



2014



EWUF
NEWSLETTER

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TAIJI SPRING IN ROMANIA!

The tremendous success of the first EWUF Taijiquan and Internal Wushu Arts Championships!



This year, just like only one year ago, the capital of Romania saw the biggest ever Wushu competition. Nearly 1000 athletes, coaches, judges and officials were present to participate in two most important european wushu events of the year: 1st European Taijiquan and Wushu Internal Arts Open Championships and 15th EWUF Championships. Following the guidelines set by the IWUF, the EWUF is the first continental

federation to organize the first dedicated Taijiquan and internal arts event which was a tremendous success! The two events were attended by wushu teams from 33 countries and this is, so far, the biggest number of countries taking part in European championships! This dream finally came true as a result of a great teamwork of all European wushu family members working together!

WING CHUN NEW LOOK

During the opening ceremony of the European wushu championships one of the most eye-catching performances was an exhibition of Yongchunquan, better known in Europe under its cantonese name Wing Chun. An expert of the Chinese Wushu Association gave a wonderful display of Yongchunquan skills dazzling the audience with



sharp, fast and clear-cut movements of this unique style. This routine was compiled by a special committee for Yongchun development composed of most respected masters of this style. The EWUF plans to organize next year a dedicated Yongchunquan event just before the 3d EWUF traditional wushu championships.

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We did it!



What seemed to be impossible became true: in a space of 8 days, the European wushu federation Technical committee managed to successfully run two large scale wushu events! This would be impossible without the dedicated and professional work of a brilliant team of EWUF technical managers: Paolo Araujo, Haojun Zhuo, Iraida Grebneva, Stewart Beckett, Alexander Raduncev, Roland Quenon, Almudena de Las Heras and all other EWUF judges and officials supported in their work by a powerful local organizing committee headed by EWUF vice president Petru Grindeanu!

A real professional teamwork made this event not only successful, but also helped to create a friendly and positive mood!

天下武林一家！

Wushu - one family!



NEWSLETTER



Voice of the President

Wushu growing in Europe

The 2014 European Wushu Championships held in Bucharest, Romania was a great success. It attracted 33 countries and nearly 1,000 participants. The event was attended by delegates from the Chinese Wushu Association including a team that

performed at the opening ceremony. Other demonstrations were given by the Russian and Ukrainian athletes working together in harmony.

It was a great honour to have Stefan Vlad Marinescu the Director General of SportAccord attend the opening ceremony and



spend four days visiting our event.



The occasion comprised of three separate events.

First was the 1st European Taiji and Internal Wushu Styles Championships. This was held between 4-6 May and was dedicated to taiji and internal wushu styles. This activity was a first for Europe

in 2015. The remaining fourth place will be decided by postal vote in the coming few months.

Third: The 15th European Wushu Championships were run between 8-11 May. The event saw great competition and improvements in

standards of participants and officials. Not one appeal was made against the judge's decisions. We attribute this to the courses run by our Technical Committee to educate the officials to have a better understanding of the rules and expectations of such events.



German team has won a lot of gold and silver medals showing great mastery in internal arts and Taijiquan.

On the 8th May the EWUF held a meeting with interested parties to continue its regional development plan in the Balkan region. The plan already has regional groups in the Baltic and Nordic regions to help promote and develop Wushu on a local level, with friendly cooperation holding local competitions, courses and general activities. It was agreed to proceed with the next stage of this plan and the EWUF established the Balkan Regional Wushu Federation (BRWF) under the wing of the

and was greatly appreciated by the participants. The standard was impressive and the medals were shared between many countries.

Second: On the 7th May the EWUF held it's Congress and in accordance with the decision of the 2013 IWUF Congress elected 3 of its four candidates ready for the IWUF EB election to be held



The meeting of Balcan regional wushu federation which elected Mr. G. Denichin (Bulgaria) as President of this regional EWUF recognized federation.



EWUF. Mr Georgi Denichin (President of the Bulgarian Wushu Federation) was elected as President of the BRWF. We wish him great success in working towards greater harmony in the region.

On the 11th May in the evening the EWUF hosted a farewell party, which went on till 3:00am. It was a great joy to see our young athlete's and official's all part taking in the fun of the party and enjoying each other's company.

Good Performances in a Clean Event

During the 15th European Wushu Championships we held 7 WADA anti doping tests. Four in Sanda and three in Taolu. We are pleased to announce that all results were negative.



Congratulations to all our athlete's for playing sport in a fair way.
Stara Zagora 2015 – 3rd



During the Championships many awards were made to commemorate the great work done by many people over a sustained period in the EWUF. These include the EWUF Merit Award and the Order of European Wushu.



European Traditional Wushu Championships Inspection Visit

On the 11th May during the last day of the 2014 European Championships the European President and both Vice





Presidents travelled to Stara Zagora in Bulgaria, the venue for our 2015 Championships.

The journey by road took some 4 hours in each direct from Bucharest to Stara Zagora. The city is very ancient (about 6 thousand years!) with a long history. The inspection team, were shown around by EWUF Executive Council Member Manoil Manev, and were greeted by Ivanka Sotirova the Deputy Mayor of the city. She expressed great interest in our event and was very enthusiastic and supportive. The hotels inspected were of a very high standard. Typical local food dishes sampled were delicious fresh foods and enjoyed by all the inspection team.





The stadium is centrally located and has a small seating capacity. In the past we have experienced stadiums that are too big and we think some atmosphere is lost in that way because of the vacant seats. We shall experiment in 2015 with a smaller seating size and see what effect it has. The actual floor area for events is perfectly large enough for our needs. There is also a second hall for warm up. We found all the people in the city very friendly and excited at the prospect of our event coming to Stara Zagora. 2015 will be a very special year for the EWUF. It is the 30th anniversary of the founding of the federation. This is a great achievement and another landmark for the EWUF.



**WING CHUN
CONTROVERSY:**

**Where is the
authentic style?**

by Gleb Muzrukov



日子冲拳 – Rizi chongquan (Sun-formed fist) is a distinctive feature of Yongchunquan



The main training hall of Chen Huashun's Yongchunquan school is still in Shunde district of Foshan.

The Wing Chun controversy

If Bruce Lee was practicing another wushu style, no one would ever know anything about Wing Chun!

Due to his popularity this school of nanquan (southern fist) was lucky enough to become the most known school of chinese wushu of our time. The tremendous impact of Bruce Lee highlighted his teacher Yip Man, and, of course, the legendary style which was the foundation of the martial skills of the late "Little Dragon".

After the death of Bruce thousands of schools of Wing Chun were opened in Asia, Europe and in the USA, mostly affiliated to Hong Kong masters, such as Leung Ting, William Cheung and others.

During more than 40 years this style of wushu evolved in the shade of Bruce Lee's master Yip Man (Ye Wen in putonghua), who was considered to be the spiritual heir and the last holder of a genuine Wing Chun tradition. In this



The wooden dummy became known due to the growing Wing Chun popularity. This training tool exists in many wushu schools, but it was Bruce Lee who made it known to the western World.



The Great grandson of Chen Huashun Chen Guoji (陈国基) is still the holder (堂门) of the non-altered lineage of Chen Huashun's Wing Chun.

All this is related to the fact that during a period of many years after the War the mainland China was behind the “bamboo curtain”, difficult to access and see the real situation with Wing Chun.

Let’s go a little bit deeper inside the recent history of this style of wushu and try to understand what we are dealing with.

way, the Wing Chun we see now is generally considered to be a form of “modern” wushu style, compact (only 3 basic forms) and easy to learn (because it does not have those difficult to master basic drills and low stances common to other wushu schools).

Furthermore, because of those “unique” features, according to certain “experts”, Wing Chun should be considered as an “independent” martial art, having nothing to do with the big family of other wushu styles.

Today this is the general perception of Wing Chun, which is, unfortunately, very far from the reality.



Walking down Shunde streets with Chen Guoji.



Students practicing the full form of Xiaolianquan (the first basic routine of Chen's tradition).

First of all, the real history of Wing Chun is rather short – what can be proven by written sources is only a small parcel of what we usually see in books and articles about Wing Chun. All the stories about Yan Yongchun (Yim Wingchun) - the famous woman who created it (according to other stories her name was Yan Sanniang) are only legends and, thus, impossible to verify. What follows are a few most common versions among many exposed in books about Wing Chun. Yǒngchūnquán (咏春拳 – singing Spring) is also called yǒngchūnquán (永春拳 - eternal Spring) or yongchunquan 咏春拳 (咏 is a simplified form of the character 詠). According to the tradition the birthplace of this wushu style is the “Eternal Spring” hall of Southern Shaolin temple (南少林永春堂). Thus, the old name is yǒngchūnquán (永春拳 “Eternal Spring boxing”).

Another saying states that this form of boxing was first taught by Yán Yǒngchūn - 严咏春 (Yim Wingchun in cantonese) that's why the two characters: 咏春 - yǒngchūn were taken as a name for this boxing. Yan Yongchun learnt this form of boxing from her father Yán Sì (严四) who was a master of Shaolin wushu from Fujian. Yet another story tells that Wing Chun was brought to the buddhist temple Guangxiaosi in Guandong by Shaolin monk Zhi Shan (至善 - Zhì Shàn).

However, this information can hardly be considered to be historically verifiably true as the real written story of Wing Chun only begins in the 18th century.

According to written sources, Yongchunquan was introduced to Guandong through the lineage of Liáng Zàn (梁赞 - 1826 – 1901). Liang Zan, who was a pharmacist called by local people “Mister Zan from Foshan” (佛山赞先生). During all his life he practiced wushu and was very effective in real fighting.

Chen Huashun (陈华顺 - 1849 - 1913) – a native of Shunde district (顺德 – a region of Foshan town in Guandong) has learned from Liang Zan martial skills, and after receiving



Ye Wen practicing with wooden dummy.

the tradition used to teach Yongchunquan professionally.

Later in his life, he greatly contributed to spread Yongchunquan tradition in Guandong region.

Ye Wen or Ye Jiwen (Yip Man - 叶问 or Yip Kai-man - 葉繼問 – 1892 - 1972) from Foshan joined Chen Huashun's school in his early years to seek instruction. But as Chen Huashun was already very old when Ye Wen became his student, Chen asked his senior student Wú Zhòngsù (Ng Chung-sok - 吳仲素) to continue to teach Ye Wen after he would die. Ye Wen thus, perfected his skills mostly under Chen Huashun's student Wú Zhòngsù and later, in Hong Kong, under the son of Liang Zan Liáng Bì (Leung Bik - 梁璧). According to Ye Wen himself, Wing Chun



Founder Liang Zan's Yongchunquan tradition lives today in Chen Huashun's lineage.

basics were taught to him by Wu Zhongsu and from Liang Bi he learned some sophisticated applications. In the early 1940s he moved to Xianggang (Hong Kong). Following the tradition he used to teach Yongchunquan professionally. During this period he was trying hard to simplify Yongchunquan carefully choosing the most effective techniques and increasing the training time to better master them. There is a possibility that those changes in "classic" Wing Chun were made by Ye Wen, because during a certain period of time he served as a policeman in Foshan, and did certainly make use of his martial skills in many real situations. Another reason was certainly the lack of space (sometimes Ye Wen was teaching in his small kitchen). For teaching the long stick according to Ye's students,

they used to go to the roofs of buildings to find more space for practice.

Ye Wen has cut down the number of routines in his version in comparison with Chen Huashun's lineage. Their number was reduced to 3 barehand forms, 2 weapons forms and one wooden dummy form - 6 altogether,



Lost in Ye Wen's tradition, Wing Chun Lion dance is still preserved in Chen Huashun's school.



*Enjoying pu'er tea
made by Chen Guoji
in a Garden of Ye
Wen's House in
Shunde (Foshan).*

meanwhile in Chen's "classic" tradition there were some 15 - 17 forms. Ye Wen changed even the content of routines – the first basic routine Xiaolianquan (小练拳 – Siulimkune – “small training fist”) was considerably shortened, all basic stances were cut, and the resulting form which was performed in one basic stance without walking was called Xiaoliantou (小练头 – Siulimtau – the head of small training”). According to Chen Guoji - the great grandson of Chen Huashun who is currently the holder of the Wing Chun tradition: “Ye Wen taught his students the “head”, but never disclosed to them the secrets of the “tail”.

Due to the lack of space, nearly all walking techniques of Wing Chun were not included by Ye Wen in his teaching program, and even the famous 黏手 - chī shǒu - “sticky hands” drills were performed mostly in still position without walking. Most of the weapons, such as spear play, short cudgel play, sword play disappeared from practice

and the result was still called Wing Chun. According to Chen Guoji, Ye Wen taught to his students only 15 - 20% of the techniques used in classic Yongchunquan!

Does that mean that Ye Wen's Wing Chun was poor? Certainly not! Ye is and was respected by both the Foshan and Xianggang martial arts community for his gongfu (kung fu - mastery of skills) and was one of the biggest masters of our time.

It would, however, be better to call his shortened, “modern” version of Wing Chun “Yeshi Yongchunquan” - “Ye-style Wing Chun”, because his style and that of his students has very little to do with authentic “classic” Yongchunquan as taught by both Liang Zan and Chen Huashun.

Nowadays, it is really important to use the unique opportunity we have to learn the “classic” Wing Chun to be able to better understand the roots of this unique system of wushu and preserve its tradition.

Latest Wushu News

THE FRENCH WUSHU GOES TO KARATE FEDERATION

The French Wushu Federation (FFWaemc, president Hugues DERIAZ) has lost its recognition by the State. According to the official document NOR: FVJV1417533A published by french government the 25th of July 2014 http://www.ffwushu.fr/sites/default/files/jo_25-07-2014.pdf, the sport of Wushu in France, incredibly enough, shall now be represented by French Karate Federation (FFKDA).

GRADING SYSTEM

The EWUF has been working with the Chinese Wushu Association (CWA) for more than 5 years to consolidate a technical standard that recognises the advancement of Wushu players on a more professional basis. You know these technical standard better as the "Grading Syllabus". The EWUF Technical Committee Chairman and the EWUF President have been in discussions with the CWA and Chinese Wushu Research Institute to move towards a single Wushu grading system in Europe that is also recognized and accepted by the CWA.

To date the EWUF are the only Continental Federation to promote a unified grading system. Bit by bit it has developed and is now a standard part of our recognition system to confirm the understanding of basic knowledge of judges and officials. It is our intention to continue working closely with the CWA to provide the best service to our members and we continue to hold discussions with the CWA.

EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

With most international sports the equipment used in competition must conform to a set standard or manufacturer, usually branded with the federations logo. This is done to ensure the greatest safety for the participants and to try and ensure fair play so that athlete's use the same standard of equipment. The EWUF are committed to ensuring the best for our athlete's and have started this process for the next European championships in 2015. The EWUF Congress decided that starting in 2015 all participating athlete's shall be required to wear

standardised shoes, which are available from the EWUF. These shoes have passed the Technical Committees requirements for technical suitability and ethical manufacturing.

Further items of equipment shall follow for sanda and taolu commencing in 2016.

REGIONAL PLAN

One of the greatest strengths of the EWUF is its foresight and forward planning. Back in the early 2000's Dimitris Athanassiou a member of the Executive Committee suggested the formation of a regional group in the Balkan area. The timing was not right. We were on the brink of pushing Wushu into the 2008 Olympics Games and our focus was on that. After the great disappointment of 2008 we then had to refocus and there were many area that had been put on hold. The idea of regional groups was not revisited until 2010 but this time the main interest was from the Baltic area. After discussions with many members in 2011 we were able to finalise the format for a regional federation in 2012 and the Baltic Regional Wushu Federation was born. At the same time we began looking at other possible areas that might benefit by having regional constellations. We identified two other Regions. The Nordic and the Balkans. Therefore in 2011 we also started talking to members about this and were surprised by some of the reactions. Our plans called for greater unification and in some areas this was not so easy. For the Nordic Region we held a successful meeting in 2012 and gained the agreement of the principle players in the region to proceed and inaugurated the Nordic Regional Wushu Federation. Our greatest surprise and disappointment has been the Balkan Region. In the Balkan the EWUF idea had been taken up by others spearheaded by the Turkish Wushu federation, we congratulate them for this initiative. However when the EWUF then came to formalise the official EWUF Regional federation the existing Balkan group decided to remain independent to the EWUF formal process. Therefore today we have two groups in the Region, one official, recognised by the EWUF the Balkan Regional Wushu Federation, the president is Georgi Denichin of Bulgaria. The other group the BWUF is outside and not recognised by the EWUF. We hope that the BWUF will disband and focus on joining the "Wushu One Family" philosophy.

European Wushu Championships

1st Taijiquan & Internal Wushu Styles Championships

15th European Wushu Championships

Bucharest, Romania – 4-11 may 2014

“Find a job you love and you’ll never work a day in your life” (*Confucius*) – this famous Chinese saying perfectly describes what these people have achieved together by organizing such important events. With 33 countries attending and roughly 1000 persons (officials, athletes, coaches, referees, observers) taking part in the above mentioned events, the success of it could only have come if people involved in organizing were passionate about it and were putting all their resources into making it possible. The work of our volunteers consisted mainly of welcoming the participating teams at the airport and escorting them to the designated hotel, helping complete each team’s registration and accommodate it, managing the transportation, preparing the opening and the awarding ceremonies, guiding all the teams and providing them with information if necessary and other organizational issues.

More than 30 volunteers have helped both the Romanian Martial Arts Federation and the European Wushu Federation to run a smooth event, among which we would like to mention:

Gratiela Aldea
Georgiana Arsene
Cristina Cafeluțe
Gabriel Cismaru
Radu Cojocaru
Marilena Constantinescu
Marius Dumitru
Florența Grama
Sonia Grindeanu
Csaba Lukacs
Corina Mincu
Mihai Negoescu
Dana Sfecla
Alina Sterian
Sandra Ungureanu
Constantin Vasilescu
Radu Zinca



The members of the team of Petru Grindeanu - chairman of the Organizing Committee did their best to assure the smooth running of both events.