

Frontline – Instructors AGM – Feb 2017

Attendees

Simon Evans	7 th Dan
Mark James	4 th Dan
Andy Morris	2 nd Dan
Mike Tovey	2 nd Dan
Steve Ballard	1 st Dan

Agenda

1. Grading Syllabus

I'm looking to expand the grading syllabus, to include techniques from other styles which would complement the standard TKD. At the moment, it's only Hapkido. I realise that, in reality, the strikes are what would finish the fight quickest but TKD is still limited. It can't hurt to add more techniques to your arsenal.

The expanded syllabus is on the web-site, if you want to take a look.

Anything else you want to see formally added to the grading syllabus or should we use the 1-step sparring as a "catch all" ?

The question is whether we are qualified to teach / grade techniques from other styles. Maybe the best approach is to incorporate them into the one-step sparring and / or self-defence techniques. Certainly we wouldn't be able to grade techniques which are from a completely different style but Hapkido, for instance, is closely related to TKD so can be incorporated relatively easily.

2. Sharing the load ...

At the moment, I lead all of the Alveston sessions, with each of you contributing when there is a point to make. I am worried that this will mean that we are creating clones of my techniques, although I try to put all of the alternatives across. Each of you is, obviously, different to me and your techniques will be different. I would like to get this across to the lower grades too. Plus, each of you has expertise in specific areas which is much better than mine. So, I would like to start to share out the classes a bit more. On a purely selfish point of view, it means I get to train more without having to concentrate on teaching.

This does mean, however, that each of you will need to attend the UK Chung Do Kwan introductory coaching course, at least.

Mark is happy to run sessions on boxing / hands only close quarters combat, on a regular basis for the adults. Not sure if this would be appropriate for the youngsters.

3. Continual Assessment ?

I was thinking of changing the grading system, by making it on a continual assessment basis instead of having formal grading days.

My reasoning was ...

1. The coloured belt system is to signify that someone has reached a particular standard and we can tell when they've reached that standard without the need for a formal grading.
2. If they can gain their grade at any time, they will keep up their effort levels whereas if gradings are at specific times, they may ease off a bit.
3. It could spur on those who see their peers getting grades before them.

But there are arguments for keeping the gradings formalised (we'll keep Black Belt gradings formal, anyway).

We will continue to run formal gradings, as they give the students something to aim for and has something of a "team event" about it. Everyone can celebrate each other's achievements, together.

However, if a student "goes to pieces" on the day, the continual assessment method can be used as a fall-back position.

4. Coaching Award

The UK Taekwondo Commission is now pushing to have all instructors complete the coaching award qualifications, as soon as possible. Andy and I have started the full portfolio and Mark has done the introductory course. I would like all of us to have, at least, taken the introductory course with a view to completing the formal qualification.

At the very least, it's a good selling point for our classes.

The club will pay the fees for the introductory course.

We'll leave this open to the individual, whether they want to pursue the formal qualification. Andy and I need to do so, as we run regular classes. Mark already holds a qualification, too. As long as one of us is present, we have all bases covered.

The club will pay for the introductory course, if anyone wants to attend.

5. Child Protection Issues

Child protection in sport is big news at the moment.

All instructors will need DBS clearance at least.

The club will pay for DBS clearances, although we might be able to get them for free, via Glos County Council ...

Andy Day (Megan's dad) is qualified to be able to run a child protection course, specifically for us but it will need to coincide with whenever he's next over this way – he now lives in Oxfordshire. Would you be interested ?

I'll contact Andy, to see what we can arrange.

6. Safeguarding

As part of the child protection, South Glos council run some on-line safeguarding courses. I'll look into costs. The club can probably finance it, if anyone wants to do the course.

South Glos Council charge £14 per person, whereas Glos Council don't charge at all. I'll see if we can swing it with Glos or, possibly, Andy Day could cover this too ?

7. Advertising

We don't tend to advertise much (local parish magazines, Thornbury on-line and posters in a few of shops and the local school), we rely on word of mouth. However, the TAGB and the Matt Fiddes schools are advertising hard in our area. These guys are businesses, pure and simple, and run on a franchise basis. They exist purely to make money, not to teach decent martial arts.

Should we advertise more ?

Admittedly, it would be good to get more people in the adults class ...

The Mighty Mites, Ninja Ninos and the Juniors class are close to capacity but the adults class needs more people through the door. Current levels are off-putting for anyone who comes along with the possibility of joining up.

The Ninjas Grandes class, in Horfield, has already needed to close due to lack of numbers.

Need to advertise more and / or run an adult beginners class ?

8. Black Belt Grading

We now have 4 youngsters at red belt level and at least 2 of the current black belts are eligible to grade so ... time to organise specific black belt training and grading ...

Need to arrange this on a date when as many of the current black belts can attend, to be part of the grading panel.