

Ballinasloe Karate Hosts International Seminar



[Photo; some of the students from the Ballinasloe club with Sadaaki Sakagami during the karate seminar]

Ballinasloe Karate has a long-standing tradition of international association and has used this important attribute to further the skills, ambitions and success of many of its students over the years.

International Seminar

Itosu-kai Karatedo Ireland held an International Karate Seminar in Ballinasloe in August. This was to mark the 35th anniversary of karate in Ballinasloe. To mark the occasion the Irish association hosted the Chief Instructor of Japan Karatedo Itosu-kai and president of Itosuryu Karatedo International Federation (IKIF), Mr. Sadaaki Sakagami and two of his instructors in Ballinasloe. Also invited were the European branches of IKIF with Scotland, Denmark, Sweden and Spain attending. The Seminar was held over two days with over 160



delegates attending, 80 from mainland Europe. All the country Chief Instructors attended and this was the first time all were present at the same time to train with Sakagami. The seminar was open to all ages and levels of expertise as this was an incredible opportunity to train with Sakagami. The black belt session taken by Sakagami

boasted over 40 black belts from 1st to 6th Dan. At the Gala Dinner Mr. Mike Kelly, Mayor Of Ballinasloe addressed the guests and presented Mr. Sakagami with a gift from the "People Of Ballinasloe". He also had a few words of Japanese in his address which went down a treat. Mr.Sakagami stayed in Ballinasloe for a week along with many of the European attendees and were shown the "sights" near and far by the Irish association.

[Photo; L->R; Mr. Mike Kelly,Mayor Of Ballinasloe, Sadaaki Sakagami and Leo Mulvany]

Ballinasloe Karate is just one of nine clubs in Itosu-kai Karatedo Ireland (IKKI), the name of the organisation in Ireland. Leo Mulvany is the Chief Instructor of Itosu-kai in Ireland. He started karate in 1976 under Mr. Richard Hayes, in the Social Centre Gym, Society Street. The IKKI has been very busy over the years. It's mission is to provide the best coaching practices to students, develop students to their full potential and to coach students to International and World Class competition level. Besides nurturing home clubs, the IKKI has taken part in over 20 internationals and three world championships with students of all ages since 2002. The association is heavily involved with the NGB for karate in Ireland (www.onakai.org) and many of our Instructors sit on committees at national level and also coach at national level. Our students have represented the 'Island of Ireland' at international competitions over the last few years with great success.

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