



NKMAA News

John Ward Martial Arts

First ever UK Kuk Sool Black Belts for NKMAA



2009 has been an exciting year for the students of the John Ward School of Korean Martial Arts in Morecambe, Lancashire, UK.

In the Summer of 2009, after studying for many years as a member of Kuk Sool Won 4th, Degree Black Belt Sa Bum Nim John Ward enrolled his school and its 60+ students, as members of the National Korean Martial Arts Association - becoming the first ever UK Kuk Sool school to join the NKMAA.

While still majoring on the teaching of Kuk Sool, this move has enabled SBN John to offer his

students the opportunity to study aspects of other martial arts - an activity which is "out of bounds" for members of the WKSA, but one which was eagerly embraced by his students during an Escrima and Savate seminar with Ollie Batts, himself another ex-WKSA Black Belt.

As part of the WKSA, the club had enjoyed tremendous success at the closed tournaments held by that organisation, including winning first place in the UK Championships in 2007. Students from the club have won many Gold medals and Grand

Expanding Horizons

SBN John has himself gone back to school expanding his considerable knowledge of Korean Martial Arts through the study of Kong Shin Bup TM and Kuk Sool Hap Ki Do under the instruction of Saja Nim Rudy Timmerman. This August he will travel to Canada to attend the "Gathering of Grand Masters".

At this epic event, dozens of Grand Masters and Masters of various Korean martial arts will come together to share their arts and celebrate 60 years of martial art practice by NKMAA founder Rudy W. Timmerman.

The respect and goodwill GM Timmerman earned over these sixty years are the key to success for NKMAA, and it truly expands the horizons for the members of the John Ward School of Korean Martial Arts.



Championships, at tournaments in the UK, Scotland, Spain and even the World Championships in Texas USA.

To ensure that his students continued to have the opportunity to compete SBN John entered the school into the prestigious (NAS) National All Styles tournaments, which as literally open to all styles



of martial arts. 18 students competed in the regional heats and all 18 came back with a trophy, several with more than one! SBN John managed to bring back no less than three first place awards.

Later in the year, he and one of his students, JKN Angela Prince, travelled to Burgess Hill in the south of the UK to compete in the final. Between them they

brought home seven trophies, including another first place for SBN John, even though in some divisions they were competing against one another!

The year was brought to a very successful close on the 23rd of December at the schools major annual awards ceremony. During the awards night 4 members of the school became the first ever UK

NKMMA Kuk Sool Black Belts, an achievement that was not lost on the successful students pictured [front row] below. As well as receiving their Black Belts and beautiful NMAA certificates the new JKN's took part in a very popular display of Kuk Sool as a celebration of the year's successes.

ANOTHER UK KUK SOOL MASTER JOINS NKMAA

We are very pleased to announce that SBN Robert Poll, a former WKSA Kuk Sool practitioner, has joined the ranks of the ever expanding contingent of NKMAA members in the UK.

SBN Poll is a well known figure in competition circles, and we are glad to have him join our ranks and share with you some of his background as it was related to me by SBN Poll.

“For the last 19 years I have been training within the WKSA in Lowestoft, East Anglia, UK, under Master Martin Ducker. I am currently a 4th Degree Black Belt and was due to promote to 5th Degree level this year. I have been teaching at the Lowestoft School for the last 16 years.

When I started training in KSW I was a very unconfident teenager, from KSW I learnt many important values, values which have helped me throughout my life. During my time in KSW I have trained hard and been active promoting the association.

After attaining my first degree certification I won the UK grand championship every year, culminating in the 2005 third degree world champion title at the WKSA world championships, Busan, Korea. I mention this only to show my commitment to martial arts and my training.

For me it has always been about the training, furthering my knowledge and helping my students to better themselves, I have been told too often that I am a good teacher and believe I have an obligation to continue helping students. I have already been in touch with SBN Ward, and I look forward to working with him and other NKMAA members.”



With KJN Woon, SBN Claire Woon, SBN Poll and SBN Ward all working together, I can see some very exciting things happen for NKMAA members in the UK.

I truly look forward to your visit to Canada in August 2010, and I am sure you will love training with the many new friends you will make there. Not only will you make new friends and learn about other Korean martial arts, you will

also see, and be able to practice with, old friends such as KJNs Marlin Sims, Dickson Kunz, Larry White, and many more Kuk Sool practitioners.

In addition, you will be able to participate in testing and promotions offered that weekend. Imagine receiving YOUR next promotion in front of a dozen or more Grand Masters of Korean martial arts.

With NKMAA this IS possible:)