

The Japan Experience 2006



Over the last twelve months Samurai Instructors have visited Japan on no less than two occasions and it is now becoming an annual pilgrimage for our senior karate-ka.

The quest for knowledge takes us to Kobe and the Hombu dojo of Souke Kawate 9th dan Hanshi. World Chief Instructor for SWKA.

Kawata sensei is the oldest surviving student of Tani and was the hombu dojo's main instructor when the legendary Kimura sensei started is karate training. He is a wealth of knowledge and his style of teaching is relaxed and thorough but most of all, very enjoyable.

2006

The 2006 group were excited to be attending the hombu dojo but an air of apprehension was in the camp due to a large number of them were grading in the Dan system or Shido (Leadership) system.

The training was extremely demanding due to the humid heat; however we managed to learn a great deal from kawata sensei who concentrated on the original version of Chinto kata. Apart from sensei Kawata's sessions we were treated to three extra daytime sessions with Shihan Paul Mitchell which complimented our evening training.

The grading took place on the Saturday and to say the

least was a tense time. Those grading in the Shido system were expected to demonstrate a full understanding of the weeks training whilst those taking dan grade exams were tested on not only Chinto put three other kata (one from each group) with full bunkai.

Kawata sensei was very pleased with the standard and commented on how hard the group had worked during the week. Finally, with much relief sensei announced the results of both grading exams and the celebrations began.

Results:

SHIDO SYSTEM

Hanshi - Sensei Paul Mitchell
7th dan

Shihan - Sensei Tom
Beardsley 6th dan

Shido-in - Sensei's Phil
Nicholls, Paul Jones,

Jun Shido-in - Sensei's Kim Adams, Andrew Phillipson

DAN SYSTEM

Yondan - Sensei Paul Jones

Sandan - Sensei Andrew
Phillipson

Sandan - Sensei Stuart Grey
(Australia)

Shodan-ho - Steve Davies-
Morris

Well Done to All