The United Kingdom Aikikai

News *line*

The newsletter for the United Kingdom Aikikai
Traditional Aikido throughout the UK

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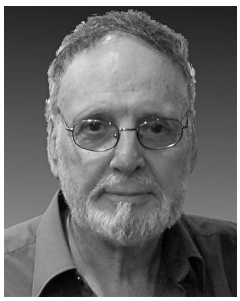
In Memoriam: KEN COTTIER. Peter Brady UKA Shidoin writes



Monday 16th June saw Mr Ken Cottier Sensei laid to rest in a very moving service at St Mary's church in Eastham Village, a delightful little place on the Wirral almost on the banks of the River Mersey. Senior aikidoka from the UKA and BAF were there along with Ken's family and friends to see off a unique person in British Aikido history. The service was beautiful with wonderful tributes from Ken's brother, Ron, and a clearly emotional Michael Leung of the Hong Kong Aikido association. Ken was buried in a nearby cemetery with a celebration of his passing afterwards at the Royal British Legion. This unsung hero had met and trained with Kenshiro Abbe Sensei, the man who introduced Aikido to the UK back in 1955. It was Abbe Sensei who advised him to go to Japan and train with O Sensei. This he did in 1964 subsidising himself by teaching English in various establishments.

For five years Ken trained with Morihei Ueshiba himself - the Aikido founder. In 1971 he introduced Aikido to Hong Kong and later instructed the police force there. He divided his time between Hong Kong and the UK for the following 37 years. Additionally, Ken was instrumental in introducing Aikido to South Africa and was the Honorary President of the Association there. Ken was promoted to 7th Dan in 2007 making him the highest Hombu graded British aikidoka ever, but you would never know it for the man was such an unassuming character. During the funeral service, his own brother Ron had to admit that he never realised how respected and loved Ken was in the world of Aikido, it was only the messages of condolence the family had received from around the world that made him realise Ken's stature.

With a pedigree like his he could have been forgiven for promoting himself in some way but he never did. He was, in my estimation, woefully underused in the UK as, although perhaps not the most dynamic of teachers, he had a way of teaching that was fascinating to watch, with a wealth of experience gleaned from rubbing shoulders with legends of the Aikido world such as Osawa Sensei (senior), Arikawa Sensei, Yamaguchi Sensei and Okumura Sensei…..the list goes on.

Ken's story telling was legendary and he would have your attention from the moment he opened his mouth. I could talk to my wife about Aikido safe in the knowledge that she would be either unconscious or comatose in about five minutes whereas Ken would hold her interest and make her laugh and cry in equal measure. The last time he stayed at my house in 2007,

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Newsletter Article Submission Deadlines

October 08
Deadline - 17th Sept 07

December 08
Deadline - 17th Nov 07

The Newsletter is now available online at: www.ukaonline.org.uk .If you wish to subscribe to the newsletter and receive updates on information and courses to do with the UKA then email webmaster@ukaonline.co.uk. The new look web site also has lots of other information on and about the UKA and Aikido. Lots will be happening to the online facilities the UKA will be offering its members over the next year, so let us keep you informed. Subscribe to the email newsletter and alerts today!

In Memoriam: KEN COTTIER

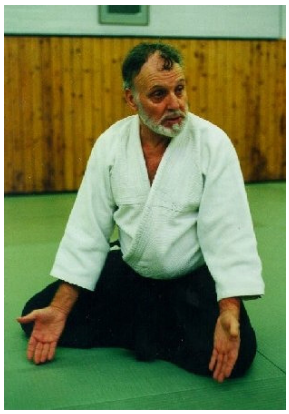
before we realised how ill he was, he told us a fascinating story about a trip on the trans-Siberian railway in Russia where he shared a carriage with a gentleman and lady throughout this monumental trip (it took weeks apparently). With his captivating voice, superb comic timing and various physical demonstrations, he had Ann and me crying with laughter!

He stayed with us several times throughout the eighties and nineties conducting courses for me and befriending everyone he came into contact with. In fact, he came to know whole generations of my students who came and went during those periods and made lasting impressions on all of them. I remember sometimes in the evenings showing him some of my old O Sensei videos and he would tell me who was participating as youngsters– "Oh look" he would say- "there's Sugano, and over there is Nishio"…" Oh and there is Yamaguchi"…wonderful stuff I will never forget.

The last time I saw Ken was back in April when Ann and I stayed in Chester for a couple of days. I called him up and asked if he was well enough for a visit. He said he was expecting a visit from two other friends but still said we were more than welcome and invited us up to his house the following day. We were introduced to Chris and Norman from Newscastle whom Ken had helped whilst in Japan. Chris was an Aikido Sandan who had been uchideshi to Masuda Sensei during his time at Hombu and Norman was Godan in Judo. We had a wonderful afternoon of stories, chitchat and laughter culminating with a pub lunch overlooking the banks of the river Mersey.

Our lasting memory is of Ken in his grey anorak waving us off on our journey back. It was plain that he was unwell but we didn't think it would be the last time we would ever see him. At the wake Norman told me that Chris and he had visited Ken some five weeks later and that he had deteriorated dramatically. He told us that we are better off with the memories we have of him from that day in April…. We are so glad that we spent that afternoon with him.

God Bless you Ken.



General Information

Aikido Course with Okamoto Sensei, 6th Dan, 25th & 26th October, Edinburgh

Times: Saturday October 25, 09:00~13:00 | Sunday October 26, 10:00~14:00

Venue: Meadowbank Stadium & Sports Centre, Edinburgh (http://www.edinburghleisure.co.uk/detail-243)

Cost: £40 for both days, £30 per day.10% reduction for advance bookings or concessions

Contact: Neil Blacknell, Azami-kai Aikido. 60 Gilmerton Dykes Drive, Edinburgh EH17 8LF
+131 6202403, neilblacknell@hotmail.com

Additional information about Sensei: http://www.aikidokyoto.com/English/Eindex.html

Ask a Shidoin

Next month's "Ask a Shidoin" question has been sent in by Andrew Humphreys, Te Shin Kai:

With an example, what do you as a Shidoin look for in gradings in relation to:
Effectiveness of Technique, Zanshin, Correctness of Technique, Spirit, Ukemi, Manner and attitude, Posture, Kokyu-ryoku, Mai-ai, Flowing and flexibility?

Australasian Aikikai

Following a couple of trips to the Australasian Aikikai by their Technical Director, Gordon Jones Shihan, and another visit planned for this September by Philip Smith Sensei, people might be interested to take a look at their Newsletter, Torii. It can be viewed at this address
http://www.newcastleaikido.com/Torii%20June%202008.pdf

Summer School 2008

Summer School 2008

16th - 23rd August. Harper Adams University College, Shropshire

We are delighted to welcome back **Sugawara Shihan** for this year's Summer School.

There are no camping places left but it's not too late to book other accommodation!

All enquiries to Sue Hayward, Summer School organiser (01952 403195 or at susan.hayward@sky.com)

- Pre booking for accommodation is essential
- All meals need to be pre-booked, at least by breakfast on the day the meal is required

Please note that smoking is not permitted anywhere on campus, including bedrooms.

Te Shin Kai

Chief Instructor – Keith Hayward Sensei 6th Dan so Hombu
Tel 01952 403195| Email: susan.hayward@sky.com

Class Schedules

Ken Mon Kan Oakengates Class Times

Monday & Thursday – 7.45 – 8.45pm Juniors **7.45 – 10.00pm Seniors**
Friday 8.30 – 10.00pm
First Friday of every month – Instructors Course – 8.00 – 10.00pm
Second Friday of every month – Weapons Class

Kyu Shin Kan

Chief Instructor – Peter Brown Sensei 5th Dan so Hombu
Website http://www.kyushinkan.com/

Projected Course Dates at Kyu Shin Kan for 2007

Date	Course	Times	Venue
17th September	General	10.00am – 2.30pm	TBC
21st September	Instructors	11.00am - 1.30pm	Land Rover
16th November	Grading Course	10.00am – 2.30pm	TBC
7th December	Instructors	11.00am - 1.30pm	DMU Dojo

Melton Mowbray Aikido Club Courses : Brownlow School Limes Avenue Melton Mowbray

Date	Course	Times	Instructor
31st August	General	4.00pm - 6.00pm	Sensei P. Brown
2nd November	Grading Course	4.00pm - 6.00pm	Sensei P. Brown