



Oss Samurai

Issue 1 – October 2015

The Journal of the Order of the Scottish Samurai & NKF



Order of the Scottish Samurai Awards

On 5th September, new names were added to the Scottish Samurai Roll of Honour with three recipients of the Scottish Samurai Awards, which were presented by Lord Charles Bruce, at Cults Community & Sports Centre.

Mike Mitchell, twice Mr Universe, five times World Body Building Champion and Actor whose credits include Braveheart and Gladiator was first to receive the coveted Shogun Award from Lord Bruce. The presentation was for outstanding achievement after being upgraded from his previous Samurai Award in 1998. Mike was delighted to receive the award reminding all those present: *“I started from the same place that you did and that anything is within your grasp if you work hard enough”*.

Mike was also presented with an honorary Shodan (1st Dan) black belt.

Second to receive the Shogun Award, was Albert Thomson, former Police Inspector and founder of the Grampian Police Diced Cap Charitable Trust and Knight Commander of the Confraternity of the Knights of the Most Holy Trinity. Albert received the award for his work for good causes and chivalry. He was also presented with an honorary Shodan (1st Dan) black belt.

Ian Kirk, a well-known business figure in the Aberdeen oil industry was awarded the Scottish Samurai Award for having trained in a Japanese martial discipline for over forty years, namely Karate.

Also recognised were Carole Kelman 5th Dan WKC (World Karate Confederation) and Vivienne Grant 5th Dan WKC who were both awarded the Scottish Samurai Award with Silver Rays in recognition for their diligence in training karate and for good works in the community.

Ronnie Watt 8th Dan WKC and founder of the Scottish Samurai Awards said: *“The criteria for receiving these awards are very difficult, requiring dedication and achievement to martial disciplines or have made a pre-eminent contribution in their chosen field, be it local, national or international over a sustained period of time.”*

(Left to right) Mike Mitchell, Lord Charles Bruce, Ian Kirk, Vivienne Grant, Albert Thomson, Sensei Ronnie Watt, and Carole Kelman (picture: Charlie Abel)



See <http://www.scottishsamurai.org/the-shogun-awards/>

Scottish Samurai Profile – Carole Kelman



Aberdeen born Carole Kelman began training karate shortly after seeing her sons train with Ronnie Watt's Karate Academy. She had been sitting on the sidelines looking on with great interest at her sons and others who were training.

Ronnie convinced her to give it a try, and the rest is history.

Carole excelled at Karate from the beginning and was very quick to reach her 1st Dan Black Belt, having attended every course and grading possible. She trained religiously every day to such an extent the rest of her family started to miss her and decided the only way they might spend more time was if they started training karate as well. So they did!

Her husband and sons are also Black Belts. After a few years Carole began to help out with the club, teaching the children and running some classes at after schools clubs in Aberdeen. She continues to do so.

Carole is trusted member of the executive committee at Ronnie's Karate Academy, assisting with any aspect of running the club, standing in when Ronnie and his wife Gail are away on other duties.

She has been indispensable in the organisation of many karate festivals and displays over the years. Her passion and selfless devotion to karate and budo training are second to none.

In her day job, Carole is an early years nursery practitioner for Aberdeen City Council. So, it is no surprise she has been so good with the children who affectionately refer to her as 'Sensei Carole'.

Carole loves to work with the children and especially in karate where she is quick to install a sense of discipline and respect through the ancient Japanese method of Budo, the code and values in which real karate thrives.

Kids don't see much discipline in today's world and may be surprised when they experience it for the first time. Seeing it changes them for the better and transforms them into happier and more confident young individuals. Just ask Sensei Carole.

Carole also enjoys spending time with her family, walking the dog around the city and shire and is keen on needlework and enjoys tapestry.

After the presentation, Carole said *"I've always been very passionate and enthusiastic about passing on all that Ronnie has ingrained in me and love to see the children big and small thrive also. All from just having a try. I was very surprised and humbled when I heard that I was to be given the OSS and very proud of the recognition."*

Scottish Samurai Profile – Vivienne Grant

Vivienne Grant started training karate back in 1986 during what is known as 'golden era' of karate in Scotland.

Around that time karate clubs were very popular and the club she was at with Ronnie Watt was one of the biggest with over 30 branches spread throughout the country.

People would travel from far and wide to attend special courses up and down the country by some of the best instructors in the world who at that time were mostly Japanese. At the time karate was still in its infancy in Europe.



Vivienne loved karate and trained alongside her sister Angela three or four times a week, attending courses with legendary instructors like Kase, Enoeda, Shirai, Kanazawa, Ochi and many others.

Ronnie recognised a talent in Vivienne and her sister along with a passion for the karate and the Budo discipline it entails. Vivienne passed her black belt in 1989.

She has won countless medals in competitions, festivals and courses including a Bronze medal in the women's Kumite (sparring) team at the world championships in St. Petersburg, 2003, a major achievement for Aberdeen Karate on a world stage.

Still training and now a 5th Dan, Vivienne also loves to teach karate and assists Ronnie with the teaching with adults and children. She runs an after school karate club at Cults Primary teaching children between seven and fourteen once a week.

Vivienne said "I have never allowed children under seven to join but a lot of the younger children have joined at this young age, as they have been on the side line watching their older siblings enjoy the sport for many weeks and have come to understand the challenges of karate and in particular how much fun you can have with it."

"Therefore when the children start, they are keen to show how much they respect the other children on the floor and of course their teacher. I want to carry on teaching children and passing on to them what Sensei Ronnie has passed to me over the years and for them to be coached also by one of the most unique karateka's of our time."

"To be handed an award like this is an absolute privilege and honour and makes all the hard work worth it."

Thirty years of training proper Shotokan Karate, one of the most difficult and respected Japanese disciplines has been a way of life for Vivienne and she loves every minute of it. She has helped many children (and adults) find their way through training and hard work. There is only one 'Sensei Vivienne.'

Sensei Ronnie Watt, Armiger & Knight

Earlier this year, Sensei Ronnie Watt after a Petition to the Lord Lyon King of Arms was granted his own armorial bearings (coat of arms). Thus he achieved the rank of Armiger within Scotland with details of his arms recorded for posterity in Edinburgh.



His arms are described in heraldic terms as Argent, from a mound Vert an oak tree Proper fructed Or and on a chief enarched Gules a wreath of oak leaves of the Third.

The Crest is a *tiger salient Proper* and motto *Procede Cor Fortis*.

While the description sounds complicated, it is actually rather simple, allowing any heraldic artist to draw or paint Ronnie's arms from the description alone.

In May this year, after a recommendation by Beverley Graham, Deputy Lieutenant of the City of Aberdeen, Ronnie was made a Knight of the Confraternity of the Knights of the Most Holy Trinity. His wife Gail was also received into the Confraternity as a Dame.

The Confraternity was founded in 1992 as a noble brother and sisterhood under the patronage of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, based in Palermo in Sicily. The Confraternity exists to promote and sustain the life in the Orthodox Church and its charitable works in both Italy and Scotland.

The Grand Master is the Archbishop of Palermo and All Italy.

Samurai Banner Bearers

Earlier in September, 1st Dan Benedict Bruce was received as a Squire in the Priory of Scotland which is part of the Confraternity of the Knights of the Most Holy Trinity.

In addition, Benedict Bruce was appointed Banner Bearer to the Prior of Scotland.

At the same event, the Prior of Scotland appointed Sensei Ronnie Watt as the Banner Bearer for the Confraternity of Scotland.

The photo shows Benedict and Sensei Ronnie with their respective banners



William Wallace Guardian of Scotland

Saturday 29th August saw Sensei Ronnie Watt carry the banner of the Confraternity of the Knights of the Most Holy Trinity at the annual ceremony to commemorate the martyrdom of William Wallace.

The ceremony included a parade of banners where personal banners and others were displayed in a mass of heraldic colour.

The photograph shows Sensei Ronnie in the middle holding aloft the banner of the Confraternity.

The event also included a re-enactment of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath.

Adding more colour to the occasion members of Medieval Realm Re-enactment Group participated in full armour, posing for a photograph with Armigers and their banners.



See last page and caption competition.

Scottish Samurai – New Levels of Awards

Sensei Ronnie Watt recently announced changes in the Scottish Samurai Awards. There will now be five levels as follows:

- 1 Order of the Scottish Samurai
(Neck Medal & Diploma)
- 2 The Scottish Samurai Award
(Samurai Plaque with Bronze Samurai, Chest Medal & Diploma)
- 3 Scottish Daimyo (Feudal Lord)
(Bronze Figure, Breast Medal & Daimyo Diploma)
- 4 Scottish Shogun Military Leader
(Bronze figure, chest medal & Diploma)
- 5 Shogun with Golden Rays



Nominations for 2016 will be announced later in the year.

New Burgesses of Guild

On Wednesday 19th August Charlie Abel (3rd Dan WKC/NKF) was admitted as a Burgess of Guild at a short ceremony before a meeting of Aberdeen City Council.

Charlie and others were introduced by Colin Taylor, the Lord Dean of Guild as new Burgesses of Guild were sworn in by Lord Provost George Adam.

Charlie, musician with his own ceilidh band Iron Broo was recognised for his charitable work and as an ambassador for Aberdeen through his music.

As a solo artist Charlie plays at the Touch of Tartan Ball, held in November each year at Aberdeen's beach ballroom. It regularly raises over £150,000 for Children's first charity.

A justly deserved honour.



European Recognition for Samurai Knight

If you think about karate or martial arts in the UK and Aberdeen in particular, one name always springs to mind. Our very own Sensei Ronnie Watt, 8th Dan WKC, OBE, ORS, KHT and founder of the Scottish Samurai Awards.



Recently the President of the IBSSA (International Bodyguard & Security Services Association) announced that Ronnie is to be inducted into the "Hall of Fame for martial arts Europe". This honorary award ceremony will take place in Rheine, Germany at their black tie Gala where Ronnie will attend as their special guest.

Sensei Ronnie said "the award came as a great surprise bringing Aberdeen to the front of International Karate"

Last year he was awarded an honorary title from the Slovakian Government in recognition of his services to Karate in their country described as being "*for the promotion of understanding, tolerance and friendship among nations and regions*".

Ronnie's place in history is already clearly stamped, though there's still plenty fuel in the tank. He continues to train and still teaches to his private members in Aberdeen, three times a week and is constantly receiving invitations to travel abroad to train at karate festivals and self-defence courses.

Promotions

Congratulations to Nissara Kirk (3rd Dan) recently promoted to Instructor. Nissara started karate at the age of five and just loves the sport as it has taught her self-discipline.

Recently at the WKC World Karate Championships she was 1st in the Juniors Ippon and 3rd in the Adults Ippon. In addition she was part of the girls' team that came away with another two bronze medals.

Nissara trains hard as she really wants to better herself at the next championship.

Nissara said: *"With 16 years' experience, I am happy that I have been promoted to become an instructor. I enjoy teaching the kids. They are the clubs' future."*

Nissara works for Downhole Products as part of the sales team supplying casing and cementing accessories. Her other hobby is competing in Bikini Fitness which means eating very strict and training daily. Nissara was placed 3rd in the UKBFF Scottish, leading to an invitation to participate in the British finals in October. We wish her well.



Congratulations also to Lisa Calder (4th Dan) promoted to instructor. Lisa was honoured with the Samurai Award and to date is the youngest person to be made a Scottish Samurai.

At the age of 14, Lisa defeated the Russian junior champion during a very exciting final held in Hanover, Germany. Since then she has competed at nearly every European and World event winning many top titles.

Lisa, on the right in the photograph, is now one of the best karate competitors in all disciplines.



Along with her sister Chloe Calder (3rd Dan) and Nissara Kirk, both outstanding medal holders, they have become one of the finest Kata teams ever produced in Aberdeen.

Lisa is currently taking a well-deserved break looking after new baby daughter Ella.

Recipients of the Scottish Samurai Awards

Order of the Scottish Samurai

Carole Kelman (5th Dan)

Vivienne Grant (5th Dan)

Albert Thomson, Founder of Grampian Police Diced Cap Charitable Trust

The Scottish Samurai Award

Aberdeen City Council accepted by Lord Provost George Adam

Hironori Katagiri and Kate Thomson, husband & wife sculptors

Frank Gilfeather, Journalist & Broadcaster

Colin Taylor, Lord Dean of Guild of the Burgesses of Aberdeen

Andy Anderson, Businessman

Alex Johnston, MSP

Fred Dalgarno, former Dean of Guild

Mr Hajime Kiteoka, Consul General of Japan,

Alf Ronny Fagerland Sensei, President of NKF Norway

Dr Trevor Runcie, Computer Scientist, software entrepreneur (2nd Dan)

John Cox (5th Dan), Chair, Aberdeenshire Council

Mike Mitchell, Actor, twice Mr. Universe, 5 times World Body Building Champion

Tyrone Smith, Sports Journalist

Lisa Calder, Childrens Female Kumite WKC World Champion Gold Medalist

Jim & Sandra Rogerson

Margaret Smith former Lord Provost of Aberdeen

John Reynolds, former Lord Provost of Aberdeen

Ian & Fiona Ellis, World & European Gold Medalists (karate)

Bill Berry, Judo

Len Ironside CBE, Wrestling

The Scottish Shogun Award

Mike Mitchell, Actor, twice Mr. Universe, 5 times World Body Building Champion

Albert Thomson, Founder of the Grampian Police Diced Cap Charitable Trust

Ian Kirk, Local Businessman

Hajime Kitaoka. (Consul General of Japan in Edinburgh)

Andrew Douglas Alexander Thomas Bruce, 11th Earl of Elgin & 15th Earl of Kincardine

Tommy Dreelan, Celtic Speed Racing Team

Billy Connolly, Comedian, Musician, Actor & television documentarist

Lord Charles Bruce, Honorary Patron of the Japan Society of Scotland

Alex Salmond, First Minister of Scotland & member of the UK Parliament

Sir Ian Wood CBE, CEO Wood Group

Mr. Masataka Tarahara, Consul General of Japan

Dr Fritz Wendland, Founding President of the World Karate Confederation

Gordon McIntosh, Aberdeen City Council

Jim Millar, Policy Advisor to Alex Johnstone MSP

Compton Ross, Executive Film Producer

Peter Carry, Jeweller

Ronald Watt OBE, ORS

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