



## The Kano Society Bulletin



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### In This Edition

The main articles featuring in this well-illustrated issue of "*The Bulletin*" are profiles of two great female *judo* champions, – namely Great Britain's Christine Gallie and Japan's Ryoko Tamura.

Additionally included are articles on Jigoro Kano-*shihan's* final journey before his 1938 death, as well as some of his concise and insightful thoughts on *kata* practice. Before the usual "Points to Ponder" a short profile of the 2022 All Japan *Judo* Champion, Tatsuru Saito is presented.

### Publisher's Comments

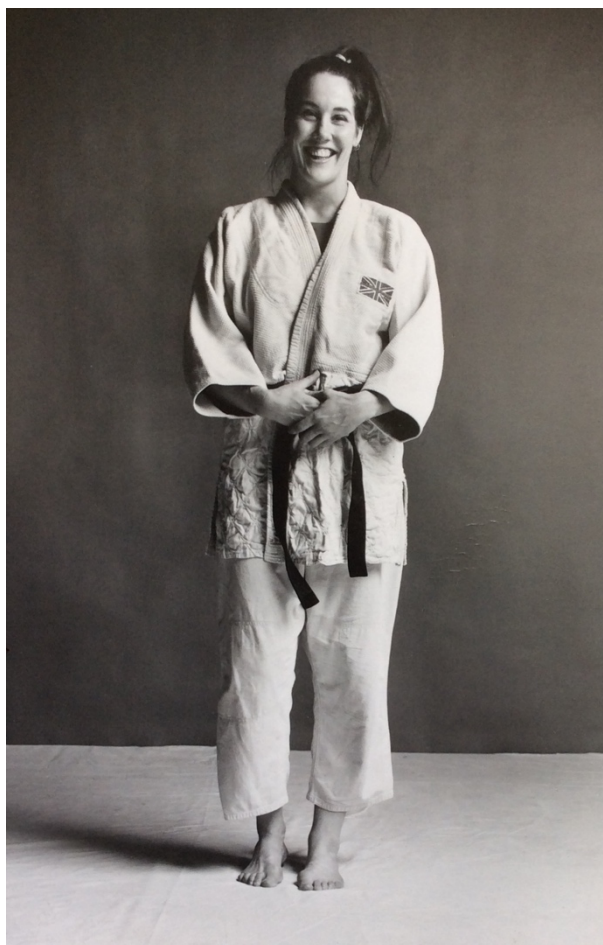
We hope that all readers find something of interest in this diverse issue, which has again been produced by guest editor, Llyr Jones – thank you. A "thank you" is also due to our regular contributor, Brian Watson, for providing us with three of his customary high-quality articles for inclusion. Thanks also to David Finch for kindly supplying many of the superb photographs that grace this 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

## Chris Gallie – European Champion & Stuntwoman Chris Gallie and John Pinnell



Chris Gallie – photograph taken by Terence Donovan (fashion photographer, *judoka* and *Budokwai* member)

Promoted to 7<sup>th</sup> *dan* in January 1998, Christine Gallie (née Child) was then (jointly with Ellen Cobb) the highest graded British woman *judoka*. Needless to say, in earning this grade she achieved many major milestones along the way.

Chris started *judo* at a local village club having given up ballet after it had been explained to her that she had grown too tall, and that dance partners would struggle to lift her. She achieved her 1<sup>st</sup> *kyu* in 1963 but to progress further knew she needed to go to a larger and stronger club. She did this by joining The *Budokwai* in London and undergoing a regular and difficult commute from Beaconsfield for the hard evening training sessions. Success quickly followed and she achieved her 1<sup>st</sup> *dan* in 1964 and her 2<sup>nd</sup> *dan* a year later. At this time promotion was very much through the grading system, with little opportunity to accumulate competition points to enable progression – so it was individual contests, followed by a line-up, and if successful demonstrating techniques and *kata*. Back then a 2<sup>nd</sup> *dan* was a considerable achievement, as at that time, the highest grade in the country was Trevor (T.P.) Leggett, a *Kodokan* 6<sup>th</sup> *dan*.

In the 1960s and '70s there was a lack of funding for sports and as such there was a much greater reliance on self-financing by the individual. The British *Judo* Association's (BJA) main source of funds were its membership fees and grading income. Today, the Government's approach is totally different – with large investment across a wide range of sports. *Judo*, as an Olympic sport, has benefited from this new approach and has been allocated just over £6 million by the Sports Council for the period 2021-2025.

Also, in the sixties and seventies funding primarily went to male *judo* competitors as they were already established at the international level, with a World Championships for men having been held since 1956 (Tokyo). Furthermore, *judo* had been a demonstration event for men in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, before its permanent inclusion from the 1972 Munich Olympics, onwards.

The first official Women's European *Judo* Championships didn't take place until December 1975 in Munich, where Chris won gold in the over 72kg category. (An experimental European Women's *Judo* Tournament had been held in Genoa in December 1974, where Chris had also won her category.) The first Women's World *Judo* Championship happened a bit later, in November 1980, in New York. It was only in 1988, that women's *judo* first featured at an Olympic Games, when it was included as a demonstration sport in Seoul, South Korea. Women's *judo* became an official part of the Olympics Games in 1992 in Barcelona and has been an integral part of the Games ever since.



Saturday 24 November 1973 – British Women's Open – Open Weight medal ceremony (L-R): Silver – Ellen Cobb (GBR), Gold – Christine Child GBR), Bronze – Christine Wildman (GBR) and Auli Bamberg (Sweden). Medals presented by Charles Palmer, bonsai tree presented by Ann Swinton. Venue – Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, London

This lack of funding meant that for an individual to be successful, they could not just rely on their ability on the mat, but also had to be able to support themselves – either through a daytime job or some form of work after an evenings' training session. In Chris's case this included working as a photographer and driver for a nightclub and using her *judo* skills to become a very successful stunt performer in the film industry under the name Cyd Child. At that time, it was unusual for women to do stunt work, it being very much a male preserve, even including them doubling for actresses. Chris was at the forefront as the film industry

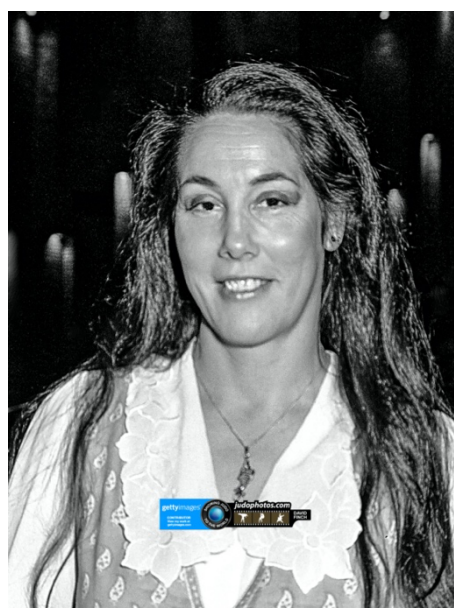
adapted to this new approach with actresses having a female double for action shots. Most notably Chris was the double for Diana Rigg, the lead actress in the cult TV series "*The Avengers*". Some of her other significant appearances have been in the "*The Pink Panther Strikes Again*" and the James Bond film "*For Your Eyes Only*".

In the period up to the inaugural 1975 European Championships Chris had already set her mark on the European scene, winning gold in the German, Italian, Swiss and Dutch championships as well as the British Open and, of course, the trial European-level event in Genoa.



Chris Child counters for *yuko* and eventually wins the +72kg contest by *ippon* on her way to securing a fifth British Open gold medal during the 1974 Women's British Open held at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, London

Following her retirement from competitive *judo*, Chris continued to give back to the sport by becoming a trainer for the Women's National Squad and subsequently Assistant Team Manager. She has also served on the BJA Promotions Panel.



Budokwai member, Christine Gallie, during the Budokwai Display held at Wembley Arena, London on 27 October 1986

Chris got married in Old Windsor in 1977, having met her husband Peter Gallie, also a judoka, at The *Budokwai*.



Chris Gallie enjoying the evening with (then) IJF President Charles Palmer OBE, during The *Budokwai*'s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Kensington, London on 6 November 1993

Chris has now written her fascinating life story entitled – “*Judo, The Avengers and Me*”. The lavishly illustrated book describes her dual careers in *judo* and stunt performance in much greater detail than given here.



Chris Gallie with her book

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## Ryoko Tamura – *Judo*'s Golden Girl Brian Watson



Ryoko Tamura -48kg gold medallist at the 2003 World Judo Championships, Osaka, Japan

Ryoko Tamura was born in Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan, on 6 September 1975 and started *judo* at the age of seven. Eight years later, weighing a mere 43 kg, she won her first major title in the -48kg class at the 1990 Fukuoka International *Judo* Championships. She continued to compete in this -48kg weight class throughout her long and extraordinarily successful contest career. A career which was highlighted by her being selected flagbearer for the Japan Olympic Team at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games and later by the winning of two Olympic gold medals, one in Sydney in 2000, and the other in Athens in 2004. Prior to these achievements, she also won gold at the 1994 Asian Games and gold at the 1995 Universiade. In the biennial Women's World *Judo* Championships, she ascended the victor's rostrum seven times: 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2007 – a fantastic record.

In the early days of female *judo* competition, Japan's women contestants were no match for the top European competitors of the day who garnered all the gold medals at the inaugural Women's World *Judo* Championships held in New York, United States of America, in 1980. It was a similar story at the 1982 Women's World *Judo* Championships in Paris, France, where again all the gold medals went to the European stars. However, at the 1984 Championships in Vienna, Austria, Kaori Yamaguchi became the first Japanese female world *judo* champion when she took gold in the -52kg category. Nevertheless, at the subsequent 1986 World Championships staged in Maastricht, Holland, at the 1987 Championships in Essen, Germany, and at the 1989 Championships held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, and yet again at the 1991 Women's World Championships in Barcelona, Spain, the

Japanese women's team, although somewhat improved in contest skills, failed to win even one gold medal. In 1993, at Hamilton, Canada, however, things at last began to change for Japan's *judo* women when Ryoko Tamura captured the first of her -48kg world championship titles. Her subsequent string of outstanding gold medal triumphs soon resulted in her becoming a household name throughout Japan, especially so, by her nickname of *Yawara-chan*.



← Ryoko Tamura (JPN) competes to defeat Karen Briggs (GBR) in the semi-final of the -48kg division in the women's *judo* at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics

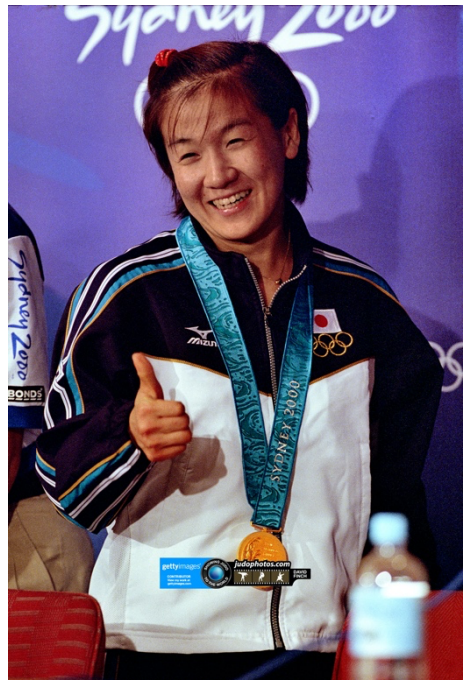
Early in her *judo* career, Ryoko became a great fan of British *judo* star Karen Briggs (now Inman), four times world champion, and therefore she earnestly sought to emulate Briggs's notable achievements. Throughout her contest days, Tamura never appeared to me to have much physical strength. She was, nevertheless, possessed with incredible speed and agility. These twin attributes in particular served her well and enabled her to attain many conquests. In the final of the 2000 Sydney Olympics, for instance, I recall that she fought the taller and physically stronger Russian contestant, Lyubov Bruletova. Soon in their encounter, Bruletova approached Tamura aggressively in order to take firm grips, but Ryoko managed to evade Bruletova's attempt, instantly spun around for an *uchi-mata* attack whereby the Russian, completely taken by surprise, seemed to blindly advance onto Ryoko's outstretched leg and was thrown for a spectacular *ippon*. Their contest lasted a mere 36 seconds.



Ryoko Tamura (JPN) immediately after defeating Lyubov Bruletova (RUS) in the final of the -48kg division in the women's *judo* at the 2000 Sydney Olympics

In her university days, Tamura studied literature at Teikyo University in Itabashi, Tokyo. Following graduation in 1998, she gained employment at the giant Toyota Motor Corporation. In 2003, she married Yoshitomo Tani, a professional baseball player with the famed Orix BlueWave team. They have two sons. Ryoko Tani retired from competition in 2010, following her momentous 20-year, star-studded contest career in which she was defeated on only five occasions. She then entered the world of politics in the summer of 2010, and shortly thereafter, at the age of thirty-five, was duly elected a member of Japan's House of Councilors where she served for six years. In 2013, she became the first female member of the All-Japan *Judo* Federation's board of directors and served two years. She was jump-promoted from *joshi* 4<sup>th</sup> *dan* to *joshi* 6<sup>th</sup> *dan* in 2018, the first time a female had skipped a grade since Jigoro Kano introduced the women's *dan* grade system in 1933.

These days, Ryoko Tani occasionally appears in corporate advertising campaigns and acts as a TV commentator at some of the main *judo* tournaments. Perhaps the most significant aspect of her legacy, however, is that she still continues to inspire a host of young girls to take an interest in *judo*. Her attainment of 14 major international championship medals: 11 gold, 2 silver, and one bronze, has encouraged Japanese girls to read books and cartoon character comics, some of which are based on Ryoko's remarkable *judo* life. Many of her legion of fans eagerly wish to follow in her illustrious tracks. Although her contest days are long gone, the golden girl's popularity still remains a most positive stimulus for the further expansion of women's *judo* in Japan and beyond.



Ryoko Tamura - gold medallist in the -48kg division women's *judo* at the 2000 Sydney Olympics

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## Jigoro Kano's Last Voyage

### Brian Watson

On 23 April 1938, Professor Kano began, what turned out to be, his final journey when boarding the NYK ocean liner *Hikawa-maru* that left Vancouver, Canada, destined to arrive at Yokohama, Japan, on 6 May. He was returning home after attending an International Olympic Committee meeting held in Cairo, Egypt, at which he had triumphantly secured the forthcoming 1940 summer Olympic Games for Tokyo and the winter Olympic Games for Sapporo (both later cancelled due to World War II). His subsequent extensive travels by road, rail, and sea in Europe, the United States, and Canada; and the demanding meetings, press interviews and other social gatherings had been a strain. Kano, then aged 77, appears a little frail in the below photograph of him taken prior to departure from Vancouver, and as fate would have it, he never completed this journey, for he fell ill mid-voyage and died of pneumonia on 4 May 1938.



Jigoro Kano aboard the NYK ocean liner *Hikawa-maru* that departed Vancouver, Canada, on 23 April 1938

Two days later, the *Hikawa-maru* (now permanently moored at Yokohama) docked at the harbour where Kano's coffin draped with the Olympic flag was carried from the vessel. Banner headlines appeared in the press: "*Jigoro Kano is Dead*". His devotees in both Japan and around the world were saddened for he had been well known internationally as an indomitably energetic figure even in his advanced years. Letters and telegrams bearing condolences from his admirers poured in from around the world. Following a period of mourning by the *Kodokan*, the Japan Amateur Sports Association, Bunrika University (now the University of Tsukuba), and the general public, a funeral service attended by some 10,000 mourners was held.

Kano had been highly revered for a number of achievements, especially so for his promotion of Olympic sports in Asia, for his establishment of the *Kodokan* and for his contributions to the furtherance of education. The *Kodokan* rules for his version of *jujutsu* had created a safer form of combat that subsequently spread around the world as *Kodokan Judo*. In reference to teaching, he said in a speech delivered in 1934 – "*Nothing under the sun is greater than education. By educating one person and sending him into the society of his generation, we make a contribution extending to a hundred generations to come*".

Jigoro Kano's grave is located at Yahashira Reien Cemetery, Matsudo City, Chiba Prefecture. Because many of his writings still remain in print, his posthumous reputation will remain assured in the future.



Jigoro Kano's grave at Yahashira Reien Cemetery, Matsudo City, Chiba Prefecture

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## Kata Practice

### Jigoro Kano

- "... you have an appropriate partner, it is desirable to practice some form of national physical education in which you can employ *seiryoku zenyo* every day, both with a partner and on your own. If you cannot find a partner, practicing on your own is fine. Doing so will complement your training and your *randori* will be all the more effective."



Kata practice at the Kodokan (1)

- “... you should pursue kata practice with the same enthusiasm as randori.”



**Kata practice at the Kodokan (2)**

- “... another reason I recommend kata practice is that if you only do randori you cannot continue without difficulty onto old age, but if you quit midway you are more likely to experience physical difficulties as you grow older. Kata, however, can be practiced with relative ease at an advanced age. But because kata arose less enthusiasm than randori, if you do not become skilful at them you will lose interest in kata practice. For precisely this reason, consistent and involved practice in kata is essential from an early age, in order to generate interest, foster skill, and allow the student to enjoy a fulfilling and rewarding pursuit of judo well into old age.”



**Kata practice at the Kodokan (3)**

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## Tatsuru Saito – 2022 All Japan Judo Champion Brian Watson



**Tatsuru Saito – 2022 All Japan Judo Champion**

Hitoshi Saito's son, Tatsuru, a twenty-year-old Kokushikan University student on 29 April won the 2022 All Japan Judo Championship at Tokyo's *Nippon Budokan*. As a result of this triumph, it was announced that he had been selected for the men's +100kg super-heavyweight class at the forthcoming 2022 World Judo Championships scheduled to be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, this October. When interviewed, he said that he will make every effort to achieve success at the World Championships.

Taking full advantage of his physical attributes of 191 cm in height and 165 kg (nearly 26 stone) in weight, Tatsuru defeated semi-finalist Hisayoshi Harasawa (125kg), who finished fifth in the +100kg class at the recent Tokyo Olympics, and in the final bout, he used *ashi-guruma* to best 2016 Asian Games victor and 2021 +100kg world champion Kokoro Kageura to achieve the All-Japan Judo Championship for the first time.

Tatsuru is the second son of the late Hitoshi Saito (1961–2015) *Kodokan* 9<sup>th</sup> dan, the famed 1983 World and 1988 All Japan champion and an Olympic gold medallist at Los Angeles in 1984 and Seoul in 1988, who succumbed to a rare and aggressive form of cancer on 20 January 2015, aged 54.

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## Points to Ponder

*“Rank advancement should signal not only technical proficiency, but your level of advancement in issues of morality and character development, and contributions to society, community and the greater world around you.”*

Jigoro Kano (1860-1938)

*“Diligence inevitably achieves.”*

Jigoro Kano (1860-1938)

*“By mastery of the fundamental wisdom of judo, and in turn, applying it to many pursuits in life, all people will be able to live their lives in a judicious manner. This is how one should undertake the study of judo that I founded.”*

Jigoro Kano (1860-1938)

*“Education is teaching our children to desire the right things”*

Plato (428/427 or 424/423 – 348/347) BC

*“The most pitiful victim of all wars is truth.”*

Brian N. Watson

*“Seek out refinement in life’s journey.”*

Brian N. Watson

*“The best source of intellectual nourishment is often found in books.”*

Brian N. Watson

*“Prevention is better than cure.”*

Proverb

*“Do not repeat the tactics which have gained you one victory, but let your methods be regulated by the infinite variety of circumstance.”*

Sun Tzu (544-496) BC

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## Judo Collections



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.