

JUDO

No. 7, FEBRUARY 1981

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● *In this issue:*

BRITISH SENIOR TRIALS

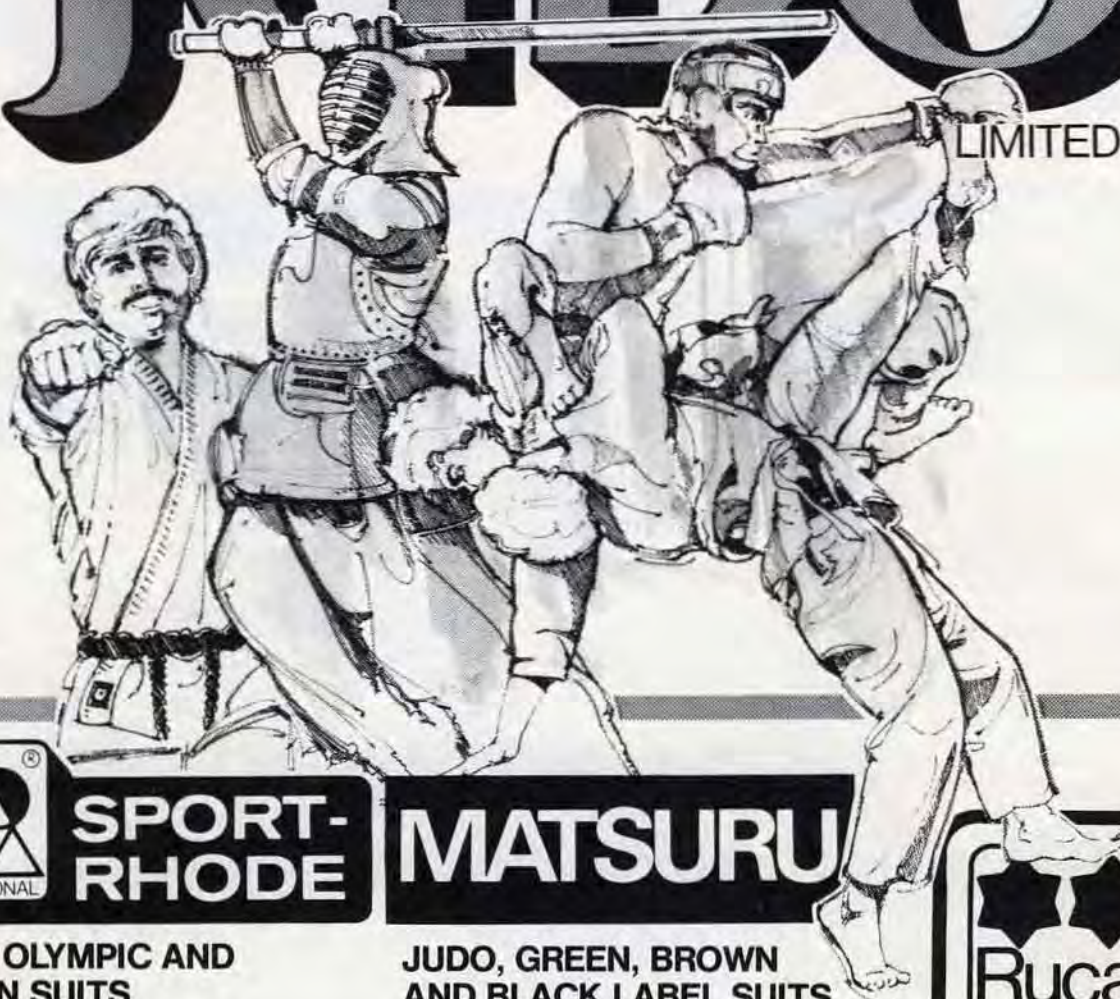
INTERVIEW WITH ANGELO PARISI

FULL COLOUR POSTER OF DENISE WHITE

ON THE MAT—MAURICE ALLAN, M.B.E.

SUPPLEMENTARY TRAINING—RICHARD BARRACLOUGH

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JUDO

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★ COVER PICTURE: Angelo Parisi of France attacks Sergie Novikov of the Soviet Union during the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games. Novikov managed to get his hand on the mat to avoid the score. Seconds later however Parisi threw him for Ippon with a tremendous Seoi-otoshi.

JUDO

Editorial

We are pleased to introduce in this issue of *Judo* magazine, a new feature entitled 'Gleeson's Market Stall'. Details were still being finalised as this issue went to print, but it is hoped that Geof Gleeson 7th Dan, former National Coach for the British Judo Association, will contribute in a fairly regular arrangement, a range of views and comment perhaps of a controversial nature, for you, the readers, to 'buy' or 'leave' as you think fit. Hence the cryptic title.

Probably the main event of the Christmas period was the British Senior Mens Trials at Crystal Palace on 13th December. There is never a very good atmosphere at the Trials, and this year was no exception. Perhaps this is due to the anticlimatic way in which the event is run—with five mats operating all day, thereby effectively destroying spectator interest; and with the spectacle of a medal ceremony being replaced by a surreptitious signing of slips of paper by the finalists in each category.

However, as many of our readers will know, the present squad system is under review by the management of the British Judo Association, and although their thoughts have not yet been made public it is reasonable to expect that changes will be made fairly soon. A letter has been sent to all present (and some past) squad members asking them to comment on their experience of British Squad training systems. This letter, signed by Charles Palmer OBE as President of the British Judo Association and Chairman of the Management Committee was dated 10th December and therefore arrived immediately before the Trials. Opinions were solicited as a matter of urgency—why, I cannot guess—and, more disturbingly, the timing of the letter must have given several of the competitors cause to wonder about the future of the squad for which they were about to compete.

Just how democratic is this view likely to be? I would doubt the wisdom of asking the pupil what he thinks of his teacher—if the teacher is not consulted himself—and the natural loyalty of the squad members to the team managers may well result in genuine comment being suppressed. Players who have been passed over in selection might equally well use this opportunity to vent their resentment. If the training structure of the British Judo Association is to be revalued, it should be done openly—with the full co-operation of top officials and coaches, and publicly canvassed opinions of both the present incumbents and the squad members.

No doubt though, the results of this review will soon be made public to all British Judo Association members and officials (as will the reasons for its initiation)—and my fears that it may be a piece of heavy-handed and autocratic management will be dispelled. Until then, watch this space.

Peter Campbell...Editor

Diary of Events

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

Sunday 1st February 1981
National Young Mens Trials

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th February 1981
Hungary Cup, Pec, Hungary

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th February 1981
Scottish Students Championships, Aberdeen

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th February 1981
British Students Championships, Crystal Palace
Womens National Squad, Crystal Palace

Saturday 21st February 1981
Scottish Open Championships for Men, Meadowbank
Womens West German Championships

Friday 27th and Saturday 28th February 1981
National Squad (Men), Crystal Palace

Advance Dates

Saturday 21st March 1981
National Team Championships for Men, Haden Hill

Saturday 28th March 1981
BSJA National Team Championships (Girls)

Friday 27th, Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th March 1981
Womens European Championships (Barcelona)

Saturday 25th April 1981
British Open for Men (Crystal Palace)

AREA EVENTS

Sunday 1st February 1981
Dan Grading, Ryecroft J.C., Nottingham — 10-00 am

Saturday 21st February 1981
Sandwell Junior Knockout, Haden Hill. *See advertisement for details*

Sunday 22nd February 1981
Merseyside Open Championships (Boys Under 18)

Sunday 22nd February 1981
Conference of Examiners, Midland Area, Derby Judo Club

Sunday 1st March 1981
Y & H Mens and Womens Individual Championships

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th March 1981
Channel Islands Open Championships, Jersey. Junior and Senior Event

Saturday 14th March 1981
Timekeepers and Recorders Course and Examination, Wern Judo Club
Telephone Roland Lee, Wern 33387

Sunday 22nd March 1981
Dan Grading, Concord S.C., Sheffield — 10-00 am

NHC PROMOTION EXAMINATIONS

Jeys Football Club, Beverley Hall, Ridgewell Close, Dagenham

Saturday 28th February 1981
Juniors. Novice to 6th Mon — 9-00 am

Sunday 1st March 1981
Seniors, Male and Female Novice to 2nd Kyu — 9-00 am
Juniors 7th to 18th Mon — 9-00 am
1st Kyu and Up — 2-30 pm

Juniors must have taken theory qualifications

Fees: Juniors £1.00. Novice to 2nd Kyu £1.50. 1st Kyu and Up £2.00
Enquiries to Terry Adams, Ingrebourne 49258

MIDLAND AREA PROMOTION EXAMINATIONS

Theory qualifications must be taken before attending a grading

Thursday 5th February 1981
Kyu Grades Women, West Mercia Police — 6-30 pm

Thursday 12th February 1981
Kyu Grades Men, West Mercia Police — 6-30 pm

Sunday 8th February 1981
Boys all Grades, Chapelhouse — 10-00 am

Sunday 8th February 1981
Girls all Grades, Chapelhouse — 1-00 pm

Sunday 8th February 1981
Men Kyu Grades, Ryecroft — 2-00 pm

Sunday 15th February 1981
Men Kyu Grades, Worcester — 10-00 am

Sunday 15th February 1981
Women Kyu Grades, Worcester — 1-00 pm

Sunday 15th February 1981
Boys all Grades, Ivanhoe — 10-00 am
Worcester Judo Society venue now Hillborough Hospital, Tallow Hill, Worcester

Sunday 1st March 1981
Boys all Grades, Pershore J.C. — 10-00 am

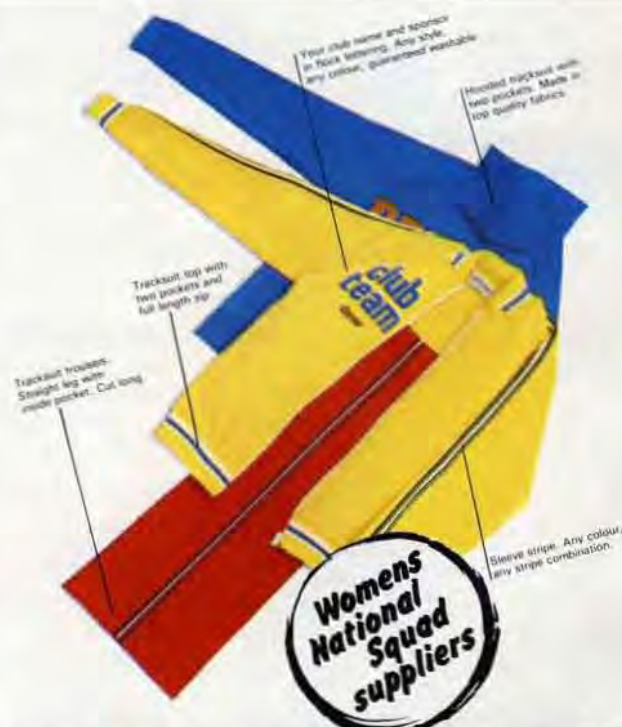
Sunday 1st March 1981
Girls all Grades, Pershore J.C. — 12 noon

Sunday 1st March 1981
Boys all Grades, Grantham — 10-00 am

Sunday 1st March 1981
Girls all Grades, Grantham — 12 noon

Sunday 1st March 1981
Boys all Grades, Bicton — 9-30 am

Sunday 1st March 1981
Girls all Grades, Bicton — 12 noon



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POINT OF VIEW

1st WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

NEW YORK

TEXT AND PHOTOS COLIN McIVER.

From the start I have to admit to being impressed by the general standard of the competitors at the First Womens World Championships held in New York last November. I admit that my experience of womens judo at this level is very limited but I thought that the approach by both coaches and competitors was very professional indeed. Many of the players were very skilful and there were no obvious signs of a lack of proper physical conditioning. Most of the teams, especially the Europeans appeared to be very well prepared and if the results are anything to go by, then their preparation seems to have borne the correct results.

Madison Square Gardens should have been the ideal venue for the event but the Organisers lacked the necessary experience and at times the organisation was amateurish and was sometimes below any acceptable level. Certainly Rusty Kanokogi has to be admired for her untiring efforts to promote womens judo and for her drive in organising the event against all the odds and the opposition from within the American Judo Association itself. Fortunately the faults in the organisation did not affect the competitors which is after all the most important thing.

The biggest disappointment from my point of view was the poor performance from the Japanese team, despite the pre-event reports I somehow thought that they would have done much better. Watching them warming-up I got the feeling that they were not going to do very well. I felt their warm-up procedure to be very stereotyped and they seemed to be a poor copy of the Japanese Mens Team. Watching them during their contests my impression was much the same; they seemed to have no individuality and on the whole their upright traditional-style judo was ineffective. Their lack of contest experience showed and I cannot say that I was impressed by any members of their team. I certainly don't see them being much of a threat to the Europeans for some considerable time.

Most of the European Teams, as I mentioned earlier, were very well prepared and organised. Although Austria won the most Gold medals (3) I thought France was the best team. They were a little unlucky not to win another two Gold medals and their over-all strength would have been hard to equal. Technically too they had the edge and certainly they are well ahead as far as tactics are concerned. Austria, Belgium, West Germany, Holland and Italy were also impressive but somehow I don't think they have the depth of talent that France have.

Of the non-Europeans only the United States was expected to do well but only managed to win three Bronze medals. Their results in past British Open Championships indicated that they would have had better results especially in front of a 'home' crowd. The sheer size of the United States poses almost unsurmountable problems in the organising of pre-event training and it is obvious that given the correct preparations the Americans would be a force to be reckoned with. I certainly thought that they all had the basic ingredients and with correct help from the appropriate agency they will improve and will produce better results in future events.

I thought that the British Team performed extremely well doing all and more than was expected of them. Team Manager Roy Inman seems to have the ability to motivate the team



A good example of a determined attack and continuation into Newaza.

and his 'down to earth' training methods produced the necessary results. Watching the Team in training prior to the event they seemed to be in great shape, both mentally and physically, and confident in themselves and the Team Officials. The future looks bright for British Womens judo and the Team Manager's efforts should be supported as much as possible over the next few years. There is no doubt that Judo will soon become an Olympic sport for women and it is important that we are well prepared when that time comes.

Technically I did not see anything that was new. Many of the players are quite skilful but I thought that the range of skills was quite narrow and I could see no general trends. On the mat Juji-gatame is the most successful technique and no doubt San-kaku-gatame will soon become just as popular as it has in mens judo. The main reason that these techniques are so successful is that the ideal opportunity for the attack is constantly being presented throughout the contest, which also makes you wonder why so many players get caught with them. Okuri-eri-jime also seems to score well, which is surprising, as it does not seem to meet with the same success in mens judo.

The most popular standing techniques seemed to be Ouchigari, Kouchigari, Harai-goshi, Osotogari and Uchimata. There were few attempts at any sort of combination attacks and few Sutemi-waza. Only Pennick (USA) countered her opponents regularly. Her Te-guruma was devastating and again the question of why she caught so many of her opponents arises. There were no surprise moves when the standard techniques did not work and no real grip fighting which I had to admit made the event more appealing for the spectator.

As at the 1979 Mens World Championships in Paris the Contest Rules regarding penalties seemed to have been relaxed and there were very few infringements. I like this interpretation of the Contest Rules as I think it leads to a much better event with players winning more on merit than on some obscure technicality. Some of the players however had only a scant knowledge of the rules, as did the spectators, and were at an immediate disadvantage. Bad enough to be beaten by a technically superior opponent, but to lose through not knowing the rules is unforgivable. I was also pleased to see that there was no problem with the 'tailored illegal kits' and that the Team Doctors were not called to the mat every other minute to deal with a 'fake' injury; these two problems are almost destroying mens competition as a spectator sport.

I don't see the Soviet Union or East Germany participating in Womens judo competition any time in the foreseeable future and if this Event was a true reflection of the way Womens judo is developing then I for one am in favour of it continuing. I found the judo played here exciting and interesting to watch but then I don't know if it was the fact that it was the first event of its kind.

For the statistically minded here are some interesting comparisons: First Mens World Championships... Competitors 31... Countries 23. First Womens World Championships... Competitors 133... Countries 26.

It has to be remembered however that there was only one weight category at the First Mens Championships.



Christine Pennick (USA) the only player using counter throws with a high level of success.



Juji-gatame, the most popular technique on the mat.

BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION—MIDLAND AREA

Sandwell Junior Knockout for Boys and Girls

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ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THIS EVENT...Peter Golledge, 16 Whitewood Way, Whittington, Worcester.
Telephone: 0905 356914.

AN INTRODUCTION TO SUPPLEMENTARY TRAINING FOR JUDOKA

by Richard Barraclough

The construction of any training programme which is designed to improve Judo performance must take into account the qualities which make up a successful competitor.

1—SKILL

This should surely be considered as the most important part of a Judoka's make-up—IT OFTEN ISN'T. There is little point in being the strongest, fittest and most motivated fighter in the event if you cannot make any scores or avoid being scored on.

2—TACTICAL KNOWLEDGE

This enables the Judoka to do the right thing at the right time and to hold on to any advantage gained. It necessitates a sound knowledge of the rules and is very closely linked with SKILL (1).

3—STRENGTH/POWER

Strength is important as it allows the Judoka to contain an opponent, often dominate him physically and also maintain posture. If he cannot do this it can be very difficult to make skills work. This quality is often obvious in a static, close gripping situation.

Power is related to strength yet the two qualities (although overlapping to some extent) are difficult. Power can be described as 'fast strength' and it enables one to 'explode' into a throwing action. Usually a strong man would also have a considerable degree of power, and vice-versa, but any strength training done for Judo must realistically be organised to develop both qualities by also including speed and movement.

4—FITNESS

A Judoka who wishes to compete at the highest levels needs to develop three different types of fitness. Once again and, although there is a carry-over among the different types, each one requires a different kind of specialised training.

(a)—GENERAL ENDURANCE. This is a type of fitness which enables a Judoka to work hard for the required time, usually five minutes, and to be able to fight a number of contests on the same day. The common type of Judo training, long Randori sessions, tends to give people the ability. Perhaps a parallel can be drawn with marathon runners who have incredible general endurance and train over very long distances often totalling 100+ miles per week.

This is known as Quantity (rather than quality) and as is usual in long Randori sessions the heart and lungs are usually working without distress. Another name for this type of training is AEROBIC, as the working muscles always have an adequate supply of oxygen.

(b)—CARDIO-VASCULAR FITNESS. This is the ability to be able to work at a very high level and recover quickly, in order to be able to work hard again. In a contest an opponent's work-rate cannot always be controlled, it may be necessary in order to survive in the contest to match his work-rate. Training in order to develop this ability is known as Quality, or ANAEROBIC Training, as the heart and lungs cannot keep pace with the body's needs. This situation can only last for a short time and is known as OXYGEN DEBT. Long Randori sessions do not cater for this sort of development, and many Judoka do no quality training at all.

(c)—LOCAL MUSCULAR ENDURANCE. This is the ability of a muscle or group of muscles to keep working without undue fatigue often during a contest Judoka experience fatigue in the arms.

5—MOTIVATION/COURAGE

Courage is the Judoka's ability to continue striving to win, even though he may be in pain or things may be going wrong. It is closely linked with motivation, or how badly the fighter wants to be successful. The coach is very important here, as a good coach will constantly be working to motivate his fighters.

6—MOBILITY

The ability of a Judoka to put his body into quite difficult positions requiring a good range of movement with the exception of SKILL (1), these qualities have been listed in no particular order of importance, each Judoka is an amalgam of all of them and the amount of each quality he displays is a variable factor.

By this very nature Judo helps to develop all of these qualities if the training sessions are structured correctly. A fighter can be put under severe pressure by a succession of opponents for short training bursts in order to improve his cardio-vascular condition and test his courage in addition.

Skill can only be developed in the Judo situation and any type of supplementary training should be of secondary importance. There are, however, some very direct ways of achieving quick improvements where particular weakness is concerned. A Judoka who needs to improve his strength or power can do this in a fairly short time by following a suitable weight training programme for example.

Care must always be taken to ensure that any programme is well planned and has been proved successful, otherwise valuable time can be wasted. Another danger is to fall into the trap of lifting weights because one happens to be good at it, or running because one is a good runner. The greatest danger of all is to neglect skill training on the mat in order to do other things which may not be necessary.

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Let's do Judo

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Translated by Anne McGowan.

In this issue we look at the hip-throw MOROTE-SEOI-NAGE and some of the techniques which could be used as possible combinations and counter-attacks.

MOROTE-SEOI-NAGE



MOROTE-SEOI-NAGE

- 1—Tom and Jane face each other and take a normal grip.
- 2—Using both hands Tom pulls Jane forward and at the same time puts his right foot in front of Jane's right foot and
- 3—turns round until he is standing right in front of her. Whilst turning in, he also squats down.
- 4—Then by stretching his legs and continuing to pull with his arms, he throws Jane forward over his shoulders.

BLOCKING—Sequence 1

1 **A**—Jane blocks Tom's attack by using her left hand to stop him from moving his elbow across.

2—Tom puts his weight on his left leg and begins to swing his right leg back.

3—By making a circular, sweeping movement, the back of Tom's right leg makes contact with the inside of Jane's left leg. He turns towards her.

4—Continuing the swing with his leg and pushing back and down with his arms, Tom

throws Jane to the rear with O-Uchi-Gari.

A—Jane puts her left leg across, behind both of Tom's legs and pulls down strongly with her left arm.

B—She pushes strongly against the top half of Tom's body with her right arm and,

C—throws Tom back over her leg with Tani-Otoshi. Because this throw is done with a lot of impetus, Tom takes care to do a good breakfall, tucking in his head so that he does not bang it against the mat.



BLOCKING

1/A—Tom attacks with Morote-Seoi-Nage. Supporting herself with her left hand on Tom's back.

2/B—Jane jumps around his hips.

3—As soon as her foot touches the mat again, Tom stretches out his right leg to prevent Jane from avoiding his attack again.

4—By pulling with his arms and stretching his legs, Tom throws Jane forward over his hips with SEOI-OTOSHI.

C—As soon as her right foot is back on the mat, Jane pivots round on it and then

D—she throws Tom with MOROTE-SEOI-NAGE.



AVOIDING

ON THE MAT-

By
Maurice Allan
MBE

Another technique I often use to get my opponent into a situation where I can apply my Newaza is Sumi-Gaeshi. I prefer to use this throw when an opponent makes a grab at my leg (photo A) but it works as well as a direct attack. I let him think his attack is being successful but I quickly grip his belt with my right hand (photo B) and hop forward and place my left foot on the mat between my opponent's legs at the same time I place my right foot against the inside of his left thigh (photo

D). I now sit down as close to my own left heel as possible (photo E) and do a complete backward roll taking my opponent with me (photos F-I).

It is important, as it is with all these types of 'takedown' attacks that the movement is done in one continuous action although I have described it in various stages. You also have to commit yourself fully to the attack; a moment's hesitation and you will lose the advantage.



The position shown in photo 1 is a very common Newaza situation. It is a strong defensive position for my opponent because he can quite easily move or even stand up to escape. This is one of my favourite moves on the mat and it is a technique used quite frequently in wrestling, but it works just as well against the judo player. Once you have learned the basic technique there are several variations which can also be used.

I place my left hand between my opponent's legs and my right hand into the space between his head and his left shoulder and clasp my hands together. At the same time I place my head against the side of his body (photo 2). Now keeping my hands tightly clenched together I drive my opponent over onto his back (photo 3). Once I have him on his back I twist over onto my front (photos 4-7) and I have a very secure hold.

Remember to keep your hands clenched tightly throughout the technique and you should be able to hold him for the required thirty seconds. Good luck with these techniques—in the next issue I will be looking at some other techniques 'on the mat.'



JUDO EASTER SCHOOL '81

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Double Olympic Medallist,
British Olympic Squad Manager.

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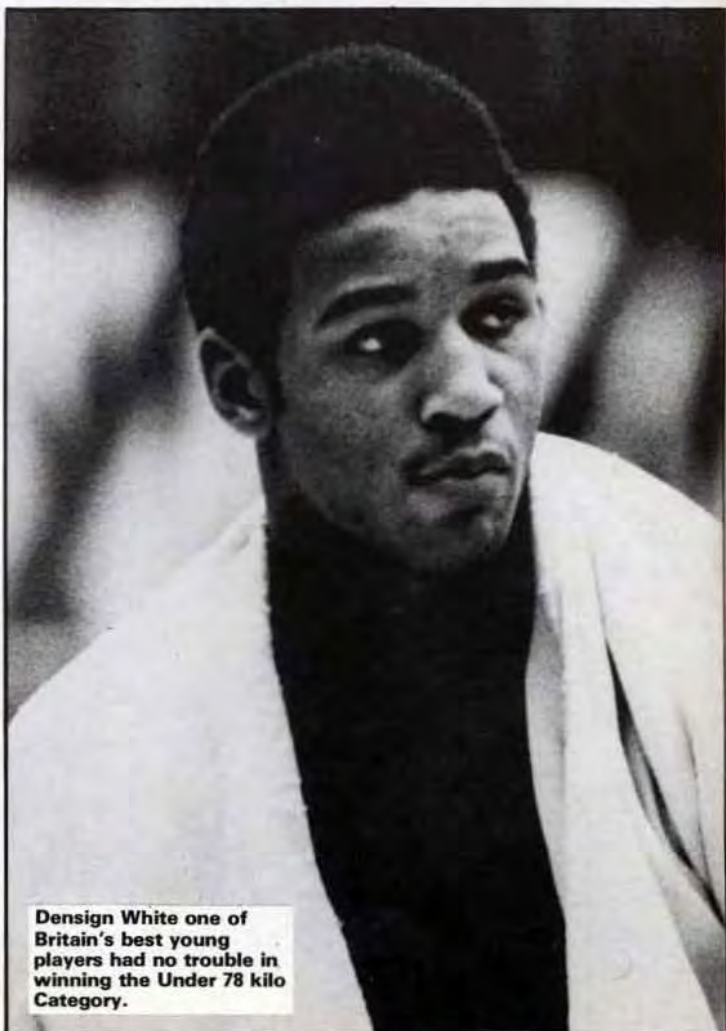
Above: Gavin Bell scores with Uchi-mata.



Ward versus Debeilius.



Gwynn Davies attacks Trevor Sitlington in the Over 95 kilo Category.



Densign White one of Britain's best young players had no trouble in winning the Under 78 kilo Category.

BRITISH MENS TRIALS '80



John Swatman and Gavin Bell in one of the most important contests of the Under 60 kilo Category.

The 1980 British Mens Trials were held at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, on Saturday 13th December. Once again the spectator turnout was extremely disappointing, with very few people watching who were not closely involved with the competitors themselves. It is difficult to determine what could be done to make this event more appealing or indeed whether anything should be done; but it seems that somebody at least should be interested in watching the hundred or so best senior men in competition. Be that as it may, the trials always have a very functional atmosphere without a great deal of excitement being generated and the small number of entrants in some categories did not help much.

Having begun this report in a rather pessimistic way it is a pleasure to write that even though there were relatively few people to be entertained many of the contests were very exciting indeed.

Under 60 Kilo Category

There were a number of very good competitors missing from this category, and only nine fighters took part. Pete Middleton (Scarborough), runner-up in the British Championships (Closed) and winner of the English Championship could not enter due to injury. Favourite in this weight class must have been Gavin Bell who narrowly missed selection for the Olympic team and who has fought extremely well in recent International Competition. In the final pool of six competitors Steve Chadwick (NW) a member of the Olympic Squad two years ago performed magnificently, pressing his opponents the whole of the time, and took first place. The talented John Swatman from the Midlands was second and Gavin Bell was able to finish only in third place, fourth position going to determined Dermot Heslop (Y & H).

Under 65 Kilo Category

Nineteen competitors took part in this weight division and even though there were some famous fighters absent (Ray Neenan (retired), Seth Birth (injured)), there was still a number of talented Judoka to dispute the places in the

squad. Dave Rance, recent winner of a Bronze medal in the World Student Judo Championship, Kerrith Brown, an experienced competitor at International level, Steve Gawthorpe, recent winner of the English Championship and Willie Buchanan from Scotland must all have been considered as likely winners. At the end of the day first place went to Kerith Brown (M) who used excellent tactics and groundwork skills in particular to illustrate what a superb competitor he is. Steve Gawthorpe deservedly finished in second place and Bob Reed (Y & H) managed to put David Rance (NHC) back into fourth place.

Under 71 Kilo Category

This weight division was probably the most keenly contested of all, having a total of thirty eight competitors many of whom were outstanding. At least a dozen of the fighters in this class had represented their country or won medals at previous National events. Considerable interest was created by the appearance of John Holliday (NHC) in this category, eleven kilos heavier than the weight class he competed in at the Moscow Olympics. Unfortunately John did not progress to the second round after being disqualified in his contest with Will Jackson (W) in his pool.

With the exception of Holliday all the favourites reached the second round, although Chris Bowles had made hard work of his contests, appearing to have a number of injuries and to be lacking in physical condition. In his second pool he met Fitz Walker (NW) current British wrestling champion and Olympic representative, a man who although lacking polished Judo skills has tremendous condition, strength and aggression. Chris was disqualified for head diving during an Uchimata attempt, but looked very tired and was a few scores behind. Perhaps World class players, such as Chris, should ensure that they only put their reputation at stake when they know that their preparation has been suitable.

There were some very close contests in the final pool and positions were not conclusively decided. Richard Armstrong (NHC) placed first closely followed by K. Isichei (NHC). Ron Angus (L) and Fitz Walker (NW).

RESULTS

UNDER 60 KILO

1—Steve Chadwick (NW). 2—John Swatman (Midlands)
3—Gavin Bell (Scotland). 3—Dermot Heslop (Y & H)

UNDER 65 KILO

1—K. Brown (Midlands). 2—S. Gawthorpe (Y & H)
3—R. Reed (Y & H). 3—D. Rance (NHC)

UNDER 71 KILO

1—R. Armstrong (NHC). 2—K. Isichei (NHC)
3—R. Angus (London). 3—F. Walker (NHC)

UNDER 78 KILO

1—D. White (Midlands). 2—E. Walker (Midlands)
3—M. Holt (Midlands). 3—A. Dearden (East)

UNDER 86 KILO

1—W. Ward (NHC). 2—J. Donald (NHC)
3—W. R. Williams (South). 3—B. Webb (Midlands)

UNDER 95 KILO

1—Mark Chittenden (South). 2—Nicholas Kokataylo (NW)
3—Glen Waters (NHC). 3—Gary Davies (NW)

OVER 95 KILO

1—Marvin McLatchie (South). 2—Gwynn Davies (Wales)
3—Peter Daly (South). 3—Trevor Sitlington (Y & H)

Under 78 Kilo Category.

Twenty competitors took part in this weight division and with the exception of Densign White (M) and Dave Walker (M) most of them were relative newcomers to this level of competition. Neil Adams was unable to enter due to injury and this must have been a disappointment for many of the competitors and spectators alike. When the positions were finally decided Densign White and Dave Walker finished first and second. Densign performed magnificently and was never really troubled in any of his contests. M. Holt of the Midlands was in third place closely followed by A. Dearden, a rapidly improving young man from the Eastern Area.

Under 86 Kilo Category

There were twenty-five competitors in this weight class and many of them could be expected to perform well. Such experienced people as Joe Donald, Bob Diebielius, Stuart Williams and Bill Ward were sure to provide an exciting competition. Three of these four, Ward, Donald and Williams took the first three places in that order, but Diebielius, although fighting well, was edged out and the fourth place went to B. Webb of the Midlands.

Over 95 Kilo Category

Only nine Judoka contested this weight division and Arthur Mapp, following his success in the Olympic Games must have been the favourite, although he was not in the best of condition due to an attack of influenza. Gwyn Davies (Wales) has recently enjoyed considerable success at International level, including throwing Oszvar (Hungary) the Olympic Bronze medallist, for Ippon in the 1979 European Team Championship. Marvin McLatchie (S) must also have been given a chance of first place as he is young and improving all the time. Towards the end Arthur Mapp had to withdraw and Marvin McLatchie surprisingly held Gwyn Davies for Ippon to take first place. Peter Daly (S) finished third and the very popular Trevor Sitlington took the fourth place.



Armstrong holds Wynter to head the 71 kilo Category.



Dave Walker resists an Uchi-mata attack.



Richard Armstrong.



Second placed Wynter attacks with O-soto-gake.



◀ Bob Debeilius points out 'neck-lock' to the Referee.

Wynter scoring. ▼



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POSTER

DENSIGN WHITE

British National Champion
European Bronze Medallist

Photograph: FRANK SMITH





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ROUND & ABOUT

Competition reports, News, views and opinions

SCOTTISH SENIOR MENS CHAMPIONSHIPS Edinburgh—7th December 1980

Over the past few years the Senior Mens Championships has been a very predictable event with the same few players dominating most of the weight categories. Scotland has a good depth of talent in the lighter weights and it is only in the two lightest categories that new players seem to reach the medal positions. In the heavier weight categories there were very few competitors and the few good players only really face stronger opposition when they enter the Open Category.

British Internationalist Gavin Bell won the Under 65 kilo Category only after some very close fights with Centar clubmate Willie Buchanan and Kilmarnock's Paul Cassidy, who was suffering from influenza. With Gavin Bell fighting at Under 65 kilos William Bell of Cambuslang had little opposition in the Under 60 kilo Category. William Bell has had a good competition season and I am sure he will continue to improve over the coming year.

Martin McSorley of the Hamilton Club did well to win the Under 71 kilo Category against fighters like Alfred Codona, Hugh Syme and John Kane, all of the Hamilton Club. McSorley is a remarkable player who shows rare ability for one so young. Losing finalist Tom Cullen also of the Hamilton Club is another fine player who fought well during the day and was perhaps a little unlucky to lose against McSorley.

As expected Mike McLaughlan of James Murray Sports Centre dominated the Under 78 kilo Category and also as expected Douglas Borthwick of Meadowbank dominated the Under 86 kilo Category. Neither player was faced with any real opposition and I fear that they will continue to reign supreme for some time to come. Graham Campbell of Glasgow won the Under 95 kilo Category but there was so few entries that he can have no satisfaction in his win. Due to a lack of entries the Over 95 kilo Category was cancelled.

It was Borthwick and McLaughlan who dominated the Open and it was Borthwick who emerged the winner when they met in the final. This was a well deserved win for Borthwick who has been training very consistently for the past few years.

Under 56 kilos—Gold—Jim McCormick, Irvine.
Under 60 kilos—Gold—William Bell,
Cambuslang.
Under 65 kilos—Gold—Gavin Bell, Centar.
Under 71 kilos—Gold—Martin McSorley,
Hamilton.
Under 78 kilos—Gold—Michael McLaughlan,
James Murray.
Under 86 kilos—Gold—Douglas Borthwick,
Meadowbank.
Under 96 kilos—Gold—Graham Campbell,
Glasgow.
Open—Gold—Douglas Borthwick,
Meadowbank.

TRAIN WITH THE BEST FROM THE NORTH WEST

The North West Centre of Excellence has recently changed, both in format and venue. The new venue will be Stretford Sports Centre, Great Stone Road, off Chester Road, Stretford, Manchester and the training will be under the supervision of Chief Coach Dennis Wrightwebb, assisted by John Lawrenson, Peter Parkinson, Richard Barraclough and Anne Atkinson. Barry Hereward will be in charge of administration, organisation and liaison with the Sports Council.

The new format of the training will combine both the Centre of Excellence and North West Squads. Judo players, both men and women, from other Areas are welcome to attend on the following dates. There will be a mat fee of £1.00.

Sunday 8th February 1981 10-30am until 1-00pm
Sunday 8th March 1981 10-30am until 1-00pm
Sunday 12th April 1981 10-30am until 1-00pm
Sunday 10th May 1981 10-30am until 1-00pm

At the first session on Sunday 11th January 87 players attended for training under British Olympic Team Manager Tony Macconnell.

See Diary of Events in next issue for further dates.

IRISH NEWS

Judo players in Londonderry and its environs will no doubt be gratified to learn that the Amenities and Leisure Committee of Londonderry has resolved to purchase, for the betterment of sport and culture in the city, a bronze cast of two Judoka. No doubt all will gather to wonder at the unveiling of this artefact—a bargain at ten thousand pounds. These Judoka, frozen into a contortion which defies both explanation and description, have been sculpted by F. E. McWilliams, a man described by the local press as 'the distinguished Northern Ireland (sic) sculptor'.

The reason that this pressing item was raised in the committee is that the statue is now sadly, homeless. Its planned site was to have been outside the proposed new House of Sport in Belfast, however recent reorganisation has meant that the Sports Council will not occupy the building, and the Arts Council is now saddled with a superfluous statue.

All, however, does not appear to be lost. In a letter to the committee, instructing them to note 'the very fine artistic quality of the piece' the Town Clerk says that other possible (and indeed 'prestigious') locations spring to mind, and so it appears that the natives of Londonderry will after all be graced by this edifying edifice. I am of course totally unqualified to judge the artistic merits of the object, (as I am sure, are most of the committee members) but the discovery that it represents two Judoka certainly caused me to raise my eyebrows. Also, the thought did cross my mind that in such a deprived area as Northern Ireland, the £10,000 could just, conceivably have been used on some more socially beneficial project.



Wem Championships—Trophy Winners

WEM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Almost 100 competitors from ten different clubs took part in the sixth Annual Invitation Tournament in Wem Town Hall. Each club which participated took home at least one medal.

The event started on time at 10-00am and finished at 5-30pm giving a full programme throughout the day with thirteen events for trophies sponsored by local traders from the area.

WEM JUDO CLUB SIXTH ANNUAL INVITATION TOURNAMENT Sunday 2nd November 1980—Town Hall, Wem

EVENT 1—Wem Club Trophy
(Boys Under 30 kilos)

Gold I. Roberts, Samurai
Silver T. Davies, Wrexham
Bronze S. Creaser, Oswestry
N. Gregory, Wem

EVENT 2—Wem Club Trophy
(Girls Under 30 kilos)

Gold S. McCreery, Wem
Silver M. Clorley, Wem

EVENT 3—Wem Club Trophy
(Boys Under 40 kilos)

Gold M. Parker, Wem
Silver P. Ashcroft, Samurai
Bronze N. Davies, Wrexham
I. Rogers, Wrexham

EVENT 4—Wem Club Trophy
(Girls Under 40 kilos)

Gold M. Wyatt, G.K.N.
Silver R. Lear, Wem
Bronze S. Woolem, Wem
K. Mansfield, Wem

EVENT 5—Cliff Woollam Trophy
(Boys Under 50 kilos)

Gold K. Gough, Wem
Silver L. Denetto, Samurai
Bronze P. Davies, Ludlow
T. Croft, Oswestry

EVENT 6—Cliff Woollam Trophy
(Girls Under 50 kilos)

Gold J. Peckham, G.K.N.
Silver A. Wyatt, G.K.N.
Bronze S. Guest, Wem
J. Robinshaw, Wem

EVENT 7—Albert Minshall Trophy
(Boys Over 50 kilos)

Gold T. Gough, Shrewsbury
Silver R. Hughes, Samurai
Bronze B. Holmes, Derby
M. Edwards, Wem

EVENT 8—Don Everall Trophy
(Girls Over 50 kilos)

Gold D. Lea, Wem
Silver Y. Guest, Wem
Bronze P. Wyatt, G.K.N.
K. Maggs, Wrexham

EVENT 9—Albert Isherwood Trophy
(Senior Women, Open)

Gold M. Evans, Wem
Silver D. Lea, Wem
Bronze K. Maggs, Wrexham

EVENT 10—Wem Novice Cup
(Men, Up to 7th Kyu)

Gold S. Lowe, Samurai
Silver M. Edwards, Wem
Bronze S. Peake, Wem

EVENT 11—Geemat Trophy
(Men, 6th to 5th Kyu)

Gold D. Gough, Wem
Silver R. Evans, Dudley

EVENT 12—Wem & District Licencees
(Men, 4th to 2nd Kyu)

Gold D. Edwards, Wrexham
Silver I. Mills, Cleobury Mortimer
Bronze M. Evans, Dudley

EVENT 13—James Grocott Trophy
(Open Weight and Grade)

Gold R. Harris, Shrewsbury
Silver B. Edwards, Wrexham
Bronze G. Moore, Oswestry
D. Gough, Wem



Frankly

OBSERVATIONS, NEWS AND VIEWS... by FRANK SMITH

In 1980 the British Judo Association attained individual Membership of over 34,000 Judoka or people associated with the Sport. The vast majority (around 29,000) were Junior Members and it doesn't need a mathematician to realise that the Association is almost entirely dependent on the income from Junior licences and Sports Council Grants.

In terms of activity, the National organization provide one Event for its majority membership and that is the Junior National Championships (Under 18's) and it doesn't seem that they are too happy in doing that. During the last two years, BJA Officials have called for the end of the Nationals, a reduction in the number of places allowed to qualifiers and legislation to cover almost every eventuality to seemingly prevent the children from enjoying their sport.

There have been a number of arguments on which these suggestions have been based. "The championships are hard to manage," (completely refuted by the previous Championships Sub-Committee). "It is too much for the Officials" (have them on separate weekends) and finally the most often heard, that "skill levels have dropped and there are fewer scores of Ippons and Wazari."

Now Mr Charles Palmer has suggested even more legislation, (see January *Judo*) based on what he saw at last year's Nationals and the Management Committee have endorsed his recommendation and also 'strongly recommended' changes in weight categories to drop the Boys Under 28 kilo category and the Girls Under 27 kilo category. Now I wouldn't dream of suggesting that this Championship was the only Junior Event that Mr Palmer saw in 1980 though I would bet that attending Junior contests figures pretty low on his list of commitments, yet the proposed legislation has no bearing on any of the youngsters I have seen in recent years.

Whoever says that skill levels have dropped must be watching their feet as junior contest judo has taken on a whole new concept in recent years (mainly as a result of legislation) and players of 12 to 15 years ago would spend all week trying to score Ippons at present National level.

In tactical awareness, knowledge of technique, ability in Ne-waza, interpretation of the rules, strength, fitness and throwing skills, modern juniors are streets ahead of anything on view in years gone by when just

a few of the top players showed such dedication. That they now only need to throw for a Koka to win is not the fault of the players.

At major junior Championships, hundreds of expert juniors can be seen emulating their heroes and enjoying their sport even within the constraints of a complicated set of rules (that the uninitiated can't understand) which have irrevocably set the blue-print for the style of judo now seen. Within these rules, the British junior player is superb, so... who needs to score Ippon?

The 'interested parties' which strongly recommend a dropping of two Junior weight categories, (whoever they may be) must also have been missing at most of the Junior Championships held in this country recently as the largest entry is always in the lower weight groups. They are also unaware that in practise no-one (not even Nationally) checks the minimum weights as well as the maximum levels. This means that the under 28 kilo player, if any good, will still enter but in the higher weight category and so be put to greater risk of injury.

Children don't score Ippons and Wazari with such frequency now-a-days because (a) they don't need to and (b) the opposition is too good. They win their contests by the easiest route possible (which is logical) and as it is easy to win with 'pretend' attacks (which the referees cannot recognise) without putting their own defence at risk, why do any more? Mat edge legislation has become so punitive that players will not take risks and passivity warnings have created the 'fake' attack syndrome. So why blame the kids?

Charles Palmer was instrumental in the formulation of the present contest rules which have created today's style of Judo yet this is not being recognised. Coaches do not teach children **not** to throw for Ippon nor do they twist the arms of their lightweights to enter contests and whilst they might not be as pictorial as in days gone by they are certainly no less skilful within the parameters specified by these rules. More legislation will not help. Excluding a large group of Membership from contest will not help.

Colin McIver said "It's a bit like beating a schoolboy because he cannot read. It doesn't help him to read any better, he just stops making the effort or he doesn't come to school at all."

Come on Charles, ask the Clubs what they feel about your proposals and restrictions. I would have thought that by now even you

would have realized that punishment does not replace education. Greater rewards create greater interest. Why not offer a bit more to your majority membership...not less.

IN BETWEEN

Having just returned from the Paris Multi-Nations Tournament, about which you will hear and see a lot next month, I proffer for your consideration a method of scoring for the 'In-betweens' which surely is the next step in our ever increasing encyclopedic contest rules. This was prompted by a certain referee who gave a signal for Wazari at a station of around 45° between a horizontal Wazari and a vertical Ippon. Already suggestions from the British contingent are 'Ippari', to cover the above eventuality, or even 'Wappon'. And, how about Kuko or 'Osae-toketa'. A difficult penalty could be a Kei-so-ku-make and a stop-start situation could be Sono-yoshi. A prize of a nomination to the Management Committee for any more interesting "IN BETWEEN'S."

P.S.—Did someone say that Judo would **never** be a spectator sport? Perhaps someone should tell the French. They keep filling stadiums and selling contests to television?

In the letters column you will read a 'humorous' contribution from Peter Holme no doubt referring to my comments in this column about video film highlighting an horrendous refereeing error in the National Junior Championships. Well Peter, unfortunately I have to confirm your worst suspicions. Yes we do have numerous 'Match of the Day' replays, slow motion and 'freeze frame' play-backs and hopefully we will get even better at it and sell a few films. You see, (surprise, surprise), we film our own players and any tasty opposition in order to help with our Coaching programmes at our successful Centre of Excellence Squads. Unfortunately sometimes we accidentally get the referees in the shot and occasionally they are making strange decisions that completely alter the outcome of a major Championship. However, I will bear in mind what you say and tell the players to ignore them and concentrate on all the good things that referees do. Thank you for the correction. By the way, one of your Area's leading Clubs, Waterloo Judo Club, have some very good video films and believe it or not, one of you refereeing a National final in which I counted numerous 'fake' attacks off a knee. This also is a very interesting Coaching point and serves to show players how to win contests without throwing. Glad you brought it up old son.



CHUI!
Insufficient skill!

STAR PROFILE JEAN LUC ROUGE

Former European and World Champion

At thirty-two Jean Luc Rougé of France has had a long and distinguished Judo career in which he won several European Championships and a World Championships. When he retired after the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games only an Olympic Title had eluded him. What a pity, a medal in Moscow would have been a satisfying reward for the tall slim Frenchman who has beaten the best in the World at one time or another.

Off the mat Rougé did not look very much like a top class player but he was deceptively powerful and had a wide range of throwing techniques and a quick tactical mind which often gave him the advantage over opponents who were physically superior. His main throwing techniques were Harai-goshi, Osoto-gari, Kani-basami and Tomoe-nage, added to which was a sound knowledge of Ne-waza and a good defence. On the mat he left no doubt of his ability and win or lose he was always impressive.

Now that he has retired I believe that he is employed by the French Government as a National Coach. He has accompanied the French Team and it is obvious his experience of high level competition will prove to be a very valuable asset to the French Squad.



Photographs:
David Finch



Sumio Endo of Japan
on the receiving end of
this Kata-ha-jime when they
met during 1979 World
Championships.



A moments rest.



Harai-goshi another of Rouge's favourite
techniques.



Kani-basami against Yamashita during the 1979
World Championships in Paris.



Tomoe-nage during the 1980 Senior European
Championships in Vienna.

LETTERS CORNER

Dear Editor,

Frank Smith's report of the 1980 British Womens Open has in the second paragraph a comment which to some extent he answers at the end.

He comments on the absence of a US entry. Is it any wonder when, at a previous event, two of their competitors were obliged to fight each other in a preliminary round as the consequence of a sudden and arbitrary change imposed by the Management Committee. A decision which in the recent Girls Under 18 Championships meant that three medallists from the same area were put into the same half of the Knockout. A situation which on most occasions can be avoided by those responsible for the draw, if they are allowed to do so.

It can only be assumed that the Management Committee and its Chairman have a total lack of interest in the 'ordinary' competitor. They certainly have such a lack when it comes to even acknowledging their hardworking officials.

This Committee seems intent upon imposing methods of working which may be effective in the limited field of international competition where generally the entry is very restricted but cannot operate fairly in domestic events.

By their arbitrary action the efforts of many people to provide competitors with a high standard of organisation have been negated. The implications concerning the integrity and ability of these people must also give some cause for thought.

Mr Smith is quite right to use words such as 'nonsense' and 'ridiculous.' Arrangements which produce situations such as those of which he complains are ludicrous. Seedings they are NOT.

ALAN V. REED—Epsom Downs

Dear Editor,

Reference JUDO No. 5—December 1980.

In your articles 'Star Profile' Jane Bridge, you state: "Jane, now a 2nd Dan, started her Judo career at Bolton Judo Club." I would point out that Jane has never been a member of Bolton Judo Club but has and is a member of The Otanikwai School of Budo—Bolton which is an entirely different organisation.

It would therefore be greatly appreciated by myself, my wife and all the other members of The Otanikwai if you will correct this error in your next issue and in any other articles written about Jane.

ERNEST SINGLETON—Chief Instructor
Otanikwai School of Budo—Bolton

Dear Editor,

I would like to bring to your notice one newsworthy item which was missed from your December article on the Under 18 Championships. Namely that this club took more medals than any AREA, let alone any other club, taking four Gold medals in the Boys with one Silver and three Bronze plus two Silvers and one Bronze in the Girls event.

I realise you are not in the business of general club news, with which policy I totally agree, but I feel that a mention of an achievement of this nature is not unwarranted.

Just to show that we are not solely in the business of winning Junior events I would add that two of our players have also made the National Squad following the trials last week, i.e. Richard Armstrong and David Rance, both of whom have come up via the Junior ranks which have taken some stick in your columns recently.

May I say that in general your magazine is well received by our members, usually stimulating some discussion or other, may you go from strength to strength.

DAVID BUTLER—Secretary
Pinewood Judo Club

Dear Editor ('Jimmy Hill'),

Having seen the ever increasing banks of expensive Japanese video equipment surrounding the Crystal Palace arena at recent National events, I wondered how long it would be before we got the '27 action replay instant decisions' trotted out.

Isn't it amazing that these cameras only pick up what their operators consider 'bad' refereeing decisions. The (by far numerically superior) 'good' correct decisions very rarely, if ever, get mentioned.

Equally strange, —the decisions that ARE picked up by the camera lens, always happen to the fighter who has connections with the camera operator. It is

never the opposition who has got a 'raw deal.'

Do you think, Mr Editor, that these 'all-seeing' devices will ever manage to correct this fault?

PETER HOLME—2nd Dan
National Referee

Dear Editor,

I am most flattered by the considered responses my short article has elicited, which you have been good enough to publish. It seems as if I am not the only one to think in the way I do, and therefore I could not have hoped for a better response. I found it most gratifying.

May I reply to some of the points made please? Mr Inman's letter, by its very length (and I wish to make no inference that that is a fault) demands a reply, but he agrees with so much of what I said, that his disagreements are minor by comparison. However, let me try and quell some of his misgivings. He makes several references to the national coach; I expect he does not know—and why should he?—that I did all my own organisation and administration from home. My wife was my unpaid secretary (much to her chagrin), but it was done in order to minimise costs at BJA HQ. As for the matter of 'trade-unions' for players, I must admit I was thinking of the early objectives of trade unions (say, pre-World War I). At that time a major objective was for the working man to achieve culture and education (as well as adequate working conditions) so in terms of a players 'union,' I was thinking of such things as in-service education (like young professional footballers) and better consideration as expendable judo items—for example, what happens if a top-player is suddenly crippled and can no longer do judo; has the BJA an adequate policy to take care of him?

Many of the other well thought out criticisms of my article need 'technical' replies and I am afraid I am not prepared to offer any positive suggestions in that direction—for free. I did offer my professional experience to the BJA on a couple of occasions since I vacated the position of national coach, but on each occasion it was rejected, so I feel no need now to offer gratis information. I was, needless to say, very disappointed, because I felt the BJA did need some technical help. However, it apparently felt it could get along fine without me and who am I to disagree?

There is very little I can say regarding Mr Bull's letter. He has been so much more specific than I and made the many points better than I could. However, I would like to clear one point. I certainly did not intend to imply that Mr Adam's performance was in any way inadequate; I am sure he did whatever he had to do with the greatest dedication. It was simply that his performance reminded me of the many inadequacies in general judo training, so I felt I had to voice some form of protestation against that lack. I apologise if that in any way inferred that blame was being attached to Mr Adams.

The problems indicated by both Mr Bull and Mr Inman are very challenging and I for one would very much like to tackle them. It is a pity that I cannot. It is a further pity, reading in the magazine, that Mr Palmer is not allowing BJA Officials to provide material for the magazine; such officials could possibly provide indications and suggestions how these many problems are being tackled in the BJA. Not only would that be reassuring, but inspirational for other officials, like Mr Inman, to tackle the many problems that are handicapping the progress of judo coaching.

The response to my article does seem to point to the fact that the problems I have outlined or something very like them, are wide-spread and it will certainly need all the co-operative help of everyone to solve them.

Finally may I offer my humble congratulations to the British Womens Judo Team in the World Championships; they put on an excellent performance. An indirect congratulation to Mr Inman (indirect because he was not actually competing) with such a responsibility no wonder he is aware of the many difficulties in coaching. He has my sympathy.

GEOFF GLEESON—Enfield, Middlesex

Dear Editor,

Congratulations on your magazine *Judo*; a very worthwhile publication; but just a little sour note regarding Issue No. 5. As you say at the top of the article covering the National Under 18 Championships, they are 'the highlight of the competition calendar' for Juniors. If so, why such a meagre coverage?

Without counting words, the article for Boys and Girls events together probably covered no more written word than that for the 'All Japan Womens Judo Tournament'—an event in which only 53 competitors took part! I'm sure that a better coverage of the 'Nationals' is justified, especially in a magazine whose major sales are in the UK.

It might be worth adding, with the high level of junior membership in most clubs, that juniors, (or their parents), could well account for a large part of your

sales. I do not advocate page after page covering minor junior tournaments, but please, give the Nationals a fair coverage.

Incidentally, the Boys report quotes Chamberlain as defeating Ross by a decision, when he won in fact by two Koka's to nil.

I would congratulate Frank Smith, in the same issue in 'Frankly' for his comments relating to the Boys Under 18's. (I did not see the Girls, but can imagine what happened). The Dave Riley affair was a disgrace. Whilst any referee can make an error of judgement in the short time he has to make a decision, for a second major error to be made in Dave's other Pool fight was criminal. Dave is a good experienced competitor who knows, and fights to, the rules, but in this case, such was his disgust at the unbending injustice of the occasion he may well concentrate on his other sporting activities, which would be Judo's long-term loss. Personally I hope that he can put it behind him and carry on.

I would also add that the decision in the Under 65 kilo final left a lot to be desired. I was certainly not on my own in feeling that Russell had won that one quite comfortably, but it did give London a Gold.

Again I would agree with Frank's comments on seeding arrangements, (or lack of them), and certainly NHC had cause for complaint in some lightweight classes (Boys), where most of their qualifiers were consistently in the same half of the draw. Such was their strength in one class that they could have taken all four medals given even distribution. The same situation occurred last year, but complaints then did no good either.

Finally, keep up the good work with *Judo* magazine, and with or without the BJA official blessing, it must soon cover all areas.

BRIAN J. CHAMBERLAIN—Wombourne,
Nr. Wolverhampton, West Midlands

Dear Editor,

I have only recently begun subscribing to your 'Judo' and would like as a foreigner to give you my opinion on your publication.

As well as being a Judo instructor I am involved in Advertising. I am on the design side of the agency and we specialise in publications and catalogues. Why I am giving you this long winded resumé of my occupation is to tell you that I think the 'Layout and Design' of your publication is excellent and very easy on the eye.

I find the Judo technical side to be very interesting and instructional and eagerly await my copy every month.

I run four Judo clubs in Johannesburg and have 130 Judoka. I would like to correspond with other Instructors in the UK with a view to exchanging ideas, letters and maybe even organise visits. I would like to offer any of your Judoka who happen to be visiting or settling in South Africa the hospitality of my home and dojo and any assistance to make their stay enjoyable.

I will reply to any Judoka who wishes to write to me. Keep up the high standard of your magazine and please reply soon.

I. GINSBERG—4th Dan
PO Box 66070, Broadway, Transvaal 2020
South Africa

PS—it would be nice to see more articles on refereeing.

Dear Editor,

In the recent edition of *Judo* magazine, under the article about National Under 18 Championships, the results were listed.

I am writing to point out that S. STEELE, Bronze medallist Under 55 kilo, was also a medallist last year. In fact this year's Bronze was his fourth consecutive National medal. In the 1979 event he won the Gold at Under 45 kilo.

ALAN ROBERTS—Bexley Judokwai

Dear Editor,

I have read with great interest the new *Judo* magazine and I am pleased to see it has not turned out to be just a Publication Relations job for the BJA.

My main reason for writing is to make a few comments about Roy Inman's letter. I believe I am right in saying I am the first competitor to write in.

1. Geoff Gleeson's letter certainly has made us Judo players think—something we don't do very often.

2. Roy says that all the British team were employed; this may be technically true, but in practice far from the truth. Ask Neil Adams and Chris Bowles how much actual work they have done since they were 16. It is common knowledge that Neil has had sponsors and Chris very good parents, and so they should if they are to compete against the professionals of Eastern Europe; they must be professionals

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Sports

GLEESON'S MARKET STALL

What should the Novice Learn First?

Reading some of the perennial advertising blurb for attracting the citizen into Judo, creates a strange inverse image of what a Judo player is—or might be. 'Judo gives you confidence'—the implication being that the Judo novice lacks confidence in life; 'Judo makes you fit'—the novice is not a games player? With just these two exhortations, what a picture has been painted! A fragile creature, lacking in confidence and physical ability, joins a 'combat' activity in order to 'straighten himself out! The question this blurb raises is, does the novice straighten himself out? As Bernard Shaw pointed out many decades ago, characteristics can be seen from two different viewpoints. Look at the viewpoints he gives in "Man and Superman":...not courageous, only quarrelsome; not loyal, only servile; not dutiful, only sheepish; not intelligent, only opinionated; not moral, only conventional; not...so in Judo: not confident, only arrogant; not humble, only sychophantic; not efficient, only vindictive and so on. Is the person, starting from that ailing position of timidity and frailty, really capable of achieving the ideal of the friendly giant?

There are of course many paradoxes, ambiguities and hypocracies in Judo, too many to contemplate here, but let me point out just a few that are relevant to the point I wish to make. One of the worst educational situations that can be visualised is where a novice is taught vehemently on the one hand to do one thing and then, on the other hand, just as vehemently prevented from doing it. For example, the novice spends many weeks learning how to fall, and he then discovers that if he falls like that in competition he loses, so he has then to learn how not to fall like that; he learns how to break an arm, and then is not allowed to break it; he is taught to ignore scoring and then finds—later—that one unimportant score loses him the European Championships, so he must quickly change his attitude to scoring; he is taught to throw while standing still and then finds in contest he cannot stand still; and so it goes on. Perhaps the worst one of all is that in Randori the novice is taught to smash his opponent down as often as he can, as hard as he can, for as long as the partner can stand it. The more the opponent is incompetent to prevent this happening, the more the smashing must be accelerated, both in frequency and hardness. In contest this does not happen, only one smash is allowed. No wonder Judo people have harmony problems—the ability to tolerate and live happily with other people. The frustrations they have to cope with during training would give psychiatric problems to all but the most mentally hygienic.

No wonder there are so many Judo organisations. The groups who lead them are probably very uncertain of what they want out of Judo, probably each group is trying to find its own way to self-satisfaction. Each convinced, with some justification, it is doing the right thing. I am reminded of the lunatic in the madhouse who, when he was introduced to another lunatic calling himself Napoleon said he was wrong—for he was Napoleon. So each Judo organisation claims it is Napoleon—the 'right' one—and that it is the others who are wrong. The Sports Council, for something like twenty years, has been trying to make all the Judo groups accept there is only one Napoleon—with-out realising he has been dead for many years. It is even more



bewildering to realise the Sports Council does not seem to appreciate that after twenty years, perhaps all the Judo organisations have something special to offer the public—that's why they have lived for twenty years! To force them to make one giant Judo organisation may only achieve what all big industrial combines do—drop the level of servicing to the public. Where is the spirit of English justice? Where is that spirit that made English sport famous, the spirit that offers a friendly hand to the weaker opponent? All Judo organisations should be allowed to go their own way, doing what they can for the public in their own way. No-one deserves special privileges.

Judo purports to cultivate friendship throughout the 'sturm and brang' of combat. Such a claim frequently sounds as bogus as that other claim, 'if you breakfall, when you get smashed down, you won't hurt yourself! This fallacy I find particularly relevant when I hear that one Judo organisation wants to smash another. That hardly seems friendly. Perhaps Judo combat has not helped that Judo organisation to become friendly? Perhaps Judo has fostered hate and paranoia? What a terrible advertisement for Judo—if it were true? Yet how does one rationalise a policy that for almost twenty years has tried to extend the training maxim, 'smash him; if he is not as strong as you smash him harder!' If it were done under any other banner than 'oriental martial arts' the performers would be whisked away to the nick!

Can this problem of Judo intolerance be solved? Of course! Granted there will always be individual 'nuts' who will enjoy bullying for its own sake, Judo by definition will always attract them, but correction could be brought about by modifying the training programme.

It seems to me that it is time the central honesty of Judo is recognised and acknowledged. For example, if competition is important in Judo (and I would acknowledge it is), then scoring must be important, therefore why not teach scoring on the first night of a novice's life? Explain, in Judo technical terms, what 3, 5, 7, and 10 mean (i.e. not Waza-ari—it is an incomprehensible foreign word). Is there a difference between a Tai-otoshi that scores 10 and one that scores 7? Obviously there must be! What are they? Location of feet, use of hands/arms, commitment of body-weight—these would be some of the factors. Should not the coach teach these differences? Not all at once, perhaps not in the way I have laid them out, but specified in such a way that the novice can understand them and incorporate them into the acquisition of elementary Judo skills.

Approaching skills in this way, may necessitate the stressing of co-operation between the learning novices. Smashing may have to be postponed for many weeks, whilst the novice learns not only the technique of scoring 7 or 10, but how to recognise the situation that precedes that score. In short they must work together to acquire that experience. That must mean they are nurtured in co-operation of purpose, tolerance of alternative objects and the harmony of improving together. Not only would that help the novice to improve his skills more quickly, but would also help him to work with others when—and if—he ever reaches the position of leading a Judo organisation.

British Judo Association . . . Midland Area
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