

2011 Legend Championship

*When you understand yourself and understand
the
enemy you cannot be defeated.*

Musashi

-Miyamoto



*by Imanuel at the Bournemouth Kanku Shotokan Karate
Club*

It was an action packed, thunderous day at 2011's Legend Tournament. Some of UK's top Shotokan Karatekas arrived to compete in what turned out to be yet another magnificent demonstration of the martial arts. Bournemouth's Kanku Shotokan Karate Club fought both in the Kata and Kumite (fighting) with courage and spirit resulting in numerous awards. It was an emotional roller-coaster ride for myself – observing battles fought with such commitment, athleticism and astounding levels of spirit. Whilst impressed and inspired to keep pursuing Shotokan Karate, I couldn't help notice certain values throughout Legend which for me serves as testament to Shotokan Karate – the honour and humility witnessed after each and every fight. Without fail, those who fought courageously would start and finish by honouring the referee's and their opponents. The warm and genuine commiseration or congratulatory acts between Karatekas after doing battle re-iterated to me what this martial art is all about – a deep understanding of honour and respect. Last and not least, thanks to exceptional and acute refereeing, the event was professionally monitored and guided by Sensai Gerry Breeze so that all competitors were able to enjoy a controlled environment in which to perform. Sensai Mark Hawkins, Graham & Louise Adcock from the Kanku Club also provided valuable experience in governing and refereeing. I left Bracknell that evening with many notes to self, in actuality – too many to remember – but driving back to the South, I remember leaving with these: 1. To continue striving for the perfection of character; 2. To live my life with that very same spirit demonstrated at Legend; 3. A deeper passion for Kata and a promise to self to train harder and finally, 4; The Silver Medalist for Mens Senior Kumite, Ryan Scoats. ☺

"You may train for a long time, but if you merely move your hands and feet and jump up and down like a puppet, learning karate is not very different from learning a dance. You will never have reached the heart of the matter; you will have failed to grasp the quintessence of karate-do." - Gichin Funakoshi

Kanku Shotokan Karate Club Trophy Winners at the 2011 Legend Tournament

1

Zack Kotkowski Kumite 8th to 4th Kyu (14-15 yrs)

2

Richard Benett Veterans Kata
Tom Benett Kumite 8th to 4th Kyu (14-15 yrs)
Ryan Scoats Kumite Brown & Black Belt Male Senior

3

Ryan Scoats, Pavels Galoshin, Imanuel Goncalves - Kanku Club members of the 5 man Kumite team (Joint 3rd)

Tom Benett Kata - 8th to 4th Kyu - Joint 3rd (12 to 15yrs)

A fine performance was exhibited by all from the Kanku Karate Club. Julie Guérin battled admirably in the ladies categories, again demonstrating the teams high spirit. There are no doubts in my mind that absolute dedication and respect to the Karate traditions is a must in order to emerge from these events with a sense of pride and honour. Whilst we all love recognition through awards, it is ultimately through participation and the respect we show one another that make these tournaments memorable. It was a fine day at Legend for all who were able to observe or compete and I look forward to putting my skills to the test this time next year, who knows, I might even score a point! ☺



(Photo above) - Kanku Club members – Ryan Scoats, Julie Guérin & Pavels Galoshin

The ultimate aim of the art of Karate lies not in victory or defeat, but in the perfection of the characters of its participants. – Gichin Funakoshi