

KENSHINKAI AGM 2025

CHAIRMANS REPORT - GARRY MASTERS

- I would like to thank all Instructors for the effort they put into running and supporting the clubs, especially Richard Lewis, Roger Bish and Tom Winn who invest the most time (apart from myself and Dee), whilst taking no remuneration for their time and effort expended. I also appreciate that all other instructors, assistant instructors, class helpers make the effort to attend and support classes when they can. We recently lost 2 instructors (Megan and Dan) who were helping with the junior classes, so need more support going forward with the junior and intermediate classes. 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 appreciate the efforts that Rowan Leonard and Susan Jennings are making to obtain their Coaching qualification with Aikido Alliance UK and the personal time they have put in to meet all the coaching requirements.
- I was very pleased to have been able to award (along with the grading panel) Tom Winn his Nidan and Dimitri and Alex their Shodan levels at the recent dan grading. All three have been members of Kenshinkai for a very long time with Dimitri and Alex having joined at the ages of just under 7/ 6 21/20 years ago!
- I am pleased that Kenshinkai made the decision to leave the British Aikido Board (BAB) and join Aikido Alliance for the purposes of Insurance, Safeguarding, Coaching etc. The BAB is no longer being run in a professional manner despite holding large reserves of money to pay for officers. Recently the BAB Membership Officer, Social Media Officer and Coaching Officer have resigned showing the discontent within the BAB. Thank you to all members that supported the move to Aikido Alliance and the DBS check and coaching requirements.
- We are still battling a multitude of martial arts classes that 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 without assistance with advertising.
- I would like to remind everyone that Kenshinkai is a member's 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 member, and when you are helping you are helping to ensure that the organisation is able to continue to run classes for you to attend.