



Eastbourne Shorin Ryu Karate Club Newsletter

Issue 5

Date July 2005

Hi guys, it's newsletter time again. Articles included in this amazing publication include "Osensei Nagamine Teachers part 2" by James and "Bo Staff - a training day" by Sensei Sally. There is a profile also in this issue, are you the lucky one with your name in print? I desperately need MORE PROFILES and ARTICLES from you chaps... Anything karate related is fine by me. Come on people lets get writing!!! Zoe



Osensei Nagamine
Teachers - Part 2

Master Kyan
(1870-1945)

Master Chotoku Kyan was born into a very wealthy family in Shuri, Okinawa, the cradle of Karate. At the tender age of five he was taught the empty hand art of self-defence from his father Chofu Kyan and his grandfather. Every morning Kyan was required to perform specific exercises by his grandfather, who had a very discerning eye and required nothing less than perfection. Being born in a rich family he was able to devote all of his time to studying the martial arts and was sent to the best Okinawan Karate teachers available.

In those days, a Karate Sensei had only three or four Kata. Therefore, Master Kyan went to many teachers in hopes of getting a more well rounded view of the art. Kyan's father was an official of the King. Because of this Kyan was able to gain instruction from many of the great Teachers in Okinawa. Sokon Matsumura of Shuri was at that time the Karate Teacher of the King. Matsumura taught Master Kyan the Kata "Seisan and Gojushiho". Kyan learned the most from Matsumura (Shorin-Ryu teacher of Tomari) including the kata "Chinto".

Another great teacher of Tomari was Pechin Maeda. Kyan under Maeda Sensei and learned the Kata "Wansu". He learned the Kata, "Passai", under Pechin Oyadomari Kokan of Tomari. Pechin was a title given to someone in employment of the King. The next teacher Kyan studied with was the small 4 ft 10" tall Yara of Chatan, a power packed dynamite of a man.

Chatan Yara Sensei taught Kyan the longest and most beautiful Kata "Kusanku". His last teacher was Tokumine, who was reputed to be the best bo (staff) man on Okinawa. Sensei Kyan travelled to the island of Yaeyama and studied bo and the kata, "Tokumine no Kon".

Completing his apprenticeship under the six famous Okinawan Shorin-Ryu masters, Kyan started to teach the art at his home.

In the 1920's Kyan travelled to mainland Japan to promote the art. On his way back he visited Taiwan on a martial arts exchange tour for Okinawan and Chinese martial arts. Having an all around knowledge of both arts, Kyan invented his own kata "Ananku". Occasionally he would give a demonstration of Karate with Choshin Chibana, performing "Passai" and Bo Kata and at the opening of Shoshin Nagamine's dojo in 1942, he performed Karate before Admiral Kenwa Kanna. At this time Kyan was 73 years old and Nagamine is credited with having said, "His beautiful performance at the age of 73 could still exalt his audience to the quintessence of karate-do".

Kyan's Karate must have been effective as there are more than a few instances of his being challenged and according to the Okinawans, he was never beaten in a fight. Due to his build, Kyan chose not to try to win by brute force, but would defend using evasive tactics and then counterattack quickly. Food was scarce during WWII and whatever food master Kyan obtained, he gave to the children. He felt it was his duty to take care of those who could not take care of themselves. In 1945 at the age of 75 grandmaster Kyan passed away from hunger.

James Neeter

Profile: Corey

Age: 7

Favourite film: Spy Kids

Started karate: March 2005

Grade: White belt

Corey likes karate as it keeps him fit and he enjoys kata. He hasn't competed yet but is keen to. Karate has taught him discipline and self defence and as yet he has only used it outside the dojo to practice. In ten years time Corey would like to be training to be a vet and hopes to have achieved his black belt.....

Grading Celebrations

On Saturday 27th August, there will be a meal at the Chinatown restaurant in Eastbourne.

Sensei Beaumont and his wife will be the guests of honour and the table is booked for 8pm.

It is to celebrate everyone's achievements at the grading and **ALL** members of the dojo and their families are welcome.

A £5 non-returnable deposit is required from all of those wishing to attend so as to secure the private room upstairs.

This is a perfect opportunity for us to all get together and relax after a stressful weekend. Lets all make the effort to turn up and have some fun.

Bo Staff 'a training day'

On Sat 2nd July, some of the adults from the club went on a weapons course being held in Lewes. We had a certain amount of weapons training from Sensei Koeppel but nothing as serious and arduous as what we had signed up for.

The instructor Sensei Julian Mead 6th Dan started his training in Wado Ryu karate at the age of 16 and 25 years later is considered to be uniquely qualified in both empty hand karate and kobujutsu (Ancient Warrior Art (Weapons)) and has provided instruction to students worldwide.

How glad were we that we had attended the full day unlike others that missed the morning because it was open to kids as well. We did a warm up that wasn't for the faint hearted, I'm sure we all lost a few pounds in sweat and that was before we even picked up a Bo.

The morning was pretty much dedicated to 3 pieces of pair work - we were actually attacking each other with the Bo staff. The most important thing we had drummed into us was to move out the way, which, if you remember is what we always drum into you whenever we do pair work so that instruction came easily.

Most of the pieces we learnt all in some way dealt with 'muchimi' (sticky hands), with the Bo being an extension of your arms you kept contact with your opponents body or Bo with your Bo.



After a very very sweaty morning, we had a well-earned lunch and then back to it. Now was the time we were thankful we attended the morning session, as new adults joined where the kids had left. They were expected to keep up with us the now not so beginery beginners, who looked half descent in comparison. After a quick recap with a new partner and 2 new pieces of very dangerous pair work it was time to have a little lesson on some of the other weapons.

During the break, Sensei Steve and I were chatting to Sensei Mead and I asked him which of all the weapons was his favourite. Although he loved the Sai (trident) and said he was always asked to demonstrate them when he went to Japan to see his Sensei (namely because his hands are bigger than most Japanese men) he enjoyed the Bo staff the most. In his style of Kobujutsu, there are over 100 kata (can you imagine) and that's on top of the empty hand kata. Who said that karate of any kind isn't a lifetime of dedication and hard work?

Every weapon that Sensei Mead showed us, and there were about 12 of them, he could use proficiently and he knew the history behind them, the romantic stories that we all get told about the peasants and the true more believable ones.

Dates for your diary

5th August

No class as there is a flower show in the hall

15th August

Junior Grading

26th-28th August

Black Belt Grading

27th August

Meal at Chinatown

16-18th September

Training in Germany

16th December

Junior Grading

25th December

Xmas Day...!

Grading Meal Deposit Slip

Name.....

Contact Number.....

Number attending @ £5 each

Cheques made payable to S.Woolston.

Total deposit paid £

**Deposit non-refundable
Please return A.S.A.P**