

Karate vs Cancer

1990

“**M**ake benevolence your lifelong duty. This surely is an important mission. It is a lifelong effort, truly a long journey.)” That was just one of *Gichin Funakoshi*'s maxims for the trainee, and one, that in the previous five decades of my life, I had failed to live up to — miserably. I was quite ashamed of myself. ‘Putting something back’, simply never occurred to me, that was until 1989 when the necessary motivation manifested itself in no uncertain terms in the form of Eddie Whitcher.



Eddie Whitcher JKA Sandan

Eddie had pioneered *Shōtōkan Karate* in Great Britain in the early ‘sixties and was suffering from terminal cancer. Throughout his *Karate* life he had been an inspiration to all. Big in stature and mild in manner, he was without doubt an extremely gifted *Shōtōkan* traditionalist. A purist in the true sense of the word seeking neither material gain nor recognition.

Visiting him at the Royal London Hospital in November 1989. I was