

## **KENSHINKAI AGM 2024**

### **CHAIRMANS REPORT - GARRY MASTERS**

- We need more support on the social media front. Dee is too busy to progress this, she can provide information/support, but others need to take the lead and drive this forward. Without advertising we have no members, without members we have no organisation.
- After many years we made the difficult decision to leave the British Aikido Board which I have been involved with since it was formed. We sent Shirley Timms a thank you present for all her years of support as the Secretary of the BAB. We felt it was time to move on to a group that would help us continue our promotion and teaching of yoshinkan aikido in the UK.
- A multitude of martial arts classes have sprung up in towns, mostly driven by franchising, and unfortunately most offering poor-quality classes at extortionate prices, with gimmicks such as knife and gun defence. Requiring members to attend monthly competitions across the country and to purchase expensive branded clothing and equipment. These classes have access to large amounts of money for advertising and facilities, so it is very difficult for us to compete. As well as offering aikido and self-defence we have to offer other benefits to members such as fitness, flexibility, core strength, cardio, weapons etc. to attract a broader range of members. We are now trying to do this with the introduction of the Low Impact class on Wednesday evenings.
- The club has had a lot of support with running the junior classes. These classes are essential to the survival of the organisation as they financially support the adult classes that are not so well attended. Thank you to everyone who has assisted with classes from putting out mats, setting up equipment for the juniors and assisting with teaching at classes.
- I would like to thank all Instructors for the effort they put into running and supporting the clubs, especially Richard Lewis and Roger Bish who invest the most time apart from myself and Dee, whilst taking no remuneration for their time and effort expended. Special thanks also to Tom Winn who always arrives early to setup mats and assist with all classes.
- I would like to thank Rowan for applying for a £500 grant that we can use towards advertising.
- I would like to remind everyone that Kenshinkai is a members organisation which means the organisation is run by the members for the members. The organisation is not “owned” by any individual and no members, instructors, officers receive ANY form of payment from the organisation. This means that the success of the organisation depends upon each and every member, and when you are helping out you are helping to ensure that the organisation is able to continue to run classes for you to attend.