

KEN SHIN KAI – MINUTES FROM 2023 AGM

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at 12:47 on 26th November 2023

Attendance:

Garry Masters	Principal Coach/Chairman (Executive Committee)
Richard Lewis	Chief Instructor (Executive Committee)
Roger Bish	Vice-Chairman (Executive Committee)
Malcolm Courts	Club Instructor (Executive Committee)
Dee Masters	Secretary (Executive Committee)

Mark Coldbreath, Eric Woodgate, Jake Castle, Tom Winn, Nigel Bilton, Rowan Leonard, Susan Jennings, Roger McLaughlin, Megan White, Allison White, Glen Abrahart, Kieron Abrahart.

Full Reports

Will be made available to download from the website: Members – Coaching – Reference
(www.kenshinkai.org.uk/coaching.aspx)

1. Apologies for Absence:

Adam Hosey.

2. Minutes Approved

Minutes of last meeting approved by Rowan Leonard & Richard Lewis.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Mat Insurance (Previous minutes ref 3.1)

The association will investigate whether the mats are insured automatically via each venue that the mats are being used/stored (Admiral Lord Nelson School, Fareham Leisure Centre, Llandrindod Wells Sports Centre) or whether additional insurance is required.

D. Masters

3.2 Fee Review

A new fee for Junior + Intermediate class of £25. An increase in the junior grading fee to £10. Both will be effective from 1st January 2024.

D. Masters

3.3 Fareham Leisure Centre

Options to either increase membership at FLC to cover the costs or move classes to a cheaper venue.

D. Masters, R. Lewis

3.4 Low Impact Aikido Classes

Investigation into feasibility of running low impact Aikido classes with no ukemi & no cardio for those that wish to learn Aikido/Self-Defence/Martial Arts but find the standard classes beyond their ability.

D. Masters, R. Lewis

3.5 Advertising

Need to purchase a flexible (roll up/down) display board; Creation of videos and photos and posting to social media on a regular basis to make use of Free Advertising opportunities. Investigation of advertising opportunities with local colleges/universities etc.

D. Masters, M. White, R. Leonard, S. Jennings.

4 Secretary's Report (highlights, see full report on website, for details)

4.1 Affiliated Members

GO RYU KAI - (Malcolm Crawford) affiliated to Kenshinkai for insurance via the BAB only. One club based at Chichester.

4.2 British Aikido Board (BAB)

The BAB AGM (13th May) was held via Zoom. Zoom meetings have been used as an option since the Covid pandemic, and are preferable to travelling to Solihull, Birmingham for the meetings, saving organisations travel costs. On-going renewal and application of DBS (CRB) checks. BAB website is still being re-developed. BAB is changing the way insurance is issued to an individual member level rather than organisation submitted, however we do not approve of this approach and therefore shall not be adopting it.

4.3 Dojos (changes)

Wales club has closed due to instructor availability. Monday class has returned to a start time of 8.00pm.

4.4 Membership

There have been 28 new members since the 1st October 2022, compared to 27 for last year and 38 for the previous year (who may not still be training or may have only attended one session). Members for this year are at 60. Instructors/Assistant Instructors/Class Helpers for this year have increased by 1 to 21.

4.5 Past Seminars & Events

May 2023 – Payet Sensei Yoshinkan Aikido seminar in High Wycombe; December 2022, January 2023, July 2023 & October 2023 – Junior/Adult Gradings; December 2022 – Jack Poole Memorial seminar at High Wycombe Judo Centre; May 2022 – Dan Grading (Rowan, Adam, Jake).

4.6 Future Seminars & Events

November 2023 – Dan Grading (Susan).

4.7 Main Awards

Mark Coldbreath and Eric Woodgate awarded Yondan; Jake Castle awarded Nidan. Stephen Heath, Rowan Leonard and Adam Hosey awarded Shodan; Dimitri Sautreau promoted to Assistant Instructor; Megan White promoted to class helper.

4.8 Weapons

Weapons classes will continue the last Friday of the month. Club instructors should also include weapons practice within regular classes when able to.

4.9 Website / Email / Enquiries

Email enquiries approximately 45 since the 1st October 2022. As all joining information is available online new starters usually just turn up for a first class without first emailing which reduces administration time.

4.10 Correspondence

Poll took place using Facebook on October 20th asking members what they would like to see more at classes results in popularity order were: Weapons, Jiyu Waza, Self-Defence, Advanced Techniques, Physio/Flexibility, Grading Techniques, Core Strength, Fitness/Cardio, Ukemi.

Monthly correspondence with the British Aikido Board (Insurance, DBS etc.).

Weekly correspondence with dojos regarding hire, payments, advertising and issues. Weekly correspondence regarding free advertising opportunities. Weekly correspondence dealing with enquiries. Website / Facebook / Newsletters used to keep members up to date.

4.11 Social Events

May 2023 – Payet Seminar post training drinks/snacks organised by David Rubens of the Meidokan, for members who attended the seminar; December 2022 - Xmas Meal organised by D Nouari at Las Iguanas.

4.12 Other

Adult membership needs to increase; Fareham attendance needs to increase; Importance of running a taster session when new starters arrive, split the class if necessary.

4.13 Publicity Officers Report (Advertising)

Classes are promoted as improving flexibility and fitness and general health (e.g., Physiotherapy) so warm-ups need to consider that some members are only attending for this aspect of training and need to cater for them!; Need to purchase a flexible (roll up/down) display board; Need support from the members identifying free sources of advertising (venues, display boards, websites etc.); Main online advertising: Facebook, Website, Google, Eventbrite, plus others; More Instagram promotion needed but to do that need high quality photos and/or videos for this type of advertising; Various Facebook groups available (Martial Art – Kenshinkai – Portsmouth, Martial Art – Kenshinkai – Fareham, Yoshinkan Aikido – Martial Art (Kenshinkai), Kenshinkai Members, Kenshinkai Juniors, Learn Aikido, Yoshinkan Aikido); Can no longer use Google advertising as have to be VAT or Charity registered; November/February Facebook advertising campaign targeting: 5km radius from Fareham Leisure Centre, 5km radius from Admiral Lord Nelson School costing at total of £206.88.

Accepted by Tom Winn and Nigel Bilton

5 Treasurers Report (highlights, see full report on website, for details)

Balance at Bank for 2023 = £11,244.16. Assets for 2023 = £0. Closing Stock for 2023 = £1,722.55. Overall Profit/Loss for 2023 shows a **LOSS** of £356.95.

Accepted by Rowan Leonard and Malcolm Courts

6 Training and Grading Fees

A new fee for Junior + Intermediate class of £25. An increase in the junior grading fee to £10. Both will be effective from 1st January 2024.

7 Chairman's Report

• It has been 4 years since we held the last AGM. The Covid pandemic resulted in the biggest disruption to classes that we have ever experienced. The junior classes were closed for 18 months and adult classes although initially closed was eventually able to re-open only at FLC, with solo distanced training. Membership has not really recovered compared to the numbers we had prior to the pandemic. Cost of living increases have seen many people having to cut monthly subscriptions to what they feel is non-essential. The junior class has been slowly rebuilding since we lost several members during the 18-month shutdown as they were able to join other classes that were not restricted by the government, from running, due to the pandemic.

• A multitude of martial arts classes have sprung up in towns, mostly driven by franchising, and unfortunately most offering poor-quality classes at extortionate prices, with gimmicks such as knife and gun defence. Requiring members to attend monthly competitions across the country and to purchase expensive branded clothing and equipment. These classes have access to large amounts of money for advertising and facilities, so it is very difficult for us to compete. As well as offering aikido and self-defence we have to offer other benefits to members such as fitness, flexibility, core strength, cardio, weapons etc. to attract a broader range of members.

• The club has had a lot of support with running the junior classes. These classes are essential to the survival of the organisation as they financially support the Fareham adult classes that are not so well attended. Thank you to everyone who has assisted with classes from putting out mats, setting up equipment for the juniors and assisting with teaching at classes.

• I would like to thank all Instructors for the effort they put into running and supporting the clubs, especially Richard Lewis and Roger Bish who invest the most time apart from myself and Dee, whilst taking no remuneration for their time and effort expended. Unfortunately, Mark Coldbreath had to close the Wales club due to personal circumstances, but that does not lessen the achievements of the Wales club over the many years that Mark ran the club with very little support due to location.

• I would like to remind everyone that Kenshinkai is a members organisation which means the organisation is run by the members for the members. The organisation is not “owned” by any individual and no members, instructors, officers receive ANY form of payment from the organisation. This means that the success of the organisation depends upon each and every member, and when you are helping out you are helping to ensure that the organisation is able to continue to run classes for you to attend.

Accepted by and Jake Castle and Megan White

8 Chief Instructors Report

- I will start by thanking the officers, instructors and helpers of the club for your support as any help is valued and much appreciated and of course Dee and Garry for the admin and accounting support.
- Congratulation to all club members on recent gradings, some really great achievements were made here. Keep up the hard work!
- Childrens class has picked up well lately and we appear to be receiving new members and thanks to all the helpers for this class.
- Adult classes could do with more members as this has been a bit static recently.
- As a result of the above membership issues, we have been looking at local pricing for the many, and increasing, number of MA clubs in our area. The price points vary but overall, we are considerably cheaper even to the point of paying ridiculous amounts/hour and to compete with advertising, rental and equipment costs we will have to take a hard look at our price points and increases are likely. As you know we carried out a member's poll and the results of this have been fed to the instructor group to look at how we can help with fulfilling members aspirations.
- One suggestion that has been put forward, and appears to have a lot of support among members families and friends, is a "low impact aikido" class that would be less aimed at the traditional idea of ukemi, jiyu waza, hajime training etc and more at fitness, mobility, self-protection and awareness which could allow people who would not normally be able to "keep up" to gain the many benefits that aikido can bring, "aikido is for all", members thoughts and suggestions on any of the above would be welcome.
- Once again, thank you for your help this year and onward to 2024! Aikido Jinsai!

Accepted by Roger Bish and Dee Masters

9 Club Instructors Reports

Malcolm Courts

- Firstly, I must mention the support provided by Eric over the last year. His attendance and review from the side, and more recently direct teaching help, has made a big difference to me. Thank You.
- The last year has been one of concentration on consolidation of basics and their extension into the performance of basic techniques complemented with increasing focus for the senior grades on more fluid technique with focus on control of ukes as their understanding and mastery of the core movements increases. Attendance has been limited for most of the year but those that do come regularly have shown commitment and loyalty. Inevitably life will periodically get in the way of training but their dedication and perseverance is paying off with a satisfying marked progression in their skill levels. It has been a pleasure to train with the regulars and I look forward to Sue gaining her black belt.
- Thank you to Jake, Nigel, Adam, Tom and Sue and the more occasional visitors for putting up with my sometimes somewhat constrained demonstrations, ageing is a b**ch!!

10 Any Other Business

- Investigations are currently ongoing into the possibility of moving FLC classes to a cheaper venue. Portchester Community Centre would be £500 per year cheaper per year but has no changing facilities, as we have been established at FLC for over 30 years a lot of work would have to be done updating website links/information etc. (see Matters Arising 3.3).
- Jake suggested a high-grade session or a move from Monday evening to a more popular day/time (will be investigated as part of Matters Arising 3.3).
- Members suggested more use of social media for advertising and targeting schools/colleges (see Matters Arising 3.5).
- Eric mentioned more members working towards Coach Level 1 qualification and was informed all those eligible, had recently been sent information about the new BAB Coach Level 1 Online course options.

Meeting Closed: 13:53. Next Meeting: 24th November 2024