

## International Success for Father And Sons



**At the Canadian Championships 2003, L→R: Robert Mulvany, Shihan Kei Tsumura, 8<sup>th</sup> Dan, Chief Instructor , Canada, Jake Mulvany and Leo Mulvany, 5<sup>th</sup> Dan, Chief Instructor, Ireland.**

It was last November that Sensei Leo Mulvany, Chief Instructor of Shito-Ryu Itosu-Kai Karate & Kobudo Association, Ireland, travelled to Toronto, Canada, to take part in the Canadian Championships. Also taking part were his two sons, Robert and Jake Mulvany.

The tournament started at 11am. and finished at 7.30pm. that evening.

Karate tournaments are usually “all day affairs” and this tournament was no different. There were clubs from all over

Canada attending, some as far away as Alberta, North West Canada. Jake Mulvany entered both kata and kumite (sparring) competitions, coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in kata and taking 1<sup>st</sup> place in the kumite. Sensei Mulvany was one of the head judges/referees on the day, however he took part in the mens senior black belt kumite, the last event of the day. Leo made the long journey to the finals, beating the 2001/2002 champion and took 1<sup>st</sup> place to become the Canadian Champion, Kumite 2003. Robert did not compete as he broke his big toe in Ireland a week before the tournament. He did however take part in the black belt ranking the following day with a well strapped foot. After a gruelling 3½ hour session, he emerged successful and was ranked to 1<sup>st</sup> Dan degree black belt.

Sensei Mulvany was delighted to have judged and competed at the Canadian Championships but he was especially delighted for Robert and Jake who represented Ireland to the best of their abilities.

The Irish Association hosted eleven Canadians last June. Included were the Chief Instructor of Canada Shihan Kei Tsumura, 8<sup>th</sup> Dan and Hiroshi Maeda, 6<sup>th</sup> Dan, Frank Robinson 4<sup>th</sup> Dan and Mark Yuedi 4<sup>th</sup> Dan. Training seminars, black belt rankings in karate and kobudo and travel were the main events during the week.

In August 2002, the Irish Association travelled to Tokyo, Japan to take part in the “35<sup>th</sup> Japan Karatedo Itosu-kai All Japan Championships”. There were over 1000 competitors from eleven countries.

“Team Ireland” consisted of ten black belt competitors who were: Leo Mulvany (5<sup>th</sup>. Dan, Chief Instructor); Tony Dolphin (4<sup>th</sup>. Dan, President); Claire Harte (4<sup>th</sup>. Dan, PRO), Marie Dolphin (4<sup>th</sup>. Dan, Director), John Dolphin, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan, Karen Dolphin,

Geraldine Mulkerins; Stephen Kelly; Paul Dunne and Rory O'Grady. The trip started with the tournament, technical seminars, referee's course and ended with a relaxing few days in Okinawa. Okinawa is where the burial site of Itosu yatsune (Anko, 1830

– 1915), the founder of the Shito-Ryu style of karate, can be found. The team visited Itosu's grave, met with Chief Instructors of Goju-Ryu and Shorin-Ryu styles of karate and the Head Sensei's of Okinawan kobudo, a rare privilege indeed.

In spite of the jet lag, Ireland performed very well with Karen Dolphin coming 5<sup>th</sup> in the Ladies black belt kata and Leo Mulvany finishing in



**Japan Itosu-Kai Championships 2002, back row L→R: Geraldine Mulkerins, Claire Harte, Leo Mulvany (Chief Instructor, Ireland), Soke Sadaaki Sakagami, Chief Instructor, Japan, Tony Dolphin, Marie Dolphin, John Dolphin. Front Row L→R: Stephen Kelly, Paul Dunne, Karen Dolphin, Rory O'Grady.**

the top eight in kata and kumite, narrowly missing a semi-final place in kumite. May 2004 will see Ireland compete in the Canadian Championships again, in force and the world championships will be held in Los Angeles in 2005. Lots of work ahead!

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