



Garry Masters
8th Dan Principal Coach
Kenshinkai Aikido UK

8th Dan Principal Coach - Kenshinkai Aikido
8th Dan Instructor - Yoshinkan Aikido
1st Dan - Jodo & Iaido

Garry began practising Yoshinkan Aikido in Portsmouth, UK in 1978 under the tuition of Sensei David Eayrs (founder of Kenshinkai and a founder member of the British Aikido Board). Garry had been advised by his doctor that due to a congenital heart defect he should avoid sport and physical exercise. Garry explained this to David who replied that he thought Aikido would be good for his health and encouraged him to join the club, which at that time was part of the UK Shudokan Institute of Aikido organisation run by Sensei Ted Stratton (later to separate from the Shudokan and become Kenshinkai in 1985).

Garry was Chief Instructor of Kenshinkai from 1985 until 1994, also gaining experience in Iaido, Shoto, Jodo and Tanjo, winning the first ever Jodo championship held in England (Mudan Section) in 1986. In 1994 after David left the UK to establish Yoshinkan Aikido in Moscow, Garry was elected as Principal Coach & Chairman of Kenshinkai. In his time as Principal Coach, Garry obtained International recognition for Kenshinkai by re-establishing it as an Independent Yoshinkan Aikido Organisation, recognised by the Aikido Yoshinkan Federation (AYF), the headquarters for Yoshinkan Aikido based in Japan.

Over the years Garry has accumulated an extensive knowledge of Yoshinkan and various other styles of Aikido, receiving additional tuition from Francis Ramasamy (David Eayrs first instructor in Malaysia) and attending seminars taught by Kiyoyuki Terada, Morihiro Saito, Tsuneo Ando, Kyoichi Inoue, Tsutomu Chida, Takefumi Takeno, Yasuhisa Shioda among others.

To extend his knowledge of Yoshinkan aikido Garry has travelled four times to Malaysia (1988, 1992, 2000, 2014), twice to Japan (2000, 2017), once to Moscow (2006) and many times to Poland. Garry hosted a UK seminar taught by Kiyoyuki Terada in 2002 on his first and only visit to teach in the UK. Garry also hosted the Gozo Shioda Memorial Seminar in the UK from 1997 until 2007 which brought together Yoshinkan aikido students and instructors from across the UK.

All of this has been achieved by Garry during his 40+ consistent years of Yoshinkan Aikido despite having been seriously ill on 3 separate occasions, with a brain haemorrhage, a sliced artery (hospital mistake!) and more recently heart failure brought on by an infection, in addition to having to care for his mother for 13 years (who suffered from Alzheimers until 2003).

Garry currently holds the ranks of 8th Dan Instructor Yoshinkan Aikido (Japan), 5th Dan Instructor Mushinkan (Malaysia), 1st Dan Jodo and 1st Dan Iaido. Garry was previously graded to 7th Dan by the Honbu Dojo Panel, 6th Dan Yoshinkan by Kiyoyuki Terada Sensei and 5th Dan Yoshinkan by Kyoichi Inoue Sensei.