



# Congratulations Gordon Jones, Aikikai Shihan

UKA Newsletter - Special Edition

We are delighted to announce that Gordon Jones has been awarded the title of Shihan (Master Instructor) by Hombu Dojo at the recent Kagami Biraki promotions.

This is, of course, a great honour for Gordon personally but also for the UKA as a whole as we continue to build our relationship with Doshu and Hombu Dojo.

UKA Membership



Picture by Ben Fairbanks

Gordon Jones  
6th Dan Shihan

Location  
West Midlands

Dojo  
Ren Shin Kan

Date Started Aikido  
1964

UKA Principal

## From Peter Brady, UKA Shido-in

To be frank, it was no real surprise to me when the General Secretary of the UKA announced to everyone on the first UKA National Course this year that Mr Gordon Jones had been awarded Shihan status by Hombu. Some weeks earlier I had seen the package that he had prepared to present to Doshu regarding the aims and future aspirations of the UKA upon his visit to Hombu back in November and, as ever, it was a well-prepared and meticulous piece of work, typical of the man, that could not fail to impress all who read it. Couple that with the presence and demeanour of a guy who is a natural leader and who always has the uncanny knack of being able to say the right thing at the right time and it's not hard to see why Doshu sanctioned his promotion. Gordon is also

one of those few individuals who, despite his own consummate Aikido skill, is always willing to learn from other, less talented people because he has no ego – a rare quality considering his status and experience.

You always know when you take an Aikido class taught by Gordon that it will be well crafted and designed to make you think. Never just techniques for techniques sake, you will see themes that enable the student to understand the very fabric of Aikido – a testament to his own understanding of the Art. Known for his powerful technique and, many moons ago, referred to affectionately as 'The whirling dervish' and 'Spike' by those close to him, Gordon continues to inspire students at all levels. The sad passing of Mr Smith last year has left a void in the UKA that can never be filled and some thought that perhaps the

organisation may not survive. However, in the months since, the membership has continued to flourish under Gordon's leadership. He has the support of all the seniors of the UKA and will no doubt take the organisation to new levels of growth and prosperity.

## From Allan Roberts, UKA Shido-in

Congratulations on your recommendation to Shihan. It's just the fillip required to ensure the continued growth and development of the U.K.A.



## From Dennis Cantillion, UKA ShidoIn

On behalf of Gloucester Aikikai, many congratulations to Sensei Jones on his well-deserved promotion to Shihan.

It is also recognition for UKA his contribution to the growth and development of the UKA.

## From Mike Smith, UKA ShidoIn

In these short few lines I would like to offer my congratulations to Gordon, on becoming a Shihan.

Although Gordon, in spite of being the most senior, didn't consider himself as having the right and privilege to succeed Mr Smith as the head of our association,



Picture by Ben Fairbanks

I think his recognition as a Shihan endorses the fact that he is the man for the job.

With the support of the U.K.A., we can only go forward, making the United Kingdom Aikikai, and the legacy of Mr Smith, greater than ever.

## Colin Hackett, ShidoIn, Australasian Aikikai

Congratulations to Gordon Jones "Shihan" It's no more than this man deserves!

Absolutely wonderful news! Not only for the U.K.A but all it's affiliated dojo's worldwide. Looking forward to buying him a few beers in June when he comes "down under"!

## From Peter Brown, UKA ShidoIn

With Gordon's promotion to Shihan, does that mean his Aikido will become dynamic, fast and better than the rest of us?.....Well nothing has changed there!!!

## From Mario Falaschi, UKA ShidoIn

Congratulations Gordon on a long overdue recognition, I wish you every success for the difficult job ahead. Good luck.

## From Keith Hayward, UKA ShidoIn

Congratulation to Mr Jones on getting his Shihan. Well deserved.

## From Cath Davies, UKA ShidoIn

I felt privileged to be present at the UKA course when Gordon's Shihan recognition was announced. It was moving to witness and be part of the resounding and extended applause that followed. As someone who trains regularly with Gordon, I can testify first hand that, in addition to his having the necessary personal qualities to be an excellent leader

– has his own sense of direction but is humble enough to listen to others and change his mind if he feels it necessary, the title "Master Instructor" is most certainly fitting.



Gordon Jones Shihan began his Aikido training in 1964 and was a founder member of the Aikikai of Great Britain (later to become the BAF) and the UKA. He was a National Coach with the BAF and represented the BAF at the IAF congress held in Paris in 1980. He is recognised as a Senior Coach by the British Aikido Board.

Following the formation of the UKA Mr Jones became ShidoIn and co-Principal; this was followed by his promotion to 6th Dan in 2004 by Chiba Shihan.

Jones Shihan travels abroad regularly to teach in Serbia Greece and is technical director of the Australasia Aikikai in Sydney. Sensei is ShidoIn within Ren Shin Kan House.

