



## The Kano Society Bulletin



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### Publisher's Comments

The Kano Society mourn the passing, very late on Friday 8 January 2021, of Hana Sekine (née Koizumi, aged 100). Hana had an incredible heritage and lived a very full and vibrant life, though she had recently fractured her hip. Everyone who came in contact with Hana held her in the greatest regard, and with her passing the last connection to the founding of The *Budokwai* has been severed.

The Society also note the sad passing of Guy Auffray 9<sup>th</sup> *dan* (aged 75) on 11 January, Bill Berry MBE 7<sup>th</sup> *dan* (aged 85) on 15 February, and Henri Courtine 10<sup>th</sup> *dan* (aged 90) on 20 February 2021. Recall from Bulletin 47, that Auffray, a sublime technician, was the *judoka* featured in David Finch's personal favourite photograph from all the ones he has taken at elite judo tournaments over the course of 50 years. A stalwart of Police Sport Bill Berry was Chairman and Honorary Vice-President of *Judo* Scotland, a Senior Examiner and a National 'A' Referee.

### Contributions

This on-line publication, "*The Bulletin*", is the backbone of the Kano Society's activities. All contributions are very welcome.

Stay safe everyone

Diana Birch

## Dr Colin Draycott – A Stalwart of British *Judo*

Interviewed for "*Budo*" magazine in 1993 by Yoshiaki Kano, with Japanese-to-English translation by Brian N. Watson. Edited by Llyŷ Jones

### Introduction

Thanks to a post on social media by 1984 Olympic Extra-lightweight bronze medalist Neil Eckersley, the Kano Society became aware of an interesting article on a stalwart supporter of British *judo*, Dr Colin Charles Draycott IJF 8<sup>th</sup> *dan*. The interview highlights Dr Draycott's deep technical knowledge of *judo* as well as his keen perception of Jigoro Kano-*shihan*'s psychological theories on the system. The reader's attention is particularly drawn to Colin's most discerning observations which, for convenience, are highlighted in **bold and underlined text**.



Colin Draycott of Great Britain at the *Judo* Event of the 2008 Summer Olympics held from 9-15 August at the Gymnasium of the University of Science and Technology, Beijing

Colin Draycott (born 31 August 1942) started doing *judo* in 1955, gaining his 1<sup>st</sup> *dan* in 1962 at the age of 19, and his 4<sup>th</sup> *dan* in 1967. He is a five-time national medallist, who fought in several Home Internationals and was also a 1964 Olympic trialist. Brian Watson, a regular contributor to the "*Kano Society Bulletin*" recalls he first saw Colin compete in the British Olympic team selection finals at Crystal Palace. Watson himself was competing against Syd Hoare on the middleweight mat and Draycott was competing on the next mat against Tony Sweeney. Both Hoare and Sweeney went on to represent Great Britain at the 1964 Tokyo Summer Olympic Games.

Colin has taught *judo* at colleges, universities, Leicester City and the County Police. In the 1960s he was also a Senior Referee at four National Police *Judo* Championships. In the early 1980s, along with Brian Cox and lifetime friend Tony MacConnell, he helped to form and finance the Kendal Centre of Excellence – home for 24 full-time *judo* players at any one time, many of whom went on to become Olympians and World medallists.

Draycott has devoted much of his time over the years to coaching, sponsoring and mentoring individual players, whilst also selflessly supporting the British Judo Association (BJA) and the extended judo family. He is a Patron of the British Judo Trust, a Director of the International Judo Federation (IJF) Ethics Commission and Sport Director of the IJF Veterans Commission. He is presently an 8<sup>th</sup> *dan*, and outside of *judo* he is a Chartered Civil and Chartered Building Engineer.

The article that follows is from a 1993 interview that Colin undertook whilst visiting Japan a number of years ago. Brian Watson again remembers travelling to Osaka, at that time, with Kisaburo Watanabe, Mr. Yoshiaki Kano<sup>1</sup> and Colin and interpreting for him at the interview held at the Royal Hotel. Shortly thereafter the interview was published, in the Japanese language, in the monthly “*Budo*” magazine that reportedly had at that time a circulation of c. 20,000.

### Background

Colin Draycott – born in Leicester, United Kingdom (UK), on 31 August 1942, is married with a son and two daughters, both of whom (1993) are students. He graduated with a Doctorate in Civil Engineering. His business interests in the construction industry and sporting goods have taken him to many countries. Currently (1993) he is Senior Vice President of the British Judo Association. His hobbies are playing the guitar and conjuring.

### Quotes from Colin

*Judo* is a wonderful sport, one in which courtesy is emphasised and players have mutual respect for one another. I am glad that I had the good fortune to experience a *judo* career. Although I am personally opposed to the practice of awarding money to players for appearing in *judo* competitions, I believe that for their livelihood, it is an inevitable occurrence, especially when a player retires from competitive *judo*. Payments are already being made to contestants in the UK. I sponsor and promote *judo*. Although the introduction of coloured *judo* suits is not popular with everyone, for the sake of TV viewers and the general public, it is a welcome development.

### Establishes a Dojo at 16

**Kano:** I believe you started judo at 14. What sparked your interest?

**Draycott:** *Judo* differs from soccer, cricket and other team games because it is a combat sport for individuals and as such, it interested me as it develops personal discipline. I started *judo* in 1955 when I was 14. I cycled 12 miles to the nearest *dojo*. Before starting *judo*, I had been active in athletics and swimming. Not many people practised or knew much about *judo* in England in the 1950s. I did not regard *judo* as a sport at first. It wasn't until I had been practising for several months that I came to recognize it as a sport.

**Kano:** Was your instructor Japanese?

**Draycott:** No, and he wasn't British either. I didn't know his nationality. He said that he gained a 4<sup>th</sup> *dan* in Mombasa, Kenya. He was an interesting man who had lived in several countries. I was the youngest member of his class. The others were over twenty, so all my training partners were adults. Nevertheless, since I had trained quite hard at athletics and swimming, I eventually became strong enough to hold my own against them, but for the first three months or so, I spent most of the time taking break falls.

**Kano:** I was surprised to hear that you opened your own *dojo* at 16. Why did you do that?

**Draycott:** Cycling there and back to the *dojo* took me two hours, which was tiring. After I gained 3<sup>rd</sup> *kyu*, I thought of opening a *dojo* in the village where I lived. What I actually did was hire a room above the bar in a pub. I did not have any *tatami*, so I spread a canvas over an enclosed frame that I had filled with sawdust. After we had trained for a while though, cracks started to appear in the ceiling of the bar below, and the landlord asked us to leave.

I had many problems at first and had to change the location of the *dojo* on four occasions. Although the other ten members of my village *dojo* were older, I gave the instruction. Twice a year, we all contributed money to raise the necessary £40 in order to pay Kenshiro Abbe, a famous 6<sup>th</sup> *dan*, who lived in London, to visit our *dojo*. (The average Japanese employee's initial salary was about 20,000 yen in those days – so since the exchange rate in yen was over 1,000 yen, £40 was a little expensive.) Some five years later, things were improving, and I was able to open a *dojo* near our village. There we had the freedom to practise two hours a day, seven days a week.

**Kano:** I hear you got your 2<sup>nd</sup> *dan* aged 22. This must have been difficult to achieve without a regular instructor.

**Draycott:** It took me four years to reach 2<sup>nd</sup> *kyu*. I failed in my first attempt to gain the 2<sup>nd</sup> *kyu* grade. This was the first time in my life that I had failed at anything, and it came as quite a shock. I later entered several local *judo* championships and eventually won one that was held in Birmingham.

To gain 1<sup>st</sup> *dan*, I had to perform *Nage-no-kata*, *Katame-no-kata* and contest against 24 opponents. (In Japan, one would need to be a 5<sup>th</sup> *dan* to achieve the same result.) A year later, I entered a grading exam for 2<sup>nd</sup> *dan*. All my opponents were black belts. After performing *Nage-no-kata*, *Katame-no-kata* and contesting against a line-up of 11 opponents, I passed.

**Kano:** This was more difficult than taking a 2<sup>nd</sup> *dan* grading in Japan, I think.

**Draycott:** In the early 1960s, Mr. Kisaburo Watanabe taught *judo* in London. Every Friday evening after work, I drove down to London, a distance of 120 miles, in order to attend his hard training sessions. The training finished at 9.00 pm,

<sup>1</sup> Yoshiaki Kano was a colleague of Kisaburo Watanabe at the *Budokan* and worked as a reporter for “*Budo*” magazine. He may have been a relation of the extended (Jigoro) Kano family, or perhaps, it was just a coincidence that his name was Kano.

after which I was so tired that I often slept in my car and drove home the following morning.

### Doctoral Studies at 28

**Kano:** I heard that you stopped judo in order to study for your doctorate?

**Draycott:** Because I liked *judo* so much, I quit my civil engineering studies early and concentrated on *judo*. *Judo* thus had a great influence on my life. But *judo* is only one thing in life, not everything. Therefore, in my younger days, I sacrificed study for *judo*. Later, however, I returned to my studies. I married and raised three children. I quit contest *judo* at 28, re-started hard study and eventually gained a doctorate in civil engineering, which was a requirement for my work in the construction industry. When I did judo, I always put my heart and soul into it. When I studied, I did the same. Once one decides to achieve something, the most important thing is to put every effort into it. My efforts in my judo career had boosted my ability to persevere, and so succeed in other things in life.

**Kano:** What are your memories of *judo*?

**Draycott:** The most memorable event was in 1967 when, at 25, I won the National *Judo* Championship. It was the time when *judo* was most popular in Britain and, as such, there were over 500 entrants. Although I had reached the final of this championship on four occasions, I achieved the title only once. In addition, I won three National *Judo* Championships. I also remember reaching the final of the 1964 British Olympic Team Trials for the heavyweight division, only to lose to Tony Sweeney and miss out on a trip to the Tokyo Olympic Games. But, all things considered, I am satisfied with my *judo* contest days. I recall practising *judo* on three or four occasions with Sean Connery, who played James Bond in the early 007 movies.

### Supporting Judo Contestants

**Kano:** The plan to award prize money to *judo* competitors is being opposed in Japan. What is your opinion?

**Draycott:** *Judo* is part of the Japanese culture, and thus Japanese have much regard for the training of the spirit. Therefore, it's natural that they are against professional *judo*. Jigoro Kano taught that *judo* is physical and mental training for life. I am also against professionalism in *judo*. However, top *judo* contestants must sacrifice study and their free time for years to enable them to compete in top class events. In Japan, a contestant is supported in his *judo* career by his employer; he can also earn money by teaching *judo*, so financially he has a fairly good income. But in most of Europe, including Britain, without prize money or other financial support, a retired *judo* contestant cannot gain satisfying employment or support himself well by teaching *judo*.

Contestants in sports such as tennis, boxing and professional wrestling often earn much money. At present, there are not many European *judoka* in the super-heavyweight class. Rather than *judo*, they compete in professional wrestling or American football. This is unfortunate, but times are changing, so it is inevitable that prize money will be made

available for *judo* contestants. French *judo* is strong. This is because prize money is made available to successful *judo* players.

There is, however, much debate on how to organise prize money allocation. Should the money be paid in one lump sum after each tournament, or should it be put into a pension fund for payment in later life? These issues need to be discussed.

**Kano:** What about the problem of coloured *judogi*?

**Draycott:** Since *judo* is becoming more of a TV sport, coloured *judogi* are acceptable, for it is easier for members of the general *public* to understand what is happening on the mat, particularly so in groundwork. Recently, *judo* has had to compete with other pastimes. Ten-pin bowling and disco dancing are now popular, and so young people are leaving *judo*. Also, we must remember that in order to publicise *judo*, TV is perhaps the most powerful medium. Therefore, the wearing of coloured *judogi* is acceptable.



Colin Draycott pictured in 2015 (1)  
(With the kind permission of Alix Akasha  
Lumiere Photography, Loughborough)

### Japanese Character Training for Children

**Kano:** Besides your sponsorship of the BJA, you have made efforts in promoting *judo* and education for the young, haven't you?

**Draycott:** Yes. The BJA have had financial problems, so I have assisted by subsidising their Head Office rent and also in the upkeep of *dojo*. I have employed some 20 or so *judo* men at my company, and one of them, I'm happy to say, has graduated from university with a degree in civil engineering. I have funded the BJA for six years during their financial hardships until they were out of trouble.



My ambition is to produce first rate *judo* contest men and women. Not necessarily to compete in the Olympic Games or World Championships, but to become disciplined role models and upholders of the traditional *judo* spirit. By means of *judo*, it is important for them to learn the correct spirit and way of life. Owing to my devotion to *judo*, I wish to help British players by giving practical support.

**Kano:** How should world *judo* develop in the future?

**Draycott:** The world *judo* fraternity should become the most well-mannered and friendly sporting body. At the moment, we have to deal with the issues of professionalism and rule changes. But not only winning, by concentrating on good behaviour, spirit and physical training as a basis, we should be able to uphold the tradition of correct *judo*. I want people to adopt the correct attitude.

**Kano:** Colin is 183 cm tall and weighs 105 kg. Four times a week he does weight training and, as a result, he is not overweight. He is still in good physical condition for *judo*. When he was young, his ambition was to train in Japan to improve his technique. He may well have become a more successful contestant if he had done so. He likes and understands *judo* better than many Japanese, and he sponsors both big and small *judo* championship events.

**Draycott:** At present there are three *judo* associations in Great Britain – the British Judo Association, the British Judo Council (BJC) and the Amateur Judo Association (AJA). I belong to all three, but for the good of British *judo*, they should all quickly amalgamate into one body. Not only in Britain should we utilise our contacts and experiences, but I also think we should do so internationally for the benefit of *judo* worldwide.



Colin Draycott pictured in 2015 (2)  
(With the kind permission of Alix Akasha  
Lumiere Photography, Loughborough)

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## Obituary: Hana Sekine (29 July 1920 – 8 January 2021) John Goodbody



Hana Sekine (1920-2021)

Hana Sekine, the only child of Gunji Koizumi, the founder of The *Budokwai* and British *Judo*, passed away on 8 January 2021.

She was 100 years old and, until a few weeks before her death in St. Vincent's Nursing Home in Hammersmith, had remained amazingly lucid and alert.

Hana was married to the late Percy Sekine, the former British international and team manager, who had founded the *Judokan* in west London in 1954, where Hana worked as secretary and behind the club bar.

She was brought up by her parents Gunji and his wife Ida, initially in Ebury Street, close to The *Budokwai's* original premises at the back of Buckingham Palace. She was largely educated at the neighbouring Grey Coat Hospital School and began *judo* aged 15, reaching green belt.

During the Second World War, Hana worked as a nurse in north London as well as in a café, which had been converted by her parents from the lacquer shop in Victoria which they had run in the 1930s. Lacquer, reading and cooking were subjects that interested Hana all her life.

She married Percy in 1947 and, two years later, had a son, Douglas, who survives her. The *Judokan*, situated in two disused squash courts behind a block of flats in Hammersmith, where the family lived, was a successful club for 50 years. It attracted a host of Japanese instructors as well British internationals, such as Dennis Bloss and Dicky Bowen. It closed in 2004.

Hana cared for Percy in his declining years before his death in 2010. In her late 90s, she was looked after by a carer, Adela Mediavilla, and by several former *Judokan* members, who regularly visited her for reunions, two of whom had bought the flat so she could live rent-free for the rest of her life. Hana was an honoured guest in 2018, when the gala dinner was held in Kensington to celebrate the centenary of the founding of The *Budokwai* and the start of British *Judo*.

#### Source

<https://www.britishjudo.org.uk/obituary-hana-sekine/>  
(By permission)

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## Hana Sekine: *Judo's* Centenarian Passes Away

### Jo Crowley

In July 2020 the International *Judo* Federation were pleased to offer a celebratory birthday message to Hana Sekine née Koizumi, as she turned 100. Hers was an entire century enveloped in the sport, its values and its pioneers.

Hana, along with her husband, Percy Sekine, established and ran the London *Judokan* for 50 years, having enjoyed an incredible upbringing as the daughter of Gunji Koizumi, the father of British *Judo* and the man behind the famous *Budokwai* in the United Kingdom (UK).



L-R: Gunji Koizumi, Hana Sekine, Percy Sekine  
Picture courtesy of John Bowen

Hana passed away on the evening of Saturday 8 January 2021 and her absence is already felt by all who knew her. Close friend Bill Musgrove said, "*Hana Sekine was a refined, kind and splendid lady. Her name was synonymous with judo. We will all miss Hana so much*".

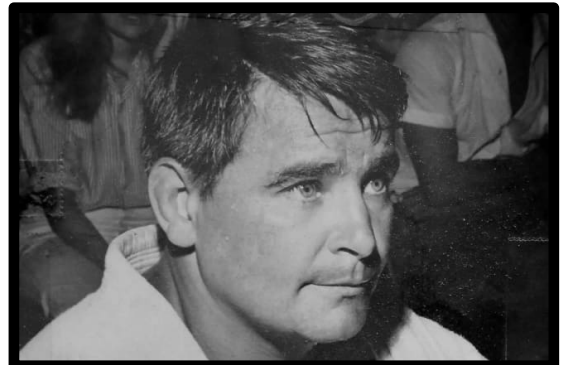
The IJF offer sincere condolences to Hana's family and friends and to the British *judo* community, whom she served without question throughout her long and vibrant life.

#### Source

<https://www.ijf.org/news/show/hana-sekine-judo-s-centenarian-passes-away>  
(By permission)

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## In Memoriam: Henri Courtine (11 May 1930 – 20 February 2021) Compiled by Llyr Jones



Henri Courtine (1930-2021)

The Kano Society was saddened to learn of the death of French *judo* pioneer, Henri Courtine 10<sup>th</sup> dan on 20 February 2021, at the age of 90.

Born in Paris in 1930, Courtine started *judo* at the age of 18 in Paris at Mikinosuke Kawaishi's (1899 – 1969) *dojo*, located at 10 bis rue du Sommerard, in the Latin Quarter. Kawaishi was then in Japan, from whence he returned in 1949 – the year Courtine obtained his 1<sup>st</sup> dan.

After further developing his skills under the direction of Shozo Awazu (1934 – 2016), Henri Courtine, together with Bernard Pariset (1929 – 2004) participated in a World *Judo* Championship held at the Kuramae *Kokugikan* in Tokyo, Japan on 3 May 1956. (In 1956, '58 and '61 the World *Judo* Championship was a single-category, open-weight, competition for males only). Courtine lost the semi-final to the eventual winner Shokichi Natsui (1925 – 2006), but along with Anton Geesink (1934 – 2010) later 10<sup>th</sup> dan, went on to take a bronze medal. Having hitchhiked to Japan, Courtine returned to Paris in Business Class and was officially welcomed when he got off the aircraft.

Courtine's competitive record in the 1950s was exceptional. He was three times an individual European champion (1952, 1958 and 1959), and four times a member of the French national team that won the European Team Championship event (1952, 1954, 1955 and 1956).

From 1966 to 1972, Courtine was the Technical Director of the French Federation of *Judo* and Associated Disciplines (FFJDA) and later its Administrative Director. From 1979 to 1987 he was the sports director of the International *Judo* Federation (IJF), and from 1982 to 1986 was a Senior Director of the French National Olympic and Sports Committee.

In January 1968, Courtine and Pariset became the first two French judoka to be promoted to 6<sup>th</sup> dan. They continued to be jointly recognised with both being promoted to 7<sup>th</sup> dan on 14 September 1975, 8<sup>th</sup> dan on 31 May 1985 and 9<sup>th</sup> dan on 9 December 1994. With Pariset already deceased, on

10 December 2007 Henri Courtine became the first Frenchman to be promoted to 10<sup>th</sup> dan.



Henri Courtine receiving his 10<sup>th</sup> dan certificate from Jean-Luc Rouge

Henri Courtine, who was an *Officier* of the *Légion d'honneur*, also had a brief political career. From 2002 to 2008 he was Deputy Mayor of Saint-Raphaël – a resort town in the Var department of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region in South-eastern France where he was responsible for town planning. However, in the 2008 municipal elections, he decided not to stand for a further term.



Henri Courtine pictured in 2008

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## Points to Ponder

Compiled by Brian N. Watson & Llyr Jones

Brian N. Watson

*"After you have reached the judo summit, don't fall off"*  
B.N. Watson

*"Culture is borderless. That's the reason for its potency"*  
B.N. Watson

*"Failure is the mother of success"*  
Japanese Proverb

*"He who has health, has hope, and he who has hope has everything"*  
Thomas Carlyle (1795 – 1881)

*"There is nothing that does not constantly change, if only in the slightest way"*  
Mitsuo Aida (1924 – 1991)

*"It's easy to do anything in victory. It's in defeat that a man reveals himself"*

*"They said I was the fighter who got knocked down the most, but I also got up the most"*  
Floyd Patterson (1935 – 2006)  
Former Olympic & World Champion Boxer

Llyr Jones

*"The past holds all your mistakes and humiliations. The future holds whatever you can make it"*  
Henry Rollins

*"Being good at anything is like figure skating – the definition of being good at it is being able to make it look easy. But it never is easy. Ever. That's what the stupidly wrong people conveniently forget"*  
Hugh MacLeod – "Ignore Everybody"

*"Some see things as they are and ask 'Why?' I dream of things that never were and ask, 'Why Not?'"*  
George Bernard Shaw (1856 – 1950)

*"When you win, remember next time you could lose. When you lose, remember next time you can win"*

*"It is only by continually trying that you end up being successful. In other words, the more you lose, the more likely you are to win"*  
Daniel Fournier  
Inspired by "Les Shadoks"

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[www.KanoSociety.org](http://www.KanoSociety.org) • [sensei@kanosociety.org](mailto:sensei@kanosociety.org)

## *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.