

DAN DOCHERTY TRIBUTES

Ian, Moira & Craig Cameron

It is with great sadness we learned of the passing of Dan. He was without doubt a force of nature and will leave a massive gulf that will be impossible to fill. He was singular in his passion for tai chi chuan, which may have caused controversy along the way, but there is no doubt that his contribution to tai chi will leave a lasting and important legacy. We met some 50 years ago and shared many experiences in Hong Kong, China and teaching along with sifu Cheng Tin Hung and Tong Chi Kin in the UK. The first time I met him, he visited my class in Edinburgh. It wasn't long before we put on the gloves and had a 'friendly' sparring session. All I will say is: "I remember it well." We also, on the odd occasion, enjoyed a few whiskies together, impressing sifu with our capacity to 'shift a few' and we used to laugh at the odds of two Scots guys ending up on the same rooftop in Hong Kong learning tai chi. Over the years we kept in regular contact, and although we went our own ways, it is a testament to our relationship that we never lost that connection. Dan was also very thoughtful never failing to pass his best wishes to my family. We will all miss him greatly. Condolences to all of Dan's students from all at Five Winds Tai Chi. Deepest condolences to Ellen and Ronin. He will always be my tai chi brother. ☞

Betty Sutherland UK Tai Chi

Dan was a driving force of tai chi in the UK and Europe. I knew Dan for 28+ years both from Scotland and later when I moved to Yorkshire. He was instrumental in putting Wudang tai chi on the map and supported me and my school over the years. A larger than life character, he will be sadly missed. My thoughts go out to his family, friends and students – he was indeed 'The Wild Colonial Boy'

Rod Fleckner

I have been a tai chi instructor for almost eight years. Before qualifying I had to submit a video of my 'form' to a committee which would assess my suitability.

Dan was on the assessment committee and I was told that he was something of a legend. I had never heard of him but it made me even more nervous about how the video would be received. In the event I was accepted.

Although I never met Dan I always felt that it was a privilege to have been assessed and accepted by a committee of which he was part. It was like we did meet, just not in person.

A very special guy who will be sadly missed. Deepest condolences to Ellen and family. ☞

Jessie Cazalés,

One afternoon in London in 1990, I knocked at the door of a tai chi center. Unfortunately, I did not fit in. I was a visitor. Their terms were strict: annual fees and lessons payable in advance for a three month session. Last but not least I could not join a class once a session had started. A week later I tried my luck at Jubilee Sports Hall in Covent Garden where I met Dan. Wudang practical tai chi chuan has since then been a beautiful journey. Thank you Dan for your teachings.

Ça s'arrose ☞



L-R Tong Chi Kin, Cheng Tin Hung, Dan Docherty and Ian Cameron

Art Baird

Eventually, in Edinburgh 2019, I shook Dan Docherty's hand and told him it was great to meet him. He was sitting down and the first thing I noticed was his hands. They looked like they could truly demolish and then his smile which was bigger than the room. He stood up and said let's get started. Retreat to go forward was the first application he demonstrated. Later in February 2020 four of us from Scotland drove down and visited Dan at home in London. He said come in there is plenty of Partridge soup in the pot but to watch out for shot and not to break your teeth. The soup was excellent and we stayed for the weekend and went through the form and applications. Those two days were just brilliant. We worked all day and went out at night. Then lockdown came and we never got the chance again.

Rest in peace Dan. See you in the morning. ☞

Hans Finne from Norway

I met Dan in Sweden in 1998. He was willing to teach me the 24 Wudang neigong and we became friends after a while. One of the reasons was that we were both police officers.

Even though I was a student from the Cheng Man Ching tradition he was very generous and taught me his way of pushing hands. After competing in the first European Championship ever (broze medal) he proposed me as a judge and, after a while, member of the board.

When it comes to tai chi he was number one. He brought back some of the essence of tai chi into Europe. What I really liked with him was his sense of humour. I know he would not appreciate that I feel sorry for the loss of him. He always said we have to carry on. But still I have to admit I feel sorry to have lost him.

My thoughts go to his family. ☞