



# Konnichiwa

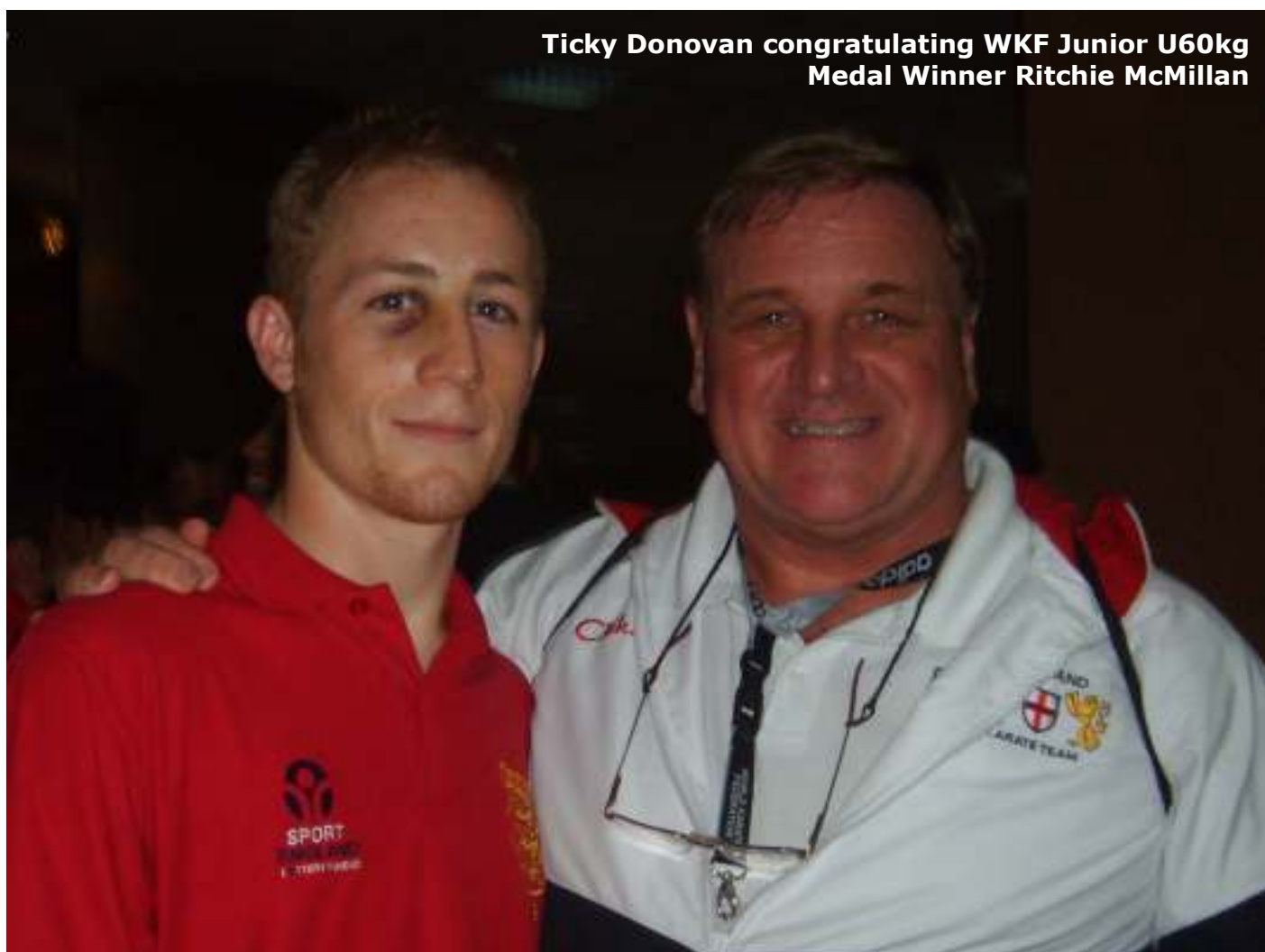
English Karate Federation the Way Forward

Newsletter of the English Karate Federation

February 2008

## Welcome to the English Karate Federation's First Edition Newsletter

Ticky Donovan congratulating WKF Junior U60kg Medal Winner Ritchie McMillan



The EKF is set-up as a democratically elected body for English Karate to cover the whole spectrum of our martial art and to further develop an understanding administration that listens to the needs of all the many aspects of Karate from Sport to Traditional, from the youngest beginner to the most senior instructor.

## Editorial

**It is with great pleasure that the Board of the English Karate Federation present this First Edition of the newly designed Newsletter.**

As within keeping of the board's intention to effect a more open and transparent Governing Body for Karate in England, this newsletter affords us the opportunity to disseminate additional or more detailed information that may or may not be present on the new EKF website. Like many other aspects of the EKF this newsletter will adapt and grow to suit the needs of its members.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and find the contents both interesting and informative.

Remember, this newsletter is for you so don't be shy, if you have any queries regarding this newsletter or would like a story or news item published, please send you items to [admin@englishkaratefederation.com](mailto:admin@englishkaratefederation.com)

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## A Hectic Start

It's been a busy time for the EKF Board since the formation of the Federation. The members of the board have been working tirelessly to offer the EKF member Associations the best advice on complex issues such as Insurance, Child Welfare Policy, CRB checks, Dan & Club registration and Instructor checks. Many procedures and policies have already been put in place and implemented with others being vigorously worked on.

The board are in constant contact with each other on a daily basis and discuss many issues on policy. Everyone is kept 'in the loop' and consulted as a matter of course so there is complete transparency between members.

There are no 'grey suits' on the EKF board, all board member profiles have been added to the EKF website where a little more insight into each member can be gained. Many of the board members are already well known but in case you're not sure who was temporarily elected to setup and represent Karate in England, please take a look on the website.

Some of the main highlights since the formation are covered in the following sections.

## WKF Membership



One priority of the board was to secure World Karate Federation (WKF) membership which, due to the demise of the former English Governing Body, was due to be revoked at the end of 2007. The consequence of losing WKF recognition would have had drastic consequences for qualified referees and sport karateka too.

As a main condition of gaining membership, a full national squad had to represent the EKF at the recent 5th WKF Junior & Cadet World Championships which were held in Istanbul, Turkey. There was very little time to select a squad and sort the logistics out but a determined team effort ensured the EKF received full provisional membership to the WKF. As is normal with EKF membership this status will last for two years before being ratified or rejected.

Our continued support of the WKF Statutes, Policies and Tournaments should go a long to ensuring the EKF maintains a long and fruitful relationship with the WKF.

## WKF Board Elections

During the WKF board meeting in Istanbul on 20th Oct 2007, EKF board member Mike Dinsdale was confirmed as WKF Treasurer with a seat on the main board.



Mike has had an illustrious career so far, he was appointed Executive member of the British Karate Federation board 2006, appointed WKF and BKF representative on the British Olympic Association (BOA) and appointed Chairman of 4 WKF Disciplinary Tribunals.

This is a major coup for England to have an EKF representative in such a prestigious position. Congratulations go out to Mr Dinsdale.

## EKF Chief Referee

In November 2007, Mr Terry Pottage from Ken Yu Kai Karate Association was appointed as the EKF Chief Referee. Mr Pottage is qualified as a WKF World Referee for both Kata and



Kumite disciplines and has a wealth of experience behind him. The appointment was in keeping with the recognition given by the World Karate Federation to the English Karate Federation as its only recognised governing body in

England. The Board of Directors extended him every success in this important position.

## New Website

The new-look EKF website was launched in December 2007 and has already received over 57 thousand visits making this one of the most popular karate websites. The website had a 'soft launch', many of the features are still being written so you would see it growing almost on a daily basis.

The site was designed and built by 'Jel' (Gary Legg) at JeliNet Web Design. Although a professional web designer, Jel is also a parent of two Karate ka and like many parents believes in supporting English Karate. This is just one feature that the EKF board supports and welcomes; the proactive support and involvement of parents to help grow the EKF for future generations of athletes.

[www.englishkaratefederation.com](http://www.englishkaratefederation.com)

## Sporting Relations Explained



The World Karate Federation recently sent out a dictate to all its federation members reiterating the importance of upholding WKF Statute 21.9. As a member federation of the WKF, the EKF agreed to abide and uphold these Statutes by virtue of its membership. Here's the statute and how it affects us all.

### Extract from the World Karate Federation Statutes

21.9 The WKF expressly prohibits their National Federations, and their components, from the double affiliation with any karate organisation as it may be determined by the WKF Executive Committee to be a dissenting organisation.

**National Federations and their members** are prohibited from having **sporting relationships** with these dissenting organisations **and with organisations not recognised by the WKF**, or with a member country of the WKF which National Federation is suspended due to non payment of fees or for disciplinary reasons.

By virtue of EKF's membership to BKF and WKF (as agreed at the inaugural meeting of the EKF by the membership) in keeping with the WKF statue 21.9 all current EKF members of the English Karate Federation are prohibited from holding any sporting relations with any group/s not in membership of EKF, BKF or WKF.

This includes attending any events not recognised or sanctioned by the EKF, BKF or WKF for the purposes of competing, officiating or otherwise supporting the aforementioned event.

Clarification as to which championships, tournaments, seminars, courses members might attend, can be sort by emailing: [admin@englishkaratefederation.com](mailto:admin@englishkaratefederation.com)

## EKF Annual General Meeting

The EKF AGM is scheduled to be held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2008 starting at 10:30am. The venue is the Holiday Inn, Birmingham Airport, Coventry Road, Birmingham. B26 3QW. Telephone number is 0870 400 9007. The agenda will be dispatched within 28 days of the meeting.

The current EKF board of directors are:

**Carl Lindley** – Chairman

**Mick Billman**

**Les Cutting** – Child Protection Officer

**Terry Daly**

**Peter Denis**

**Mike Dinsdale**

**Ticky Donovan OBE**

**John Gilliland** – Treasurer

**David Wilson**

Any persons put forward for nomination to the board must be informed of their nomination and they must agree to stand for election. As postal votes will be accepted, a CV detailing the candidate's skills and abilities should be submitted in order that these can be made available to member associations.

It would be extremely helpful if Heads of Associations' intention to attend or otherwise send a representative could be confirmed to ensure correct venue sizes. Nominations, agenda items or other information can be sent to **John Gilliland**

[John@gakushuin.org](mailto:John@gakushuin.org)

## National Squad Suppliers

The EKF National Competition Squads have been very fortunate to have some prestigious sponsors on board who are committed to ensure the squad members get that little bit of help to ease their transition onto the national squad and get their international careers off with the best possible start.



**Mark and Shirley Lord** from **Kachi-Do** Martial Arts suppliers have agreed to supply all NEW EKF Squad members with a gift box as a welcome and reward for making the EKF National England Squad. They have been very generous in supplying the gift box which includes two new GI's, Competition Hand Mitts, Shin & Foot Protectors, Belts, Mouth Guards and Sports Nutrition Drinks amongst other things, everything in fact that they would need for tournament.

They supply a wealth of martial arts equipment and products all over the world from Karate to Kendo. You can visit their web shop for a more detailed list of their products.

[www.kachi-do.com](http://www.kachi-do.com)



**John and Tony Smith** are the founders of **Chikara** Martial Arts Suppliers and have also helped support the EKF National Squads. Tony Smith himself has represented England Karate on many occasions and knows all about the commitment and sacrifices each squad member

has to make. He also knows how hard it can be financially for the individual athletes and so had generously initially donated tracksuits to an England squad. Chikara currently supply the England tracksuits, badges and polo shirts at cost price which greatly reduces the individual cost to the athlete. Chikara are also in the process of sourcing more 'England' merchandise and this will be available soon for all EKF members.

You can visit their website for more details on the equipment and merchandise they already supply but check back with them as they update their site with their new ranges.

<http://www.chikaraltd.co.uk/index.html>

## WKF Junior/Cadet Championships - Turkey. 19-21 Oct 2007



As it was very late booking flights the Squad had to be divided into two groups. The first group headed by myself arrived at the hotel Thursday morning at 2am the second group headed by Jonathan Mottram and Julie Tony arrived at 4am. Thursday was registration where Jonathan and I spent three and half hours queuing for registration! Registered was over 80 countries and 1400 competitors.



The Turkish Federation had made many mistakes with the programme and they bought forward the starting time to 8am (6am English time), so as you can see there was not much rest for the squad.

First day started with weigh ins and team events. The English male team won against Sengal 3-1 and then lost in the next round to Holland, who eventually lost to Japan which put us out of repechage. The ladies team were next up winning three rounds then finally loosing to Tunisia who were the eventual winners. The Ladies team came back in repechage winning against China 2-0 and then lost for Bronze medal against Croatia 2-1 (already it was beginning to show that we suffered from a lack of pre-training.)



On Saturday it was the turn of the Cadets which saw many of the competitors loosing in the first round. Jemmel Mathason fought well going through 3 rounds as did James Steadman, Rio Smith went 2 rounds then came back in repechage and lost. Not a good day for the cadets, but many of them had their eyes open to the high level of the World Championships (and many agreed the need for pre-training). Sunday was the day of our juniors a shock for Reece Taylor and Sam Cannon both medallists in Europe, loosing in the first round. The juniors spirits were then lifted with Ritchie McMillan - 60kgs who stormed through he's category until the semi finals meeting Egypt where Ritchie run out of steam but then came back in the repechage to take the Bronze medal. Katie Hurry went through three rounds but lost to Switzerland she came back in repechage only to lose again. Sarah Clarke fought very well but lost in the third round. After the competition again many of the juniors expressed the need for pre-training.



Despite all the problems over the last year the team came together and fought their hearts out, the experience will hopefully hold them in good stead and help them to prepare for the forthcoming Europeans in Trieste, Italy 2008. Many thanks go to the coach's Jon Mottram, Wayne Otto OBE, Julie Tony and Dr Mohinder for their support, time and work at these Championships which was done voluntary with no pay.



Most importantly was the attendance of England which was greeted by many countries showing their support for us being back in memberships of the WKF.

**Ticky Donovan O.B.E.  
National Squad Director**

# Events Calendar

**09/02/08**

**EKF Open Squad Training**

Bisham Abbey - 14 yrs+ in the morning then Senior Selections and Trieste Squad Compulsory Training.

**10/02/08**

**EKF Kumite / Kata Officials Training Course** Walsall.

**15 & 17/02/08**

**35th European Cadet & Juniors Championships**

Trieste, Italy.

**17/02/08**

**Greater London Karate Championships**

Goresbrook Leisure Centre, Ripple Road Dagenham Essex RM9 6XW.

**23 & 24/02/08**

**AMA International Open**

**09/03/08**

**Dutch Open** - Rotterdam, Netherlands.

**16/03/08**

**EKF AGM.** 10.30am, The Holiday Inn, Birmingham

Airport, Coventry Road, Birmingham B26 3QW.

**23/03/08**

**Essex Open Karate Championships**

Vista Road Clacton on sea Essex. CO15 6DB.

**05 & 06/04/08**

**EKF Junior / Senior Championships**

Ponds Forge, Sheffield.

**06/04/08**

**Italian Open - Golden League** - Monza, Italy.

**19 & 20/04/08**

**4th Scottish International Open Championships** -

Edinburgh.

**27/04/08**

**Seni08 Karate Classic**

Excel, London.

**02 & 04/05/08**

**43rd European Senior Championships**

Tallinn, Estonia.

**25/05/08**

**Western Karate Union Invitational**

Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

**25/05/08**

**EKF Southern Region Karate Championships**

Goresbrook Leisure Centre, Ripple Road, Dagenham, Essex, RM9 6XW.

**31/05 - 01/06/08**

**Commonwealth Karate Federation Championships** -

Edinburgh, Scotland.

**14/06/08**

**6th European Championships for Regions** Maribor,

Slovenia

**21/06/08**

**Austrian Junior Open 2008**

Walserfeldhalle, Salzburg, Austria

**21-28/06/08**

**Ticky Donovan Open Summer Course** - 5 days

**06/07/08**

**Capital Open Karate Championships**

Clacton Sports Centre, Vista Road Clacton on sea, Essex. CO15 6DB.

**12 & 13/07/08**

**University World Championships**

Poznan, Poland.

**06 & 07/09/08**

**BKF Junior/Senior Championships**

**27 & 28/09/08**

**German Open - Golden League** - Germany.

**28/09/08**

**Grand Open Karate Championships**

Vista Road, Clacton on sea Essex. CO15 6DB.

**04 & 05/10/08**

**Austrian Open - Golden League** - Austria.

**25 & 26/10/08**

**Hankoryu Open International Karate**

**Championships** - Harlow, Essex.

**02/11/08**

**International Open Championships**

Goresbrook Leisure Centre, Ripple Road Dagenham Essex. RM9 6XW.

**13-16/11/08**

**19th WKF Senior Championships** - Tokyo, Japan.

**1 & 2/12/08**

**Podgorcia Open - Golden League**

Podgorcia, Montenegro.

## Events Calendar

### Disclaimer:

All member Association's events advertised here have Association agreement that their events are in compliance with section 21.9 of the World Karate Federation statutes. All events advertised here are only open to EKF/WKF members.

Please check with organiser of events as these could be subject to change.

Members wishing to add their competitions to this calendar should email [admin@englishkaratefederation.com](mailto:admin@englishkaratefederation.com)

### Important Notice:

With regard to the **NNGBEK Championships** 9th March 2008, Nottingham, unfortunately **NO Association, Club or Officials that are members of the English Karate Federation should attend or compete at this event.** Attendance at this event contravenes WKF statute 21.9 concerning sporting relations with non WKF registered groups.

If anyone is unsure as to which championships, tournaments, seminars or courses they can attend, please email [admin@englishkaratefederation.com](mailto:admin@englishkaratefederation.com) for clarification.

## EKF Event Sponsorship

The **English Karate Federation Senior & Junior Karate Championships** are being held at Ponds Forge, Sheffield, on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6th April 2008. This is the first major national championships being held by the EKF, with last year's cancellation of the Junior English National Championships, this event is long overdue and likely to be very popular.

**The EKF board has agreed that all spectator fees be waived for this event thereby giving something back to grass roots EKF member supporters.**

Sponsorship is invited from any interested party who wish to assist with the cost of staging this prestigious event with sponsorship opportunities in a number of options.

The cost is as follows:

- For a competition category: £100
- For a Tatami (competition area): £250

As a category sponsor you will be invited to award the trophies for the category on the day and be announced to the spectators.

As a Tatami sponsor, you will be announced to the spectators and the announcer will on various occasions during the event make reference to your sponsorship.

A sponsor will be allowed to sponsor more than one event.

Enquiries to: [admin@englishkaratefederation.com](mailto:admin@englishkaratefederation.com) or **Dave Wilson** on **07967 490968**.

## Squad Training Success



The English Karate Federation's National Open Squad sessions have been up and running for a little while now since the initial squad selections for the Junior and Cadet World Championships which were held last October. So far there have been four open squad training sessions with two of them incorporating National Squad selections for the Junior/Cadet World Championships and the Junior/Cadet European Championships. The last two sessions have been training only sessions lasting the whole day which have proved hugely popular and represented exceptional value for the calibre and duration of training received. The first EKF training day was held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2007 which incorporated the selections for the WKF Junior & Cadet Championships. Over 90 athletes attended this session which set the benchmark. The next training day was held on 9<sup>th</sup> December and also included selections for the Junior & Cadet European Championships which are being held shortly. Even more athletes attended this session topping the 100 mark. The real test was to come when the training only sessions commenced. The EKF coaches were not disappointed as once again around 90 athletes turned out to train.

The latest session was held at Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre, on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2008. The session started at 11:00am sharp and finished at 3:00pm. With just a half hour break between the morning and afternoon sessions. The turn out was once again impressive with around 90 athletes being put through their paces. The Junior/Cadet squad attending the European Championships in Trieste, Italy in a couple of weeks were split from the main contingent and drilled incessantly by National Squad Coach Wayne Otto OBE. The remaining athletes were further split into three groups – Female Squad Coach Juliette Toney, taking the female Kumite athletes, Assistant Coach Greg Francis, taking the male Kumite athletes and Kata Coach Jonathan Mottram taking the ever increasing Kata athletes. The entire training session was overseen by National Squad Director Ticky Donovan OBE who got the opportunity to work more closely with some of the groups and athletes.



It was once again good to see such a large turn out for just a training session and great to see some of the experienced senior athletes, such as John Anderson, Paul Abel, Alton Brown, Natalie Williams, etc in attendance. It was also great to see the Kata athletes increasing in numbers with over 20 being trained by Jonathan Mottram, his coaching style obviously being appreciated. With the amount of athletes training, the only concern is that Bisham Abbey's Judo Hall seems to be getting a little small!



The desire to train with and be part of the EKF England National Squads seems to be increasing which bodes well for English Karate. As more and more athletes train amongst their peers with world renowned coaches, the performance of each athlete increases, which in turn raises the whole competitiveness of Sport Karate in England developing England into a major European and World player.

On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2008, the forthcoming Open Squad Training Session and Senior Selection event for the European Championships looks likely to be one of the busiest sessions yet with the Junior/Cadet squad training, the Senior selections taking place in the afternoon and the chance for all athletes to train with some of the most experienced and accomplished Karateka athletes in England it looks to be a mouth watering prospect.

Next session will be from **10:30am on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2008**. Details and form for download can be found on the EKF Calendar section of the website. We hope to see you all there.

## Coaching Session No1

**Ticky Donovan, OBE, National Coach -  
Training Sessions**

### **Barking Dojo**

Barking Park  
Park Avenue (off Longbridge Road),  
Barking, Essex.  
Tel: 0208 532 1990

Dojo opens 7.00pm  
training starts 7.30pm until 9.00pm  
warm-down until close 9.30pm

Nearest station: Barking

Note: Only on Alternate Wednesdays.

## Coaching Session No2

**Wayne Otto, OBE, Coach -  
Training Sessions**

### **University of Wolverhampton**

Walsall Campus Sports Centre  
Gorway Road,  
Walsall, WS1 3BD.

Entrance to the sports centre carpark is off  
Magdelene Road, off the Broadway.

Nearest motorway junction is the J7 on the M6.

The times of the classes will be from 8pm until  
9.30pm, Wednesday evenings all are welcome  
to come and train.

## Defending the Sword

**The Government will ban the import, hire and sale of all Samurai swords from April 2008, this is following the number of instances where the swords have been used for assaults or other criminal activities. The ban does not cover antique Samurai swords but will mean that swords used for self-defence demonstrations at Karate displays will be banned.**

The following article was produced by the BBC.

The announcement that samurai swords are to be banned in England and Wales has been welcomed by those who have campaigned against their sale. But collectors and martial arts enthusiasts are concerned legitimate owners may fall foul of the law.

Barbara Dunne hopes the announcement is vindication for years of campaigning against bladed weapons, and samurai swords in particular. In 2003, her son Robert from Middlesbrough was killed by a teenager wielding a samurai sword. The weapon punctured his heart.

Jason Kelly is currently serving a life sentence for murder.

Ms Dunne believed her son would have wanted her to campaign against such weapons and she has done so with gusto. She took a petition to Downing Street, wrote to MPs and compiled a dossier of other weapons.

She believes this is a reward for her efforts. "It's an achievement to get the weapons banned. I don't want children to keep seeing them in shop windows and thinking it's normal." Ms Dunne was one of those who responded to a government consultation on the issue earlier this year. Despite her opposition to the swords, she agrees there should be an exemption for genuine martial arts enthusiasts.



A martial artist Fay Goodman is also hoping there will be leniency towards sport. She has good claim to being Britain's most skilled swordswoman. She practises Iaido, a Japanese martial art which uses the sword, and is one of only three women outside Japan to be graded a seventh dan.

But Ms Goodman is among those worrying about the government's decision to focus on samurai swords. "I am concerned. It depends on the small print. Martial artists using swords begin with a wooden one, progress to a blunt weapon and finally start using a razor-sharp blade.

"These weapons could be banned if the government goes too far."

The former athlete, who won a gold medal at the European Championships in 1995, is not totally against new legislation. She admits there could be a case for a licensing system. But she points out: "People need some protection but criminals could use anything. The biggest amount of knife crime is actually domestic violence. Guns were licensed but shootings have only increased."

It is not the first time samurai swords have incurred the wrath of a government. In 1867, Japan banned people from openly wearing swords and abolished the samurai class. That decision, more than a century ago, led to many beautifully crafted weapons entering the market. Two million swords known as "gun to" were made during World War II, again feeding the demand from western collectors. Today there's a thriving market. Rare swords can sell for tens of thousands of pounds.



Mark Hawkins owns the Lanes Armoury, a specialist shop selling arms and militaria in Brighton. He has a number of samurai swords for sale, and says collectors are primarily motivated by their beauty and history.

"Genuine and reproduction swords look similar. But they're not really the same. It's like comparing an oil painting to a photographic print."

Mr Hawkins is unlikely to be affected by the legislation because his swords are expensive historical items. Other businesses may be less lucky.

Lawrence Taylor runs one of the largest Internet dealers in the country. Blades-UK has dozens of swords and other weapons at cheaper prices. Mr Taylor argues swords are often blamed for deaths caused by long knives: "I' disgusted. A ban won't make any difference. More people are killed by guns and screwdrivers."

Tens of thousands of collectors and martial arts enthusiasts will be affected, and there will be confusion about what actually constitutes a sword."

Blades-UK has an age verification system, and Mr Taylor says he does not sell to anyone under the age of 18. But if the government gets its way, replica swords will need to be put back in their scabbards permanently.

## The Way Forward

As you are all aware, the English Karate federation was formed **by the members, for the members.**

Therefore the current board of directors invite your constructive input on how you want to see Karate progress in England and go forward.

If you have any ideas, questions or input, please send you items to:  
[admin@englishkaratefederation.com](mailto:admin@englishkaratefederation.com)

## Contact Details

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- English Karate Federation, Willowbank House, Station Road, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 1NX.

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- 0770 88 88 88 0

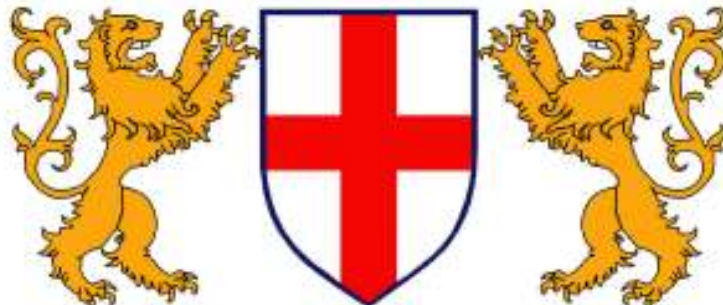
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# ENGLISH KARATE



# FEDERATION