

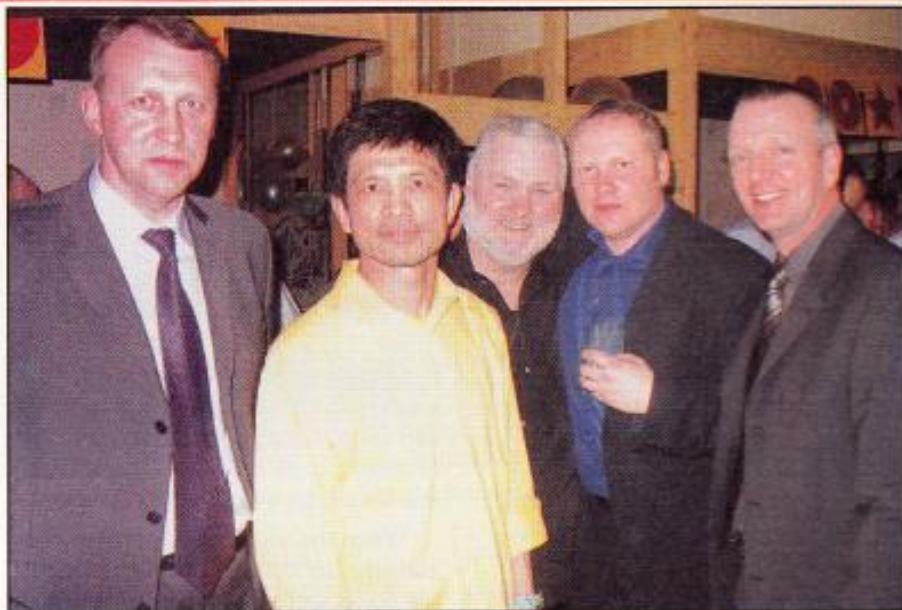
# Tukido's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

TUKIDO — the art of skilful combat, was officially launched on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1983. Its founder, Grandmaster Hock Aun Teh D.A., came to Scotland in 1970 to study at The Glasgow School of Art.

Born and raised in Malaysia, Grandmaster Teh was already a skilled instructor of Tae-kwon do before his arrival in Scotland. Opening a club at the Glasgow School of Art in 1972, Grandmaster Teh became the first person to introduce Tae-kwon do in the central belt of Scotland and soon became the main promoter of Tae-kwon do in Scotland, becoming Chief Instructor of Tae-kwon do in the United Kingdom (1975-1978), then Chief Instructor of the Scottish Tae Kwon Do Association (1979-1983) which he had established.

## By Eddie Smith

By the early 1980's Grandmaster Teh had already started to research and develop his own style of martial arts. His aim was to create a system of martial arts that was easy to learn, easy to use and effective in real life situations. A martial art that wouldn't be constrained by rigid stances or body movements, and that could offer its students freedom of expression. This last aspect was especially important to Grandmaster Teh. Being an accomplished abstract artist, Grandmaster Teh thought that if he could use brushes, colour and



From left: W. Rose, Grandmaster Teh, S. McQuade, C. Watton and J. Kennedy.

canvas to express his emotions and inner feelings, why not also the movements of his martial art? With these thoughts in mind Tukido – The Art of Skilful Combat, was born.

It is now 2003 and Tukido is still going strong and this year, standing the test of time, celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Unlike the Tukido students in Malaysia, who have a small party every year to celebrate the establishment of Tukido in Malaysia (est. 1990), it was decided to celebrate Tukido's 20<sup>th</sup> birthday with a bang. As the official Anniversary would be on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March, the party was set for the Saturday before (29<sup>th</sup> March), because who wants to

party on a Monday night? The venue was booked for Glasgow city centre, the DJ hired and the invites sent out.

Over the years Grandmaster Teh has held many Seminars, Summer Camps, Tournaments etc and almost all of these have had their own central themes. The Party was to be no different. The theme was 'flexibility'. One of the things that sadden Grandmaster Teh most about the world of martial arts is the internal bickering. This organisation doesn't recognise that one, or 'A' won't talk to 'B' because 'B' is no longer a member of their association. Grandmaster Teh hates this narrow-minded attitude, and wished to set an example of Tukido's and his own



Girls just wanna have fun!



Grandmaster Teh seeing who wants the first piece.



Patrick Wong and the 3 "must have beers".



Andy Davie (centre) reunited with old friends Billy, Caroline & Charles.

flexibility. Thus, not only were Tukido students invited to join the celebration, but also ex-Tukido members and Instructors, and even students of Grandmaster Teh's from his Tae Kwon Do days. Grandmaster Teh feels that no matter what has happened over the years, his students are like his children and always will be. Whether they had stopped training, moved to other organisations, or formed their own organisations, the door was held open for these former students to join in the festivities. For they had all played their part in the history of Tukido.

Soon the replies started to flood in and within a matter of weeks all the available tickets were gone. As the night drew closer, the anticipation grew. People would be coming from as far a field as Birmingham and London in the South and from Inverness in the North to join in the celebration. The guest list ranged from Tukido students who had only been training for a few months to the likes of Gerry Wan, one of Grandmaster Teh's first Tae Kwon

Do students from 1971, now a successful owner of the Peking Inn and Blue Ginger restaurants in Glasgow. It soon became evident that this would be a night to remember!

When the night finally arrived the atmosphere was amazing. Although the doors weren't scheduled to open until 8.30pm, guests had already started to arrive at 7.45pm. Nobody wanted to be fashionably late; such was the excitement surrounding the event. By 9.00pm the house was packed.

Everyone was mingling. New friendships were being born and old ones renewed. People were being reunited with former friends or Instructors, some of whom hadn't seen each other for 15 or 20 years! Newer Tukido students were being introduced to ex-Tukido and Taekwon do instructors, who to them were legends. The likes of Andy Davie and Ronnie White who were kings of the full contact ring in the early 90's and their bouts still talked about today. The atmosphere was electric. No-one wanted to sit down,

as there was always someone else to be introduced to, or re-united with, someone else to catch up with and swap old stories.

At 10pm it was time to get things officially started. Being the main organiser of the event, I had been assigned the job of welcoming everyone to the Party. Not wanting to spoil the momentum of the night I kept my speech short and sweet, quickly passing the mike onto 5<sup>th</sup> Dan Instructor and Examiner, Mr William Davie, who would make a special presentation to Grandmaster Teh. Over the months preceding the Party, all the current Tukido students had got together to get a gift of appreciation for Grandmaster Teh. A cake and a card were also organised, with the card having been signed by almost of Tukido's current students, even having special well-wishing attachments sent by the Malaysian and Irish Tukido clubs. Unfortunately none of the Irish or Malaysian members could come in person, but we know they were all there in spirit. The surprise was evident on



Steve Riley "They're all crazy, not me!"



Doc and Mairi demonstrating the Balfron Boogie.

Grandmaster Teh's face when the cake was brought out with all 20 candles flaming. One big puff and the candles were out and Grandmaster Teh happily accepted the card and gifts from Mr Davie. Grandmaster Teh made a short thank you speech, expressing his delight at seeing all his old students and Instructors, be they from his Tukido or Tae-kwon do days.

Next, came the much-anticipated 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Prize Draw. A big thank you has to go out to the many students who donated prizes for the lucky draw. Various guests of honour were chosen to draw the lucky numbers and present the winners with their prizes. These included Mr Jim Kennedy one of Grandmaster Teh's Tae-kwon do Instructors from the early 1980's, who had stayed with Tae-kwon do when Grandmaster Teh formed Tukido, and who still runs a successful Tae-kwon do club today for the WTF. Also currently with the WTF, Mr William Rose, Grandmaster Teh's first Tae-kwon do Instructor on forming the Scottish Tae-kwon do Association in 1978, was also called on to pick some lucky numbers. Ian Watton, one of Grandmaster Teh's longest running Tukido students was also called on to give out a prize. Unfortunately he was nowhere to be found (someone check the wine cellar....) so his son Craig was called on to do the honours. Craig was in high spirits, as well he should have been, as the following week he was to get married to the lovely Judy Edge. Judy and Craig had met at one of Grandmaster Teh's Summer Camps and have never looked back since. Foremost among the guests of honour had to be Mr Steve McQuade. Mr McQuade was one of Grandmaster Teh's very first Tae-kwon do students in the late 1970's, and was instrumental in organising many of Grandmaster Teh's Summer Training Camps from 1979 onwards. Some lucky students were even presented prizes by Grandmaster Teh himself, including signed posters, Tukido baseball caps and copies of Grandmaster Teh's books.

With the main event of the evening over, the Party did not lose its pace, in fact quite the opposite. Everyone



*A surprise presentation from Grandmaster Teh to Eddie Smith.*

was thriving on the atmosphere, people swapping old stories, some showing off their prizes, others happily munching at the buffet. With the music blasting the dance floor was packed. Yes, it will be hard to forget some of the dance moves of certain Larbert and Strathclyde University Club members! But not to be outdone Balwinder Singh, instructor of the East Kilbride club, was there to show the 'young uns' how it should be done. Grandmaster Teh was amazed by the energy some of the students put into their dance moves, "If they could only be as energetic as that at gradings....."

Although famous throughout Ayreshire's nightclubs for his dancing skills, Irvine club's instructor Charles Tonner was strangely reluctant to show us some moves. Could this be the effects of all that 'cultured' wine that Billy Cooper, ace photographer of the evening, had been getting Charles to sup?

Some preferred a quieter approach to the evening, like Bob Millar, another of Grandmaster Teh's longest running Tukido students. While others jumped about and made all the noise, Bob happily just relaxed with his beer and quietly soaked up the atmosphere. The Paisley club instructors, David Howitt and Alistair Graham were also quieter than usual. Could they still be recovering from all the partying they did in Malaysia

during Tukido's Operation Monsoon training camp? Or could it have been awe at the sharpness of TC Smith's suit? Looking good! Yep, unlike me, who preferred the scruffy approach, several people had dressed to kill! From shirts and ties to tank tops, from baseball caps to fancy pocket watches, if there was a fashion you would have seen it there.

Before we knew it, it was time for last orders and the night drew to a close. People started to say their goodbyes and bid their farewells. For some people all the excitement had tired them out and they headed home to bed. However, just as many headed out to continue their celebration at some of Glasgow's nightclubs. Most notably the wild bunch: Andy Davie, Patrick Wong and Steve Riley showing they hadn't lost any of their stamina and are still as mad as ever! The night was a huge success, and is sure to be the subject of conversation for a long time to come. In closing I would just like to say a thank you to everyone involved in the celebration: the organisers, the guests and especially Mr Tony Tahir, who provided us with such a wonderful venue. See you all at the Silver Anniversary!

(Anyone interested in being on the guest list for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party or wanting to know more about Tukido should contact Eddie Smith via [www.tukido.com](http://www.tukido.com))