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AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Dojo: <http://yoshinkan.info>

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February Report

New members 4

Total number of adults training 59

Total teens & children training 45

Results of Getsurei Shinsa on 24th & 25th February

Jun-3rd Kyu	Dominic Hogan	6th Kyu	Andrea Troncoso Salas	5Y4 step	Brent Weston
5th Kyu	John Rolfe	9th Kyu	Stephen Cuthbert	3Y8step	Ryan Slavin
	Joshua Rolfe		Jessica Medwedew		Lawrence Monforte
	Darssan Balasingam			S5 step	Justin Charell
				S4 step	Cameron Blake

Events in March

1. Getsurei Shinsa

- Training starts, Friday 9th 7:15pm~
- Steps, Friday 23rd 7:15pm~
- Shinsa, Saturday 24th 1:00pm~

2. This Month's Holiday of Adults' class

- Dojo's Holiday – Monday 26th

Some changes in our annual demonstration structure

Though I do not remember which year it was, I clearly remember one of the demonstrations displayed at All Japan Yoshinkan Demonstration. He was the head of a Yoshinkan Aikido club in a local region and he was called "Sensei" by his students of course. I knew his face and name as he sometimes visited Headquarters for his grading or for some miscellaneous matters. He always greeted us in a humble manner with a little timid smile and his attitude gave me an impression of him being gentle and peaceful.

He, however, was a totally different person on the demo day. He appeared with his students following behind in a vulgar manner having his chin pushed upwards as if he was a king or a boss of a gang. As he walked forward his students got rid of any obstacles including people in front of him – removing chairs, pushing people back, opening a door, etc – and he advanced as if he was walking in a deserted open field. When his students were too slow and dull then he blustered in a raspy voice.

He came into a resting room while I was having a lunch in the corner and then he spread himself with arms and legs outstretched right in the centre of the room. Four of his students gathered swiftly placing a pillow under his head and fanned him from four directions. It looked like a scene of a Chinese emperor in a movie. I thought in my heart, "You must be kidding!" and almost burst out laughing. Well, now I became interested in him as he must be a charismatic leader or a great Aikido master to be treated like that, I thought. If not, he had to be a great-glib-talker. I decided to make sure to watch his demo as I left the room to keep working hard as the most junior uchi-deshi.

The charismatic Sensei's turn came. His techniques were simply amazing - I had never saw this before in Yoshinkan style. His uke's got flung away dynamically ignoring the law of nature completely from seemingly physically impossible techniques. "Sensei" acted as if he was God and his students looked as if they were under hypnosis, to my eyes. It was like a musical show more than a martial art demonstration. Well, it was a shocking experience for me being quite young and I thought that there was a deep unknown section in the living creature called human being. I was pretty impressed in that way.

Right, now talk about our demonstration. We will have our 17th annual demonstration in August and I am thinking to make some changes this year. I will write some ideas of changes that I am thinking now and I



would like to have your thoughts, ideas and opinions too. I wish to keep improving our demo for us who train in Aikido as well as for the audience who are there to watch.

I heard some comments after the demo last year. Though there was positive feedback there were some points that I had to consider to modify the program. The levels of skills and the standard of performance from all the students were pretty high and people were so impressed. However, some said it got little boring as there were so many Jiyu-waza's performed through senior demos, Kyogi-enbu Jiyu-wazas and in my demo too that gave the impression of similar performances over the day. Another thing was about the awarding. The same people every year tend to receive the awards in the current system and this needed to be considered too.

Senior black belts demonstration and other black belts demonstration

Senior Black Belts Demonstration will be only by 4th and 5th Dans from this year to avoid too many Jiyu-wazas. As Jiyu-waza is the prime performance in the demo I wished above 2nd Dans to have an opportunity to show their Jiyu-waza as senior black belts, but 2nd and 3rd Dans are expected to perform their best Jiyu-waza for the Kyogi-enbu this year. Besides, each Dan rank will be given a different theme to focus on as a team (for instance, Tanto-soho and Tanto-dori by 2nd Dan as such.) I will make sure that you will have a challenging and rewarding theme.

Kyogi-enbu Awards

Although I know that many students do not worry about winning trophies - as such I wished for many students to receive awards as a form of reward and encouragement for your hard work. I added 3rd place awards a few years ago to give more opportunities for students to win, but it seems the same people tend to keep winning. As I wish many different people to win the awards I have thought of a new way to offer awards – a pair who performed the best will definitely win as well as other pairs who worked hard and having luck. Here is how.

Divide the results of Kyogi-enbu in four blocks from the top to the last and the top pair of each block will be awarded. The top of the top will be the best performance award and the other three will be the great performance awards, though the name of the awards may change at this stage. The pair who win the best performance will not be eligible to enter the Kyogi-enbu in the following year but they are going to perform an exhibition demo like other senior black belts in the following year. Well, in this way, everybody will have more chances to win the awards.

Kyogi-enbu Renzoku-waza

Every year, most of white belts feel too much pressure to participate in the annual demo and I saw them quit. So, I will cancel Kyogii-enbu Renzoku-waza from this year. Instead, white belts who are keen to participate in the demo can enter Jiyu-waza Kyogi-enbu and any other suitable program, otherwise they can keep training for their grading.

Judges for Kyogi-enbu

To avoid issues as 4th Dans are busy doing em-ceeding and other roles, 4th Dans are to choose one judge who represents the 4th Dan group taking turns every year, and 5th Dans and I will be the judges.

I hope these changes will improve our demonstration for us to have a clearer focus on our performance as well as for the audience to enjoy more. As there is plenty of time left until the demo in August, please let me hear your opinions and innovative ideas. If it is hard to talk to "Mori" then please talk to Shuko and she will keep your name anonymous if she thinks it is dangerous to tell me!?! So, please feel relaxed to share your opinions. Well, let's work together to get our dojo advancing more to the world.

Osu!

Michiharu Mori