



WSKF Ireland Newsletter 2011

A Note from the Chairperson

During a recent meeting of the WSKF Ireland Committee, communication was highlighted as one of the areas we need to work on as an association – so here is our first WSKF Ireland Newsletter from the Chairperson, presenting a round-up of the year.

My name is Jim Bradley and I'm the instructor in the WSKF Ennis Karate Academy, the most westerly club in WSKF Ireland – but readily accessible now thanks to the new motorway for anyone who wants to come and train with us in the west!! I took over from Paul Hughes in April of this year. It should be acknowledged that Paul contributed hugely to bringing WSKF Ireland to where it is today. This year has been busy and successful – a great credit to all the people involved in WSKF Ireland. I'd like to take this chance to say thank you to everyone who contributed from the people involved primarily the instructors, club members and all our supporters.

A special word of thanks to our Chief Instructor, Sensei Brendan and to all the committee members who help to drive the organisation forward through giving of their valuable time and energy to get things done, often working in the background to make our events and WSKF Ireland, successful.

I hope that 2012 will be successful for everyone – whether training for your 9th kyu or a dan grade, as competitors or non-competitors, as a young person or 'elder lemon' – remembering that the most important thing that unites us is that we are all karate-ka.

Enjoy Christmas – eat, drink and be merry for in January we train!

All the best.

Jim

A note from the Chief Instructor

2011 was a busy year for us in WSKF Ireland. It started with an excellent Kumite Seminar with Wayne Otto OBE. Our National Championships were in March and Aaron Breen won the John Healy fighting spirit award, well done again to him and to all who competed in the event. Barely a week later, the tragedy of the tsunami unfolded in Japan impacting on our

friends there, including Sensei Kasuya. In response to the tsunami, WSKF Ireland members got together and raised € 350,000, and the 'cheque' was presented to Sensei Kasuya during his visit here - well done to everybody involved. We attended the British Open and did very well, winning 2 silver by Sorcha McCorry, she was unlucky not to win gold. We also won 7 Bronze medals (Eva Martin, Jamie Reilly, Gavin O'Sullivan, Cormac Hennessey, Jerry Ahern and Mark Sheridan). Teams were also entered in the IKKU Open and the JKS Open, where as usual we won a lot of medals. Well done to Niamh Hogan on becoming ONAKAI kata champion and congratulations to Jamie Reilly and Nicole Perry, they were picked on the ONAKAI team to represent Ireland at the EKF in Azerbaijan in Feb 2012. I would also like to wish Cormac Hennessey a speedy recovery from his recent accident.

There is unfortunately a negative, the one thing that upsets and disappoints me every year, are the people that give up training and leave karate. I will be making it my business to try to rectify this in the future. It would be helpful if any of the instructors could give me information on any students that have stopped training, especially if they were WSKF national squad members, as I would like to find out why they have given up and then find ways to stop this from happening and keep people training and developing their karate and also competing.

I would like to welcome our new members in Clonskeagh, lead by Sensei Abdelhak Boudhar

I would like to say a personal thank you to Linda Collie for all the work, she did for WSKF Ireland and it was a great disappointment to me that she felt unable to continue her great work.

Finally, it has been a great year for WSKF. I hope that 2012 will be as good if not better! I would like to thank everybody for their help and assistance during 2011 and look forward to training with you in the New Year.

Brendan

Black belts 2011

Congratulations to all who passed their black belt exams this year. Thanks to all parents, partners, instructors and WSKF Ireland club members for their assistance and support in helping everyone prepare for and to take the examination. To the successful candidates, we wish you many more happy years of training!! Oss

1st Dan: Ross Collie, Martin Wheeldon, Dylan Walshe, Leah Enright, Jackie Gray, Jamie Reilly, Eamon Dunne, Adlan Dijimani, Imelda Kearney, Eoin Holohan

2nd Dan: Cormac Hennessey, Alexander Lusnikov

Courses Roundup

- **Sensei Kasuya** – June 2011 – As always the Sensei Kasuya training seminar and grading was excellent, Sensei continues to inspire.
- **Sensei Wayne Otto** – Sensei Wayne’s Kumite seminars have helped us to greatly improve our training methods for Kumite. I would like all our instructors to attend this seminar , in the future , if only to take notes.
- **Sensei Jonathan Mottram** – November 2011- Sensei Mottram’s seminar was an eye opener to everybody. It was an excellent kata seminar and I look forward to Jonathan coming back.

Competitions

- British Open – This was held in Glasgow on October 1st & 2nd .The team included Mark Sheridan, Gavin O’Sullivan , Jerry Ahern, Sorcha McCorry, Emer Flavin, Nicole Perry, Eva Martin, Reshaylia Naidu, Amy McLaughlin , Jamie Reilly and David Gannon. The team did very well at this high level competition. We won 2 silver and 7 Bronze medals. Previous to this only 1 medal had been won at the British Open by an Irish person.
- WSKF Ireland – was held in Tallaght Leisure Complex on 12th March. The competition was very well attended and this year we held the seniors first, which seemed to be a positive change. We are constantly looking to improve the competition experience, so please forward any ideas you have to your instructor.
- JKS competition was held in Tallaght Leisure Complex on 16th October . We did very well , as usual . It would be good if more people would enter competitions as we are always looking for talent for the national team as are ONAKAI.

Dates for 2012

- Black belt pre-grading January 21st Ballyroan 3pm 2012
- Kumite Course with Sensei Wayne Otto – 11th February 2012
- WSKF National Championships – 3rd March 2012

Fundraising Activities 2011

A special word of thanks to Linda Collie for all her efforts this year – it was our most successful year so far. Thanks to everyone who sold lines, bag packed and attended quizzes and fight nights throughout the year – your contribution is greatly appreciated.

**Wishing all WSKF Ireland members a Happy Christmas
and every success in 2012. OSS!**