



ASHINGTON KARATE CLUB

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Sensei Jill Kelly, 6th Dan

DECEMBER 2017 NEWS

Sensei Trish Bruce, 5th Dan

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Ashington Karate Club would like to wish all our students and their families a happy and healthy new year 2018! 2017 has been a great year for the club, and a summary of the year can be found attached to this newsletter.

GRADING WITH SENSEI FRANK BRENNAN

Well done to everyone who graded with Sensei Frank Brennan, 8th Dan on Sunday 17th December 2017 at Josephine Butler Campus in Ashington. A total of 81 people graded from both Ashington and other NKA clubs. Everyone performed to the best of their ability and were awarded with the grades they deserved. Special congratulations to Joel Pollard, Lennon McCulloch and Jason Sunil, who all achieved a pass and a half! A full list of results for our club members can be found on our website.

NEW BRONZE YOUNG LEADERS!

Congratulations to Abby Robinson and Luke Davis who have both achieved their Bronze Young Leaders Award. The Young Leaders Scheme is a new qualification introduced by the KUGB to develop students aged 12-17 in teaching karate.

Abby and Luke have both assisted in the junior class on Thursday nights for 10 hours to achieve this qualification.

JOHN TALBOT FUNDING

As most of you will remember, our club committee was presented with a cheque for £1000 by the Ashington Leisure Partnership as part of the John Talbot Funding. We have used most of this money to buy a BOB (Body Opponent Bag), for the club, a sack barrow to move him, and a measuring stick for competition use to ensure people are in the correct categories.

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2017

Our Christmas Party and Presentation Evening for 2017 took place on Saturday 9th December. We are pleased to have over 100 people who attended, and all had a great time.

Both the children and adults enjoyed a magic show by Mr Merlin, and the achievements of the club this year was celebrated in the presentation.

Congratulations to the following who were presented with the special awards;

Evie Ackroyd - Best Overall Senior
Callum Caldwell - Best Overall Junior
Beverley Foster - Most Improved Senior
Luke Redpath - Most Improved Junior
Lennon McCulloch - Best Overall Attendance

We raised £971.50 through ticket and raffle sales, and stalls at the party. With all expenditure for the night deducted, we raised a profit of £114. This money will be set aside to cover next year's party. Each year the funds raised at the part get set aside to provide for the following year's party. A big thank you to all our members and their families who made the party a great night.

DECEMBER BONUS BALL WINNERS:

02/12/2017: Claire Brown (50)

09/12/2017: Ashington Karate Club (27)

16/12/2017: Sensei Jill Kelly (36) – Luxury Hamper Prize

23/12/2017: Christine Young (10) – Bottle Hamper Prize

30/12/2017: Jackie Brown (22)

STUDENT OF THE MONTH:

JOEL POLLARD



Can you please return the trophy at the end of the month so it can be awarded to another student at the beginning of the following month?

ATTENDANCE OF THE MONTH:

*EHSAN BANIIYAGHOOB
AEDÁN CALDWELL
CALLUM CALDWELL
NICKY CHISHOLM
TEAGAN COULTAS
DAMEL JACKSON
LENNON McCULLOCH
PETER PHILLIPS
JOEL POLLARD
KRYZIA POLLARD
CHARLOTTE REASON
TAYLOR REDPATH
SHAY SUMMERS*

This award is given to all students who have had full attendance at both the Thursday and Saturday class throughout the month.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

*Sunday 5th-Friday 10th August 2018
KUGB Summer Residential Course
Lancaster University*

If anyone is interested in attending this week-long course in the summer, please let Sensei Jill know.

2018 Grading Dates:
Sunday 18th March 2018
Sunday 15th July 2018
Sunday 16th December 2018
Josephine Butler Campus, NCEA

Visit the Events page on our website ashingtonshotokankarate.co.uk for more events throughout 2017.

Ashington Karate Club – 2017 Summary



2017 has been a great year for Ashington Karate Club! This year has been our second year at the new Ashington Leisure Centre, and once again, we have seen a rise in membership throughout the year. It is great to see so many people enjoying being a part of our club and helping maintain the friendly atmosphere we are known for.

To start the year, our squad members Dylan Gibson, Niamh Duddridge and Gemma Gibson were once again successful on being selected onto the



KUGB England Squads. Dylan and Niamh were once again reselected onto kata squad for their sixth and fourth years, and Niamh and Gemma were reselected onto kumite squad for their fourth years. As part of their membership on the squads, the trio competed for England in two Grand Slams this year. At the first of these, Niamh placed second in cadet kumite, and was then selected to take part in the team kumite event, which her team won. In the second of these, Gemma then placed second in junior kumite, and was also selected for the team event, which her team won.

Our club also attended several other competitions throughout the year. It was great to also see more of our members interested in taking part in competitions at both national and regional level, after a few years of not having many competitors. These

efforts in travelling to competitions paid off with Hannah Baird placing third in 10-11 Girls Kumite at the KUGB National Championships, which was her first national event; and Evie Ackroyd winning Girls Brown Belt Kata at the KUGB National Youth Championships, which was also her first national event. Dylan Gibson also placed second in the Junior Male Kata at this competition. At the Gateshead Youth Championships, Dylan won the Junior Male Kata for the third year running, and together with Niamh Duddridge and Gemma Gibson, won the Team Kata event for the third year running, which resulted in him being awarded with the trophy for Best Overall Competitor. These results are amongst many others throughout the year at both national and regional level.

The competition year was finished off with the KUGB Northern Region Championships, where we had 23 members competing, which is the highest number of competitors we have had in years. It is great to see so many people interested in representing the club. At this competition, we had many results, including Joel Pollard winning the Boys 10-11 Kumite.

The club has also had success with both Kyu and Dan gradings this year. In March, some of our members travelled to Kirkintilloch in Glasgow to train and



grade. Krysia Pollard, Jamie Armstrong, James De Vera and Abby Robinson all achieved their Shodan grade. Later in the year, Evie Ackroyd also achieved her Shodan at Sunderland. This is a great achievement that takes years of dedication, and the number of black belts in our club is once again building up.



The club held three kyu gradings this year, two with Sensei Frank Brennan, and one with the chief instructor of the KUGB, Sensei Andy Sherry. At these gradings, our members performed to the highest of their ability, and were rewarded with the grades they deserved. At each grading, there were students who achieved pass and a half grades, which is a fantastic achievement with the high standard that both Sensei Sherry and Sensei Brennan expect.

Over the course of the year, our instructors and several of our students attended many courses with senior instructors run by both the KUGB and other local clubs. It is always good to see our members training with the senior instructors, as it is a different style of teaching to what they are used to in the club. Over the summer two special courses were run. The KUGB Summer School in Lancaster was attended by Sensei Jill, Dylan and Gemma; and the Advanced Kata and Kumite Course in Sunderland was attended by Sensei Jill, Sensei Trish, Dylan and Gemma.

This year, the club have participated in a new scheme introduced by the KUGB to develop students aged 12-17 as Young Leaders. Evie Ackroyd, Louis Parsons, Jamie Armstrong, Evan Young, Abby Robinson and Luke Davis all achieved their Bronze award, and Evie and Louis went on to achieve their Silver. We look forward to continuing to develop Young Leaders in our club and see how they progress in the future as instructors.

We also had two students who qualified as full KUGB Instructors this year. Gemma Gibson and Krysia Pollard both qualified after working towards this over a long period of time. Sensei Jill is a senior KUGB assessor, and is proud that so many members like to give back to the club by taking these qualifications.

The club have taken part in several opportunities for fundraising throughout the year, including bag packs, a stall at the Ashington Summer Fayre, and applications for the John Talbot Funding, in which the club was awarded with £1000, and Dylan, Gemma, Louis and Evie were also given a cheque each for their dedication and commitment to the club. This year was also the 10th anniversary of our Karate on the Beach fundraising event, which had its highest turnout to date!



The year was finished off with our Christmas party, which was once again enjoyed by all who attended and the achievements of the club over 2017 were celebrated in the presentation, where Lennon McCulloch was awarded with Best Overall Attendance, Luke



Redpath with Most Improved Junior, Callum Caldwell with Best Overall Junior, Beverley Foster with Most Improved Senior, and Evie Ackroyd with Best Overall Senior!

Ashington Karate Club would like to wish all our members and their families a happy, healthy and prosperous new year, and look forward for more success to come in 2018!