

## Guy Needler 5<sup>th</sup> Dan Fukushidoin



Guy started practising Aikido within the Aikido Fellowship in 1982, receiving instruction from Ronald Naven and very quickly ramped his practise up to 6 times a week. He was graded to 2<sup>nd</sup> kyu before leaving to join the West Midlands Aikikai and the BAF in January 1984, receiving instruction from Mr William Smith. One year later he re-graded 2<sup>nd</sup> Kyu and became Ken Shu Sei to Mr William Smith. In October 1986 he was awarded Hakama for dedication to Mr W Smith as his Kenshusei, a rare privilege for a kyu grade and was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> kyu 2 weeks later. Guy was subsequently promoted to Shodan in 1988 and Nidan in 1993 by Chiba Sensei and Sandan in 1995 and Yondan in 1999 by Mr W Smith and the UKA Shidoin during UKA Summer Schools. More recently he was promoted to Godan by Mr Gordon Jones-shihan and the UKA Shidoin during UKA summer school, Newport in 2009.

Guy was Mr Smith's Kenshusei and later Ukedeshi from January 1986 until January 2002. During this time he was recognised as his longest serving assistant to date and have benefited significantly from his instruction. During his years as Mr Smith's assistant he travelled with, and aided, Mr Smith at courses he has taken all over the British Isles. As a result of his experience he compiled the curriculum, organised, advertised, lead and instructed three Kenshusei courses taken during 1994, 1996 and 1999. Guy was promoted to Fukushidoin in 2001. He holds young persons and level 3 coaching awards from the BAB together with a diploma in sports psychology and a certificate of teaching in the long-life learning sector as well as being a Club Mark Assessor. As a result Guy assists in Ren Shin Kan teachers courses. Additionally, he is fully conversant with the associated weapons arts of Jo, Bokken and Tanto.

Guy set up his own dojo, Wa Shin Kan, in January 2001 and also teaches Aikido in North East Worc's College. As part of his commitment to the progression of his own development he currently attends classes hosted by Mr Gordon Jones-shihan on a weekly basis. Additionally, he visits The Hong Kong Aikido Association on a yearly basis maintaining the links between the UKA and HKAA that Mr W Smith-shihan and Mr K Cottier-shihan shared. He visited Hombu Dojo in 2007 with additional visits already planned in 2009 and 2011.

Guy has been happily married to Anne (Shodan) for 21 years, whom he met practising Aikido in 1986.