sekine at a *Judokan* dinner in the 1960s.**

The club closed in 2004 and Hana at last retired at the age of eighty-four and sadly Percy died in 2010 after being nursed by Hana for the last few years. She did say that this was a difficult time for her.





Hana with typical grace, style and humour, arm-locking Percy Sekine.

Hana has always been resolute and stoic and has many of the great qualities of her father. In 2016 she became ill with shingles and suffered very badly, was in and out of hospital for many months and caused us all great concern. It was thanks to her good neighbour and friend Nagham Al-Roufaie that Hana is still with us today. There is no doubt that Nagham and her family saved Hana's life many times not only by helping but by calling ambulances at several critical moments. Eventually Hana left hospital and moved to a convalescence home in Hammersmith for four weeks. She was very amused one day when a member of the staff asked her why she had so many male visitors! (Old *Judokan* members, of course!). On leaving the convalescence home poor Hana was still very weak and needed help, miraculously along came Adela Mediavilla. Hana already knew Adela and was delighted to have her around, and now thanks to her help, kind attention and companionship Hana has gone from strength to strength and is looking forward to next year's 101<sup>st</sup> birthday when we can all celebrate in grand style without the restrictions of the pandemic.



Hana relaxing in her Hammersmith flat overlooking the location of the former *Judokan*

Hana received many, many cards, letters and unbelievable numbers of bouquets on her 100th birthday and of course was delighted with a card from Her Majesty the Queen.



Hana celebrating her hundredth birthday.

Hana always says how lucky she is to have so many helpful friends, this is not surprising as she is kind, thoughtful, jolly and generous, and over her life with Percy and The *Judokan* have helped and given pleasure to so many of us - we are the lucky ones.

We all wish Hana continued good health and happiness.



Hana standing between the author (left) and John Bowen during the 2018 *Budokwai* Centenary Celebratory Dinner held on 3 February 2018 at the Rembrandt Hotel, Kensington, London

## In Memoriam: Belinda Petty (22 August 1935–3 July 2020) Marion Woodard



Belinda Petty (1935 – 2020)

Belinda Petty was an amazing lady – smart, funny, articulate, caring, insightful and one of the leaders in refereeing. She was one of the *judoka* who trained at The *Budokwai* in the early 1970s when ladies were only allowed to practice in the downstairs dojo. Belinda's trademark was her false eye-lashes which stayed on in spite of the fierce training sessions.

In 1975 the *Budokwai* ladies attended a British Judo Association (BJA) Refereeing Course and, along with many others, Belinda passed the Referees' exam. The dye was now cast for her to become one of the UK's leading female referees. She worked for many years at numerous Area Open events and national events. She taught sport to teenagers, some of whom had challenging backgrounds and behaviours. She treated them all with fairness and respect.

Promoted by the BJA to 5<sup>th</sup> *dan* in July 1992, Belinda trained and examined referees and was also a highly competent Senior Examiner who passed candidates only if their *judo* skills met the required standards. In the 1970s and 80s there was active reluctance to select female referees to officiate at national senior men's events – one of the reasons being that they would be unable to separate male players if the need arose. Belinda questioned this for three years until finally it was agreed that women could referee men at national events. This legal decision had an impact on the progression of ladies in refereeing worldwide.

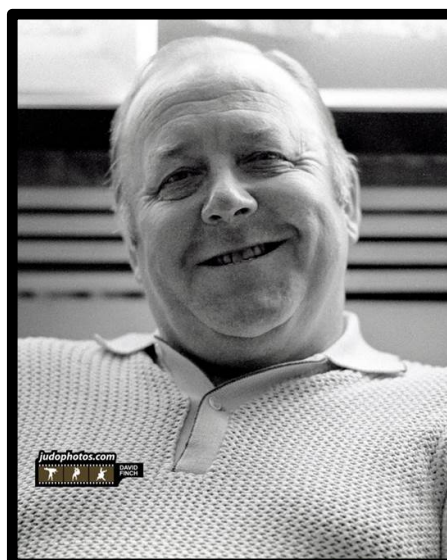
So, Belinda – on behalf of all female *judoka*, thank you for your inner strength, passion and determination about *judo* and fairness.



Belinda Petty refereeing a Neil Adams match in 1983 after winning an employment tribunal case against the BJA in 1980

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## In Memoriam: Alan Petherbridge MBE (10 September 1927–30 July 2020) Llyr Jones



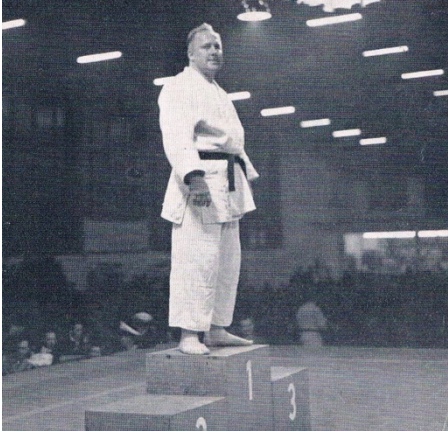
Alan Petherbridge MBE (1927 – 2020)

The Society was sad to learn of the death of (David) Alan Petherbridge MBE (Peth) on 30 July 2020 at the age of 92.

Born in Swansea on 10 September 1927, Peth started his *judo* life in 1945 while serving in the British Army at Spandau Barracks, Berlin. He joined the Swansea *Judo* Society in 1949, and The *Budokwai* in 1950. A physically commanding presence he represented Wales in the 1953 Home Internationals and was the first Welsh *judoka* to achieve 1<sup>st</sup> *dan*.



Winning the Goldberg Vass Memorial Trophy at the Royal Albert Hall in 1955, Alan was then selected to represent Great Britain (GB) at the 1956 European Championships. Those championships were cancelled, but he was subsequently a member of the British team that won three successive European Team Championships titles in 1957-58-59. At the 1962 European *Judo* Championships held in Essen (in the then West Germany) Alan became individual European Champion, taking gold in the 3<sup>rd</sup> dan Amateur Category.



Alan Petherbridge – 3<sup>rd</sup> dan Champion of Europe – 1962

John Bowen recalls the 1962 eliminations at The *Budokwai* to get into the GB team, where he came up against Peth, who threw and subsequently fell on him. Bowen, who was very light, remembers Alan jumping up and anxiously asking him if he was all right? John (Bowen) remembers afterwards, John Trick saying that he had never seen Peth do that before (be so solicitous about an opponent). Bowen said it was like the old joke, “Alan was scared – scared that he'd killed me”.



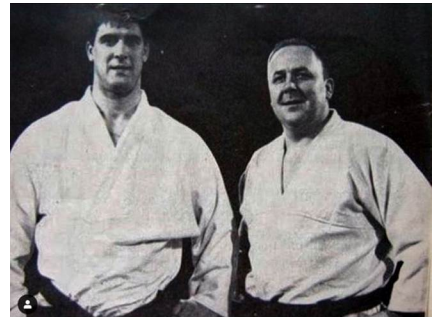
The first GB Olympic *Judo* Team, Tokyo 1964, comprised (L to R) Brian Jacks, Syd Hoare, Tony Sweeney, Alan Petherbridge (Captain) and John Newman (Team Manager)

*Judo* made its debut at the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games and Alan represented GB in the Open category. He was also captain of the GB *judo* team for the event. Alan's Olympic draw was extremely challenging as he was placed in the same

pool as the eventual finalists – Anton Geesink of the Netherlands and Akio Kaminaga of Japan. As is often found in *judo* all three men – despite being fierce competitors – remained good friends throughout their lives.



Alan Petherbridge with his friend and rival Anton Geesink in 1957



Anton Geesink and Alan Petherbridge – date unknown



Alan Petherbridge and Colin McIver exploring the town of Debrecen, Hungary during a break in training at the 1981 Debrecen European *Judo* Championships

After retiring in 1965/66 due to injury, Alan served with distinction in a number of leadership roles in *judo* – including

being the first official GB *Judo* Team Manager in 1966, and Chairman of the Technical Board of the British *Judo* Association (BJA). He was also the GB representative to the European *Judo* Union (EJU).

Among his considerable contributions, Peth was the foremost pioneer of Welsh *judo*. He established the Samurai *judo* club in Swansea, was a founder of the Welsh *Judo* Association (WJA) and its National Coach for many years. He was appointed a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for his services to *judo* in the 1977 Queen's Silver Jubilee Honours List, and was inducted to the Welsh Sports Hall of Fame in September 2010.

Alan Petherbridge was a giant of *judo* in every sense of the word, and a prominent member of what can only be considered the "Golden Age of British *judo*". Since September 1995 he had held the *judo* grade of 9<sup>th</sup> dan.

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## Points to Ponder Compiled by Brian N. Watson

*"Teach the young to teach themselves"*

*"The essence of knowledge is refined through reading"*

*"Training of the will must precede training of the mind"*

*"Integrity and Learning Ennoble Man"*

Brian N. Watson

*"A defeated army general should not lecture on strategy"*

*"Never hesitate to do good"*

*"It is better not to know than to be wrong"*

*"The blind do not fear snakes"*

*"A wise hawk hides its claws"*

*"The protruding nail will be hammered down"*

Japanese Proverbs

*"I'll do it later*

*I'll do it later*

*And while I sit here making my excuses*

*The sun goes down"*

Mitsuo Aida (1924–1991)

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## Judo Collections



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**

The "Bowen Collection" at the University of Bath Library, contains the extensive *judo* archive amassed by *judoka* and scholar Richard Bowen during the course of individual research for his many books and publications.

Alongside the "Bowen Collection" is the personal book collection of Syd Hoare which includes many rare texts, some in the Japanese language, given to Syd by Trevor Leggett. As well as the books, there is a bound compendium of the educational articles and lectures written and delivered by Syd.

Also residing at Bath is the "Woodard (*Judo*) Collection" – a compilation of archival material relating to the history of women's *judo* assembled by Marion and Graham Woodard.

All of these collections represent a wonderful resource for present and future *judo* researchers. They are for reference use only (not available for loan) and can be viewed between 0900 and 1700 hrs.