



合氣道
菊水会

天權法理非

KIKUSUI KAI AIKIDO

February, 2004
Volume 3, Issue 2

Newsletter

A PUBLICATION
TO PROMOTE THE
TOMIKI SYSTEM
OF AIKIDO



KIKUSUI KAI
AIKIDO
P O Box 38032
London
SW19 4YB
ENGLAND

PHONE:
+44 (0)20 8947 7247

FAX:
+44 (0)20 8946 7947

EMAIL
Editor@
kikusui-kai-aikido.fsnet.co.uk

WEBSITE
www.
kikusui-kai.freeserve.co.uk

NEWSLETTERS ON LINE
www.kikusui-kai-aikido.
fsnet.co.uk/newsletters.htm

MICHAEL HYNES 6th Dan Aikido - LIES IN A COMA

Our thoughts and love go out to Mike Hynes and his family who after some period of illness now lies in a coma. Mike's Aikido lineage goes back and beyond those early days when Yamada Sensei first introduced him to Tomiki Aikido. He is seen here on the extreme left along with fellow Judoka & Aikidoka, Choi, John Waite, Terry Pierce and Don Bishop. Apologies for the picture quality, but it is some 40 years old!



BAA COACH AWARD COURSE

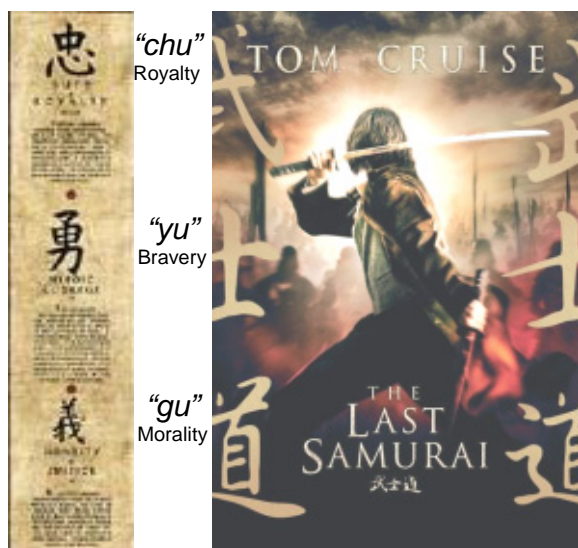
Congratulations to those fourteen teachers depicted below in passing their "Coach 1" Award. The course was run over two days, 10th & 11th January, at NEMCA in Mitcham, Surrey.

Adrian Tyndale, Tutored the group and was very impressed with the standard and enthusiasm of all involved. From the feedback questionnaires all enjoyed the course, some of which spilled over and is captured in the picture below.



DATES FOR 2004

07/08FEB04	AIKIDO COURSE EASTLEIGH – Contact Marco Crispini 07879 494755
15FEB04	ACCREDITATION COURSE FOR REFEREES – Contact Paul Wildish 020-8451 6194
16/7/9FEB04	AIKIDO COURSE SHEFFIELD – Contact Tony Russell-Ward 07801 927519
22FEB04	EC Meeting 1
14MAR04	BAA OPEN Competition - Brighton
9/10/11APR04	FOLKESTONE EASTER SCHOOL – Contact Joe McEnroe 07901 900432
24APR04	BAA Senior National Competition – Bradford
16MAY04	BAA AGM & EC Meeting 2
06JUN04	ACCREDITATION COURSE FOR JUDGES – Contact Paul Wildish 020-8451 6194
27JUN04	BAA National Dan Grading
18JUL04	EC Meeting 3
17OCT04	ACCREDITATION COURSE FOR REFEREES – Contact Paul Wildish 020-8451 6194



"rei"
Respect

"jin"
Charity
And
Righteousness

"sei"
Truth



THE LAST SAMURAI

Set in Japan's Meiji Restoration period, during the late 1870s, when the Emperor was regaining control of the country as well as trying to rapidly modernize its people who'd lived in isolation from the rest of the world for centuries. The Last Samurai tells the story of Captain Nathan Algren (Tom Cruise), an American Civil War hero and military officer hired by the Emperor of Japan to train the country's first army in the art of modern warfare. The juxtaposition of the old and new is glimpsed, as the government attempts to eradicate the ancient Samurai warrior class in preparation for more Westernized and trade-friendly policies. Algren finds himself unexpectedly affected by his encounters with the Samurai, which places him at the centre of a struggle between two eras and two worlds, with only his own sense of honour to guide him. Algren ends up being captured by the Samurai who are impressed by his fighting skills. Instead of beheading him they take him in and train them in their ways. Not a tremendously plausible scenario. But it works on screen.

The film is over two and a half hours long, yet it moves at a restless pace and never drags. The fight scenes are incredibly staged and coordinated. The location shots are mostly done in New Zealand with a cleverly composite Mount Fuji.



It is the recommendation of Yamada Sensei that everyone watches the recently released film, "The Last Samurai". He feels that there are certain aspects of this film that are appropriate for us all as Aikidoka.

"The Last Samurai" is set in 19th Century Japan. It describes a moment in Japanese history when the country's isolation was being replaced by modern western values and accomplishment. It details the tragic clash between such movements and the millennia-old code of bushido, the warriors' lifestyle that emphasises honour, strength, compassion, fierce loyalty, inner harmony, commitment to honouring their world and beliefs and a willingness to give their lives for what they know is right.

Originally, the term Samurai came from the verb, saburahu – meaning 'to serve', while later on in Japan's history, it took on the meaning of warrior or knight. Samurai or Bushi, viewed their life and death through a prismatic Code of Honour called Bushido – 'Way of the Warrior'. To a certain extent, it was not a way of life; it was life itself. Dedication, honour, loyalty, veracity, sacrifice, courage, bravery and a fearless spirit that accepted death was the rallying cry of these feudal knights. Add to these qualities a compassionate soul and you may just begin to understand inner and the outer world of the Samurai. The true Samurai does not fear to lose his life. This aspect can be seen in the film.

A good part of the story is set in a beautiful mountain village. The site of the Buddhist temple amid the mountain where a large golden Buddha is enshrined makes you in awe. The film treats Zen Buddhism and its relationship to the samurai way. It is often said that Bushido is closely related with Zen, this is a statement, which worries a lot of western people – as it leads to a widespread belief that Zen is somehow a warlike philosophy. It is not completely untrue to say that there is a relationship between Bushido and Zen but it is more appropriate to say that Bushido was profoundly influenced by Zen and that Zen, in order to survive during Japan's long feudal period, ended up developing certain techniques which appealed to the samurai. In one scene, someone tries to teach the American soldier (Tom Cruise) about proper fighting technique and tells

him that he is using "too many minds". To fight properly, he must have "no mind (mushin)". It is true that these meditative practices are of great use to the samurai to enhance their fighting technique and is proved in the story that this Zen idea of the development of mental and physical clarity helps you in anything you choose to do.

The film realises Director Edward Zwick's lifelong dream. Japanese culture and Japanese films have fascinated him since he was a teenager.

It is a Great Movie. Tom Cruise plays his part very well. There is definitely a degree of "Hollywood" licence used in making the film. They are portraying violent times, which cannot be treated in a trite way, but somehow the viewer cannot but feel a certain savouring of this violence. That said it is still a very entertaining and moving film. There are a couple of scenes that may prove of interest. Especially where the Japanese Lord offers his sword up to the emperor and in the final scene when Captain Nathan Algren does the same thing. It shows where part of our Kikusui Kai Mon originates.

There are many other small moments in the film, which act as a memory jog to those who have had many pleasant times in Japan.

One closing question:

"Is the Bushido spirit held onto in modern Japan?"

This is a question that is important in Japan today, and it is also important to the rest of the world.

BAA GRADING AT ROTHERHITHE

The day started at 9.00am with a class at Sutton Aikido until 11.00am. Adrian Tyndale supervised the class dealing mainly with pointers on basics and revision for the grading. It was a small class with 9 students attending. The group then travelled over to Rotherhithe where they settled in to a further practise session.



Most people had arrived by just after 12.30pm, so James Austin proceeded with the registration. Licences were checked and everyone was asked to fill in their Grading Sheets. The grading formally started on time at 13.00pm, with all 17 of the candidates demonstrating foot and then hand movements. The grading ran smoothly with each of the three examiners, Arthur Austin, Robert Austin & Adrian Tyndale having a batch of candidates to look at and record each technique. For the Brown belts only each examiner assessed each candidate. A Grading Format sheet was devised which was closely followed. This helped the examiners to keep to a structured timetable. It also kept the lower grades, with relatively less to do, as busy as possible throughout the day. As predicted, nerves got the better of some candidates. The reassurances from Arthur Austin, the Senior Examiner of the day, helped the students to settle. It was planned to finish at 16.00pm and it did in fact finish well before that.

At the end of the grading Arthur summarised his view of the day's performance to the candidates as a general comment. He praised them for their efforts and explained that it was a good grading to a high standard. The new grades were announced and congratulations given in the form of applause.

The BAA Licences were all signed sealed and returned to candidates. It was noted that still some students had not fully filled in their Licences, which should include a passport-sized picture. BAA Certificates were not requested by anyone on the day. It is assumed that the successful candidates will contact the Dan Grade Registrar direct. New Dan grades were Myles Glover and Peter Bacon-Darwin, congratulations to them and also Jim Macarthur who achieved his 2nd Dan.



The entire event was recorded and may be available on DVD from Tony Evangelou. Our thanks go to him for providing the venue.

THE ANCIENT SECRETS OF AIKIDO

By Senta Yamada



This is a publication written by the man who brought Tomiki Aikido to the United Kingdom back in 1959. Six years later he left London and some of his students went on to form the British Aikido Association. He is still teaching Aikido regularly around the world. At this moment he is building a group in Sri Lanka. Sales of this book will assist Yamada sensei's fight to help people less fortunate than most. The book can be purchased from BAA Promotions and will be available soon. Place your order now to reserve your copy.

£11.00 + carriage

The BBC is currently inviting applications for a new series, which will mark the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

If you are male, aged 18-25 and consider yourself to be strong and relatively fit, then they want to hear from you.

Please only apply if you are available from 14th Feb – 14th March 2004

If you are interested and please contact:

martin.conway@bbc.co.uk

Phone: 0208 752 4450

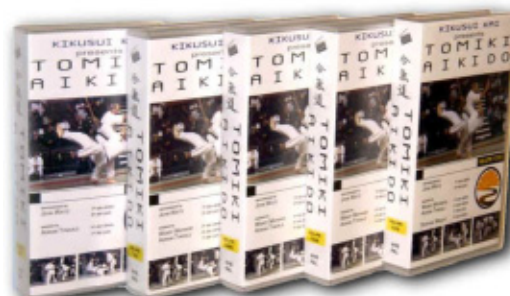
By Wednesday 11th February, 2004 for an application form.

**AIKIDO REGALIA**

BAA Gi Badges	£3.00
BAA Car Windscreen Stickers	£1.00
Kikusui Kai Gi Badges	£3.00
JAA Gi Badge & Blazer pin badge (pair)	£10.00
Gi with white belt	£40.00
Kikusui Kai Video's (each)	£15.00
Competitive Aikido Book & CD	£21.00
Aikido, Tradition and the Competitive Edge	£16.00
Understanding Shodokan Aikido	£8.00
Soft Tanto	£19.00
Hard Tanto	£15.00

Contact: John Grima

Phone: 020-8769 5255

KIKUSUI KAI VIDEOS

Contact:

John Grima

19 Stanley Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 2BH

Phone: 020-8769 5255

Fax: 020-8696 0946

Email:

john@kj-g.freemove.co.uk

KIKUSUI KAI (NEW ZEALAND)

Monday 20.00 – 21.00hrs Northcross Community Centre, 877 East Coast Bays Road, Browns Bay, New Zealand
Thursday 20.30 – 21.30hrs Judokwai Northshore, 68 Hillside Road, Glenfield, New Zealand

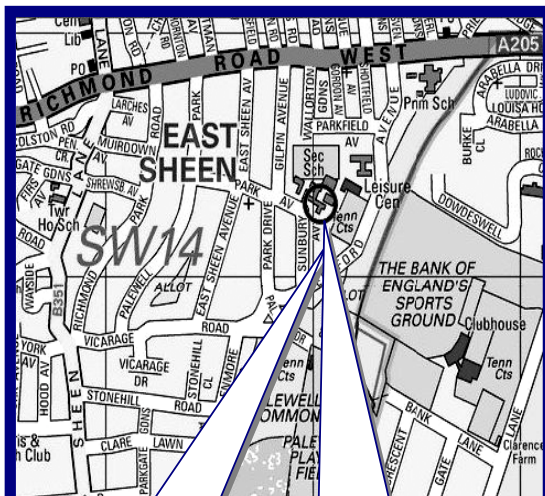
Contact: John Waite 7th Dan, Pepi Waite 4th Dan
 12, Mercury Lane, Mairangi Bay, North Shore, Auckland 1311, NEW ZEALAND

Website: <http://www.kikusuikai.org.uk>

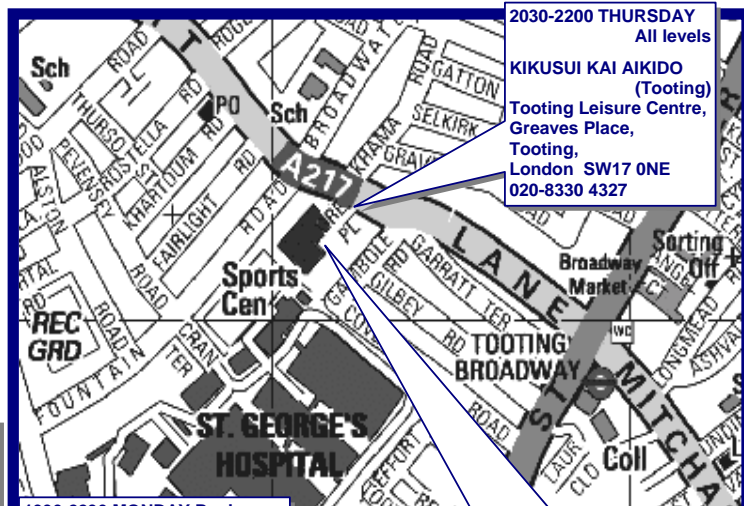
Email: johnandpepi@xtra.co.nz Mobile: +64(0)21-037-9508

Phone: +64(0)9-476 5448 Fax: +64(0)9-476 5449

CLASS TIMES, VENUES & LOCATIONS

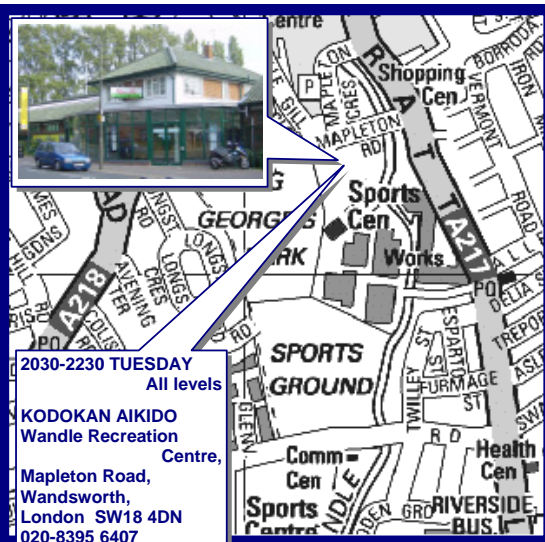


1700-1800 MONDAY
Family Aikido
SHEEN AIKIDO
Shene Sports & Fitness Centre,
Park Avenue, East Sheen,
London SW14 8RT
020-8878 7578 07860 248061

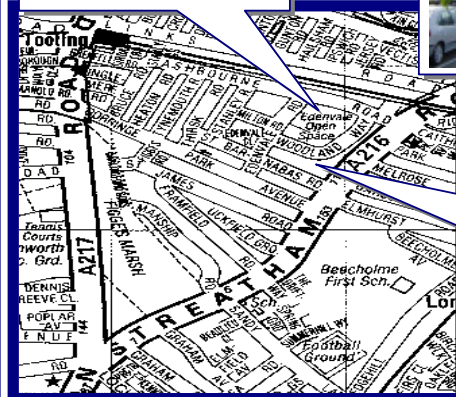


2030-2200 THURSDAY
All levels
KIKUSUI KAI AIKIDO
(Tooting)
Tooting Leisure Centre,
Greaves Place,
Tooting,
London SW17 0NE
020-8330 4327

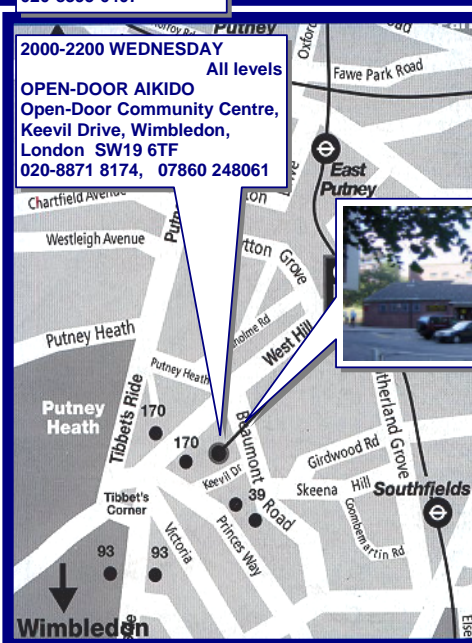
1930-2230 MONDAY Beginners
NEMCA AIKIDO
Edenvale Playspace,
Woodland Way, Mitcham,
Surrey CR4 2DZ
020-8769 5255 07860 248061



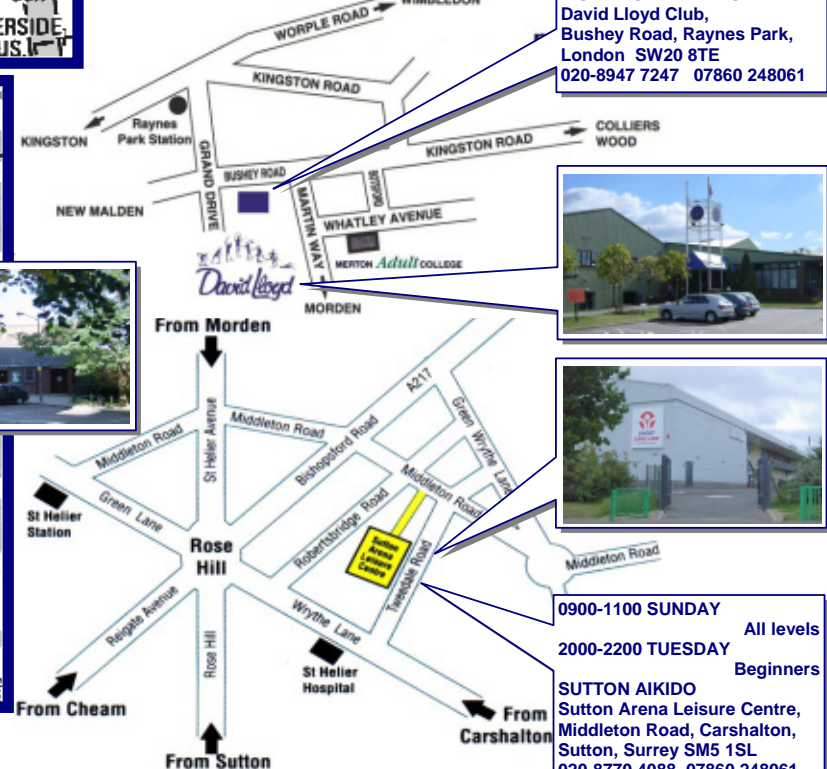
2030-2230 TUESDAY
All levels
KODOKAN AIKIDO
Wandle Recreation
Centre,
Mapleton Road,
Wandsworth,
London SW18 4DN
020-8395 6407



2100-2230 FRIDAY
Beginners
FIGHTING FIT AIKIDO
David Lloyd Club,
Bushey Road, Raynes Park,
London SW20 8TE
020-8947 7247 07860 248061



2000-2200 WEDNESDAY
All levels
OPEN-DOOR AIKIDO
Open-Door Community Centre,
Keevil Drive, Wimbledon,
London SW19 6TF
020-8871 8174, 07860 248061



0900-1100 SUNDAY
All levels
2000-2200 TUESDAY
Beginners
SUTTON AIKIDO
Sutton Arena Leisure Centre,
Middleton Road, Carshalton,
Sutton, Surrey SM5 1SL
020-8770 4088 07860 248061

