



*A special guest was 12 year old James Wightman whose greatest wish was to practice Karate. He had a tumour on the brain and had become blind.*

*Here he receives an honorary black belt for his amazing courage. Two days later, he died.*

£125,000. In his reply, Professor Norman Williams said: “Eddie Witcher was a remarkable man. He bore his illness with great courage and fortitude. He brought joy to the people looking after him. His inner strength and his superb family helped him cope.” The final total exceeded the original target three times, rising by the end of 1990 to £158,000.

In the eyes of many of the general public, *Karate* remains just a shade less than respectable, (although in recent years, this has changed dramatically) with very little being known of the philosophy concerning ‘The Way’. Perhaps this small effort will have gone some way in redressing the imbalance, and in the process, the image of *Karate* will become a little less tarnished.

A few months before his death in 1957, *Gichin Funakoshi* wrote the following: “*Today, almost everywhere in Japan, I can hear the voices of Karate training. Now, finally, Karate has been introduced to far places abroad. As I look back over the past forty years to those days in the beginning when I was first introducing Karate with my friends, it is indeed difficult for me to grasp the present widespread acceptance of Karate. It seems as if it were a different period.*”

Throughout his life, he preached and taught traditional values. I am sure he would take great comfort in knowing they were being adhered to thirty-three years after his death. What finer tribute to him could there be, than for 1,000 of his third generation students to come together, on the other side of the world, motivated, as indeed he was, by nothing more than a desire to help their fellow man.