

4TH REMUDEN TAIKAI CHAMPIONSHIPS – 4 & 5 OCTOBER 2003

Hutt Kendo Club was well represented at the 2003 Remuden Taikai. Sadly none of our members progressed past their first showing but good spirit was shown by all and lots of fun was had.

Women's Open

Both Nicola Winskill and Miyuki Potaka participated in the Women's Open. Due to a lack of numbers this grade includes all women, both Kyu and Dan grades so the competition was tough for our 6th and 5th Kyu.

Nicola was first up, and by that we mean she had the very first fight of the day! Her first opponent was Hilda Leung from Auckland who beat her with a couple of Men. Her second fight, straight after the first, was against Toyoko Kumamura from Remuden. Much to Nicola's own amazement and the rest of the Club's delight Nicola won this fight with two Kote. Well done Nicola! Unfortunately Hilda Leung also went on to beat Toyoko Kumamura which meant Nicola did not progress to the next round.

Miyuki was up a little later and only had one fight against Madoka Asakawa from Remuden. Despite a good showing by Miyuki she was beaten with a Men and a Kote. It should be noted that Madoka Asakawa went on to take 2nd place!

The Women's Open was won by Sachiyo Lee (Remuden and number one in New Zealand), Madoka Asakawa was second and Lorena Bradley (Remuden) was third.

Men's Kyu Open

The Club was well represented in the Men's Kyu Open with Nic Philip, Nic Pitt, Steve Potaka and Dan Tate.

Nic Philip was up first against Antony Fake from Remuden. Straight from sonkyo Nic got a lovely Kote on Antony, much to Antony's surprise and the joy of everyone from the Club as this had been well practised leading up to the championships. Antony went on to take the fight with a Men and a Kote and came third overall. Afterward Antony was seen acknowledging Nic's quick move on him during their fight. Nic's second fight was against William McCletchie from Wellington South and Nic won this fight with a Kote.

Next up was Nic Pitt. Nic's first fight was against Matt Lilley from Remuden. Sadly for Nic he stepped out of the shiai twice and had a hansoku awarded against him and this was how Matt Lilley beat him. Nic's second fight against Ben Lee from Auckland was better for Nic but again he lost, this time by a Do.

Steve Potaka took on AJ Saena from Wellington South and Kenji Hashimoto from Sydney. Steve made a good showing and would have scored a couple of times had he shown more kiai. Steve lost his two fights by a Kote in the first and a Men and Kote in the second. More kiai Steve!

Last up for the Kyu's was Dan Tate. In his first fight he took on Scott Graham from Auckland. A Men was scored against Dan but he came back strongly and won with two Kote's. Dan's next fight was against Oscar Xing also from Auckland. This turned out to be an epic fight between two players who were determined not to lose. Dan held off Oscar for the full three-minute fight. The shiai went into Encho and five minutes later

after some good attempts to score, Oscar came through with a Men to score. Oscar Xing went on to take second place but Dan won the Fighting Spirit Award for this grade – well done Dan!

The Men's Kyu Open was won by Eto Tamura (Rembuden), second was Oscar Xing and Antony Fake came third.

Men's Dan Open

The Club had two competitors in the Men's Dan Open – Scott Duncan (Shodan) and Martyn Walker (Nidan).

Scott was up first to fight Sotchiro Takemine from Nelson. Although Scott lost to a Kote and a Men this loss was to the Men's Dan Open winner. Scott's next fight was against Ben Kim from Christchurch. Scott lost with a Men and Kote scored against him.

Martyn was up next with only one fight against Jakob Schmidt from Rembuden. Jakob Schmidt fights from jodan and beat Martyn with two Men although Martyn did score first with a Men. During the fight Martyn had an ungraceful fall but recovered to continue.

And so neither of our competitors made it through to the next round. Sotchiro Takemine took out first place, Hideki Tamiya (Remuden) second and third equal went to Jakob Schmidt and Hisashi Ikemoto (Auckland).

Team Event

The Club entered three teams into the team competition:

Hutt A – Martyn Walker, Dan Tate and Miyuki Potaka

Hutt B – Scott Duncan, Nic Pitt and Nicola Winskill

Hutt C – Nic Philip, Steve Potaka and Nat Bacchus

All Hutt teams had a bye in the first round but were beaten in the second round by Rembuden A, Rembuden D and Nelson A respectively. Martyn did, however, score a Kote against Sachiyo Lee and Miyuki managed to edge Antony Fake out of the shiai for a ½ point.

Again everyone fought with spirit and determination but sadly it was all over relatively early in the day. That meant that everyone got the chance to enjoy the rest of the day and cheer on all players in a show of good sportsmanship.

Auckland W took out the teams event with only two players, and one of those (Hisashi Ikemoto) was playing with only one good foot, having cut it rather badly the day before. Nelson A were second with Remuden A and Remuden B being third equal.