

14th Camp TUKIDO

TRADITION unbroken, the 14th Annual Camp Tukido got underway on Sunday, in pouring rain. Undaunted by the wet start, Grand Master Teh once again sprang upon the specially erected stage in the middle of a grass field at Macharioch Farm, Southend, Campbelltown. Enthusiasm overpowered the dampness as students commenced their week-long training with a comprehensive warm-up and stretch. Novices and Black Belts alike revelled in the masterful demonstration of basic Tukido techniques.

During a detailed examination of how to properly execute each technique, Master Teh confirmed that students shouldn't be too concerned with the exact width or length between say the arm and the body. In his words, "you can't measure art!" The welcome bonfire scheduled for the first night may have been cancelled due to rain, but the Monday morning brought clear blue skies and stiff bodies. This was it; intensive Tukido



Chin-Heng and Stephen at the sparring bout.

training under the instruction of a world Master got well and truly underway, as students were expertly loosened off before practising basic technique in preparation for the thorough and detailed performance of the Tukido sparring forms.

Exciting

Right from the start on Sunday evening it was apparent that a very highly charged atmosphere was encouraging students to push themselves. Why? At a Tukido summer camp students are treated to instruction by one of the most exciting martial artists around, as Master Teh radiates his energy. This year saw an additional exuberant enthusiasm from Master Teh in the form of two Malaysian Tukido instructors, NG Chai Huat, 2nd Dan from Kuala Lumpur, and Koay Ching Heng, 2nd Dan from Taiping. Not only were students being instructed by Master Teh, they were training alongside two Malaysian instructors who were con-

tinually brimming over with enthusiasm. Black Belts and coloured belt students alike were working together as Master Teh went through techniques and each of the sparring forms, from the simplest sparring form, "Spring", to the complex Black Belt sparring forms. After 1½ hours of training, students complete two rounds of the assault course before breakfast, followed by the tug-of-war competition between the coloured belts and the Black Belts. As usual, Black Belts won, but not without a hard struggle.

Evening training in the brilliant sunshine is a sheer joy, as you look out to sea, awaiting Master Teh's arrival on the training field. It's the last chance you have for sight-seeing. After a warm-up which loosens off every joint in your body, Master Teh has all his students moving free directional, whilst executing combinations of attack and defensive techniques, first against imaginary opponents, then against fellow students. Master Teh is renowned for his unique style



Beauty and the flying beast.



Tukido wedding procession.

of naturally flowing and flamboyant techniques. Explaining Master Teh's instruction in text is not at all easy, but the simplest way is to say that the students were shown to stay on the balls of both feet, transferring the body weight from one foot to the other with a "hop" whilst moving to the side, forward or backward. Master Teh would emphasise the importance of keeping well balanced by keeping the feet fairly close together, whilst keeping the weight on one foot only, thus allowing a rapid and instantaneous attack or block which could easily be followed up with combinations of leg and hand techniques. An example of this was when students were paired off to practice front leg hooking kick followed with a quick succession of double low-mid section punches and double back fist to the head.

Motivation

Tuesday brought another scorching and severely aching bodies to the training field. Nevertheless, Master Teh once again had the students loosened off and moving confidently. As he said: "It's my job to motivate you." That he certainly can! Lunch was the ideal time for the cooking competition, which produced a number of culinary delights and was won for the second year by Jacqueline Cameron, assisted by David Kelly, both from Inverness. "Cooking is another art form and requires many years of practice and imagination. All artists indulge in food."

Sparring

Sparring form competition attracted great interest and superb performances of Master Teh's dynamic compositions from students of all grades. Tukido sparring forms have been created by Master Teh for each of the coloured and Black belt grades and designed to bring out the very best technical ability and attitude from students in each respective grade.

Assault course competition proved to be rather exhausting in the summer sun, producing close results which gave NG Chai Huat first place, with a time of 23.81 seconds. Later in the day, all students took part in the

Sports Day, which included participation in Javelin, Relay race, Shot Put, Long Jump and Tossing the Caber. NG Chai Huat, who represents Malaysia under 23s and the West of Scotland for the Javelin, proved popular for demonstrating the correct technique in throwing the Javelin. Tossing the Caber was treated as seriously as all other activities, although I suspect that the two Malaysian visitors were privately amused at having to throw a 9ft timber pole end over end!

As the week progressed, sparring during the evening session was becoming more and more advanced as students gained confidence whilst building fitness and stamina. Use of Master Teh's light footwork was becoming very popular as students proved to themselves just how effective this style of free directional movement becomes when faced against an opponent. Each training session is interspersed with emphasis on specific hand and leg techniques as taught and performed at normal club training, then "adapted" for use with the light footwork, thus becoming more effective. Students at Camp Tukido may for the first time realise the significance of certain techniques when they are utilised in a varied way from the normal.

Movement Composition competition gave students the opportunity to compose their own combinations of attack and defensive techniques. The standard of entries this year was exceptionally high, reflecting the general camp atmosphere. First place



Geraldine and Kenneth Murgitroyd being married by Master Teh.

was awarded for an explosive performance by NG Chai Huat, second place to Koay Ching Heng for a very imaginative composition, whilst third place went to David Kelly from Inverness for a truly gutsy performance. Shooting competition with 12 bore shotguns is organised and supervised by crack-shot, Ian Watton. It is an event which always proves extremely popular. Sports competition on the Thursday was a hard fought contest between students of all grades but produced "friendly" rivals. NG Chai Huat had found a new sparring partner both on and off the training field, namely Dr Dracos Vassalos, a very active instructor of the Tukido club at Strathclyde University, where he is also a senior lecturer. Dracos came a very close second to NG Chai Huat in both the Long Jump and Shot Put. The most excitement came in the Javelin. Both Dracos and Joe Geddes from Dundee threw enormous distances, but the victor proved to be Dracos.

Relay race

The traditional relay race between the Black Belts and coloured belts was as un-nerving as ever but left the coloured belts well defeated giving them the reward of going into the sea only for the second time in 14 years. Unfortunately in the hot sunny day, this really did turn out to be a reward.

The week's training was brought to a close with two events. Firstly, the Tukido Camp grading brought success for many students who attained promotion to a higher grade. Secondly, a first for Camp Tukido — a Wedding! Black Belt Kenneth Murgitroyd married Yellow Belt Geraldine Mason in Campbeltown Register Office



Chai-Huat with one of his many trophies.

before receiving "Tukido Vows" from Master Teh. Nothing too unusual, except the Tukido marriage ceremony was performed by Master Teh with all his students lined out in the sea, culminating with the newly-weds being immersed in the sea and Master Teh going for an after wedding swim!

The wedding reception was organised as a grand scale beach party complete with disco, barbecue and bonfires on the beach at the Mull of Kintyre. What a night, I have a feeling this style of beach party to conclude Camp Tukido was only a first.

So the 14th Camp Tukido was concluded in dramatic style. Enthusiasm and effort were at a new peak from all students as they gained inspiration and encouragement from a true Martial Arts expert who just revels in his own inspirational style. On behalf of all camp Tukido students; thank you.

RESULTS

Coke drinking competition:
John McGuigan (Coatbridge)

Sparring Form competition:
1st Margot Lonie (Dundee)
2nd Gavin Harper (Bellshill)
3rd David Kelly (Inverness)

Flying Side Kick:

Seniors

1st NG Chai Huat (Kuala Lumpur)
2nd Dr Dracos Vassalos (Strathclyde University)
3rd Kenneth Murgitroyd (Glasgow)

Juniors

1st Alan Hogan (Inverness)
2nd Gavin Harper (Bellshill)
3rd Patrick Seabourne (Inverness)

Assault Course competition:

NG Chai Huat (Kuala Lumpur)

Cooking competition:

Jacqueline Cameron and David Kelly (Inverness)

Movement Composition competition:

1st NG Chai Huat (Kuala Lumpur)
2nd Koay Ching Heng (Taiping)
3rd David Kelly (Inverness)

Shooting competition:

Ladies': Frances McGeehan

Men's: David Kelly (Inverness)

Sports competition:

Javelin: Dr Dracos Vassalos (Strathclyde Uni)

Shot Put: NG Chai Huat (Kuala Lumpur)

Long Jump: NG Chai Huat (Kuala Lumpur)

Chess competition:

John Wallace (Dundee)

Painting competition:

Colin MacRae (Aberdeen)

Grading Awards:

10th-7th Grades: Gordon Plenderleith (Carluk)

6th-2nd Grades: Kerry Leiper (Inverness)