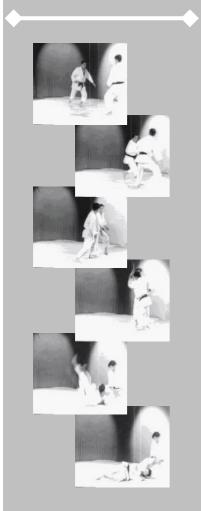


Newsletter

A PUBLICATION FOR CIRCULATION TO KIKUSUI KAI MEMBERS



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KUSUNOKI MASASHIGE (1294 – 1336)

At the top of this Newsletter are some Japanese Characters some of which are very old and have deep meaning. This article attempts to briefly explain these. The modern characters in white are simply "Kikusui Kai Aikido", the name of our group and relate to Kusunoki Masashige. He was a powerful symbol of loyalty to the Emperor Go-Daigo. His heroic defence of Chihaya castle became one of the most famous examples of bushido. Our Kikusui no Mon (the Kikusui Kai emblem) comes from his family crest, which consists of kiku – chrysanthemum and sui – water. A fuller explanation will be published later.

Written in black are older characters which form part of the battle flag of Kusunoki Masashige.

Injustice, Atrocity

Justice, Reason

Law

法

權

Authority, Power

Heaven, God

This is a teaching of the world order, which reads, "Atrocity cannot win over Justice. Justice cannot win over Law. Law cannot win over Authority. Authority cannot win over God." This teaching dates back to 13th century Japan and may be difficult to relate to modern times.

A simpler definition might read:

THROUGH TRUE SPIRIT WE STRIVE EXCELLENCE, WHICH PREVAILS OVER INJUSTICE AND INIQUITY.

SENIOR GRADING

SUNDAY 24th NOVEMBER, 2002 Bacon's College Sports Centre, Timber Pond Road, Rotherhithe, London SE16 1AG

Commencing at 1.00pm

BRING YOUR BAA LICENCE

The Sunday class at NEMCA (Mitcham) will run as usual. Afterwards (at 11.30am) everyone will head over to Rotherhithe. See side 2 for map.

THE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE

Aikido is the way to harmony of mind, body and spirit. But what if the body were unable to obey the mind? What if the mind were unable to communicate with the body?

Imagine being unable to move your legs. Imagine watching your hands move in ways you cannot control. Imagine not being able to communicate with your family or friends, not being able to say that you are tired or hungry.

Unfortunately there are thousands of children and young people in that situation and they need help, because they simply cannot help themselves.

Children Today is an organisation that seeks to provide that help by providing grants and funding for specially designed equipment that brings greater quality of life and independence to children with disabilities in the UK. But Children Today relies totally on voluntary support and donations.

As someone who is fit and fully able - although you might not completely agree with that statement, having seen the way I do Aikido - I feel I should use my good fortune to help others. I have, therefore, taken up "The Ultimate Challenge".

What is it? No, it's not taking on Adrian and John in no-holds barred free play for 24 hours, it's actually four challenges in one. First I have to go to Borneo (that's the easy bit). Once there, I have to:

Trek Mount Kinabalu -4100m above the rainforest

- Ride a mountain bike 180 kilometres through the Crocker Mountain Range
- Take a raft down the fast flowing turbulent rapids of the River Padas
- Scuba dive in the South China Sea

Easy, you might say! OK, then join me. If you don't actually feel like it right now, you can still take part. You see the whole point of this lunacy is to raise money for Children Today and so I need people to sponsor me. I am personally committed to raising a minimum of £2500 but I would really like to do a lot better than that. Please put yourself down for an enormously generous donation but also speak to other individuals or organisations you know to find out if they could support me too. For organisations there is the possibility of publicity in return for support.

I need your help here - almost as much as I need it in the Dojo! Please do whatever you can to help make this effort really worthwhile. By supporting Children Today you are giving disabled children and young people the chance to experience more freedom and a wider range of activities, giving them greater independence and quality of life.

Arigato gozaimasu,

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