



About Ms. Cyndy Newman

By Robin Otani President - British Judo Council

30th January 2016

Cyndy was a member of the MOSJ and joined the BJC upon amalgamation of BJC/MOSJ. Due to private reasons Cyndy left the BJC in 1973 and joined the AJA. However in 1991 Cyndy rejoined the BJC.

Cyndy's BJC dan grade record was:

1 st Dan	22-09-1968 Peterborough President's Course	graded by M.Otani
2 nd Dan	20-08-1971 Worthing Summer School	graded by M.Otani
3 rd Dan	17-08-1973	graded by M.Otani
4 th Dan	01-12-1991 Confirmed BJC (AJA April 82) President's Award by R.Otani	
5 th Dan	07-06-2002 Cromer	President's Award by R.Otani
6 th Dan	30-05-2013 Cromer	President's Award by R.Otani

My first memorable recollection of Cyndy was at the Peterborough President's Course (probably 1968) when I assisted my father Masutaro Otani. I was 24 years old then and Cyndy was a few years younger. Her boy friend Kevin Woodthorpe was Treasurer of the BJC for a period.

I recall Cyndy as a pretty slim young lady whose physique in many ways reminded me of the TV 'Good life' star Felicity Kendall. Both Kevin and Cyndy were actively practicing randori at that time and I did practice with them both.

Around 2001 Cyndy helped pilot the Child Protection and First Aid for Mr Hosaka and the BJC FPJ Coaching Awards and was also involved with the assessments of NVQ.

Cyndy was a strong willed character as many know but she had great respect for my father Masutaro Otani. On returning to the BJC Cyndy pledged her loyalty to me and always upheld this by accepting my final decisions on matters of judo, sometime against her own wishes.

I have, and will always, appreciated Cyndy's contribution to BJC and her respect for me as President.

Over the years I was invited by Cyndy and attended, many of the Peterborough annual Judo Courses that she successfully organised for the BJC every November.

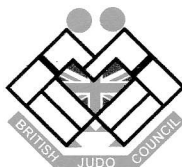
Cyndy's had interests and friends in swimming and lifesaving but we knew little of the other sides of her life. Cyndy loved her dogs and always referred to them as her family.

Losing friends unfortunately always reminds me of how fragile life is and how we all must move on one day. So let us cherish every day we have and continue to strive for our goals.

May I thank Janet Perrett, Della Burgess, Adrian Slack and all those who cared and comforted Cyndy in her final days. Thank you sincerely.

I, like many others, will miss Cyndy and hope she has gone to a peaceful better place.

Robin Otani – President



18th Jan 2016 – Some messages received by RO from members of the BJC

Paul Cunnington BJC Peterborough

Dear Mr Otani,

This is very sad news and I will inform the area.

I will contact Annette to ask her to let us know when the funeral is as I am sure that many people from the area would like to attend to pay their respects.

Thank you for letting us know.
Kind Regards

Paul Laskey 6th Dan – Chief Examiner BJC

Dear Colleagues,

I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Cyndy. She had been a good friend for many years, and I'll miss her a great deal.

Paul

Patricia Tipping 6th Dan BJC National Technical Committee

Dear All,

I am really shocked to hear of Cyndy's passing; we were only chatting on the phone just before Christmas, with her telling me of her fall and that she couldn't send Christmas cards. She was hoping to be home for Christmas and have one of her dogs home. I still can't believe it, I'm going to miss our chats. Rest in peace, Cyndy.

Patricia

G. R. Mealing 7th Dan – Vice President BJC

Dear All,

So sad to hear the news about Cyndy. I first met her in 1971 at the Worthing Summer School and recall that she impressed me as a strong character something that she continued to be in latter days. A lady of uncompromising views and a good friend, I shall miss her.

GRM

Cyndy Newman. Who was she? Did we really know her at all? I don't think we actually did know her as well as we all thought. Never judge a book by its cover, and she was no paperback I can tell you.

She was at times infuriating , never wrong, impatient and bossy. Yet with all these not so perfect traits to her name, she was also a dedicated, extremely educated and intelligent lady who always was set on making her students the best they could be. She was not only a skilful teacher, she was also a coach, mentor, trainer, life coach to some of you, and inspirational person as well as a friend to me.

Cyndy taught in schools for over 30 years, and actually started as a primary school teacher, but when she realised she didn't actually like little children, so she moved to the bigger ones at secondary school. Not long after being there the Judo class at Stanground School started and this is sort of how we met all those years ago through her Judo some 43 years ago.

It was Stanground school v's Whittlesey school in 1973. The first big Judo scrap between the two schools, but not the last. I was Whittlesey and we had the advantage of a home crowd watching, as this was more of a demonstration, so we were informed. **No it wasn't**, it was full on as you would expect. A chance to have a fight against another school with your teachers saying things like, go on crack him one, arm lock him, strangle him! It was all part of the sport and obviously a different sort of encouragement back in those days.

Cyndy said to my coach that I was good, only because I beat one of her star players, and said that I should train at her club as well as my own as she was the highest grade - and it made complete sense, but only to Cyndy of course!

She did scare me as a 11 year old lad who loved to fight, but to get praised for it was much better than the normal detention. So my time with Cyndy had began. If it wasn't for that controlled brawl , praise, getting battered, the strict discipline and mutual respect, some of us might have ended up in an all expenses paid 8x6 room, with an small en suite, 3 meals a day in one of her majesties hotels (HMP) I am sure.

As the years passed and I continued to do Judo and then onto run my own clubs, she ran many of the events in the area and at National level that we all took for granted. She put hours of her time in to all she did for the sport she loved and for no pay, and with the only reward being , 'thanks Cyndy, well done we have had a good day' but that was enough for her.

In her relatively short life her achievements were countless, but obtaining her Red & White belt with the British Judo Council, and a 6th Dan is no mean feat, and for most of us, not ever achievable, but it goes to show the commitment and dedication she had in all she attempted in her life.

Other people in this room will have also benefited like me, (I think I must like the pain of it) working with her through the swimming and life saving. Cyndy trained 1000's of children and adults to swim. She also trained many people to save lives; training them as lifeguards and in first aid. From this some went on to work in the Leisure industry, the Emergency Services, Armed forces, Teaching, and some just going on to save lives in other ways in the skill of first aid, water safety and in general ended up to be just good people.

If you follow the branches of her skills which she passed on to most of us, we can see that her roots in education, life saving, and the Judo, allowed her students the enjoyment, discipline, self belief, and the confidence to face life, and even passing the skills learnt to their own children.

Her last few years were not her best, she did suffer with illness in various forms that she kept mainly to herself, and managed it the best she could. She knew she pushed some people and close friends away, and felt guilt once she realised the extent of her illness and how it had affected her. She could be abrupt, didn't suffer fools, ***apart from me of course***, and she said it how it was. She wasn't right all the time, that's impossible, but how many of us would love to say it how it is at times.

When I was in my early days training as a teacher, one thing she said to me was; *it's better to go in tough and then lighten up, than to try to do it the other way round*. Wise words in today world of education.

We should all remember her when she was at her best, doing what she did well. Educating, informing, mentoring, supporting, breeding fine quality Labrador dogs , must give that a mention otherwise she will be back for me, and in general wanting the world to be a better place.

I hope you find peace where ever you want to go after this life, because my concern is, if you go to a place where you don't want to be, it may take divine intervention to intervene and help out those who suffer your wrath!

To finish, this quote in my humble opinion sort of hits the spot for me:

'There are only two options regarding commitment. You're either IN or you're OUT. There is no such thing as life in-between' and I feel that's how she worked most of the time.

Rest in peace Cyndy, as the knowledge you have passed on to the countless numbers, of all types of people, will serve many, for many years to come in your absence.

Ady Slack

TRIBUTE: Cyndy Newman

There are so many people here – that will please Cyndy no end, we'd spoken of this day once or twice over the years; she didn't want a fuss and she was adamant nobody would come!

She wasn't everybody's cup of tea, she was a cantankerous mare and many of us here have been on the sharp end of her tongue at some time or another.

But when you got past the smell of dogs and her tough exterior you found a lady with a huge heart and as much time for you as you needed. She was a lady who, if she liked you would move mountains to help you; her support was never ending – but only on her terms of course, not yours!

Especially if you liked Judo or Life Saving. I have many fond memories of the small hall which was Stanground Comprehensive's Dojo; also of Baldock's fish and chip shop which she would detour the mini-bus to after life saving competitions. She always had loads to give and I don't just mean money for chips. I would certainly not have achieved my Dan grade without her belief in me – and her pushiness. And of course Craig's patience whom I'm sure she bribed to be my Kata partner; I will always be grateful to her for that! She had loads of Judo stories and she loved her Judo family. She was proud of being one of the three witches along with Mitchiko and Mrs Tippin and would tell of Robin's escapades as a young man and also of his father – 'The Old Man' as she always referred to him as. Her respect for him was immense.

She supported me and my boys through some tough times, but we had lots of laughs too – including the trip to Woburn Safari Park. My boys took great delight in ribbing her mercilessly when the monkeys removed most of the trim from her car, but she had the last laugh as we broke down in the lion enclosure. It was over an hour before we were towed out on a very hot July day in a car that had a not so wonderful aroma of wet Labrador and we had to keep the windows closed. It wasn't easy with two young boys whinging they couldn't breathe. Cyndy just told them to shut up and watch the lions, giving Jordan her treasured camera to take some action shots. She took it all in her stride.

If you didn't like the smell of labs that was just tough. She bred many over the years – all pedigree and all with great characters and temperaments. Mine loved going to hers for sleep overs with their cousins and aunties and were of course spoilt rotten by Cyndy.

Cyndy had so many wonderful attributes, but heaven help you if you crossed her – she was not forgiving and oh gosh how she loved an argument.

Even in her last few days she was telling the Doctors what they ought to be doing. Not many know she had a doctorate herself in biology, so she took great delight in putting the youngest Doctor in his place. Poor man, I did feel for him.

She was an intelligent and clever lady. One who, much to the annoyance of my boys, could do a Diabolical Sudoku in a matter of minutes – she loved showing off to them.

Many of you know how much Cyndy liked her single malt whisky; Talisker being her preferred choice. She used to tell me the Isle of Skye was her favourite holiday destination because she liked taking photos of the scenery – all lies! She loved the Isle of Skye because of the distillery. She's taught me well, as I now appreciate the finer points of a single malt, and have enjoyed many of her 'tasting sessions' immensely!

Cyndy hated it if you were sentimental around her; she used to say she was nobody special.

The truth: she was opinionated, argumentative, always right, very often rude... but also very kind and generous with an huge heart and a wicked sense of humour.

She WAS somebody special and I shall miss her.

Della J Burgess

Tribute to Cyndy from Janet and Sarah

Janet met Cyndy in 1981 when she was appointed to Stanground College, and they gradually became friends. Sarah and her brother have the happiest memories of going to Bruges with Cyndy – the children's first time abroad. The only disadvantage was having to wait while Jonathan explored the male toilets on his own! Much later it was Cyndy who volunteered to collect both of us from Heathrow after Sarah's marriage ended while she was in Hong Kong. It was typical of Cyndy's generosity that, when her car broke down at the crucial moment, she hired another to come and collect two jetlagged and exhausted people from Heathrow two days before Christmas. That sort of friendship is quite unforgettable.

Former colleagues from Stanground, the head, Bernard Barker, and John Doyle, who was head of the Science Department, both wrote of her warmth beneath the gruff exterior, and John described how, when he was on a trip to Scotland, she gave him a load of maps of Scotland, which she absolutely loved. Bernard commented that she could be direct, honest and even blunt, but he always found her an admirable teacher, pastoral manager and organiser. He described her dedicated service to the school, especially at that time through her leadership of the judo and lifesaving, as major extra-curricular activities that brought great credit to the school. She was teamed up with Terry Jones as leaders of Thomas House, and the two of them were notable in their refusal to accept nonsense, from their senior managers as well as their students, many of whom found Cyndy a great source of support and encouragement. She was also an important figure in the Peterborough landscape, with a reputation for professional skill and competitiveness in promoting her chosen sports in the city. Her loneliness in recent months and possible years, is made more sad when considering how many lives she had touched for good.