

Shizentai 4

Newsletter/Journal of the British Aikido Association June 2014



Editor's page

Flying visit from Shishida Sensei



Shishida Sensei and Paul Wildish

The BAA played host to a visit from Fumiaki Shishida Sensei, 8 Dan JAA, to the Winchester Spring School. Shishida Sensei is in England researching judo history at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge. Such an opportunity could not be missed and the BAA was happy to invite him for the weekend to share with him what we do. The continuation of our open dialogue with him and the JAA on the future direction of Tomiki Aikido is obviously very important to the BAA.

Shishida Sensei was particularly interested in Lesley Hepden Sensei's interpretation of the Koryu Dai Roku. This kata, Ohba Sensei's last completed koryu kata before his death, is without doubt the most difficult to perfect. Full of subtle balance breaking movements and often paced slowly, requiring maximum precision and control, it can cruelly point out the weak points in our mastery of technique. I am pleased to report that Shishida Sensei was favourably impressed by Lesley Hepden's interpretation and gave her fulsome praise in front of the class for her teaching.

A full report of the BAA's Spring School at Winchester will appear in our next issue, *Shizentai* 5.

Congratulations

Shizentai welcomes the recent promotion at this year's AGM of Arthur Austin, Terry Gibbs and Adrian Tyndale to the rank of 6 dan in the British Aikido Association.

As Bob Jones noted in his presentation speech, collectively Arthur, Terry and Adrian have put in over a 100 years of practice in Tomiki Aikido and given valuable service to the BAA.

Hopefully this will continue into the future, for despite knees and wrists not behaving as they once did, this trio continue to take to the tatami. Shizentai and the BAA wishes them a healthy and active aikido life for many more years to come.



Arthur Austin and Adrian Tyndale



Terry Gibbs and BAA Chairman Bob Jones

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Aikido in my life

Mike Smith

Fellow of the British Aikido Association

Mike Smith, veteran Fellow of the BAA and leading figure of our traditional aikido wing, charts the history of the BAA's involvement with the BAB. In this article he gives a robust defence of the BAA's decision to leave the BAB for a better future.

In February I reached the age of 80 years, and as you do, I have been reflecting a little about Aikido and what it has meant to me.

I started to study Aikido in early 1968, with a group called Yama Arashi, based in Brussels, and I had built up a group of ten clubs when we hit a problem! Our illustrious government led by Mr Harold Wilson chose to halve the value of the sterling which meant we would have to pay double fees, which many of my group could not afford. Brussels insisted on full fees, so my members decided to opt out of the Brussels led *Yama Arashi*, which was a shame, but that was that.

We continued to train as a non-affiliated group, but I was keen to connect in some way with other Aikido organisations. Here the hand of fate played a part by a visit from a student of Brian Eustace, he was working as a contractor with a local company and asked if he could attend? We made him welcome but he was puzzled by what we were doing, saying he had never seen this kind of Aikido before?

We explained who and what we were, and enjoyed having him visit. One day he said that he had talked about us to Brian which led to Brian inviting us to visit his club in Stratford upon Avon, which we very much enjoyed. The warmth of our welcome being no small part of our enjoyment. We invited Brian to come to one of our dojos to give us a day of what we learned was Tomiki's Aikido, he came without an Uke and was happy to use one of our gang in



Mike Smith teaching Traditional aikido at the BAA Skenfrith Spring School early 1990s

that role - we all enjoyed it and decided to ask him to come again in a year or so. During Brian's second visit he said he had talked with the BAA Executive and was authorised to invite us to bring our group into the Association. My members were very happy to do that, it gave us a "home" where the spirit of Aikido was much like our own. So that's how I arrived in the BAA and have never regretted it!!

Not long after becoming involved with the BAA the Association was asked by the Sports Council to attend a meeting along with Karate groups, Kendo, Kyudo and Ju Jutsu enthusiasts. The purpose was to tackle a scandalous situation where phonies were travelling up and down the motorways setting themselves up as experts in Karate and other arts, starting clubs, ripping

people off for fees, selling keikogi and then disappearing never to be seen again!!

This caused students and parents to complain to the gymnasias, local government, and MPs as this scandal grew. The government decided enough was enough and said these people must be stopped!!

The way forward for the Sports Council, given the problem to deal with, was to impose regulation which is what led to the meeting mentioned above, attended by the BAA Chairman, the late Jim Elkin, and myself, since the largest numbers of Aikido were "traditional" Aikido organisations. The plan we were being pretty much obliged to sign up to were to put in place a regulating body responsible for

the governance of all the arts under the title "The Martial Arts Commission" (MAC)

This was put in place with the BAA as the *only* recognised Aikido group, the expectation the Sports Council was that all aikido in the UK must be part of the BAA. Clearly that could never work, so we (the BAA) came up with an alternative scheme, similar to the British Karate Control board, by suggesting the creation of an "Aikido Control Board" which would preserve the autonomy of each organisation, and avoid acrimony between them and the BAA. This was accepted, but shortly after that the "MAC" collapsed because the different Karate groups could not find enough common ground to work together.

We did not get off the hook at this point, the Sports Council decreed that Aikido must be regulated and the "British Aikido Board" was imposed upon us!!!!

I had hoped that the BAB would prove a co-operative centre for the exchange and development of mutually beneficial ideas, which is what we wanted and expected in the BAA. WHY! Well - the BAA was founded as an association of autonomous clubs, with the right to an input of ideas at regional and national level and people belonged to the BAA because they chose, in freedom, to do so. I was innocent enough to believe that we could set up the BAB as an organisation with this same spirit - HOW WRONG I WAS!!!

We soon found ourselves under the heel of a bureaucracy that contained little of what I understood as harmony and we found ourselves being bound by increasing amounts of regulation and procedures which were going a long way from what I believed we had signed up to!

I felt a deep and abiding sense of shame that I had been a major player in landing us in this mess, and hoped that others in the BAA and elsewhere would come to realise the nature of the BAB and its failure to bring harmony throughout the UK's Aikido organisations.

Over the years the dissatisfaction with the BAB grew and they lost the confidence of the membership, many of whom were seeking alternative arrangements. Recent developments have brought about the resignation of the BAA, who seek National Governing Body status which is one of the paths we can follow in that the BAA and Shodokan are the only two organisations within the BAB who are sports orientated. However, even among the 'Traditional' groups there are defections, setting up their own independent groups, such as the JAC-



UK are doing, so I believe the BAB are "on the slide" and may indeed collapse, but that is no longer our concern!!

So what about us, the BAA? I have watched the developments that have taken place over the years, as an active member of the EC and later, and as an observer, which I am allowed to do as a Fellow of the BAA. In the years of my Chairmanship we still had a National Committee comprised of regional representatives and a few specialised posts, National Coach, Secretary, and Treasurer, and there were times when it was most difficult to obtain agreement of the people who were (quite properly) concerned with regional issues.

It is so much better now, and has been for some years, our current Chairman led the BAA to accept a new structure of governance in which every member of the Executive Committee has a job to do and holds a specific portfolio.

I am delighted with these recent developments, I was beginning to despair that the mess of bureaucracy would hang around our necks like a millstone, but now we are now as free as we were before we became entangled in the mess that the BAB created.

Now it is our turn!! We must give our National Executive the support and tenure they need to see the job through, developing Sport Aikido throughout the world and build the numbers of active Aikido players to the level that makes us attractive to the Olympic Movement. We can then offer ourselves as a Demonstration Sport, which is the way in!! In the late 70's I was placed in charge of the Olympic Archery Squad which I led up to the Moscow Olympics in 1980, so I have some understanding of what the Olympic Movement looks for and I shall prepare some notes on this for our Chairman and Executive to "put in the bank" for when the chance to demonstrate Sport Aikido comes along. I may have left the scene by then!!

The future is great, remember how good the London World Championships were, and celebrate the great successes achieved by our British Team in the recent World Championships in

Kawasaki in Japan!!

These are the fruits of our labours initiated by the drive and enthusiasm of Bob Jones our current Chairman, supported by the Squad Coaches, and your hard working Executive.

I believe that our Association is at the forefront of leadership of Sports Aikido both in Europe and the wider world. We have witnessed some changes in Japan which we need to adapt to and work along with, in the spirit of harmony and cooperation. This is something I have tried to foster in my own Aikido life, and I am very optimistic about the future of Sports Aikido in the world at large, and I see this with great satisfaction.

Some years ago I had the honour to be one of the first three Fellows to be appointed, along with Bill Lawrence and John Waite. I took this honour very seriously and tried to do my best to serve the BAA and if possible Aikido, as indeed I have done through all the years I have had the privilege to be a Member.

I urge you all to do the same

International News and the World Sport Aikido Federation (WSAF)

Bob Jones
Chairman BAA

The recent split between the JAA (Japan Aikido Association) and SAF (Shodokan Aikido Federation) is a global disaster for all Tomiki practitioners and competitors. The division, created and enacted in Japan, has been a noticeable direction of travel for over ten years and was an inevitable consequence, especially in the world of martial arts. It is a shame that we have not taken note and learned anything from the continued fractionalisation of traditional Aikido and the history of its development.

The result of this divide will be a progressive polarization in the type, style and approach of the Aikido taught in the name of Kenji Tomiki. With no checks and balances the Aikido emanating from Japan will become drastically different, as can already be evidenced from the subtle change in direction by the JAA.

In my opinion this polarization of style is more to do with “brand” identity than Aikido and very little to do with either Kenji Tomiki wishes or Sport.

At this moment in time choices appear simple but as history will demonstrate these divisions, like within traditional Aikido will continue. Indeed there is already established in many parts of the world “Shidokan” Aikido. Within the next twenty years the potential for further division is not only likely but a certainty unless individuals and associations make a stand against the politics of division.

The BAA therefore has explored five potential courses of action.

1. Join the JAA (TAIN) and focus on Toshu Randori and the re-invented Randori-no-Kata and Koryu no Kata, engage with the Shihan system and pay grading fees to the JAA.
2. Join the Shodokan and have a greater emphasis on Tanto Randori and the new wave Kata abandoning the Koryu no Kata and pay grading fees to the SAF.
3. Negotiate membership with one of the other Tomiki / Aiki Jitsu organizations, like Shidokan, that already exist in Japan and elsewhere.
4. Commit to the WSAF and maintain total independence from all attempting to provide an umbrella organization for competition that both the JAA and SAF members can attend. Work with both SAF and JAA to access technical information and menjo.
5. Do nothing

At this stage the BAA is committing to the fourth option with the USA, Russia, Brazil, Georgia and Czech Republic as the only potential structure that will enable a degree of unity whilst providing the opportunity to engage with the World Games and Olympic games movements.

The constitution of the WSAF looks to equal representation based on nation state membership and will

become a registered company in Switzerland. The structure is based on the potential for future world games and Olympic recognition. Independent nations will join and have the right to three voting members, representation by internal national associations being provided through elected members on a proportional representation basis. Individual associations cannot join in their own right. The WSAF is currently developing policies and guidelines including the world standardization of e.g. competition rules, regulations, refereeing and judging, doping, equity and child welfare.

WSAF officials will be elected from the board members with the Chair being rotated every year between the nations represented. Individual associations will play no part in the structure.

With regard to competition rules, recent JAA attempts to change the rules in Kawasaki have led to confusion and irritation, the revised rules in English make little sense and are of no help to prospective judges in making objective, accurate and informed decisions on performance. Change for change sake is not leading to better evaluations of performance or more efficient systems. The BAA will maintain its own independent approach for domestic competition following existing protocols for marking using the flag system in both embu and randori.

WSAF plans are already underway to establish a “World Champions League” and events to attract major sponsors and media coverage, a

WSAF branded website and international magazine.

With regard to the BAA, who attended the recent World Championships in Kawasaki City, the scheduled event prior to the division, it is now advocating attendance at the Australian SAF World Championships in 2015, as the WSAF is the co-sponsor of this event. Following this the 2017 world championship is scheduled to take place in the birthplace of Kenji Tomiki, with the WSAF offering to co-sponsor this JAA led event. Then in 2019 the WSAF will hold the first independent World Championships on neutral

ground in, Sheffield, England as the suggested venue. Both the JAA and SAF are being asked to co-sponsor and attend this event.

The only logical way forward is to establish an independent World Governing Body to undertake the organisation and delivery of international competition leaving technical developments to personal choice; both JAA and SAF instructors both have a lot to offer. If this can be established then the way will be open for future World Games and Olympic recognition. The BAA maintains an open approach and is not a one-style organization and is committed to

developing a broader understanding of Tomiki Aikido.

The majority of practitioners are not interested in politics or individuals, they want to practice, learn and compete with a variety of people and enjoy their Aikido. The WSAF has an initial single mission, to unite all Tomiki Aikido practitioners within one world championship on equal ground with fair and open judging.

The BAA hope that by taking this stance there will be an opportunity for Tomiki Aikido to move forward at least if not in harmony but pragmatically, providing a global platform for its development and enhancement.

British National Squad Managers Appointed

The BAA are proud to announce the appointment of **Laura Beardsmore** and **Paul Carr** as National Team Managers supported by **Natuley Smalle** as South of England Squad Development Officer.

Laura has been a BAA member of Wharfedale and Leeds Central clubs since 1999. Currently training at Leeds Central and Renshinkan Manchester she has been BAA Team member 2005, BAA Squad member 2007 to present

Laura's competitive career started within the junior ranks and soon progressed to the senior team with an impressive domestic and international record. The highlights listed below.

Embu

European 2010- Bronze Koryu Dai San
European 2012- Gold Open Kata

Randori accomplishments include

Individual:



Laura Beardsmore

World Championships- Bronze 2009, Gold 2011, Gold 2013
European Silver 2010, Silver 2012
British Champion 2008, 2010, 2011, 2013

Women's Team:

World Championships- Bronze 2005, Silver 2007, Silver 2009, Bronze 2011, Gold 2013
European Gold 2010, Gold 2012

Kongodantaisen

World Championships- Silver 2007, Gold 2011, Gold 2013

Paul has been a BAA member since 1993 and is currently a member of Leeds Central club. He has been a BAA Team member since 2001, BAA Squad member 2007-Present. Paul again started his Aikido competitive Career as a junior and successfully progressed to the senior ranks. His impressive record highlights include: -

International Record

Embu

World Championships, Randori no Kata, Bronze 2007
Open Kata, Bronze 2009, Gold 2011, Silver 2013
Dai San, Gold 2011, Bronze 2013

Randori

Men's Team:

World Championships, Gold 2007, Gold 2011, Silver 2013

Kongodantaisen

World Championships, Bronze 2003, Silver 2007, Gold 2011, Gold 2013

They follow in a fine tradition of highly successful team managers with an outstanding track record. The association is confident of their success and pledge their support to both them and the team moving forwards to Australia in 2015, their first official engagement.

Statement from Paul and Laura

In proposing to manage the BAA squad we are very much aware the role is as much facilitating as managing. Between us the experiences we have had over the last 9 years attending squad sessions together has put us in what we believe an ideal position to know exactly what the squad both expects and needs to progress.

We both have a strong professional and committed approach to both training and competition and feel that these messages are ones we can successfully apply at squad.

Laura's strengths unequivocally lie in free play and Paul as an all rounder we can identify as potential managers that to ensure progression of all elements to a squad members development we would look to introduce regular guest coaches from all aspects of the British Aikido Association and friends in order to enhance our own strengths. We believe by having other coaches and different perspectives would encourage more participation from members not necessarily planning to attend the international competition but wanting to support squad.

One of the key aspects we feel that the more competition minded squad members would benefit from is a more sports science and developmental approach to competition preparation. An aspect we would consider would be to include core skills into every squad session covering areas we believe to be key to success on an international level. These would include subjects such as sports nutrition, strength and conditioning, in depth competition preparation



Paul Carr

and recovery advice from specialists, strapping and video analysis of both embu and randori styles. The latter is an area players would also find hugely beneficial to personal progression as in both our careers we have had leaders and coaches who have taken an individual approach to helping improve our aikido.

It is our opinion that to move aikido forward towards an ultimate goal of Olympic consideration, we should strive to encourage both current and new members wanting to compete internationally that the mentality of being an elite athlete should be applied. This is no way an elitist approach but one of taking your position of representing the BAA seriously and showing our international friends what we can achieve.

We appreciate that the squad must run to a budget and also believe that the squad should do more to help fund themselves. With increasing aikido political strains we feel that their needs to be a more local access point for squad members to get information and motivation to attend squad sessions. By increasing training numbers, alongside an increase in financial return we would also spread the ethos of the BAA national squad. The development of a North and South regional BAA representative, appointed by the managers to encourage, promote and facilitate regular improved numbers from their regional clubs is a new proposal to help

engagement. We would consider a North v South fundraising event where by the squad members themselves organise and compete against each other to raise the most money that can subsidise training or reduce the wholesale cost of squad kits.

It is also going to be essential to the continued growth of the British Aikido Association national squad that there is more promotion and contact of senior members at youth development days. The transition from junior to senior level competition has been a consistent issue over the years and it is one we feel the squad should take more responsibility for and can actively improve its efforts in. If it would be possible, we think the running a youth development day and squad session concurrently in order to encourage future participation of juniors would be a great boost to the efforts already being made by the youth development officer. This would also highlight to members attending squad sessions their position as role models to the youth members of their clubs.

Laura and Paul



Congratulations to members of the BAA and Leeds Central Aikido Club for winning awards at the Leeds Sports Awards. Laura Beardsmore received the award for best sportswoman of the year, Mick Pratt and Danielle Jones won the outstanding achievement to sport award and the BAA women's team won non-professional sporting team of the year! What a night!! Well done everyone!

Aikido Kata: A demonstration according to Shu Ha Ri

Eddy Wolput

Shu Ha Ri is a concept in budo, the martial arts (or other forms of 'do' or ways of cultural value). It describes the learning process of a discipline, divided into three distinct stages. In a lecture given by Daigo, a senior judoka in 2008, he explained the progression from learning the basic form through to a deeper more profound understanding of kata by using this concept.

Shu: the 1st stage – The study of a teacher's lesson. The stage of imitation.

Ha: the 2nd stage – The meaning of the kata is investigated deeply.

Ri: the 3rd stage – The kata is practised freely and spontaneously.

The study of kata is a process to connect mental and physical disciplines into a harmonious whole. Some important concepts that must be considered for this study are:

- The harmony between *in* and *yo* (*yin* and *yang*) and the harmony between *ju* (flexibility) and *go* (strength).
- The commitment of uke to attack tori.
- The optimisation of physical and mental components by tori.

Kata as a competitive and grading tool, but....or....

By using kata as a tool for competition and grading, we stimulate people to study kata. Without these tools Tomiki Aikido will degenerate into an "only randori" activity. But using kata only for competition and grading will not bring forward the real value of kata. The sportification of kata will create a form of kata display according the rules set by the organization. Kata as a tool for grading must show a progression from basic performance to deep understanding according the level of

*Eddy Wolput
Shihan and
Yoshiomi
Inoue Sensei
of the JAA.*



grading. The demonstration of kata cannot be a "carbon copy" required by the Rule Book. Kata has to be a tool for enhanced insight or personal growth. The purpose of Kata training is not created to become a ceremonial kata demonstration, but are created to support the correct learning and practice of the principles. When we see kata demonstration (for competition or grading) we often see a choreographed demonstration but almost never a true practice of techniques and principles. Sometimes kata is done with a lot of ceremonial performance, but the true meaning of kata is for the improvement of understanding. It is also useful to enhance one's reflexes, flexibility, coordination and focus. Kata should always be studied for their educational content and not just to "look good". The study of kata on a fundamental level (*Shu*); we will look at the logical order of the techniques and movements, the correct spirit (focus, commitment)

and a correct application of the body mechanics. We can say this is 1st-2nd-3rd dan level. When someone reaches the level of 3rd dan, the practitioner understands on a basic level the concepts of *shizentai no ri*, *kuzushi no ri* and *ju no ri*. He can demonstrate the mechanics of the 6 *Koryu no kata*, although it is not necessary to know the sequence by heart of all the *koryu*. On a more advanced level we will look at the optimisation of the physical and mental components. This study starts around 4th dan and above. The practitioner deepens the study of *shizentai no ri*, *kuzushi no ri* and *ju no ri*. He can explain and demonstrate the relationship between the 3 concepts. The integration of these concepts can be seen in the demonstration of the kata.

John Waite: Tomiki Aikido Pioneer - a tribute

Paul Wildish



John Waite Sensei and his wife Pepi practising in their New Zealand dojo



John Waite with his 8 Dan menjo

It is with great sadness that we report the death of John Waite Sensei, 8 dan JAA, 7 dan BAA and 5 dan BJA/NZJF. A man of many achievements, John Waite Sensei was one of the founding figures of the British Aikido Association and a pioneer of Tomiki Aikido in the UK.

He began his budo career in 1951 after he finished his National Service, when he and his brother joined the South London Judo Society. The club located in Kennington, South London and counting judo luminaries such as Eric Dominy among its co-founders, was a leading centre for the development of judo 'south of the river'. The club was later renamed, the London Judo Society and became more popularly known by judoka as the 'LJS'.

The LJS provided rich instruction and John benefitted from great teachers such as Kenshiro Abbe (8 dan judo, 6 dan aikido, and 6 dan kendo) and in 1959 from Senta Yamada (6 dan judo, 6 dan aikido). Although aikido was to become his principal passion this never completely eclipsed his love of judo and he kept practising judo through his life. John saw aikido

and judo as two facets of the same principle, 'ju no ri', how to overcome an opponent through using his own strength and force against him. John made continual progress through the grades gaining his 1 dan in 1954 and rising to the rank of 5 dan in the mid 1980s.

In 1959 Senta Yamada arrived in the UK to take up an appointment as resident judo instructor at the LJS. Yamada had a similar grounding in judo and aikido as had Tomiki himself, first learning judo under the direction of its founder Jigoro Kano, then at Kano's suggestion enrolling as an uchi deshi in Morihei Ueshiba's own dojo, in Wakayama-ken, to learn aikido. Later Yamada was to meet and study with Kenji Tomiki who impressed him with his vision of aikido closely matching the principles and practice of judo, a vision of aikido Yamada was to bring with him to the UK.

John's first memorable encounter with Yamada sensei, was shortly after his arrival in the UK. Eric Dominy asked John to uke for Yamada at the LJS's annual exhibition held in London's Royal

Albert Hall. This was a prestigious event and attracted an audience that would surprise us today, indeed I (the author) remember being taken to this event in the early 1960s and being thrilled by the displays. Yamada and John, after some swift tuition, put on a display of Tomiki Aikido techniques providing the first demonstration of Kenji Tomiki's system to be seen in the UK.



Senta Yamada & John Waite



Showing Yamada the sights - an aikido outing to Stonehenge (from L to R):
Senta Yamada, Archie Bush, Rex Benlow, John Gay and John Waite

John spent a gruelling week prior to the display, practising from 10 am to 1 pm every day to perfect the performance. As John was to tell me (the author) later in his life it was surely "the most intensive beginner's course anyone ever did!" The display involved John flying through the air and break-falling forty times in sixteen minutes; nerve wracking for any 'beginner' in front of such a large audience.

The effort Yamada and John put into the display was to prove fruitful, for the interest shown in this first Tomiki Aikido outing, led to an aikido class be opened at the LJS in the same year. Naturally at first the aikido class attracted senior judo kyu and dan grades at the LJS and a small nucleus of twenty to thirty people began to learn the 'new' art. Among the first crop of Yamada's students were Archie Bush, Rex Benlow, John Gay, John Wilkinson and of course, John Waite. Later to be joined also by John's friend, Alex Macintosh, who would go on to co-author with Senta Yamada, the 'Principles and Practice of Aikido' in 1966.

During these years John and Senta Yamada forged a lasting relationship, not only as teacher and student, but as close friends. Throughout John's aikido career Senta Yamada was the model and inspiration for his own teaching and budo development.

In the early 1960's Senta Yamada set up his own dojo in North London and John and a number of other students from the LJS moved with him. From then until 1965 John and his fellow students were able to continue their judo and aikido practice directly from Senta Yamada. Yamada sensei had Kenji Tomiki's support and approval for the spread of Tomiki Aikido to the UK and recognised him as "one of my original pupils" who had "studied aikido deeply" and was a "highly respected instructor". Throughout Yamada's time in the UK, John had been a committed student and supporter his efforts, which was recognised in 1961 when John was awarded his first dan, followed by his second dan in 1964 and third dan in 1966.

In 1965 Senta Yamada decided it was time to return to Japan and three of his senior students took over the running of the dojo, Peter Martin, Cliff Baker-Brown and John Waite. Peter and Cliff became responsible for the judo training, while John who had judo teaching commitments elsewhere, provided the aikido instruction. However, their efforts could not sustain the financial costs to support the dojo and they reluctantly had to close. John and his partners, despite this setback, continued to teach judo and aikido in other venues in London.

Before the foundation of the BAA, all dan grades were awarded by Senta

Yamada and after his departure on the recommendation of John Waite "who is the senior of all dan grades". So notes a report by Jim Elkin (then BAA General Secretary) in 'Official Notes' in 'Judo' magazine February/March 1974.

After Yamada's departure John and his fellow students decided to carry forward Tomiki Aikido in the UK by founding the British Aikido Association in 1966. In 1967 John (3 dan) and his fellow LJS colleague John Wilkinson (2 dan) were appointed BAA senior coaches at the same time as Tsunemitsu Naito, 3 dan, was named chief instructor and Hiroaki Kogure, 4 dan, designated the BAA's technical adviser. In the BAA records it is noted that 'JFW and JW' are responsible to the Coaching & Technical Committee on all matters regarding coaching, promotion syllabus and award schemes.

Both Naito and Kogure sensei(s) were instrumental in helping the two 'Johns' to shape the technical direction of the BAA in its early years. This close partnership with the JAA was to be continued by other Japanese sensei such as Ehara, Inoue and Haba, who all made long stays in England, contributing to the development of the BAA.

The friendships and collaborations forged at this time made John a supporter and firm friend of the JAA all his life, ultimately to be recognised for his contribution to aikido with his being named Shihan by the Shidokan division of the JAA in 2006 and then awarded JAA 8 dan in 2010.

Despite his commitment to Tomiki Aikido, John also found time to train as a Craft and Design Technology teacher at London University, qualifying in 1969 and teaching until 1972. That was the day job, spare time saw him active in the realm of judo as British Judo Association Area coach for the South of England, which included assisting clubs in Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Hampshire and the Channel Islands.

In 1985 John returned to a higher profile role in the BAA, when he became General Secretary, serving

until 1988. In 1999 the BAA recognised his great contribution to Tomiki Aikido in the UK with the award of 'Fellow of the Association' and promotion to 7 dan BAA. Far from retiring from the scene John continued to serve the BAA as Chairman of the Southern Region and as its technical coordinator from 2001 until 2002.

Since the departure of his mentor and teacher Senta Yamada to Japan in 1965, the two men had only communicated by post and telephone maintaining their friendship at long distance. Finally after a gap of 17 years they were to meet again face to face when John and his wife Pepi were able to visit him in Japan and renew their old alliance. From that time forward John sponsored, through his Kikusui Kai family of clubs, many visits to the UK by Yamada sensei, who taught his

unique blend of judo and aikido to many BAA aikidoka.

In October 2002, John and Pepi decided to move to New Zealand where Pepi had prospects of promoting her career. Despite his retirement and his advancing years John was 'up for it' and entered into the judo and aikido scene in New Zealand with relish, founding with Pepe a Kikusui Kai club in the Northcross Community Centre near their home in Mairangi Bay, Auckland.

In 2004, Waite and his wife organised the aikido section of the Tran Tasman Masters Games, and continued to teach twice a week in Browns Bay until John became ill with cancer. Right to the last John maintained an enthusiasm for aikido and had planned to take his students

to the International Competition in Kawasaki in 2013.

John was an important figure in the history of the BAA and Tomiki Aikido in the UK. As the first English Tomiki Aikido dan grade he has taught many aikidoka over the years, this legacy is continued by his students such as Robert and Arthur Austin, and Adrian Tyndale who now maintain the spirit of the Kikusui Kai family within the BAA. Our respects go to Pepi, his family and his students for their loss in the sure knowledge that he will be remembered with affection for living a long and distinguished 'aikido life'.



Senta Yamada & John Waite

BAA Summer School 2014

Friday 25th to Sunday 27th July 2014
for Juniors and Seniors



Konaka Sensei
5th Dan JAA

St Mary's School, Bradford Road, Menston,
Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 6AE
Daily: 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Coaches will include:-

**Konaka San 5th Dan : Bob Jones 7th Dan
: V Fairchild 5th Dan**

Sessions include, Goshin-ho, Koryu-no-Kata, and free practice (participants are reminded to bring, bokken, jo and tanto).

Grading:

Both junior and senior Kyu and Dan Grading for BAA members on Sunday from 1.30 p.m.
(Dan Grading fee: £15.00)

For more information, and to pre-register, please contact the school organiser:

Mr B Jones Tel 01943 863857:
jonesbinw@btinternet.com

Please ensure you sign the register on the day cheques to be made payable to:

British Aikido Association

Participants are asked to bring their record book and proof of insurance

Open to BAA and non BAA members

Course Fees

Adults BAA member £20.00 per day

Adults non-BAA member £30.00 per day

Under 18s BAA member £15.00 per day

Under 18s non BAA member £20.00 per day

Rising Dawn 2014

Queen's University Belfast 26 & 27 April

Keith Mc Clean



This was the 3rd Rising Dawn Seminar to be held in Ireland. There were a few changes this year. The venue changed to Queens University PEC as the event was hosted by Queens University Club and we had a dedicated matted area for Youth students. The venue has a permanent matted area that was appreciated by all as we did not have to take the mats out or put them away. The committee from Queens University Club were well organised and the weekend went off without a hitch.

The line up of instructors was confirmed as Bob Jones 7 Dan BAA, Satoru Tsuchiya 6 Dan (Shodokan) and Vanda Fairchild 5 Dan BAA. As a result the turnout was excellent with 57 people attending the event. This was the first time that Tsuchiya Sensei visited Ireland and it was great to see that both all Irish affiliated BAA clubs and Shodokan clubs were represented at the seminar.

Once the registration, welcome & introductions and safety briefing were out of the way our Vanda Fairchild

Sensei took everyone through a rigorous warm up for twenty minutes.

After the warm up, the Youth students headed off to their venue with Bob Jones Sensei where he introduced them to the idea of Open Kata. By all accounts our young students had a great time during this session with Bob. They were dying to show me the new kata's that they had created.

Our first session began immediately after the warm up with Vanda explaining the principles and ideas

underpinning the tanto kaeshi waza. In doing so all students were able to get a comprehensive understanding of the mechanics of the kaeshi waza. She then demonstrated the kata as a whole and we managed to get through the first two techniques by the end of the session. There was a great buzz in the hall as people got the opportunity to train with old friends and to also make some new ones. Vanda emphasised the fact that Aikido is a social martial art and ensured we all introduced ourselves before training together. I was afraid I would forget my partner's name and have to do some push ups!!

After a short break Tsuchiya Sensei taught some applications and variations of techniques from the Goshin Ho. The content centred on using a relaxed wrist and arm to make the techniques more effective, Tsuchiya Sensei explained the importance of always turning your wrist just before it is grabbed in order to generate torque and in doing so, this makes the technique more effective. He also spoke about the importance of the tandoku undo/tegatana dosa and their relevance throughout the syllabus.

Whilst the adults were training with Tsuchiya Sensei, the Youth students were being coached by Vanda Fairchild Sensei. She explained the rules of competition tanto tai sabaki and allowed the students to get plenty of practice as tanto and toshu as well as refereeing bouts.

It was lunch time before we knew it. Time does fly when you are having fun. We all re-hydrated, ate some food and enjoyed some laughs during the break. We were back on the mats at 14:00 and rearing to go again.

Bob Jones Sensei took the adult class for a very interesting lesson on understanding the differences between the different Koryu No Kata. He used the story of how in Japan, the wrapping of the present is more important than the present itself, and that sometimes the ornate wrapping is the present as the box may be empty. It was at this point that I checked with the organising committee that they had wrapped the

instructors' gifts with care! As always, Bob Jones Sensei had his audience captivated as he explained and demonstrated the different concepts among the Kata.

Poor Vanda Fairchild Sensei was being kept busy again, this time teaching our Youth students about Ninin Dori. Again, they all loved it. This was the last session of the day for our Youth students.

The last two adult sessions were Tsuchiya Sensei continuing with Goshin Ho again followed by Vanda Fairchild Sensei continuing with the Tanto Kaeshi Waza. Mat activity halted at 16:30.

Bob Jones Sensei then made a special presentation to Karl Higgins Sensei. Karl received his 5 Dan through the meritorious system for his dedication and commitment to promoting and teaching the art of Tomiki Aikido in Ireland over the past 38 years. The teaching for the day was finished and we ended the session with a formal bow.

There was short break followed by a Youth & Adult BAA grading. All candidates performed well on the day and they were delighted when all of their hard work and dedication paid off. I was extremely proud of our Youth students as Bob, Tsuchiya & Vanda commented on their enthusiasm, their work ethic and their technical ability. In fact, all of the adults were highly impressed by their standard. I am hoping that as a result of this, more clubs will begin teaching kids as they are the future of the Art.

After a hard days training, and the stress of a grading for some, we headed out for some well deserved rest and relaxation. The venue for the meal was fantastic and there was a great atmosphere. We were all one big happy Aiki Family.

A second full days training started again at 10:00am, with Tsuchiya Sensei teaching some bokken exercises and techniques. He demonstrated the tegatana dosa and their relationship to the bokken and then he continued onto demonstrate some techniques from the Tachi Tai Tachi of the Koryu Dai San. This

session was appreciated by all as there were no break falls. We were all feeling the effects of the previous day. (and for some – the previous night). This was a very enjoyable session and something slightly different to start the day.

After a short break Bob Jones Sensei demonstrated some techniques. Everyone had to decide if they were Judo techniques or Aikido techniques or both. This exercise led to lots of debating among pairs. The idea of the lesson was to show the connection between both arts. In the end, the techniques were all from a Judo kata that was developed by Kenji Tomiki. Bob Jones Sensei's excellent technical direction and wealth of knowledge no doubt improved every ones understanding of the origins of Tomiki Aikido and its relationship to Judo.

The next two sections were taught by Vanda Fairchild Sensei & Tsuchiya Sensei. They both continued on from the themes of the previous sessions, Vanda with the Kaeshi Waza and Tsuchiya with Goshin Ho.

The final session was taught by Bob Jones Sensei. It focused on free play and the concepts that underpin good free play practice. Although everyone was tired at this point there was still a lot of energy and enthusiasm on the mats. Who does not like flipping their friends on a Sunday afternoon?

Unfortunately, the weekend had to come to an end. We finished up with a formal bow and a few words.

I would like to sincerely thank our guest instructors who gave their expertise, knowledge & time freely and to the Committee of Queens University Club who gave up their weekend and made the event possible. We had so many laughs, made some new friends and learned an awful lot of Aikido. The hard part is trying to remember it all.

I will have a very difficult job trying to repeat the success of the event next April. We will be back in Dublin for Rising Dawn 2015 and I can't wait!



4th **ETAN** European Championships

Antwerp - April 2014



The holiday weekend of the 19th and 20th April 2014, brought together players and teams from all over Europe to compete in the 4th European Tomiki Aikido Network, European Championships in Antwerp, Belgium.

This year's championship was hosted by Eddy Wolput and his Shobukai club members, who did a superb job of organisation to facilitate the smooth running of the competition.

The event was staged in the unusual surroundings of the



Zuiderpershuis. Once a power house for the old dockland area of Antwerp, it has now been converted into community arts and performance space. The Zuiderpershuis is located in Antwerp's burgeoning 'Het Zuid', known for its nightlife, trendy cafes, restaurants, shops, museums and galleries.

The layout of Zuiderpershuis gave an unusual theatrical backdrop to proceedings, with the audience looking down from banked seating on to the 'tatami' stage where the aikido drama unfolded in front of them.

Aikidoka from Belgium, Ireland, Georgia, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Russia, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and the UK made the journey to Antwerp to take part. For the first time this list nations included France, with the entry of a team from Shodokan Paris. I think everyone was pleased that this was an example of a non-sectarian spirit

of open competition. The French teams first outing at an ETAN event bore fruit for team member Davide

[Continued on page 21](#)





Ninin Dori

<u>team</u>	<u>score</u>
Tanseikan/Scothall	338 Gold
Shobukai A	326 Silver
Tanseikan	319 Bronze
Tbilisi	305
Kharkiv	304
Shobukai C	295
Thanet B	283
Shobukai B	277
Thanet A	269

Toshu Randori no Kata

<u>team</u>	<u>score</u>
Tbilisi	336 Gold
Shobukai D	321 Silver
Thanet	304 Bronze
Bex	300
Shodokan Scotland	291
Shobukai A	281
Tallagh	260
Shobukai B	228
Shobukai C	219

Tanto Randori no Kata

<u>team</u>	<u>score</u>
Tanseikan	393 Gold
Tbilisi	380 Silver
Tanseikan B	368 Bronze
Shobukai	361
Leeds University	357
Scothall	350
Tallagh	348
Kharkiv	348
Thanet	339
Thanet B	321



Koryu no Kata

<u>team</u>	<u>score</u>
Tanseikan	352 Gold (588)
Shobukai A	352 Silver (576)
Tbilisi	346 Bronze
Leeds University	330
Tanseikan B	329
Kharkiv	320
Scothall	315
Shobukai B	308
Thanet B	306
Tallagh	305
Leeds University B	304
Leiden	299
Thanet D	298
Thanet	286
Shobukai C	285
Tallagh B	272
Thanet C	266

Tanto Randori Men Individual

<u>competitor</u>	<u>place</u>
Yuri Gluschenko (ITAF-Russia)	Gold
Scott Pearce (Tanseikan - UK)	Silver
Davide de Lima (Shodokan Paris - France)	Bronze

Tanto Randori Women Individual

<u>competitor</u>	<u>place</u>
Gitte Wolput (Shobukai - Belgium)	Gold
Natuley Smalle (Tanseikan - UK)	Silver
Yana Kovrihina (Kharkiv - Ukraine)	Bronze

Team Tanto Randori

<u>team</u>	<u>place</u>
Tanseikan (UK)	Gold
Tbilisi (Georgia)	Silver
Shobukai (Belgium)	Bronze



Hideo Ohba

the aikido of 'quiet taste' part 2

Paul Wildish



Kenji Tomiki & Hideo Ohba

In this issue we relate Ohba's time in Manchuria during a formative period in the development of Kenji Tomiki's thought and practice. It was during those years spent in Manchuria that the foundation of Tomiki's competitive aikido was determined.

With Tomiki in Manchuria

1940 found Hideo Ohba making plans to join Kenji Tomiki at the National Kenkoku University in Shinkyō, Manchuria. Manchuria was at this time a puppet state under Japanese occupation and many institutions had been set up and staffed with Japanese teachers, not least for judo, kendo and other martial disciplines. In 1933, after his demobilisation from the army Ohba had taught judo as Tomiki's assistant at Kakunodate Middle School and regarded him with great respect for his budo and character. Plans called for him to join Tomiki in the following year.

Tomiki had left Kakunodate Middle School in 1934 to go to Tokyo so that he could train closely in 'Aikibudo' under the direct instruction of Ueshiba Sensei. In 1936, Tomiki left Japan to take advantage of opportunities in Manchuria, first as a part time teacher at Daidogakuin University, then in 1938 as an Assistant Professor at the new Manchurian Kenkoku University. During this time he also taught Aikibudo as part of the regular curriculum and gave lectures on Bugaku.

Ohba had been very busy training in judo since Tomiki's departure from Kakunodate. Apart from his wartime service in the army, Ohba had been teaching and training in judo with great intensity. On Saturdays he would travel from Akita to Tokyo to attend the Kodokan, receiving a prize for regular attendance on nine occasions. He had also become proficient in many judo forms obtaining certification in national physical education forms, throwing forms, soft forms and kime no kata or decisive forms among others. This had culminated in his being awarded a licence to teach judo in high schools in February 1940. This rigorous and committed application to judo training was to serve him well in the challenges he was to meet when he arrived in April 1941 to work alongside Kenji Tomiki in Manchuria.

Tomiki had valued Ohba's commitment as both student and assistant at Kakunodate Middle School and had arranged not only his judo teaching post at Kenkoku University but also as a judo instructor at the Shimbuden of the



Ohba: *gyakugamae-ate*



Ohba: *shomen-ate*

Shinkyō Grand Martial Arts Dojo. Such was his confidence in Ohba, that he also found additional posts for him with the Shinkyō Metropolitan Police, the Shinkyō Imperial Household Agency, the Military Police Instructional Unit, the Japanese Officers club (teaching on Sundays) and at the Shinkyō Industrial Bank. Tomiki, despite his more than busy workload at Daidogakuin and Kenkoku had also been teaching aikido at the Manchuria Martial Arts Association, the Manchurian Military Forces HQ and the Imperial Household Agency of the former Qing Emperor of China, Puyi, now installed as the

Emperor of Manchuria (Manchkuo) under the protection of the Japanese forces. All these posts were prestigious appointments, which Tomiki gradually entrusted to Ohba, together with posts at other public and private institutions where he had been engaged.

Although Ohba had gone to Manchuria primarily to teach judo, he did not neglect his studies in aikido under the tutelage of Tomiki. In 1942 his efforts were rewarded with promotion to fifth dan in Tenshin-ryu Aikido from Ueshiba's dojo in Shinjuku, Tokyo. Following this promotion he also began to teach aikido to the Shinkyō Metropolitan Police. In 1943 he was promoted to sixth dan aikido. The previous year he had acted as Ueshiba's uke for a demonstration performed at the budo tournament held in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the foundation of Manchuria (Manchukuo) by the Japanese.

A Budo Experience

While in Manchuria, teaching at Kenkoku University and the Shimbuden, Ohba came into contact with other budo teachers of great skill and reputation. It was an opportunity not to be missed and he began to study other martial arts in addition to judo and aikido, notably kendo, iaido and naginata-do. Kendo was the first art he chose, as aikido included *shinken-shirahadori* (literally: real blade-white blade taking) in its repertoire and an understanding of sword forms would deepen his knowledge. Always a shy man, an introduction to a master of Kendo, Tsunekichi Koga sensei, was arranged for Ohba by Takeuchi, a fellow staff member at the Shimbuden. Koga taught him well and Ohba was a diligent and adept pupil resulting in a very rapid promotion to fourth dan. However that was not enough for him and he asked Takeuchi for an introduction to Setsuko Yamada, a young woman in her 20s who taught Naginata. The naginata (a pole

arm) was considered to be the primary weapon of samurai women and consequently the majority of its greatest exponents and teachers were women. Despite his eagerness to learn it took much effort for Ohba to overcome his shyness in front of Yamada sensei, who scolded him when he was too embarrassed to look her in the eyes. Despite this emotional reserve he prospered under her guidance and went on to achieve a third dan.

His other major interest at this time was iaido, the art of drawing and cutting with the Japanese sword. Once again the stalwart Takeuchi



Tomiki & Ohba: shomen-ate

provided the introduction and Ohba became a student of Goro Inoue. Inoue was the branch manager of a marine fire insurance company and not a professional budo instructor, nevertheless he was very skilled and practiced alone every morning at the Shimbuden, between 6 and 7 am. Goro took on Hideo as his student and taught him Omori-ryu and Hasegawa-ryu among others. As Ohba's teaching routine often meant he was training until midnight most evenings, this schedule was hard for him. Despite these difficulties, compounded by the fact that there were no trains this early in the mornings, Hideo walked or ran the 30 minutes it took to get from his home to the meet Inoue sensei who waited for him in the

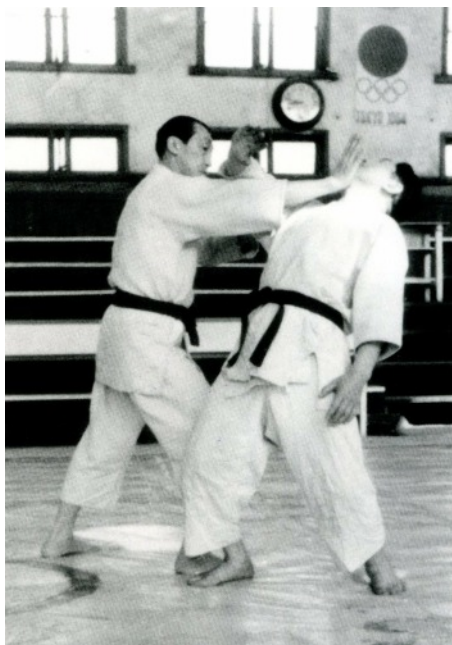
cold dojo. This one to one training gave him a good foundation in the art of iaido.

His competitive spirit led him to participate in kendo matches and on one occasion to test his naginata skills against an exponent of juken-jutsu, the bayonet fighting art conducted with a mokujo, a wooden replica of a rifle with an attached and blunted bayonet at the end. Juken-jutsu players are also protected by modified kendo armour and make thrusts and parries based on combat bayonet fighting. The occasion was a team challenge with kendo players matched against juken-jutsu exponents. Although Ohba was participating as a member of the kendo team, he requested an opportunity to substitute his naginata for his shinai (bamboo sword). The referee at first objected because Hideo's opponent was not wearing shin guards, one of the legitimate targets in competitive naginata-do. However, Ohba managed to persuade the referee to allow the match on the promise he would restrict himself to the upper body targets usual in kendo, wrists, chest, throat and head. Hideo had expected the referee to say no, despite his promise but much to his pleasure the match went ahead and after a hard fight managed to defeat him. Further satisfaction came from his kendo teammates, wielding shinai against mokujo, beating the juken-jutsu team.

Tomiki, Ueshiba and the Kodokan

Ohba had joined Tomiki at a reflective stage in his budo career, just at the moment when he began to examine aikido from the perspective of physical education and adopt a systematic approach to teaching methodology, similar in concept to Jigoro Kano's Kodokan Judo.

Tomiki had joined Ueshiba's dojo in 1926 and had become a trusted and respected student and upon the introduction of a kyu-dan



Tomiki & Ohba: aigamae-ate

rankings into aikido he became the first of Ueshiba's students to be awarded 8 Dan. It had been with Ueshiba's sponsorship and the connections to high ranking officers and officials he could call upon, that had gained Tomiki employment in Manchuria. Ueshiba was more than content to see Tomiki teaching and spreading aikido to Manchuria and its military, police and educational institutions.

Such was his interest in the project that he visited Manchuria giving demonstrations at martial arts events. The most famous of these occasions was a demonstration he gave in 1942, performed before the Emperor Puyi to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Foundation of Manchuria (Manchukuo). The demonstration was received enthusiastically by Puyi who led a standing ovation for his technical brilliance by the audience of budo experts gathered there. Hideo Sonobe, said to be the greatest proponent of Jikishinkage-ryu Naginata-jutsu since the Meiji Revolution (1868) declared "This is a divine martial art!" upon seeing Ueshiba's demonstration.

Ohba himself had a somewhat more measured view of this event. Fumiaki Shishida sensei in his biographical article on Hideo Ohba (*F. Shishida, Waseda University*

Aikido Club Magazine, No 19, Feb. 1980) quotes this story from Ohba himself: "Since the Emperor of Manchuria was in an exalted position at that time like the Emperor of Japan I thought I should not take ukemi for Ueshiba in the way I usually did. If Ueshiba Sensei were a true master he could freely handle a true punch, thrust or grab. Therefore, I decided to attack him seriously. When we stood on the platform I saw many martial arts masters present in the large dojo of the Shimbuden. When I glanced at Ueshiba Sensei, his beard was sticking out towards me, his hair was standing on end and his eyes were glittering. I thought to myself that he was indeed a true master. Then I concentrated on taking ukemi for him thinking how different it was to face a master. After the demonstration we bowed and sat in the corner of the dojo and were supposed to walk over to the seats where the masters were sitting. However, I heard someone thunder, 'You idiot!' Ueshiba Sensei was short-tempered. He couldn't wait until we returned to our seats. He shouted at me in that way in front of everyone. Until then I thought he was a wonderful and truly great master, but his shout made my spirit pop like a bubble. We sat down. Ueshiba Sensei didn't even smile. He was in a bad mood. So I felt tiny. Who do you think showed up then? It was Hideo Sonobe who was said to be without peer in Japan or anywhere in the use of the Naginata. She came all the way up to where the masters were sitting while Iai and Naginata kata were being demonstrated one after another. She said, 'Mr. Ueshiba I have never seen more wonderful techniques than what you showed today. They were fantastic!' Ueshiba Sensei, who had been in a bad mood, asked her what part she liked. He asked me to find a place where they could talk and we all went down to the basement of the Shimbuden and they discussed the theory of martial arts for two hours. While I was listening to their discussion Ueshiba Sensei asked her what

she liked and she replied that she liked the 'connections' (*tsunagari*) between techniques. However, I didn't understand these connections. I understood that the Dai Nihon Butokukai [Kyoto-based organization which governed Japanese martial arts] then was having a hard time trying to decide who they should choose as the best swordsman of that year and had asked Sonobe Sensei for her opinion. When I heard Sonobe Sensei tell Ueshiba Sensei that she had never seen such wonderful techniques even though she had seen him demonstrate often, I decided to learn Naginata in order to search for these 'connections.'"

Later in Ohba's life he would recount this episode to his students when he was in a particularly good mood. On one occasion Shishida sensei questioned him about this famous incident, asking him an important question, "Sensei, when you attacked Ueshiba Sensei seriously, could he execute techniques like he usually did in his regular demonstrations?" Shishida suspected that in view of the scolding Ohba received, Ueshiba had been somewhat challenged by Ohba's committed attacks as uke. As Shishida relates in his article: "Of course he answered, "Ueshiba Sensei seemed to have a hard time



Tomiki & Ohba: gyakugamae-ate

executing techniques smoothly." I think that Tomiki was critical of the fact that Ueshiba's demonstrations became gradually softer. Tomiki's belief was that such softness was a way of making the person throwing look good and was different from how martial arts should be. This demonstration of Ueshiba and Ohba received the highest praise from a top martial artist because of Ohba's serious attacks and the fact that he refused to participate in a prearranged performance the way he normally would have."

In his article Shishida suggests that this is why Tomiki stressed the importance of simple effective technique in kata balanced by the emphasis he was to place on randori. Budo should be performed in as realistic a way as possible.

Tomiki and the Kodokan

Despite these emerging differences, Tomiki's continued to believe in Ueshiba and the incredible effectiveness of his techniques. However Tomiki had never abandoned his judo practice and his quest for a synthesis with aikido. He had always seen aikido as complementary to his judo training and indeed viewed it as 'judo at a distance', part of the same canon of koryu jujutsu from which Kano had forged Kodokan Judo. It is important to remember that Ueshiba's aikido was itself not fully formed at this time. Ueshiba was on his own journey from the Daito Ryu Aikijutsu that he had learnt from Sokaku Takeda to an art that became much more overtly smoother and softer in application, with an important spiritual dimension. Tomiki's vision for aikido lay along the same lines as Kodokan Judo. A turning away from the private intimate dojo practice of koryu budo, where the student has a direct relationship to the head of the school, to the mass democratisation of budo represented by Kano's Judo. This was budo engaged with public education, to be taught in schools, universities and industry sponsored clubs, providing a healthy dynamic



Hideo Ohba: oshi taoshi

activity to a foster a healthy body, personal integrity and a flexible, open mind.

In 1940 Tomiki's research into aikido and judo training received recognition from the Kodokan, when he was invited by the new Director, Jiro Nango to give a lecture to senior judoka. Tomiki was visiting Tokyo at the time with a Manchurian martial arts team. With the manager of the Kodokan, Keiji Fujisawa acting as his uke, Tomiki gave an impressive demonstration of aiki techniques, establishing the common relationships between judo and aikido.

Nango instantly recognized the importance of Tomiki's work and how it could contribute to the Kodokan Judo syllabus. In 1942 he set up a special research group, the Research Committee on *Rikakutaisei* Techniques, headed by Kunio Murakami. *Rikakutaisei* or techniques used when standing apart from ones opponent, as opposed to the grips on the jacket normally used in judo were to be researched to give judo greater

depth as a martial art. *Rikakutaisei* would be employed against attacks using strikes, punches, kicks or some kind of weapon. The committee focused chiefly on atemi, to knock down an opponent and kansetsu (joint-locking techniques, to control and neutralize an aggressor.

Each year until 1944, Tomiki came over from Manchuria to lecture and demonstrate to the committee, which consisted of the most prominent judoka of the day, including Nagaoka, Samura, Mifune and Iizuka. Undoubtedly his efforts played a major part in developing the Goshin-no-kata and other self-defence aspects of the Kodokan's self-defence curriculum.

During his time in Manchuria Tomiki turned his mind away from the 'body learning' methods of Ueshiba, where he taught from an inspirational rather than rational perspective, with students being thrown by him continuously and having to make sense of the techniques in their own practice with their peers and seniors. Tomiki began to categorize groups of techniques and construct systematic progressive curriculum to meet the needs of 'modern' physical education practice.

There can be little doubt that Ohba as Tomiki's trusted assistant and constant uke, watched, learnt and contributed to this process.



In the next issue, we pick up the story as World War 2 comes to a traumatic end for both Ohba & Tomiki.

BAA Junior Championships North



The 33rd Junior North of England Championship took place at Richard Dunn Sports Centre on Saturday 22 March 2014. It was attended by 150 young people all eager and waiting to demonstrate their skills across five age groups and five different disciplines.

The day was extremely well organized by Lee Mazacs and finished ahead of time with the support of over thirty adult helpers, judges and officials.

The result was close with Leeds taking first place, second Huddersfield and third Yon Ju Hachi. The Huddersfield club, proving yet again, that relatively small numbers can bring high rewards.

The successful Leeds medal winners (above) with coaches, from left to right, Tony Cox, Kay Cox, Mark Jenner, Matt Goodall and John Parker. Not in the photo Leo Smalle and Sarah Fletcher. Seen here taking a leaf from the British National Team pose from Kawasaki

The teams are now looking forward to the next challenge the

Junior National Championships to be held on 21 June 2014



In Second place the Huddersfield Club

Junior and Youth Awards scheme



Courses Badge provided to young people who have completed four Aikido courses and had them recorded in their grading book. The scheme started in January 2013, so only activity after that date can be counted.

For full details and application form please see BAA website

BAA Executive Committee

The decision to leave the British Aikido Board – an open letter to all members

Bob Jones

For a number of years the British Aikido Association has been dissatisfied with the BAB, its organization, structure and speed and direction of development. The number of associations has risen to nearly forty whilst practising Aikidoka has actually reduced. For successive years BAA Chairmen have considered the idea of leaving but had not taken the step, however the BAA Executive has recently and unanimously voted to leave the BAB and become “The lead body for Sports Aikido in the UK”. The decision to leave was taken after serious consideration and was done for the best interest of the membership as a whole. For a number of years now the BAA has been working towards independence ensuring that all policies and guidelines were in place and the internal structure of the association was strong and fit for purpose. In 2012 the BAA became a Company Limited by Guarantee to ensure accountability and security. A three-year plan was developed and the action now being taken by EC members enables the BAA to work effectively, efficiently and independently.

The timing of the exit was left to the Chairman’s discretion but was influenced by four factors: -

1. The resignation in January of the Joint Aikido Council (JAC) from the BAB, removing between 2,000 and 3,000 members. The JAC, a consortium of Aikikai associations, now an independent group, has terminated their membership as from the end of February 2014.

2. The readiness of the BAA application to Sport England for National Governing Body status.

The application is now with Sport England and although it may take some time the BAA will continue to negotiate for NGB recognition in its own right.

3. The renewal and negotiation for insurance with the current provider Endsleigh, which is complete and fully functioning. As the current provision lapses at the end of February it would seem pragmatic to ensure a seamless transition.

4. The BAB fees for the following year become payable on the 1 March 2014 and now stands at approximately £5 per person including disability insurance of £1.10. This including PI payments would have meant 30% of all BAA income passing to the BAB.

Following this assessment, a letter was sent on the 23rd January outlining the reasons for the BAA’s resignation, which will be effective as of the 1 March 2014.

Following the BAA’s resignation, a letter was been circulated to BAA clubs, by the acting chair of the BAB making some detailed but fundamentally flawed statements. The following is the Executive Committee’s response to the BAB’s letter and its contents.

It is now true, that there are more associations with fewer members with a majority of Aikido practitioners outside the BAB than within. The two largest groups having left the BAB, a number of smaller associations are in negotiation to leave also.

Whilst it is true that publicity via the BAB website will cease, it is clear that the majority of “traffic” comes

through the BAA site. Recent work to upgrade the BAA site is ongoing. This will provide greater range and access to information. The “Shizentai” Magazine provides an excellent vehicle for a range of articles and news items. Work is ongoing to directly e-mail all members with the magazine and BAA events flyers. Any member who is not receiving the magazine can sign up through the website or contact Phil Eyers the BAA Communication Officer.

On the subject of grant aid, the BAA has never received financial support through the BAB or Sport England. We must also remember that Karate has never had an NGB and have little difficulty securing premises. Many sporting groups do not have NGB status, whilst some sports have several, representing different aspects of their sport e.g. Basketball and Wheelchair Basketball, Bowls England, British Crown Green Bowls Association, English Indoor Bowls Association, English Women’s Indoor Bowls Association, English Short Mat Bowls Association and of course Rugby Union and Rugby league. The BAA NGB application is already being considered by Sport England and although it may take some time before a conclusion, the BAA is committed to this course of action. Other organizations of our size including the British Kendo Association already have NGB status.

Other groups are approaching the BAA requesting direct or associate membership. The BAB therefore remains a body supporting many smaller, the majority below 200 members, organizations. It is no longer a true or representative NGB.

Regarding the BAB Coaching qualifications, which were developed, as an interim measure some fifteen years ago. At the time, the appetite for formal qualifications within the BAB was low. Therefore a series of L1, L2 and L3 internal BAB awards were devised. They have no value outside that organization; they are not accredited within the national framework of qualifications and hold no legal status. They are however required by the insurance company to at least demonstrate a degree of competence. The BAA has maintained the link between the Coach Awards and the Insurance Company. Coach level 1 will still be mandatory for all potential coaches. All existing BAB awards will automatically transfer to BAA recognized awards for insurance purposes.

It is true that a recent insurance claim was settled for £11,000 involving an instructor that had not undertaken the coach award certification but even in this case Endsleigh honoured the payment. It is expected to continue with the same Coach Award system with delivery by existing BAA recognized tutors until an external accreditation body can ratify the Coach Awards making them nationally and externally recognised. All existing BAA tutors have externally validated teaching qualifications. As far as Coach awards are concerned, it is business as usual. Revised certification has already been designed and awarding body negotiation is ongoing. Mark Jenner (Qualifications and Grading Standards Officer) is now responsible for all qualifications within the BAA and is currently in negotiation with external awarding bodies.

Over the last few years the BAA has not enforced CRB renewal awaiting to the governments transfer to the DBS system. DBS, (Vetting and Baring Service) which is a nationally transferable system, will now become available to all coaches. Francis Burgess will be circulating details to all coaches during March

2014 about the new online system. The BAA's new Child Welfare Board has been strengthened with the inclusion of Mark Aldridge a qualified solicitor.

With reference to policies and guidance, all policy documentation has been developed or re-written specifically for the BAA and is available on the association's website. This process has taken almost two years and has been undertaken with the NGB application in mind.

Although "Clubmark" is no longer a national government priority, within the BAA Brent Moran is a registered national assessor and holds the national portfolio for this area of work. He is willing and available to provide advice and support to all registered clubs who still wish to pursue "Clubmark" accreditation.

Regarding insurance and other costs. Until the BAA negotiated a reduction in insurance costs the BAB were seemingly paying £80,000 p.a. for their cover. The BAA through negotiations with Endsleigh reduced this cost by 50%. Further insurance reductions and elimination of the BAB membership fee will see a considerable reduction in BAA outgoings. In anticipation of this, new clubs no longer pay a club fee or PI insurance for the first two years of membership. Indeed the BAA has been subsidizing PI insurance cover for the past four years; coaches only pay 26% of the actual cost.

The BAB has huge financial reserves, pays considerable honorariums to executive members and announced membership fee increases for the following year even though insurance premiums reduced two years ago. Their voting system favours smaller organizations that by and large are not democratic and the coaching system has not moved toward official recognition. The main growth within the BAB has come through increased fractionalisation

of existing member groups with no real attempts to nationally market Aikido to potential new members.

We believe the BAA has a strong national and international presence with the capability and expertise to provide enhanced support to the membership and grow as the "Lead body for Sports Aikido in the UK". The Executive believes that this is a pragmatic, planned and practical development for the long-term future of the BAA.

The Executive Committee will be discussing further cost reductions to the membership, NGB progress, World Sports Aikido Federation (WSAF) progress and next steps at its meeting on Sunday 2nd March 2014. Any comments and/or views are welcomed.

Bob Jones
On Behalf of the BAA Executive Committee

ETAN Championships

Continued from page 11

de Lima, who won a Bronze in Men's Individual Tanto Randori.

The honours in Men's Individual Tanto Randori also went to the big Russian, Yuri Gluschenko (ITAF-Russia) who won Gold and our own Scott Pearce (Tanseikan-UK) who came second with Silver. Scott fought extremely well in this event, often against taller and more burly opponents.

The Women's Individual Tanto Randori saw a continuation of the epic tussle between Belgium's Gitte Wolput and the UK's Natuley Smalle. This time Gitte managed to pull off victory after a hard fought contest. Gitte won Gold, with Natuley gaining Silver and Yana Kovrihina (Kharkiv-Ukraine) securing Bronze.

The championship was a success for the UK's Tanseikan team who returned with four Golds, two Silvers and two Bronze. Thanet also came away with a Bronze for Toshu Randori no Kata. Well done to all the UK competitors!

BAA Executive Committee

Child Protection and BAA Coaches: New DBS System

Francis Burgess

BAA Child Protection Officer

Disclosure and Barring Service

Every Coach in the BAA that coaches or is present on the mat with under 18's or vulnerable adults on a frequent basis is required to be checked under the Governments Disclosure and Barring (DBS) system (formally CRB check).

The BAA carries out Enhanced Disclosure checks and under the current policy states that DBS checks need to be carried out every 3 years.

Francis Burgess the BAA's Child Protection Officer is responsible for ensuring that the membership adheres to the BAA Child Protection Policy.

Verification - in order to apply for a DBS check a coach or helper needs to contact one of four verifiers located in 4 different areas of the UK, notionally covering those areas, although in reality any of the four can be contacted.

The four verifiers are:

- **Francis Burgess (SW)**
francisdburgess@hotmail.com
- **Terry Gibbs (SE)**
t.gibbs1@virginmedia.com
- **Paul Holding (NW)**
paulholdingz@hotmail.com
- **Mark Aldridge (NE)**
aldridge@tykeaikei.co.uk

Application - in order for a DBS check to be completed please contact one of the verifiers – they will ask you for an email address – this email address will be given access to the online application system we use, which is being run

on our behalf by TMG. Please note we require all DBS applications to be submitted online as this saves time and costs.

Once an application has been submitted the documents chosen in the application for verification have to be shown to one of the approved verifiers. These documents can be presented in person or sent through the post – please remember that documents sent through the post should be sent by recorded or registered post. The BAA will return documents using second classed recorded unless specified by the individual who would then be liable for any additional costs.

Costs - the cost of the DBS application is £20.00 – this money should be presented at the same time as producing verification documents. All cheques should be made payable to the British Aikido Association.

As a result of cost savings from leaving the BAB, for current BAA member Coaches with PI cover the fee is waived during 2014.

Post Application - once the DBS check has been completed, the applicant will receive a disclosure document – this document needs to be presented to a BAA verifier. Any criminal convictions noted on a disclosure will be subject to additional scrutiny from the BAA's case management group – this group will determine if the convictions constitute a risk to children or vulnerable adults and will make a judgement as to whether or not the coach is permitted to coach young people.

This judgement is subject to normal BAA appeals processes and channels.

Portability – recent DBS disclosures are now portable providing that upon receiving a DBS check the individual registers within 2 weeks of receiving their disclosure document with the update service. If you have a portable enhanced disclosure already, you will need to provide your Update Service number to one of the BAA verifiers.

All DBS checks provided by the BAA can be registered with the update service and as such are "Portable".

Please be aware that all clubs with under 18's need to have a club welfare officer – this person is also subject to a DBS check. If you do not have a named Club Welfare Officer then the senior coach at the club is assumed to have the responsibility.

Please ensure your DBS (CRB) check is up to date – it is a requirement to be able to coach under 18's and vulnerable adults.

The full Association Child Protection Policy is available on the British Aikido Association website at www.aikido-baa.org.uk



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Thinking of replacing your old Gi? Then take advantage of this great offer negotiated by the BAA for our members. Help promote the BAA's highly professional corporate image.

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Product code: **EZ-4**

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You simply need to add this item to the basket to proceed. The standard position for Gi embroidery is the left upper arm. If you require a non-standard position or wish to have this on another product from our range, then please send us a brief email with your order ID and a description of where you would like us to apply it for you.

http://www.ninecircles.co.uk/Clothing/Embroidery_Service/BAA_Logo_Embroidery.aspx



Keep up to date with BAA Courses & Club Events in 2014

15 Jun **BAA Senior Club Championship** Thomas Tallis, Kidbrooke, London

21 Jun **BAA Junior Nationals** Bradford

25-27 Jul **BAA Summer School** St Mary's Menston, Leeds

10 Aug **BAA National Squad** Loughborough University

20-21 Sept 2014 **BAA SOTR School** Folkestone

5 Oct **Executive Cttee** Northampton

19 Oct **BAA National Squad** Loughborough University

26-27 Oct **Junior ETAN Championships** St Petersburg, Russia

8-9 Nov 2014 **BAA Autumn School** Herne Bay, Kent

16 Nov **BAA National Squad** Loughborough University

22 Nov **BAA Junior Open South** High Wycombe Judo Centre

TBC Dec **Kyu Grade Comp South**

14 Dec **BAA National Squad** Loughborough University

Please remember this space is also for advertising BAA Club sponsored events. When you are inviting a guest senior instructor to your club for a course or you have a special event do not hesitate to contact us and we will give it space.

Editor

Contact: shizentai@aikido-baa.org.uk