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1 December 2010

Photo: Milena Kremakova



Chiba Sensei, London October 08

Chiba Sensei details the history of change

Revamped Musubi heralds New Order

Dissolving Birankai Continental Europe was somewhat painful but necessary for us to maintain focus on integrity. It was a question of our ability to self cleanse and to change with minimum sacrifice. Its existence has heavily shadowed the European Union as an ideological model of ten years and has proved to be too ambitious in reality when the individual member countries were still struggling to establish their own footing as national organizations. Having carried out the dissolution does not necessarily mean to deny the idea of creating a big family beyond the national boundaries, but it should be and will be realized of its own accord while the member countries strive hard to establish their own identity as national organizations.

From 4 February 2010, I have had three meetings at Hombu Dojo, Tokyo, Japan, two of which were with Doshu and with Mr Tani, the secretary of the International Department of Hombu Dojo. These meetings have resulted in the formal recognition from Hombu for the following member countries: Birankai Poland, Austria, Switzerland, Greece and Portugal. I decided to withdraw the request for recognition for France and Germany as I see that these two countries are not ready at this stage. My only wish for this event is that this could have been done without traveling to Japan in the middle of winter. (It was the coldest winter in 60 years!)

Along with this major shift of dissolution of Birankai Continental Europe in the summer of 2009, the Shihankai Europe decided to merge Musubi and Shiun into one single publication, Birankai Europe Musubi, in order to encourage the flow of communica-



Photo: Beata Darowska

Chiba Sensei

tion through a unified format. In December 2009 both editors, Dee Chen of London for Musubi and Suzanne Brunner of Lausanne for Shiun met in London for its smooth transition and to exchange plans for the future. I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal thanks to Norberto Chiesa the first editor of Shiun, which was initially published from the town of Lussan, France in 2002, and to Suzanne Brunner as the second editor of Shiun for the past two years. A special thanks to Dee Chen as the editor of Musubi since 1995 and whose work as the General Secretary has been instrumental in the steady growth of British Aikikai and British Birankai, who has furthermore taken the challenge as the editor of the new version of Musubi of Birankai Europe. I would like to ask the Shihankai Europe and the leaders of the national organizations to give their strong support and backup for this new venture to be successful and meaningful to us all. ☺

Shihan TK Chiba 8th Dan
April 2010



Shihan Chris Mooney finds inspiration in Musubi and the diversity of European culture

I feel privileged to write for the first pan-European Birankai magazine.



Shihan Chris Mooney

Despite the turmoil of our recent history in

Birankai Europe, and with the developing autonomies within our respective countries, I think it appropriate to talk about musubi.

What is musubi? A translation of musubi is connection, unification, blending, harmonious interaction.

As most of you will be aware, I have been travelling throughout Europe since the early 1980s, when I gained my first insight into teaching Aikido in another culture, in Athens, Greece. Armed with limited knowledge and experience, but an enthusiastic spirit, and with a touch of idealism (a chasm I continually fell into) I taught what I knew. Subsequently, I found myself in Bern, Switzerland, whose culture would appear to be diametrically opposed to that of Greece. In both these cases and in the many other cases to follow, I understood that I was in the process of a student, developing an awareness which I would build on in teaching within other cultures.

As a teacher you acquire sensitivity to factors which can impact on Aikido training in each country, such as

culture, economic situation, political instability, a country that is at peace, a country that is at war, the weather, language, etc. This requires actively acquiring intelligence coupled with a martial awareness. This I would consider is one form of musubi.

On my travels, one of the key questions which was often asked of me is "what is the teacher-student relationship?" In my experience, from the earliest days when I entered the Dojo, we were taught a form: to sit in seiza, to bow to the kamiza and then to say 'onegaeshimasu' and at the end of class 'domo arigato gozaimashita'. This is said by both the teacher and the student, and therein begins one form of musubi. The concept of the teacher and student as being separate and opposite is a product of dualistic thinking. In my view, the essence of the teacher-student relationship is where we experience the benefits of both teacher and student at once.

From my viewpoint, there are three things on which is it important to focus.

- The first thing is our own personal daily practice. A key part to this study is regular practice with our teacher in our Dojo.
- The second thing is a healthy teacher-student relationship, which is an education in the principle of ki-musubi.
- Thirdly, Chiba Sensei has given

us guidelines and the underpinning pillars of centeredness, connectedness, wholeness, liveliness and openness. We should take care to cultivate these forms, as I have observed gaps in knowledge of techniques during examinations and on tatami.

The great strengths we have within Europe are the diversity of our cultures and the diversity of students who had entered the school via different organizations, but were all enthused and sincere in wanting to study within the Birankai group. The drive and energy of these people to come together to make something very fresh and new is inspirational. There is no reason why this cannot continue. Indeed, now armed with a little bit more knowledge and experience, my spirit is optimistic. Perhaps I am still in danger of falling into idealism, but practical experiences have given me a better sense of where the edge of the chasm lies.

Finally, I would like to thank the many people who were very supportive during the period of time when I was injured. I would also like to express my gratitude for the experience of learning from you, your Dojo and your culture. ☺

Shihan Chris Mooney 6th Dan

Editorial

Producing this first issue of BE Musubi has been made so much easier with the cooperation of a small coterie of dedicated workers. Suzanne Brunner has been busy collecting the data from the continental Dojos and ensuring that all submissions are both in French and English. In the UK the response to Chris Howlin's request for information



Dee Chen

has not been as successful. In the end he had the job of extracting Dojo information from the websites. Our thanks to all our translators Norberto Chiesa, Lucienne Suter, and of course Suzanne and Christophe Brunner for proofreading the French articles. Thanks also to Davinder Bath and Franco Chen.

Photographs taken at the course in Cardiff on 18-20 June 2010 conducted by the Doshu Moriteru Ueshiba and his son Waka Sensei Mitsuteru Ueshiba are included. This was the Doshu's first visit to the UK since he became Doshu in 1999. Both were well received with around 800 practitioners in attendance. This event was coordi-

nated by the five Aikikai organizations: British Birankai, British Aikido Federation, Scottish Aikido Federation, United Kingdom Aikikai and Komyokan Aikido Association.

Our next issue is due in January 2011 and we welcome submissions before 1 December 2010. ☺

Dee

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Dissolving Birankai Continental Europe

Shihan Mike Flynn reports on the legal and financial hurdles completed



It certainly has been an eventful year within the European Birankai. As most of you know, a decision was taken in Poland during the 2009



Shihan Mike Flynn

Summer School to dissolve the Birankai Continental Europe (BCE) and focus our energies on the establishment and maintenance of healthy National Organizations. Of course, a decision of this magnitude resulted in a significant amount of work for the officers of the BCE, as there were innumerable administrative and legal issues to resolve before the wishes of the membership could be fulfilled.

As you will recall, upon voting to dissolve the BCE, it was the decision of the voting membership to elect a Liquidator, and a Dissolution Committee to assist and oversee the liquidator in this task. Furthermore, with regard to finances, it was agreed that after all expenses to BCE were realised, the remaining balance of funds would be given to Chiba Sensei in support of his work in Europe.

As you can see below in the sequence of events that have taken place leading up to and following the decision to dissolve the BCE, the officers of the BCE threw themselves into the task with great commitment. What

is depicted below is the complete sequence of key events which in essence concluded in February of this year.

On behalf of the Shihankai, I would like to thank the President of BCE, Joël Bertrand, all officers of the BCE, and the members of the Dissolution Committee, for their work. Their selfless contributions in support of the growth of Birankai over many years can not be understated. Our sincerest gratitude to all of you.

1 General Meeting in Poland on 19 August 2009

At this meeting, the members of BCE had:

- voted unanimously in favour of the dissolution of BCE,
- nominated the President, Joël Bertrand, as Liquidator of the BCE, in order to fulfil the legal procedure of dissolution,
- nominated a Dissolution Committee to assist the Liquidator in his task (Dannie Jost as General Secretary of BCE, Anne Ducouret, Jacques Pictet, Patrick Barthélémy, Norberto Chiesa, Daniel Brunner),
- asked the Liquidator to finalize the current affairs (BCE summer camp 2009; financial support to Chiba Sensei's trip in Japan),
- asked the Liquidator to transfer the balance of the bank account of BCE after dissolution to British

Birankai to be used exclusively by Chiba Sensei in support of his work in developing Aikido in Continental Europe.

2 BCE summer camp 2009 in Poland

The expenses for this camp totaled 17,999.21€.

BCE has covered a loss of 2,409.21€, as follows:

- the sum of 1,053.21€ (£957.37) has been paid back on 24 September 2009 by BCE to British Birankai as its share to the cost of Chiba Sensei's airfare San Diego–London–Wrocław
- the sum of 1,356€ has been transferred by BCE to Birankai Poland on 24 September 2009.

3 Legal procedure of dissolution of BCE

This has been completed by the liquidator as follows:

- on the basis of the minutes of the General Meeting, the Tribunal d'Instance de Strasbourg has registered the dissolution of BCE on 18 February 2010,
- the official publication of the dissolution was done in the newspaper 'L'Ami Hebdo' on 24 February 2010,
- on 24 February 2011, after a legal period of one year following this publication, the Tribunal d'Instance de Strasbourg will finally register the liquidation of BCE.

4 Transfer of the balance after dissolution of BCE to British Birankai

The sum of 6,334€ (£5,534.78) has been transferred by BCE to British Birankai on 23 March 2010 to be used exclusively by Chiba Sensei in support of his work in developing Aikido in Continental Europe.

Part of this sum will cover the share of BCE for the trip of Chiba Sensei to Japan, as voted at the Dissolution General Meeting. ☺



Shihan Flynn and Jenny Flower (uke), Hellenic Birankai Autumn Seminar, Oct 2009

Shihan Mike Flynn 6th Dan
Chairman, British Birankai

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BIRANKAI AUSTRIA

Technical Director: Shihan Tony Cassells 6th Dan
Chairman: Mark Pickering 5th Dan



Aikikai Dornbirn – O Sen Kan

Chief Instructor
Jürgen Schwendinger 3rd Dan,
Fukushido-in

Other Instructors
Wolfgang Petter 2nd Dan, Fukushido-in
Michael Schwendinger 2nd Dan,
Fukushido-in

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Training days
Monday to Friday

Our Dojo was founded in 2003 and is located in a beautiful old gym built in 1910, featuring a sprung wooden floor. The nice wooden ceiling also contributes to creating a special atmosphere for our daily practice. The following disciplines are taught: weapons (Bokken, Jo and Tanto), body art, as well as laido. Our Dojo has about 20 registered members. Our Sensei and teacher is Jürgen Schwendinger 3rd Dan, Fukushido-in assisted by Wolfgang Petter and Michael Schwendinger both 2nd Dan, Fukushido-in. They instruct ten classes a week.

In the summer of 2008, Shihan TK Chiba taught our Summer Camp and named our Dojo 'O Sen Kan' which means 'the Elite house' of Austria. We, the students of Aikikai Dornbirn, see this privilege in our excellent teachers, and in the opportunity of following

O-Sensei's path.

In the spirit of our Birankai teachers, Shihan TK Chiba and Shihan Tony Cassells, we strive to keep a friendly relationship in training. This way, trust can be built on the mat, which in turn allows for both an effective and intensive practice on the mat.

We host three seminars a year, Spring Course, Summer Camp and Autumn Course. We have some frequent guests from the neighbouring and overseas countries. These guests return regularly, as they appreciate the high quality of our seminars and also because they feel 'at home' in our Dojo. Our British friends especially, led by Shihan Tony Cassells and Mark Pickering, have made themselves at home over the past eight years.

Our teacher Jürgen Schwendinger transmits the spirit of martial arts in its highest form – the same way as he receives it from his teacher Shihan Tony Cassells.

Within our Dojo, Shihan Tony Cassells calls for an intensive discussion and exchange on the essence of Aikido. Our seminars prove to be special experiences. ☯



Sylvia Taraba 1st Dan
Dornbirn
27 May 2010

BIRANKAI FRANCE

Technical Directors: Shihan Norberto Chiesa 6th Dan and
Shihan Gabriel Valibouze 6th Dan (*on leave of absence*)
Chairman: Didier Hatton 4th Dan



志
道

Dai Jyo Kan, Aikikai de
Bagnols

Chief Instructor
Patrick Barthélémy 5th Dan, Shidoïn
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Senior Instructor
Shihan Norberto Chiesa 6th Dan
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Training days
Tuesday to Saturday



Dai Jyo Kan, 40 years of Human Adventure. . .

Bagnols sur Cèze, at the cross-road of the Rhodanian Valley and the mountain hills of the Cévennes, owes its prosperity to the creation of the Nuclear Center of Marcoule.

Towards the end of 1969 a dental surgeon, an old student of Master Mochizuki, together with a group of young people created an association dedicated to the practice of Aikido. In January 1970 our first class, a curious mixture of karate and Aikido, marked the birth of our Adventure.

From then on and until 1975, other teachers brought to us a kind of practice much closer to what we know today. They were followers of the teachings of Tamura Sensei, including our dear friend Roberto Arnulfo.

In 1975 a young Argentinean, student of TK Chiba Sensei, took residence in our region and agreed to take

on the technical direction of the Dojo. In 1978, Norberto Chiesa, expert in tango and Latin dances, joined forces with one of the original-founding members of the 1969 Association, thus generating an enduring complicity between Argentinean

tango and the mountains of the Ardeche. From then on, Patrick Barthélémy and Norberto Chiesa have dispensed their teaching at the Dojo.

Another youngster, Thierry Moulinet, took charge of the children courses in 1986 (and still does to this day. . .), courses that were created three years before by Patrick Barthélémy.

Two mayor events took place in that year that were capital to our practice. We gained independence from municipal structures by renting our own premises, and at the outcome of a wonderful ceremony the Dojo received from TK Chiba Sensei its name: DAI JYO KAN*.

In the year 2000 we lived through the last major event of our Adventure: we bought our own Dojo. A considerable investment from all the members and an unflinching solidarity have resulted in the home we now have.

All of you, Birankai friends that may be passing nearby, come share our practice and enjoy our hospitality**. ☺

Patrick Barthélémy 5th Dan

**Dai Jyo Kan: the commonly understood meaning is that of a large ship where everybody rows in the same direction. Others, we know not why, make reference to a galley. . .*

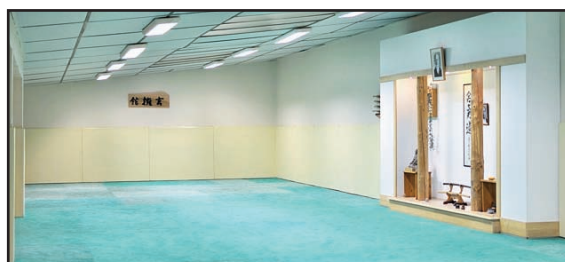
***Hospitality: to join us call Patrick Barthélémy at 04 66 82 70 16 and by e-mail to pbartoch@wanadoo.fr*

Aikikai de Strasbourg

Chief Instructor
Shihan Gabriel Valibouze 6th Dan

Other Instructors
Didier Hatton 4th Dan, Shidoïn
Sadek Khettab 4th Dan, Shidoïn
Joël Bertrand 4th Dan, Shidoïn
Paule Helmbacher 3rd Dan,
Fukushidoïn
Alexandre Pigeollot 2nd Dan,
Fukushidoïn

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Tel: 03 88 28 10 98
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Training days
Monday to Saturday





Ann Jyou Kan

Chief Instructor
Anne Ducouret 4th Dan, Shidoïn

Other Instructors
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Jean-Gabriel Massardier
Stéphane Duclot
Jérôme Lebrun
Ivan Peyron

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Training days
Monday to Saturday

Ann Jyou Kan, a Birankai Dojo in Paris

The Ann Jyou Kan Dojo opened its doors in April 2006 in the 20th ward of Paris. Many events have marked its development.

In 1986 the original group started in the 5th ward. 1998 not only brings a move to the district of the 'high 20th ward' but we also came under the influence of Chiba Sensei school. This 'Birankai' connection is decisive because it allows us to restart as a group. We then moved to 93 Pelleport Street. Two years later the manager was asked to leave, so were we!!! After a year of hard times we moved back to the place and transformed it into a 'Dojo-School of the Parisian East'. Our initial project is announced in the following manner: "The sole purpose of this traditional martial arts school is to benefit the community. The Dojo is the environment for personal development where one studies the Way. Through the martial, energetic and cultural activities, the human being grows steadily and develops harmoniously. The relationship to others and to oneself is enacted under the rules that govern the life in the Dojo and from this sharing emerges a collective project".

The Deputy-Mayor of the 20th ward opens the Dojo at a special ceremony in September 2006. Then TK Chiba Sensei gives it the name of 'Ann Jyou

Kan' which translates as 'House of peace and prosperity'. Today we still maintain strong links with Birankai. We have more than twelve hours of Aikido classes in our Dojo with an additional eight classes in another place.

Membership includes 155 members made up of 90 adults and 65 children, with the following officers: Reynald Deroche as President, Thierry Lecomte as Treasurer and Christian Mathieu as General Secretary. The teaching is under the direction of Anne Ducouret 4th Dan, Shidoïn assisted by Cyrille Benoot, Jean-Gabriel Massardier, Stéphane Duclot, Jérôme Lebrun and Ivan Peyron. The Dojo welcomes all ages to numerous events.

This year, we had the honour of welcoming the seminar for advanced teachers and students directed by the Birankai Europe Shihankai.

The summer school in Paris in July will be directed by Shihans and Shidoïns. ☯

Anne Ducouret 4th Dan
Translated by Lucienne Suter



Aikikai de Cronenbourg

Chief Instructor
Sadek Khetab 4th Dan, Shidoïn

Other instructors
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Fukushidoïn
Yannick Uguet 3rd Dan (assistant)

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Training days
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

The Dojo was founded by Sadek Khetab and Paule Helmbacher in 2005 as a Birankai Dojo. It has a membership of 13 adults.

The practice takes place in a public social and cultural centre which also offers judo classes. There is no rent to pay.

The teachers are not paid and the members pay their fees through the social and cultural centre.

The teachers are Sadek Khetab 4th Dan, Shidoïn and Paule Helmbacher 3rd Dan, Fukushidoïn, and an assistant.

In order to allow this public social and cultural centre to pay the Aikido teachers for their classes,

it would require a greater investment by the teachers to get more students and fees, to develop children classes, and also the teachers should be certified by the state. ☯

Sadek Khetab 4th Dan



合気道

Gen Rei Kan, Uzès Aikikai

Instructors
Michel Neumann 3rd Dan,
Fukushidoïn†
Fabrice Mahieux 2nd Dan,
Fukushidoïn

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30700 Uzès
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Michel Neumann

Created in February 1982 the Dojo of Uzès has enjoyed a close working relationship with Dai Jyo Kan, the Dojo of Bagnols sur Cèze.

From the beginning, several teachers took the leadership of the group in succession. A time came when the Dojo found itself without a teacher.

It was at our request that Norberto Chiesa Sensei and Patrick Barthélémy Sensei generously accepted to disperse their teachings at our Dojo. Their engagement revitalized our Dojo and gave direction to our practice.

The commitment of the members grew in depth and the instructors advanced in their practice. Today, Michel Neumann and Fabrice Mahieux are holders of Fukushidoïn rank and assume the teaching in the Dojo. The membership stands at about 30

members.

In 2009 Chiba Sensei baptized the Dojo with the name 'Gen Rei Kan' and in so doing he affirmed our identity infusing the Dojo with a strong and beautiful energy. It is our responsibility now to persevere in our way through a rigorous and sincere practice. ☯

Fabrice Mahieux 2nd Dan

†Since this article was submitted we are sad to report that Michel Neumann passed away on 20 May 2010 due to ill health. With Fabrice Mahieux he had directed this Dojo for over 20 years. He leaves us with the memory of a sensitive man, full of humour, a generous spirit and a lasting friendship.





Nashi Yane Dojo
Saint-Marcel-de-Careiret

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Other Instructors
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Brigitte Calegari
Michele Calegari

Email Dojo
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Training day
Wednesday

Directed by Thierry Moulinet, 4th Dan, Fukushido
The Dojo of Saint-Marcel-de-Careiret was created in 1998, with the approval of Shihan Norberto Chiesa and Patrick Barthélémy, Shido.
There is a class for about 30 children on Wednesday from 1800 to 1900. Then a class from 1915 to 2100 for our group of adults. In 1998, there were about 6 to 8 adults.
Twelve years has passed. Now Aikido is very well known in our city and in the surrounding villages. The

Nashi Yane Dojo organized and participated in several seminars in Bagnols-sur-Céze, Uzès, St-Marcel-de-Careiret, and St-Martin d'Ardèche.
The children who are now teenagers have joined the adult class. We are now about twenty and practising steadily; the children's group is stable.
The classes are directed by Thierry Moulinet, assisted by Daniel Roussel, Brigitte and Michele Calegari. ☯

Thierry Moulinet 4th Dan



Gen Nei Kan Dojo
Aikikai Saint-Jean-du-Gard

Chief Instructor
Joël Bertrand 4th Dan, Shido

Other Instructor
Ghislaine Soulet 3rd Dan, Fukushido

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Training days
Wednesday to Saturday

Located in the countryside in Mialet, southern France (Gard), in the Cévennes, the Dojo is about one hour by car north of Nîmes. It was founded in 2007 by Joël Bertrand and Ghislaine Soulet in the old sheepfold of Malbosc (a farmhouse of the 17th century) and officially opened by Chiba Sensei in July 2007 under the name GEN NEI KAN.



Two Birankai certified teachers Joël Bertrand (4th Dan, Shido, technical director) and Ghislaine Soulet (3rd Dan, Fukushido), both students of Gabriel Valibouze Shihan, teach eight hours weekly (Aikido, boken, jo, laido) and one hour of Zazen, to about ten students.
Several seminars are organized during the year among which is an annual

summer camp in July in Saint-Jean-du-Gard. The Dojo also offers a housing capacity to accommodate all through the year practitioners who desire to join the practice at Gen Nei Kan in a natural environment favourable to concentration.
Welcome to Gen Nei Kan! ☯

Joël Bertrand 4th Dan

BIRANKAI DEUTSCHLAND (GERMANY)



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道

Technical Director: Shihan Chris Mooney (Acting) and
Shihan Gabriel Valibouze 6th Dan (*on leave of absence*)

Chairman: Alexander Broll 4th Dan

Gen Ei Kan, Landau

Chief Instructor
Alexander Broll 4th Dan, Shido-in

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Training days
Monday, Thursday and Saturday

The Dojo is situated in a former fortress town in the south-west of Germany and has 44,000 inhabitants surrounded by vineyards and forest areas of the Pfalz.

In 1998 our Dojo was founded by Alexander Broll and in 2001 Shihan TK Chiba gave us the name 'Gen Ei Kan', which translates to 'The House that reflects the Essence'.

What is important to us are the holistic values. These require discipline (physically and mentally), accepting each other and, moreover, embarking on a voyage of discovery that never seems to end. When learning AI-KI-DO you deal not only with the opponent but also with your own self.

We are now offering Aikido training to children from the age of eight upwards. Currently, we are involved with exchange training programmes with neighbouring Dojos in Paris, Strasbourg and Colmar. The main issues are the intensive Aikido training of children and adolescents, the

exchange of teachers as well as exchanging European cultures with each other.

In Spring and Autumn, we regularly organize Aikido training courses with international Birankai teachers (Shihan and Shido-in) for young people and adults. We also host a social event annually for the Landau Aikido Community.

As part of our publicity campaign, we participated in the 'Day of the child' in Landau and also at the 'Global day of the child'. We take part in anti-violence programmes in schools and are known to organizations in Landau offering holiday schemes.

The Dojo is an aspect of life embracing the confidence, the space and the order that are contained in the spirit of the five pillars: centeredness, connect-edness, liveliness, openness and wholeness. This constitutes a real challenge, on and off the tatami. ☺

Alexander Broll 4th Dan





University of Muenster Aikido Dojo

Chief Instructor
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Fukushidoin

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Training day
Tuesday

Founded in 2002 by Hans-Peter Hoepf, University of Muenster Aikido Dojo has ever since been an assembly point for university students and affiliates taking refuge to strict martial practice of body management, composure and courage in an otherwise highly intellectualized and efficiency-directed academic environment. Inevitably, as part of a university sports programme, Birankai Aikido struggled to make its way among the other physical disciplines

and to successfully compete for practice time and space in the university sports facilities. Not surprisingly, external and internal influences calling into question 'that weird marital art' that seemed to 'accomplish little in a foreseeable time span' were endless over the first years. Growing support came when more and more news spread via the academic grapevine that the university Dojo was truly providing a programme contrasting and complementing academic strains through vigorous martial exercise resulting in composure of body, mind and social interaction. Only with time the very obstacles that the Dojo had met in the beginning turned into its



basic strength: people increasingly came because 'the other kind of sport' now held a special attraction. At present, the number of people 'just having a snoop around' still continues to be large at the beginning of each term whereas the number of those outlasting the initial disillusionment seems minute in comparison. Over the years, however, the slowly growing core of truly committed members became increasingly known for its radiance of physical, mental and social excellence.



Hans-Peter Hoepf 3rd Dan



HELLENIC BIRANKAI (GREECE)



志
道

Technical Director: Shihan Mike Flynn 6th Dan

Chairman: Matt Teale 4th Dan

Athens Aikido

Chief Instructor
Jenny Flower 4th Dan, Shidojin

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Training days
Monday to Friday

After a year of searching and a month of grueling work Athens Aikido opened the doors of its new home on 12 April 2010! Our Dojo is located close to the centre of Athens and being on the metro line direct from the airport it is ideal for visitors from abroad too.

Chief instructor is Jenny Flower, 4th Dan, Shidojin and we offer a full-time training program including laido and Zazen. We have a mat space of 43 mats and comfortable uchideshi facilities. ☺



Jenny Flower 4th Dan

Athens Aikikai

Chief Instructor
Ari Sinavelis 3rd Dan, Fukushidojin

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Tel: +30 6944542729
Training days
Monday to Saturday





Kithira Aikido

Instructor
Kiros Tzannes 3rd Dan

Address
Spilies
Kalamos
Kithira 80100
Greece

Email: kithiraaikido@yahoo.gr
Tel: 0030 27360 34038
Training days
Adults: Monday to Saturday
Children: Tuesday and Friday

I started Aikido in 1990 in Athens with Eamonn Devlin Sensei, also I have trained under the guidance of Juba Nour Sensei when he was in Athens in 1994 for a year. After that I visited Juba Nour in his New York Dojo a couple of times for a few months at a time. In 1996 I started a restaurant on the island of Kithira just for the summer season and during the winter I used to go back to Athens and continued training with Eamon Devlin until 2000 when I decided to move permanently to Kithira. This is when I started my own Dojo primarily to be able to continue training.

Also I have attended numerous seminars with Chris Mooney Sensei and many other Birankai Senseis and of course Chiba Sensei's seminars.

Kithira Aikido is located on a small Greek island, Kithira, in the main town called Hora. It was established in the



year 2000. At the moment we rent the gymnasium in the primary school, where we train daily.

We have 12 active members and we also have children classes with ten children.

We usually have an annual Greek Birankai seminar and we hope in the future to make it an international event as this is an ideal location for people to bring their family and combine training and holidays on an unspoilt beautiful Greek island. ☺

Kiros Tzannes 3rd Dan

Kolonos

Chief Instructor
Matt Teale 4th Dan, Shidoiin

Other Instructors
Achilleas Label 3rd Dan
Giannis Papagyris 1st Dan
Louis Abeshi 1st Dan
Angeliki Chrisanthakopoulou 1st Dan
Angelos Tsantilas 1st Dan

Address
Lenorman 114, Kolonos
Central Athens
Greece 10444

Website: www.aikido-dojo.gr
Email: matt.teale9@gmail.com
Tel: 6974 022012
Training days
Monday to Saturday

The Aikido Dojo at Kolonos has only been open since September 2009. The chief instructor is Matt Teale (4th Dan, Shidoiin). He is assisted by Achilleas Label (3rd Dan), Giannis Papagyris (1st Dan), Louis Abeshi (1st Dan), Angeliki Chrisanthakopoulou (1st Dan) and Angelos Tsantilas (1st Dan). Originally we started at Panellinios Sports centre but the decision was taken to open a permanent Aikido Dojo because we had outgrown the limitations of a shared Sports centre.

Kolonos is in central Athens, fairly close to the historical centre (Acropolis etc) and we are very lucky to be on the top floor of the tallest building around (5th floor). So there's a great view of the Acropolis and the other hills in central Athens as well as the mountains surrounding Athens.

The Dojo has around 30 active members now, including 6 Dan grades (not including the chief instructor). We also have a small kids' class that started in September with 8 kids. There are

also classes for Tai Chi and probably we'll be introducing Wu Shu after the summer.

There are morning classes (taught by Matt Teale Monday to Friday) and evening classes on Monday, Tuesday and

Thursday as well as two hours on Saturday midday. The classes are taught either by Matt Teale or one of the senior Dojo members. Including weapons and laido there are a total of 15 hours training available as well as Zazen 4 times per week. The kids' class is for one hour on Wednesdays and one hour on Saturday mornings.

We currently have 130 square metres mat space in a light, airy space. We are in the process of ordering some more mats. So hopefully soon we'll have 200 sq metres mat space.

Since we are so lucky to have such a large space, we hold seminars here regularly including some of the Hellenic Birankai seminars. In October we had a great seminar with the Hellenic Birankai's technical director Shihan Mike Flynn and Renata Bohdanowicz 3rd Dan, Fukushidoiin. In March we were very happy to have a very successful seminar by Shihan Chris Mooney where there was a total of 80 attendees over the course of the weekend. In these busy seminars we can take advantage of a large open roof-top space for split classes with weapons on the roof and body art in the Dojo.

It is very early days for our Dojo but so far we are very happy with how things are progressing. ☺

Matt Teale 4th Dan



BIRANKAI ISRAEL

Technical Director: Shihan Chris Mooney 6th Dan
Chairman: Amnon Tzechovoy 4th Dan



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道

A Mon Kan Dojo

Chief Instructor
Amnon Tzechovoy 4th Dan,
Fukushidoin

Address
Sport Centre
Tel-Aviv University
Chaim Lebanon Street

Website: www.tau-aikido.com
Email: amnontz@netvision.net.il
Tel: 03 5474633
Training days
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and
Friday

Located at the Sport Centre of Tel Aviv University, the Tel Aviv Aikikai Dojo began in 1993. During this period Aikido in Israel was inspired by Iwama School. In 2001, following attendance at a seminar with Chris Mooney Sensei, on a visit to Israel, I was exposed for the first time to Sensei's school. Ever since this encounter I have been practising with Chris Mooney Sensei, in particular, and later on with Chiba Sensei, whenever I got the opportunity to participate in his seminars.

In 2005 my Dojo was recognized as a Birankai Dojo and I was accepted as a teacher in our school. Nowadays Birankai Israel is composed of two Dojos, the main Dojo operating in

Tel Aviv University Sports Centre and another in a neighbouring town called Ganei Tikva. Altogether there are 30 students, including two Shodans.

Each year there are at least two seminars in Israel conducted by Shihan Chris Mooney, as well as other teachers. My students often join with me to attend seminars around Europe.

This year we expect the first time ever visit of Chiba Sensei to Israel in July. ☺

Amnon Tzechovoy 4th Dan





BIRANKAI POLSKA (POLAND)



Technical Director: Shihan Daniel Brunner 6th Dan

Chairman: Andrzej Sobolewski 4th Dan

Wroclaw Aikikai

Chief Instructor

Piotr Masztalerz 4th Dan, Shidoiin

Other Instructors

Jacek Kochaniec 3rd Dan, Fukushidoiin

Michal Orlik 2nd Dan, Fukushidoiin,
runs Aikikai Trzebnica

Arkadiusz Bartys 1st Dan - kids' and
teenagers' groups

Maciej Tomaszewski 1st Dan -
teenagers' groups

Michal Karbowski 1st Kyu - kids'
groups

Urszula Gryniewicz 1st Kyu - kids'
groups

Address

279 Grabiszynska Street
Wroclaw, Poland

Website: www.wsaikido.wroc.pl

Email: pmasz@poczta.wp.pl

Tel: +48 507580656

Training days

Monday to Friday

Was created by Piotr Masztalerz 4th Dan, Shidoiin and Jacek Kochaniec 3rd Dan, Fukushidoiin in 1997.

Over 100 students practise in three adult groups. The Dojo runs three mornings, and 11 evening classes for adults weekly.

Over 100 children practise in six age groups (up to 6 years, 7-9, 10-12).

There are 20 kids classes weekly.

Beside regular classes we run summer camps for kids and teenagers, week-end workshops and demonstrations.

Piotr Masztalerz teaches Aikido at the Wroclaw Technical University.

Every six months 80 new students are introduced to Aikido basics and have a chance to practise in Wroclaw Aikikai Dojo.

The Dojo runs Kenshusei teachers' programme, with special classes for this group. ☯

Piotr Masztalerz 4th Dan



Gdanska Sekcja Aikido

Chief Instructor

Tomasz Sarnatowicz 1st Dan

Dojo address

ul. Na Zaspie 31a

80-546 Gdansk

Poland

Mailing address

Tomasz Sarnatowicz

ul. Czestochowska 35/10

80-180 Gdansk

Website: www.gsaikido.gda.pl

Email: tomasz.sarnatowicz@gmail.com

Tel: +48 880 90 23 86

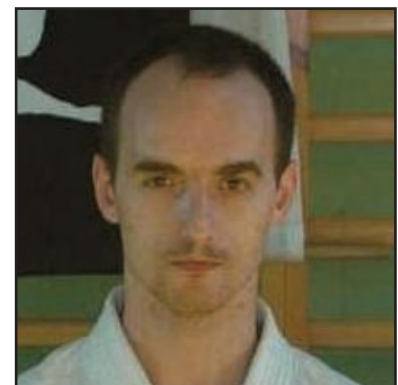
Training days

Tuesday and Thursday

Under the direction of Shihan Daniel Brunner the Dojo was founded in September 2007.

The founder, Tomasz Sarnatowicz 1st Dan has been practising Aikido since 1991 – at first with the Polish Aikido Federation. In 2003 the final decision was made to choose Brunner Sensei as the leading teacher. In 2006 the idea of founding a Dojo first appeared and after one year of preparation, the first class was taught in Gdansk.

The Dojo was initially located in an old judo club, which gave us a great Budo atmosphere. In 2010 the city authorities decided to close the venue and we had to look for another location. The first members of the Dojo were about five who decided to leave our old Dojo and practise together. New members were gradually appearing and in June 2008 we were honoured with the visit of Brunner Sensei. Currently the Dojo has about 15 members varying from beginners



Tomasz Sarnatowicz

to 1st Kyu.

Since the Dojo lacks a certified Birankai teacher, we have decided to foster close relationship with Wroclaw Aikikai, especially with Piotr Masztalerz Sensei 4th Dan and Jacek Kochaniec Sensei 3rd Dan. Both visit the dojo 2-3 times a year for weekend seminars and exams. ☯

Tomasz Sarnatowicz 1st Dan

Trzebnica Aikikai

Chief Instructor
Michal Orlik 2nd Dan, Fukushidon
michael.orlik@wp.pl

Address
Trzebnica, Poland

Website: aikidotrzebnica.com
Email: info@aikidotrzebnica.com
Tel: +48 693 461 364
Training days
Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Creation of Trzebnica Aikikai Dojo on 15 February 2010 is connected with two events that have recently occurred in my life. The first event was moving from Wrocław to Trzebnica (a town of 12,000 inhabitants located 20km to the north of Wrocław): Trzebnica did not have any Aikido Dojo, so I thought it was a good place to establish one. The second event - passing a Fukushido exam - was more of a trigger which opened the door not only to propagate Aikido further but also to bring my own training to a new level.

Currently classes in the Dojo are held three times a week: twice (Monday and Wednesday) two hours in the evening in a public school (we lay the mats each time

before the class and store them after) and Friday morning weapons class outdoors on top of a local hill. Since February 15th the Dojo has seven new participants.

The Dojo's website address is aikidotrzebnica.com and its content will be soon be translated into English. ☺

Michal Orlik 2nd Dan



Michal Orlik

Oimp Dojo, Wrocław

Chief Instructor
Renata Bohdanowicz 3rd Dan,
Fukushidon

Other Instructors
Darek Machalski 3rd Dan
Andrzej Sobolewski 4th Dan (Advisor)

Website: www.aikiolimp.pl
Email: irimi@poczta.onet.pl
Tel: +48 600 41 35 36

The Dojo was founded in 2000 at Olympic Stadion in Wrocław.

It is located on Paderewskiego Street. The teachers are Renata Bohdanowicz (3rd Dan, chief instructor, Fukushidon), assistant Darek Machalski 3rd Dan and Andrzej Sobolewski 4th Dan (Advisor). Renata Bohdanowicz has been a student of Shihan Daniel Brunner for four years and is a professional teacher working at the Olympic Stadion (one adult and two children's groups), at the

University of Wrocław (four adult groups) and at the School near 113 Zemska street, Wrocław (two groups of children), which makes a total of about 180 Aikido students in a year.

At the Oimp Dojo we have an adult group with 25 students practising one and a half hours 3 times a week. Ages range from 14 years to 70 years. We have extended families like father and daughter or grandfather and grandson which makes for a friendly atmosphere. There are many university students. The group is mixed - advanced and beginners working together - twice a week body art and once a week weapon. Students participate fully in the Dojo activities.

Four children groups about 15 in each group from ages 5-13 practise twice a week for one hour. Once a year children have an examination for kyu grades (12-6 kyu).

We hope to eventually have a permanent Dojo in one place for all the groups. ☺



Renata Bohdanowicz 3rd Dan



Wroclaw Aikido Club

Chief Instructor

Zbigniew Dudzic 3rd Dan, Fukushidoin
dudzitsu@gmail.com

Other Instructor

Janusz Pyrcz 3rd Dan
janusz.pyrcz@wp.pl
Tel: 501 370 661

Website: www.wkaikido.pl
Tel: 609 025 090

The Wroclaw Aikido Club (WKA) originated from Sen Nen Sugi Aiki Dojo in November 2001 and is a member of Birankai Poland. We train under the direction of Shihan Daniel Brunner, holder of the rank of 6th Dan.

The club was founded by Zbigniew Dudzic, the main instructor, holder of a 3rd Dan and a Fukushidoin in Birankai Poland. Zbigniew has been practising Aikido since October 1989.

The second instructor in our club is Janusz Pyrcz, holder of a 3rd Dan, practising Aikido since October 1979.

Our club belongs to Sen Nen Sugi Aiki Dojo family, a group of Wroclaw

Dojos created by instructors originally trained in the first Aikido Dojo in Wroclaw. The Dojos stay in close contact and support each other organizing annual summer schools, seminars and courses. We all train with the kind support of Daniel Brunner Sensei.

Instructors and members of our club regularly take part in international and local classes, seminars and summer schools.

Training sessions are conducted for adults in different levels of advancement, as well as for children in different age groups. ☯

Zbigniew Dudzic 3rd Dan



CHIBA SENSEI: 2010 SUMMER COURSES IN EUROPE

22-24 July 2010

Summer Seminar 2010 with Shihan TK Chiba 8th Dan and Shihan Chris Mooney 6th Dan

Kibutz Shfaim Sport Center, Tel Aviv, Israel

Website: www.tau-aikido.com

Email: van_nostrad@hotmail.com

Mobile: +97254-55450833

31 July-6 August 2010

British Birankai Summer School 2010 with Shihan TK Chiba 8th Dan and Shihan T Miyamoto 7th Dan (Hombu, Japan) assisted by BB Shihan and Shidoin

University of Worcester, Henwick Grove, WR2 6AJ, Worcester

Website: www.britishbirankai.com

Email: 2010summerschool@gmail.com

Enquiries: Paul Robinson, Course organiser

Mobile: +44 (0) 7989 359898

14-21 August 2010

Birankai Poland Summer Camp with Shihan TK Chiba Sensei 8th Dan, Shihan Daniel Brunner 6th Dan, Shihan Norberto Chiesa 6th Dan and Birankai Instructors

Wroclaw, Poland

Website: www.aikidowroclaw.com/en/2,aikido_summer_camp.html

Email: info@aikidowroclaw.com

BIRANKAI PORTUGAL

Technical Advisor: Shihan Mike Flynn 6th Dan

Chairman: Christophe Peytier 4th Dan



Sanjukan - Lisbon

Chief Instructor

Christophe Peytier 4th Dan, Shidoin

Website: www.sanjukan.com

Email: sanjukan@gmail.com

Tel: +351 916169040

Training days

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

With the advent of the 21st century, I felt the urge to leave California and return to the old continent, and ended up choosing Lisbon, Portugal.

After a few weeks in the country, I attended some Aikido lessons in a general-purpose gym club, taught by a Nidan in his late twenties, but after about six months, fate had it that this teacher vanished with no prior notice, leaving the school with no trainers. After seeing my credentials, the management of the gym gave me that job immediately.

This fortunate event clearly helped us to jumpstart our development in 2001 as the representatives of Birankai in Portugal. After arriving in Portugal, I was struck to see palm, pine and eucalyptus trees growing together. These are my three favourite trees and it is rare to see them together since each requires a different growing climate. At the summer camp in Méjannes, France in 2001, I asked Chiba Sensei what would be a good name for 'school of three trees', and not only did he articulated the Japanese name 'Sanjukan', but on the next day he handed me a beautiful calligraphy with the three characters. How could I have dreamed about a better outcome of what was just a deep intuition?

Nine years later, and with much water under the bridge, we now have an established training place, with 60 mats, in the historical center of Lisbon. We operate a regular schedule of five hours per week, on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Our group is still

small, about fifteen members, which means about six to twelve people on the mat. This Spring of 2010, was good. We have had, within two weeks in April, the occurrence of three gratifying events. Firstly, our two most senior students passed their shodan test, under the guidance of Shihan Mike Flynn. Secondly, we received our official recognition from Hombu, and thirdly, we had our first class with a majority of female practitioners, representing roughly 30%, which is the goal I had in mind.

At this point, when I look back, I am quite happy to see a group in constant evolution, with a core of students that are developing well. The mere fact of having some people who continue to come several times a week, despite a busy modern life, is extremely gratifying, and is a strong motivation for me to continue in this direction.

Looking into the future of Sanjukan, our top two priorities are to increase the membership to twenty five members, and to start preparing for the future by training some students to become assistant teachers.

As a conclusion, taking a step back prompts the question: "What does it mean to found and develop a martial art school?"

The first answer is that we have to preserve the link of the chain of Budo transmission. As teachers, we are given the responsibility by both our own teachers and our students. The second answer is that Aikido, as a tool for personal development, is helping practitioners to be better human beings. Thus, as the founder of the school, I feel that I am contributing to this growth and this provides me an answer to this fundamental question: "How am I contributing to make this world a better place?" ☯



Christophe Peytier 4th Dan
29 May 2010



BIRANKAI CH (SWITZERLAND)



Technical Director: Shihan Chris Mooney 6th Dan

Chairman: Shihan Daniel Brunner 6th Dan

Ryu Seki Kai, Lausanne

Chief Instructor
Shihan Daniel Brunner 6th Dan

Other Instructors
André Perretten 4rd Dan
Ursula Schaffner 4rd Dan, Fukushidoin
Carl Schmitt, 4rd Dan
Christophe Brunner 3rd Dan,
Fukushidoin
Marcel Golay 1st Dan (important
children's group)

Address
Chemin du Couchant 4
CH-1022 Chavannes

Website: www.ryusekikai.ch
Email: brunnersd@citycable.ch
Tel: 021 323 51 08
Training days
Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

The Ryu Seki Kai Dojo was founded in 1986.

First located in Morges, a little town 10 km from Lausanne, it has now relocated to the suburb of Lausanne in 1995.

The Dojo has now found a home in an old furniture factory, which was recently refurbished. It consists of two rooms; one 144 sq metres and the other 80 sq metres, separated by sliding panels that, once removed, constitutes a Dojo large enough to accommodate large number of students and hold important courses.

The technical director is Shihan Daniel Brunner 6th Dan.

In 1986, after 24 years of practice,

I decided at last to leave the Dojo where I was brought up, and, with the help of some faithful students, I found my own Dojo. I was following at this time the teachings of Tamura Sensei and Chiba Sensei.

After many years without contact with Chiba Sensei, I renewed this relationship which became even stronger than when I had met him in 1969. This was made possible through the efforts of Shihan Norberto Chiesa. Since then, the Ryu Seki Kai has rejoined the Birankai. ☺

Shihan Daniel Brunner 6th Dan



Sakura Dojo, Bern

Chief Instructor
Barbara Imboden 4th Dan, Shidoin

Other Instructors
Michèle Pauli 1st Dan
Ivo Sonderegger 1st Dan

Address
Freiburgstrasse 111b
3008 Bern, Switzerland

Website: www.sakura-dojo.ch
Email: b.imboden@shogikan.ch
Tel: +41 79 295 76 68
Training days
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Founded in 1995.

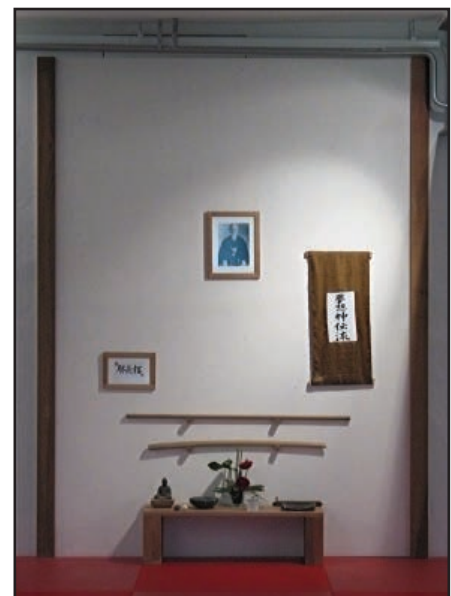
Chiba Sensei gives the name 'Sho Gi Kan' in 1998 – 'House of the Supreme Principle'.

Teachers: Barbara Imboden 4th Dan, Shidoin, Michèle Pauli 1st Dan and Ivo Sonderegger 1st Dan.

Supervised by Shihan Chris Mooney.

Practices: two regular Mixed classes per week, one weekly Basic training, one Advanced training and one Weapons class. One Children's class. ☺

Barbara Imboden 4th Dan



BRITISH BIRANKAI

Shihan Tony Cassells 6th Dan ☯ Shihan Dee Chen 6th Dan
Shihan Mike Flynn 6th Dan ☯ Shihan Chris Mooney 6th Dan
Chairman: Shihan Mike Flynn 6th Dan



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道
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CENTRAL ENGLAND

Arrowvale Aikido (Genpu Kan)

Chief Instructor: Paul Robinson 5th Dan, Shido-in
Address: Arrowvale Leisure Centre, Green Sward Lane, Redditch, B98 0EN
Website: learnaikido.co.uk
Email: learnaikido@googlemail.com
Tel: 07989 359898
Training days: Monday and Thursday

Mei Jyu Kan (Albrighton and Wolverhampton Aikido)

Chief Instructor: Ian Grubb 5th Dan, Shido-in
Addresses:
☯ Den, Shaw Lane, Albrighton, Nr Wolverhampton
☯ Compton Youth Centre, Henwood Road, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, WV6 8PG
Email: ian@britishbirankai.com
Tel: 0774 280 0116
Training days: Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

Tudor Grange Central Aikido Dojo (*Associate of Cocks Moors Woods Dojo*)

Chief Instructor
Stuart Lovering 3rd Dan, Fukushido-in

Address
Tudor Grange Sports Centre
Tudor Grange Park
Blossomfield Road
Solihull
Birmingham B91 1NB

Website: tudorgrangeaikido.co.uk
Email
stuart.lovering@blueyonder.co.uk
Tel: 0775 971 1370
Training day
Monday (except Bank Holiday)

I was only a junior when I first started in 1989 after finding the calming side of it assisted me in the competitions I used to compete in in Karate, which I used to do. Noticing the difference Aikido was doing for me, I continued to follow, even though the reasons have changed over the years.



Stuart Lovering

I started Aikido due to the interest in martial arts and I have continued due to the enjoyment of giving other people the same experience I have had over

the years, and how it has helped me through my early years. I am now a member of the British Birankai Teaching Committee and hold the rank of 3rd Dan, Fukushido-in.

The Dojo has now been going since 2003 and is achieving its goal.

The Dojo was started to bring the same quality of practice at Cocks Moors Woods Dojo to the Solihull area at a beginner stage. It has been going for seven years now and the core of students is building well with grades from novice to 3rd Kyu. The junior class was started last year and is going from strength to strength. ☯

Stuart Lovering 3rd Dan





Cocks Moors Woods,
Fox Hollies,
Birmingham University

Chief Instructor
Mark Pickering 5th Dan, Shido-in

Other Instructors
Andy Colclough 2nd Dan, Fukushido-in
Michelle Eagles 2nd Dan
Laura Anderson 1st Dan
Paul Hull 1st Dan
Jonathon Thomas 1st Dan

Addresses
Cocks Moors Woods Leisure Centre
Alcester Rd South, Kings Heath
Birmingham B14 6ER
Website: www.cocksmoorsaikido.co.uk
Tel: 0121 459 8830
Training days
Wednesday and Thursday

Fox Hollies Leisure Centre
Shirley Road, Acocks Green
Birmingham B27 7NS
Website: www.foxholliesaikido.co.uk
Training day
Monday

Munrow Sports Centre
University of Birmingham
Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT
Tel: 0121 414 4117
Training day
Wednesday (term time only)

My first experience as a martial artist was in Judo as a junior. I followed on from that with boxing, where a lot of my experience was gained on the street. After boxing, I worked internationally as a close protection bodyguard to diplomats. During this time I started Aikido (1985) with Shihan Tony Cassells 6th Dan as my instructor. By the time I reached Shodan in 1988, I had attended many courses led by a number of Japanese masters including: Kisshomaru Ueshiba (then Doshu), Waka Sensei (current Doshu), Chiba Sensei, Shibata Sensei, Miyamoto Sensei and many others.

Over the past 20 years I have travelled to Japan, the USA and Europe, where I have taught at various seminars.

I have been teaching at Cocks Moors Woods Leisure Centre for 19 years and have many adult and junior students. My senior yudansha students, who have also travelled extensively for Aikido, have their own Dojos.

I believe weapons training should be as strong as body art, and have



Mark Pickering

always taught and practised weapons, including Iai Batto Ho, with the same vigour and enthusiasm.

I am currently 5th Dan, Shido-in and a member of the British Birankai Teaching Committee. I am also the Chairman of Birankai Austria. ☯

Mark Pickering 5th Dan

Ei Oh Kan

Chief Instructor: Shihan Tony Cassells 6th Dan
Other Instructor: Steve Woodward 2nd Dan

Address: South Yardley Methodist Church, Broadyates Road
Birmingham, B25 8JF
Website: www.eiohkan.org.uk
Tel: 0121 707 4197
Training days: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday



Shihan Tony Cassells

I Shin Juku

Chief Instructor: Richard Edmunds 4th Dan, Shido-in

Address
Tatenhill Village Hall, Main Street
Tatenhill, Burton-On-Trent
Derbyshire, DE13 9SD
Email: richardedmunds@britishbirankai.com
Tel: 01283 845950

Ei Mei Kan

Chief Instructor
Shihan Chris Mooney 6th Dan

Assistant Instructor
Iona Mooney 2nd, Fukushido-in

Children's Instructor
Szevone Chin 1st Kyu

Address
The Dojo, Barnt Green Road
Cofton Hackett, Birmingham
B45 8NB

Website: www.eimeikan.org.uk
Email: info@eimaikan.org.uk
Tel: +44 (0)7932 666 801

Training days
Ei Mei Kan
Monday, Thursday and Saturday

Gen Sen Jyuku (Warwick Aikido)
Wednesday and Friday

Chris Mooney started Aikido training in 1973. He first began teaching Aikido at Aston University in 1981.

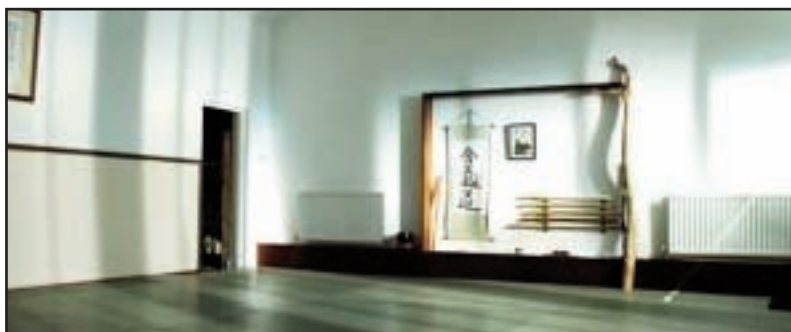
In 1987 he started his first Dojo in Bearwood, Birmingham. He received the name, Ei Mei Kan, for his Dojo from Chiba Sensei. Its meaning is 'England bright house'. He set up his first permanent Dojo in central Birmingham in 1994, with the assistance of six students: Matt Teale, Pauline Wilson, Ian Grubb, Andy Bass and Paul Clusker.

Ei Mei Kan has evolved and is now housed in a former church in the outskirts of Birmingham. This building, complete with facilities, is dedicated to the practice of training

in Aikido, Zazen, Iai Batto-Ho and calligraphy. Over the last 10 months, there has been much hard work from many current and former students who dedicated their time and energy to build the Dojo, in particular Chris Mooney's son who was greatly involved in the construction. On August 7th this year, Chiba Sensei will conduct an opening ceremony of the new Dojo building.

Chris Mooney is also the Chief Instructor of Gen Sen Jyuku (Warwick Aikido), whose name was given by Chiba Sensei. There is a close connection between the two groups of students. ☺

Shihan Chris Mooney 6th Dan



Ji Myo Kan

Chief Instructor: Steve Branagan 2nd Dan, Fukushido-in
Address: Ledbury Leisure Centre, Mabels Furlong, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2HF
Email: ledbury@britishbirankai.com
Tel: 0121 458 1572

EASTERN ENGLAND

Meishokan

Chief Instructor: Alan Stevens 3rd Dan, Fukushido-in
Address: County High Sports Centre, Copperfields, Saffron Walden, Cambridgeshire, CB11 3DP
Website: www.meishokan.org.uk
Email: meishokan@britishbirankai.com
Tel: 07837 948219
Training days: Monday and Wednesday

Chelmsford Aikikai

Chief Instructor: Henry Rayner 2nd Dan
Address: Dovedales Sports Centre, Vicarage Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 9PG
Website: www.chelmsfordaikikai.com
Email: chelmsford@britishbirankai.com
Tel: 07879 636477
Training day: Thursday

LONDON

London Aikikai, Shinmei-kan Dojo

Chief Instructor
Shihan Dee Chen 6th Dan
(on leave of absence)

Senior Instructors
Eric Beake 5th Dan, Shido-in
Davinder Bath 5th Dan, Shido-in

Address
The Maida Centre
221 Lanark Road
Maida Vale
London W9 1NX

Website: www.londonaikikai.com
Email: enquiries@londonaikikai.com
Tel: 07736 771076

Training days
Adults: Tuesday to Saturday
Children: Wednesday and Saturday

Chiba Sensei was first sent to Sunderland in North East England by O-Sensei in 1966. He soon relocated to London, establishing his headquarters Dojo, the London Aikikai in 1967. Following his return to Japan in 1976 London Aikikai has remained Chiba Sensei's Dojo in London and in 1985 Shihan Dee Chen and Eric Beake Sensei took responsibility for the Dojo which was named Shinmei-kan - 'House of New Light' - by Chiba Sensei. Following several moves we settled in our present location in Maida Vale in 1990. Throughout this period we have maintained the closest of relationship with Chiba Sensei receiving regular visits from him and his many senior instructors from the USA where he relocated to



San Diego in 1981. Davinder Bath Sensei and Eric Beake Sensei are both senior instructors now in charge of running the Dojo.

There are adults classes from Tuesday to Saturday including body arts, weapons, Iai Batto-Ho and Zazen. Children classes are on Wednesdays and Saturdays. London Aikikai has a popular and vibrant website at www.londonaikikai.com. ☺

Eric Beake Sensei started Aikido in 1970 with the Tomiki Aikido Group organized by London taxicab drivers and practised with them for 3 years.

He joined the British Aikido Federation after seeing one of Chiba Sensei's class and was graded Shodan by Yamada Sensei in 1978 in Bridgenorth. He was promoted Shido-in in August 1999 and awarded 5th Dan in January 2002.

Beake Sensei has been teaching at London Aikikai, Shinmei-kan Dojo since its inception in 1985. ☺



Eric Beake

Davinder Bath Sensei was born in Punjab, India and migrated to the UK at age 13. He started Aikido training aged 18 in August 1982, achieving Shodan rank in April 1985 with the Aikido Fellowship of Great Britain. He gained a Bachelors Degree in Mathematics in 1987. He met Chiba Sensei in 1987 and re-tested successfully for Shodan with him the same year, followed by Nidan in 1988. In 1989, 1990 and 1991 Bath Sensei 'had the privilege and pleasure' of looking after Chiba Sensei during the UKA Summer Schools. He was ranked Sandan in 1992, Yondan in 1998 and Godan in 2005. He was certified Fukushido-in in 1997 and Shido-in in 2004.



Davinder Bath

He has followed Chiba Sensei's teachings since meeting him in 1987 and every year since. He travelled to San Diego, USA on two occasions in 1995 and 1996 each time living in Chiba Sensei's Dojo as uchi deshi. From 2003 he 'has had the unique privilege' of accompanying Chiba Sensei on all his European trips to Aikido seminars as well as personal visits, sometimes attending 4 summer schools with him in one year. He has taken ukemi for Chiba Sensei almost every year since 1987. In 2007 Chiba Sensei declared Davinder Bath Sensei as his disciple.

Davinder Bath Sensei joined London Aikikai when he moved to London in September 2002. He has taught Aikido internationally in Poland, Switzerland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, France, Austria and Greece. He was selected to teach at the British Aikido Board (BAB) National Course in 2008. He is a senior instructor and Dojo-cho at London Aikikai. He is the BAB Representative for British Birankai and a member of the British Birankai Teaching Committee. ☺

Davinder Bath 5th Dan

London East Aikikai (Gen Pu Kan)

Chief Instructor
Stephen Beecham 5th Dan, Shidoin

Addresses

- The Village Drop In, West Avenue, London, E17 9QY
- Fitness First, Festival Leisure Park, Cranes Farm Road, Basildon SS14 2WB

Website: www.londoneastaikikai.co.uk
Email: stevebeechem@britishbirankai.com
Tel: 07838 387057
Training days
At The Village Drop In:
Tuesday and Friday

At Fitness First:
Thursday and Saturday



Stephen Beecham

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NORTH EAST ENGLAND

Abbey Aikido Club

Chief Instructor
Malcolm Blackwood 3rd Dan,
Fukushidoin
kafandant@yahoo.co.uk
Tel: 0191 3864179

Other Instructor
Anthony Fairbairn 1st Dan

Address
Abbey Sports Centre, Abbey Road
Pity Me, Co Durham DH1 5DQ

Email
abbeyaikido@britishbirankai.com
Secretary: 0191 3862831
Training days
Tuesday and Thursday

Chief Instructor: Malcolm Blackwood.
Sandan and Fukushidoin awarded
2007. Coach Level 2. British Birankai
Coaching Liaison Officer.

I started Aikido in 1984 in Durham.
Member of British Aikikai since it was estab-
lished and thus into the British Birankai.

I have been teaching since 1990 and
established Abbey Aikido Club as an
independent Dojo in 1998. Abbey Aikido
Club has worked closely with Durham
University and Teikyo Japanese College.
The Dojo regularly hosts British Birankai
Spring and Autumn courses and local area
courses in Durham.

Abbey Aikido Club welcomes all students and visitors. ☯

Malcolm Blackwood 3rd Dan



Malcolm Blackwood

Photo: K Ylanko

Shibudokan Dojo

Chief Instructor: Paul Milburn

Address:
McMillan Academy Leisure Centre, McMillan Academy, Stockton Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS5 4AG

Email: paulmilburn1@live.co.uk
Tel: 07754 663678
Training days
Thursday and Friday



Rainbow Aikido Club

Chief Instructor

Eddie Hodgson 3rd Dan, Fukushidoin

Other Instructors

Joe Curran 6th Dan, Shidoin

Ann Hunter 2nd Dan

Address

Thornaby Pavilion

Thornaby

Stockton-on-Tees

Cleveland

TS17 9EW

Email: e-hodgson@sky.com

Tel: 01642 318 038

Training day

Monday

Eddie Hodgson started Aikido in October 1966 at the Sunderland Education Authority, just after Chiba Sensei had ceased teaching there. He started teaching one of the classes there in 1972.

Without Chiba Sensei's influence, affiliation then turned to Pat Stratford Sensei and, through him, to master Andre Nocquet of France, one of the first European students of O-Sensei. In April 1979 Eddie gained his 1st Dan from Yves Pielot Sensei of Belgium.

In February 1988 Eddie gained 2nd Dan from John Emmerson Sensei and, in July 1990 he gained 3rd Dan from André Beru Sensei (France) at the summer school in Gujan-Mestras, France. In March 1993 Eddie gained his coaching certificate from the British Aikido Board. In July 1993 Eddie gained 4th Dan from Master Nocquet, again at the summer school in Gujan-Mestras.

In 1995 Eddie decided on a committed change of direction and joined the British Birankai (then called the British Aikikai upon its inception). He began

working under the direction of Steve Magson Sensei.

Deciding to re-grade with the Aikikai, Eddie was awarded 1st Dan in August 2004 and 2nd Dan in October 2006. He then gained Fukushidoin in July 2007. In April 2008 Eddie was awarded 3rd Dan.

From summer 2004 onwards he began to work very closely with Joe Curran Sensei. Over time Eddie has also been influenced by Arthur Lockyear Sensei, Tony Cassells Sensei, Chris Mooney Sensei, Ian Grubb Sensei and Mike Flynn Sensei.

Eddie continues to be the chief instructor at the Rainbow Aikido Club and trains and teaches regularly at other northeast Aikikai clubs.

Dojo Biography: During 1979 Eddie Hodgson started teaching Aikido at what was then Teesside Polytechnic, which later transferred to Thornaby Pavilion. The club is now known as the Rainbow Aikido Club. ☯

Eddie Hodgson 3rd Dan



Photo: Ken Pearson

Eddie Hodgson and Melissa Barnet (uke), Durham March 2008

Sakumei Kan

Chief Instructor: Joe Curran 6th Dan, Shidoin

Address

University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, Kings Walk, Main Gym, Newcastle Upon Tyne

Email: joe@britishbirankai.com

Tel: 0191 237 2908

Shi Sei Kan (Durham City Aikikai)

Chief Instructor: Arthur Lockyear 4th Dan, Shido-in

Address: Vane Tempest Hall, Maynards Row, Durham City DH1 1QF

Website: www.gilesgate.freemove.co.uk

Email: shiseikan@britishbirankai.com

Tel: 0191 373 2035

Training days: Tuesday and Thursday



Tempest Aikido Club

Chief Instructor: Paul Kitson 3rd Dan

Address: Fulwell Community Centre, Chapman Street, Fulwell, Sunderland, SR6 8HS

Website: www.aikidonortheast.org.uk

Email: admin@aikidonortheast.org.uk

Tel: 0191 5290709 Mobile: 07754 035159

Training days: Wednesday and Sunday

NORTH WEST ENGLAND

South Manchester Aikido

Chief Instructor (Cadishead): Wellington Tsang 2nd Dan, Fukushido-in

Chief Instructor (Sale): Kevin Hudson 2nd Dan

Addresses:

• Sale Scout Hut, Woodbourne Road, Sale, Cheshire M33 3TQ

• Fit City Cadishead, Lords Street, Cadishead, Salford M44 5EH

Website: www.southmanchesteraikido.co.uk

Email: south.manchester.aikido@googlemail.com

Tel: 07982 452909

Training days: Wednesday (in Caldishead) and Thursday (in Sale)

SOUTH WEST ENGLAND

Shoyukan (Backwell Aikido Club)

Chief Instructor: Simon Williams 1st Dan

Address:

Budokan, Backwell Judo Club, off Rodney Road, Backwell, Bristol BS48 3HL

Website: www.shoyukan.org.uk

Email: swilliams@brayleino.co.uk

Tel: 01275 859 216

Training days: Monday and Wednesday



SCOTLAND



Saku Mei Kan

Chief Instructor: Mark Anderson 1st Dan

Address

The Beach Leisure Centre, Beach Promenade, Aberdeen, Scotland, AB24 5NR

Website: www.aberdeenaikido.co.uk

Email: secretary@aberdeenaikido.co.uk

Tel: Martina Swainson 07801 493180

Training days: Monday and Wednesday

SakuYou Kan (Wishaw Aikikai)

Chief Instructor

Stevie Boyle 5th Dan, Shido-in

Address

Wishaw Sports Centre, Alexander Street, Wishaw, Nr Glasgow, Scotland, ML2 0HQ

Website: www.wishawaikikai.com

Email: stevie@wishawaikikai.com

Tel: 01236 615500 Mobile 07904 066555

Training days

Wednesday and Sunday



Thistle Aikikai

Chief Instructor

Shihan Mike Flynn 6th Dan

Address

Iain Nicolson Recreation Centre
147 Chryston Way, Chryston
Nr Glasgow
Scotland
G69 9LE

Website: www.thistleaikikai.com

Email: mike@thistleaikikai.com

Tel: 01236 631465

Training days

Adults: Tuesday and Thursday

Children: Tuesday and Thursday

Shihan Michael Flynn began his study of Aikido in 1982 at San Diego Aikikai under the direction of Shihan TK Chiba. He was promoted to 6th Dan in 2001, and named Shihan in June 2005. He was formally awarded his Shihan Certificate in a ceremony at Aikikai Hombu Dojo in Tokyo in November 2006 by the second Doshu, Ueshiba Moriteru. He has also received Iaido Shihan title from Mitsuzuka Sensei. He is the Chairman of the British Birankai, and also serves as the Technical Director

of both Hellenic Birankai and Birankai Portugal.

Thistle Aikikai was established in January 2006 and offers beginner through to advanced classes in Aikido and weapons. All are welcome. Instruction in Iai Batto Ho, the art of drawing the sword and striking a killing blow, is also offered at Thistle Aikikai.



Shihan Mike Flynn 6th Dan



Joint Aikikai Council invites

Doshu Moriteru Ueshiba and his son Waka Sensei Mitsuteru Ueshiba to Cardiff 18-20 June 2010

Aikido Doshu Moriteru Ueshiba, along with his son, Waka Sensei (Young Master) visited the United Kingdom to instruct a course from 18-20 June 2010. Sponsored by the Joint Aikikai Council (the five UK based organizations affiliated to Hombu Dojo), the course was conducted in Cardiff and was attended by more than 800 people. During the course, we were treated to an incredible demonstration of pure Aikido by both Doshu and Waka Sensei, in an atmosphere of harmony and enjoyment. Doshu's dynamic teaching served to bring the entire group

together in a spirit of unity.

Ever accessible, both Doshu and Waka Sensei were engaging on and off the mat, providing many opportunities for introductions and photographs.

Also of significance was the recognition of Senseis Haydn William Foster, Henry Ellis and Derek Eastman, who were promoted by Doshu to 6th Dan in recognition of their lifelong study and teaching of Aikido and as Pioneers of Aikido in the United Kingdom.

On Sunday, the senior students of Birankai were asked to perform a demonstration for Doshu, through

which they were able to convey the high technical standard of our group. I want to thank all the members of the Birankai community who supported the event, and while I realize that the opportunity for serious, hard practice was impossible due to the numbers, I hope that, like me, you were able to take something from this unique experience. ☺

Shihan Mike Flynn 6th Dan



Seated (l-r) Susan Yates, David Yates (BAF), Doshu, Waka Sensei, Jean Pasley (interpreter) and Peter Gillard (BAF Chair)
Standing (l-r) Shihan Gordon Jones (UKA), Mr Kodani (Hombu Shidojin), Shihan Matt Holland (SAF), Shihan Terry Ezra (KAA) and Shihan Mike Flynn (BB)



(l-r) Mark Pickering, Waka Sensei, Doshu, Ian Grubb and Paul Robinson (Members of BB Teaching Committee)

Photos on this page: Guy Needler

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Doshu Moriteru Ueshiba and Waka Sensei Mitsuteru Ueshiba, Cardiff 18-20 June 2010



Photo: Guy Needler

Doshu and Shihan Norberto Chiesa (France)



Photo: Guy Needler

Waka Sensei, Doshu and Davinder Bath (BB Teaching Committee member)



Photo: Davinder Bath

(l-r) Senseis Derek Eastman, Doshu, Henry Ellis and Haydn Foster: Presentation of Hombu 6th Dan certificates on 19 June 2010



Photo: Asif Afsar

(l-r) Jonathan Morris, Tan Chin Soon, Doshu, Marcel Santiko, Tom Tam (in front) Hana Otsuka (Members of Ei Mei Kan Dojo)