

**University of Bath – Shotokan Karate Club Reunion
on Saturday 19 October 2024 (13:15 to 17:00)**

The Karate club was formed by Ian McGill in about 1969. Then, as the club became more established and the style aligned with Shotokan (JKA/KUGB), the resident black belt instructors that followed, included: Stan, Jim, Mark, Jan, Roger, Barry, Gareth and others.



Jan, Stan, Roger and Barry



Stan and Jan

In 1969, there was no sports hall and training took place in the evenings, in different food serveries (e.g. Materials Science, South Building). Then in about 1974, a Sports Hall was built and training moved to that hall. Then later when the Sports Pavilion was constructed some training took place there (when the Sports Hall was used for exams/other big events).

Year 1987: The club sent 14 members to participate in a wide range of events at the first British Student Karate Championships (Crystal Palace, London). Our **Kumite 5-man A-Team** (Dave Cook, Rich Anderson, Kev Leivers, Graig Green, Gareth Rowe) achieved the BUSF silver medal, defeating some of the strongest university clubs including teams from Bristol, London and Cambridge. A total of 38 teams participated at different events and Bath entered most of them, achieving 2nd or 3rd place in many of them.

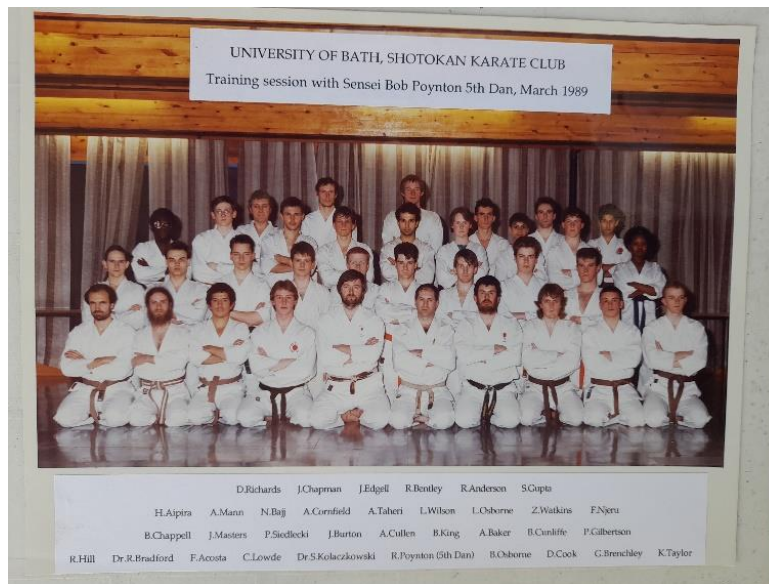


Richard Anderson



Kev Leivers

1987: Members of the Kumite A-Team in action.



Group Photo after a Karate Grading with Sensei Bob Poynton (March 1989).

The outline plan for the Shotokan Club Reunion afternoo is as follows:

- **13:15 Registration (Chancellors' Building):** meet and greet, with photo display.
- **14:00 Lecture theatre (Chancellors' Building):** Talk by Prof Stan Kolaczowski, on the early days and how the style of Karate that was taught connects with the fighting art that was taught in secret by word of mouth to individuals and in very small classes on the island of Okinawa – our lineage. We now know that the secret bodyguards to King Sho Tai of Okinawa were Masters in the Art, and sworn to keep it a secret until his death in 1901. Then it was only in about 1917, when for the first time a Karate Master from Okinawa, Funakoshi Gichin, demonstrated the art in private to public officials in Japan, which then led to the establishment of Shotokan Karate in Japan from where it then spread around the world. Photos and old film clips will be shown to support the topics presented.
- **15:00 Reception in (Chancellors Building) drinks and nibbles**
- **15:30 Move to Founders Hall (previously Sports Hall):**
- **15:45 Short demonstration of Karate,** followed by a group photo. If you still have your Karate Gi, then if you wish, do wear it for the Group Photo.
- **16:45 0 17.00 Close**