

**Gloster Kendo Club**  
**Founded 1994**  
**as**  
**Gloucestershire University Kendo Club**

**A Brief History**

**Introduction:**

The University Kendo club was founded in 1994 by Ian Parker Dodd, has enjoyed considerable success and publicised the university's name world-wide. In 2007 Charlie Charlemow took over as Dojo Leader and it changed its name to Gloster Kendo Club in 2009 to reflect the growing balance between community, students and juniors.

Ian Parker Dodd 5<sup>th</sup> Dan was deeply involved in national Kendo until quite recently. He was a National Coach and National Referee and Chair of the British Kendo Association Coaching Board from 2006-2008. He was British Kendo team manager from 1994 to 1998, and in that time British teams won two team bronze medals for men and one for women in the European Kendo Championships together with fighting spirit awards for both men and women. They competed in the top division of twelve nations at the World Championships in Kyoto in 1997 being beaten by France, reigning European Champions at the time and Korea, World Silver medallists. The club appeared on 'Midlands To-day' programme in 1997 as part of that build .

In 1996 the first University Championship was inaugurated at Cheltenham, in the then College, and the competition has grown as has University Kendo in this country.

The University Club was voted 'Club of the Year' by the University Students Sports Captains in 1999 and was nominated again in 2007. Three members have won the Martin Roddy Cup for Sporting Excellence, John Richards in 1998, Sotaro Honda in 2001 and James Ogle in 2008.

Externally the University Club has won the following medals and awards, some of them more than once.

#### Gold Medals:

- The Sir Frank Bowden Memorial Taikai (National Team Title)
- Mumeishi Threes International Club Championships
- Senior Individual British Title
- Junior Individual British Title
- University Championship Senior Individual Title
- University Championships Junior Individual Title
- Women's Individual National Title
- The Nakakura Cup

#### Silver Medals:

- University Championship Senior Title
- University Team Championship

#### Bronze Medals:

- The Sir Frank Bowden Memorial Taikai
- University Team Championship
- Mumeishi Threes International Club Championship
- University Junior Individual Title
- National Individual Title; Age Group 13-15 year old
- Mumeishi three 6-9 age group

#### Fighting spirit Awards:

- Mumeishi Threes International Club Championships
- Sir Frank Bowden Memorial Taikai
- University Championship
- Kagamishin Junior Championship
- The University Team Championship

The club appeared on 'Midlands To-day' television programme in 1997.

In 2005 the club opened its doors to the community and a junior section was started.

In 2007 **Charlie Charlemow** gained his 4<sup>th</sup> Dan.

**James Ogle** took part in the first 1<sup>st</sup> UK/Japan student international Gasshuku (training camp) at Fukuoka university of education in Kyushu Japan

Individual Club achievements by student members:

**Sotaro Honda** was the British National coach; winner of senior British individual title 1998, 1999 and 2000; captain of the winning Mumeishi Threes team 2000; captain of the winning 'Sir Frank Bowden' Trophy team 2002; Winner of the senior University title 1998; gained his 5<sup>th</sup> Dan and 6<sup>th</sup> Dan whilst at Gloucestershire University; the Student Union awarded him the Martin Roddy Cup for sporting excellence in 2001; awarded full university colours 2002. His National teams have won medals and fighting spirit awards at World and European Championships. He holds a PhD degree from the university and now holds a post as Lecturer at Fukuoka University of Education in the Physical Education Department. In 2012 Sotaro Honda gained his 7<sup>th</sup> Dan grade.

**John Richards** won the Junior University Title in 1997 and 1998 and gained the senior silver medal in 1999; he was a Junior International in 1994 at Glasgow; gained full international status at Basle in 1998; gained his 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan whilst at University; awarded the Martin Roddy Cup for sporting excellence in 1998. He teaches at the Shudokan dojo at Cheltenham' Bournside School on Tuesday nights. He is now 4<sup>th</sup> Dan

**Yuichiro Kashigami** was member of the Gold medal team at Mumeishi threes in 2000; won the senior British Title in 2001 and 2002; won the senior University title in 2002 and 2003; Captain of the Bronze medal winning team at the Mumeishi Threes in 2002; gained his 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Dan whilst at University; awarded full university colours. He gained his B.Sc. at the University.

**Miyuki Yuge** won the women's national individual title in 2002; member of Sir Frank Bowden gold medal team 2002; won fighting spirit at the Sir Frank Bowden

2002; won an individual bronze medal in the women's championship at the Mumeishi Threes in 2002.

**Masatoshi Shimogawa** member of 'Sir Frank Bowden' gold medal team 2002; won the national men's title (1<sup>st</sup> Kyu-3<sup>rd</sup> Dan section) in 2002; was a member of the Bronze medal team at the Mumeishi Threes in 2002; won the Nakakura cup in Europe in 2002 and also gained his 4<sup>th</sup> Dan

**Nick Wiggan** won the bronze medal and fighting spirit award in 1997 University Championships. He was a National squad member in 1999. He is now 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan.

**Daniel Maunsdon** Bronze medal and fighting spirit award in Mumeishi Threes international club championships in 2002

**Ben Grierson** Gold medal in Mumeishi Threes 2000

**Ratapom Bunnag** Member of the Thailand National team at 12<sup>th</sup> World Kendo Championships in Glasgow 2003. Member of the 'Sir Frank Bowden' bronze medal team in 2003 and bronze medallist in the University team Championship in 2004

**Kaori Miki**; won the women's individual national championship and gained the bronze medal at the Mumeishi women's championship in 2003

**Andrew Hussey** won a bronze medal at the University team championship in 2004

**Andy Dunn, Sam Copeland and John Richards** produced the DVD *Kendoka; the new samurai*. This follows the fortunes of the British women's team at the 12<sup>th</sup> World Kendo Championships in Glasgow 2003.

**Misato Makita** won the 2005 women's national title beating the British women's coach in the final

**Dan Birch** of Pittville School gained 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 13 -15 age group national championship in 2005

**Harry Brown** came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Kagamishin national tournament in 2007 and was awarded a fighting spirit certificate. He was invited to join the junior national squad in 2008

**James Ogle** won the 2008 university Kyu grade championship and was part of the team that won the fighting spirit award with **Chris Emery** and **James Inwood**. James was awarded the Martin Roddy cup for sporting excellence and his full university colours at the 2008 sports awards. He is currently graded at 3rd dan and is a member of the British Kendo Association international squad. James also fought at the 2012 world championships in Italy, he also runs his own kendo club in Cardiff called Denshinkan.

**Charlie Wong** won a bronze medal in the Mumeishi Threes 2008 6-9 year old age category.

**Rosanna Riches** won the Fighting Spirit award at the Women's British Open Kendo competition 2012 and is currently graded at shodan.

Names of students gaining their national grading rank after starting kendo at University

**Manish Modashia, Nick Wiggan, Richard Calvert, Andy Dunn, Julian Biddulph, Daniel Maunsdon, Nick Cardnell, Ratapom Bunnag James Ogle Barnaby Ellis Chris Emery Zac Young Rosanna Riches.**

Juniors gaining national grading rank

**Harry Brown 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu 2007; 1<sup>st</sup> Dan 2008(Kingshill School); Zac Young 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu 2009; Naoki Onimaru 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu 2010**