



# W K C

## WORLD KARATE CONFEDERATION

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### **3<sup>rd</sup> WKC World Championships, Aberdeen, Scotland 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June 2001**

This was the first time ever an all-style Karate World Championships were held in Britain. The City of Aberdeen was an excellent host for this event. The Lord Provost of Aberdeen, Ms. Margret Smith, had already given her full support for this world tournament one and half year prior to the Championships. The Aberdeen City Council gave the WKC delegates the use of it's Council Chamber in the Town Hall for the 2<sup>nd</sup> WKC Congress meeting on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2001. After the congress meeting all presidents of the WKC member federations, official referees and coaches were invited by the Lord Provost to a civic reception in the Town Hall. The Lord Provost welcomed all honorary guests, presidents and officials to Aberdeen and Scotland. She especially welcomed His Royal Highness Prince Adan Czartoryski Borbon, the cousin of His Majesty Juan Carlos I., King of Spain. Prince Adan, himself a 5th Dan in Shito Ryu Karate, is a strong supporter of the WKC and was the Honorary President of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Championships. WKC President Dr. Fritz Wendland thanked the Lord Provost and the City Council for their support and hospitality and presented the Lord Provost the WKC medal for the City of Aberdeen.

The two day seminar for the referees and coaches had two parts: in the morning there were three hours training with the masters Yasunari Ishimi (Japan/Spain) and Chuzo Kotaka (Hawaii, USA) for Shito Ryu; Takeji Ogawa (Japan /Austria) for Goju Ryu; Hideo Ochi (Japan/Germany) and Stan Schmidt (South Africa) for Shotokan; Eugene Codrington (England) and Kando Shibamori (Japan/Austria) for Wado Ryu; Yoshimasu Kakazu and Yukio Kawabata (Okinawa) for Shorin Ryu. The masters explained the differences of the Kata Bassai and Jion in the styles Shorin Ryu, Shotokan, Shito Ryu and Wado Ryu. In Shito Ryu and Goju Ryu they taught the Kata Seipai and Seienchin. In Kumite they gave examples of Sen-no-sen, Go-no-sen and Tai-sabaki. In the afternoon theory and practice in kumite and kata refereeing was done. The German federation *DJKB* had supported the seminar in bringing seven young fighters especially for the seminar. The teachers in the referee seminar were Bernd Hirschberger (Germany), Joe Mirza (USA), Ladislav Klementis (Slovakia), Gerold Reifenauer (Austria). Dr. Rony Kluger gave a lecture on budo to the coaches.

In the evenings from Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> June to Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, there were open classes with the nine masters for all participants of the World Championships and the karateka from Scotland. This was a unique opportunity especially for the Scottish children to train with world known masters from different styles. Fiona Ellis did an excellent job in organizing all the different classes and the transport of the masters from the hotels to the gym and back.

The championships took place as usual on Saturday and Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June 2001. A new record of participating federations, individuals and team entries had to be organized. 42 federations were present with their competitors, altogether we had 55 kumite teams, 22 kata teams, 296 individual kumite and 149 kata entries. Our WKC tournament organizing committee with Peter Spanton (England), Dr. Juraj Štiffa (Slovakia) and Roland Dietrich (Germany) in cooperation with the local NKF organizing team (Jim Duguid, Andy Murdoch, Ian Ellis, Bill Berry, Ken McNeil) got all the different categories to the tatamis in time.

The championships were compared by Frank Gilfeather, a TV presenter, and were officially opened on Saturday evening by the Lord Provost of the City of Aberdeen, Ms. Margret Smith, and the WKC

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President, Dr. Fritz Wendland. The following Scottish members of parliament were present: M.P. Malcolm Savidge, Anne Begg, and M.S.P. Nicol Stephen

Sir **Sean Connery**, the world known actor, had donated a special award to the most successful competitor. The Sir Sean Connery award was organized by Alex Salmond M.P. and Councillor John Cox. The referees decided that this special award should go to **Elisa Au** (*Amateur Athletic Union, USA*). Ms. Au won the gold medal in the female Sanbon Kumite over 60 kg and the bronze medal in the individual Kata Shito Ryu. She already won the gold medal in the Sanbon Kumite under 55 kg two years ago at the 1999 World Championships in Bochum, Germany, and the silver medal in Kata Shito Ryu in 1997 at the 1st WKC World Championships in Arezzo, Italy. She really deserved this special award.

At the opening ceremony typical Scottish pipeband music and Highland Dancing, and a Scottish battle scene with the Clan Ranald was displayed. On Sunday the Dutch team from SJK gave a fine demonstration with Nunchaku, Sword (Iai-do) and selfdefense.

After the closing ceremony the 7<sup>th</sup> Dan was awarded to Prof. Dr. Albert van Mildert, president of the *Stichting Japanse Krijgskunsten* (Netherlands), the 6th Dan to Gerold Reifenauer and Rudolf Rammer from the *WKC Austria*. Finally all competitors and officials met at the farewell party and promised to see each other again in two years in St. Petersburg.

We would like to thank City Councillor John Reynolds and the sponsors Jim Rogerson Monyana Engineering, Compton Ross Metrol Oil, and Scottish Mutual.