

## Chris Mooney Shihan, 7th Dan so Hombu

Chris Mooney Sensei began his training in 1973 under Ralph Reynolds Sensei at the Birmingham Athletic Institute. In time, he became a student of William Smith Shihan, and in turn, T.K. Chiba Shihan, who now serves as Technical Director of the British Birankai.

Mooney Sensei first began teaching at Aston University in 1981. In the mid-1980's, he established a dojo in Bearwood, Birmingham. By 1994, the dojo had relocated to Digbeth, Birmingham. At that time, Chiba Sensei gave Mooney Sensei's dojo the name that it bears today: Ei Mei Kan, "the House of England's Light". Ei Mei Kan is now located in Northfield, Birmingham.

Over the course of his Aikido career, Mooney Sensei has travelled widely. He has taught throughout Europe and beyond; Greece, Israel, Switzerland and other countries. In 2005, on the tenth anniversary of the formation of the British Aikikai, Chiba Sensei awarded Mooney Sensei the title of Shihan. On 17 November 2006 Doshu Moriteru Ueshiba presented Aikikai Shihan certificate to Chris Mooney Sensei at a ceremony held at Hombu Dojo in Tokyo, Japan.

Chris Mooney Sensei is a member of British Birankai Shihankai, overseeing the work of the Teaching Committee and the cultivation of the next generation of Aikido teachers. He is also a founding member of the European Birankai International Shihankai, the group of European Shihan responsible for the continuation of Chiba Sensei's teachings in Europe.

Mooney Sensei continues to teach at the Ei Mei Kan, its satellite dojos, and at national and international courses through the British Aikikai and Birankai International.

Chris Mooney Sensei was promoted to 7th Dan by Aikikai Aikido World Headquarters at the Kagami Biraki celebrations on 14th January 2018.

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