

GREGORY DURANT

Frogs Green Farm House
Frogs Green
Radwinter
SAFFRON WALDEN
Essex
CB10 2SU

Date of Birth: 21.09.45.
Nationality: British
Marital Status: Married with
2 children

CAREER

- 1962-1966: Commenced training and subsequently became a Master Butcher
- 1967-1969: Trainee General Manager at a leading London fashion-house
- 1970-1972: Promoted to Manager reporting directly to Chairman. Directly responsible for staff of 25. Dealt directly with Senior Buyers of major retail outlets negotiating contracts. Other responsibilities included customer liaison, manufacturing and production, shipping, ordering of raw materials, training and design work.
- 1973-1975: Worked for international fashion-house based in the West End as its London representative, dealing with large London stores, e.g. John Lewis, Harrods. Involved in negotiation of contracts, customer liaison, aftersales.
- 1976-1987: Formed and ran own company in North London manufacturing and supplying sports and martial arts equipment wholesale to the sports industry. Hands-on experience in all aspects of an owner/manager environment including locating suitable premises, advertising and marketing, sales, negotiating contracts with suppliers and customers, employing staff, setting up a production line. Gained a thorough knowledge of finance including double-entry book-keeping, cash flow forecasts, budgets, cost centre management, preparation of annual accounts. The company included one retail outlet and a mail-order department. Exported to Europe, USA, Australia. Employed 25-30 full-time staff.

KARATE HISTORY

Present grade 7th Dan gained in 2001. Thirty-five years experience with a traditional Japanese Shotokan Karate background focusing on an equal balance between Kihon, Kata and Kumite. Commenced training in Shotokan Karate in February 1970. Gained 1st Dan in 1974 under Sensei H Kanazawa (10th Dan). Participated in local and national competitions. Qualified as England Referee and Principal Coach with previous governing bodies. Started teaching in 1973 with the opening of first club at Picketts Lock Leisure Centre in North London.

Member of the EKGB Executive Committee 1995. Previous member of BKCC, EKC and MAC governing bodies. A founder member of both Shotokan Karate International (SKI) and of the English Shotokan Karate Association (ESKA). Held positions of Secretary and Chairman of the latter. Formed the Shotokan Karate Association (SKA) in 1985. Currently Chairman and Chief Instructor of SKA. Membership to date has peaked at 20 clubs and 1000 members. Some of the students taught over the years include three 5th Dans and four 4th Dans who joined SKA as white belts and are still members of SKA twenty years later.

GENERAL

Interests

Photography, music, playing the trumpet, gardening.

Charity Work

Involved for 35 years in fund-raising for various charities including holidays for mentally-handicapped children and provision of hospital equipment. Providing funds to support a hospice for terminally ill children, providing motorised wheelchairs and computer equipment for disabled children. Raised substantial funds for research into cancer cures. Ran regular food, clothing and medical supplies convoys into Kosovo, providing aid to the children of Pristina during the War.

PERSONAL AIMS FOR NEW GOVERNING BODY

- To see as many people as possible united and working towards common goals in the new governing body
- Whilst building on the success of Sport Karate, recognise the need to focus efforts on traditional values of karate to build and develop strong roots within the community. Believe this dual approach will further benefit the sports side as increased numbers of people will come through at club level which Sport Karate will be able to draw on
- Firmly believe that traditional karate is an excellent means of character and personality development through the study of Kihan, Kata and Kumite for both children and adults and that, if more educational authorities, schools, etc. were aware of the benefits, they would be encouraging the promotion of traditional karate at all levels of society
- Commitment to ensuring the new governing body is a success by ensuring regular attendance at board meetings and major events wherever possible