

SWEDISH Easter Camp

30-years later...



(April, 2004)

The Swedish Ju-Jitsu Association (SJJA) is the organization which represents the most diffused style of Ju-jitsu in Sweden, counting 90 clubs and approximately 8.000 members overall. The SJJA Chairman is Mr Hans Greger, 9th Dan Ju-jitsu Kai, who is well-known to JJIF, being a Founding Member of the International Federation and having covered the role of Chairman of the JJIF Technical Committee for many years.

2004 marks an important year for the SJJA, being the 30-year anniversary of the Association, and the Easter Camp could not, therefore, be anything other than special. For the jubilee event the venue was the city of Linköping, Sweden. The importance of the recurrence attracted 580 participants from all over Sweden. Students had to be divided into 16 groups according to belt level, to allow every participant the opportunity of attending 13 training sessions throughout the Camp.

The training was lead by five guest instructors and eleven instructors from SJJA. The guests were:

Soke Fumon Tanaka, 9th Dan Kobudo, Japan,
assisted by his daughter Midori Tanaka
Stefan Stenudd, 6th Dan Aikido, Sweden
Istvan Hambalek, 4th Dan Judo, Sweden
Monica Johansen, 3rd Dan Ju-jitsu, Norway
Carlos Lemos Jr, 1st Dan Brazilian Ju-jitsu, Brazil.

Soke Fumon Tanaka and his daughter Midori Tanaka held a very impressive demonstration with swords. While Midori also carried out a sword dance to music, Soke Tanaka did Suemonogiri, the art of cutting a bamboo stick with a single perfect and very swift cut. (picture of Tanakas)

The present and potential contribution of Soke Tanaka to Ju-jitsu was made even more evident at the opening ceremony, when JJIF President Dr Paul G Hoglund appointed him Chairman of the JJIF Traditional Ju-jitsu Committee. Soke Tanaka will be adviser to JJIF in matters regarding Traditional Japanese Ju-jitsu.



During the Camp, Dan examinations were held for 3rd, 4th and 5th Dan. Jorgen Sahlin and Lena Thelberg Sahlin obtained 5th Dan recognition, thus becoming the first woman in Sweden to obtain such a high Ju-jitsu rank.



However, the grading system of the Ju-jitsu Kai-style is undergoing a modification process. The plan is to present a new book by next year's Easter Camp to indicate ways of making the technique-requirement more flexible, whilst focusing more on the self-defense expected in the programme. The book is expected to come out in an English edition also.

Ola Johanson
SJJA Vice chairman

