



On March 30th and 31st, we had the pleasure to welcome Gilles TACHE and Jean-Claude HAMEL back to La Mulatière, who came to supervise their annual training as they have been doing since 2014. Of course, they arrived on Friday evening accompanied by a truck full of people from Cannes and Nice, and Corinne and Gérard from Rémilly, along with Nicolas, also arrived. Maïté had been there since the end of the afternoon, coming from Nantes for the occasion, and it was really nice to see her again! So everyone settled in, some at Eliane's, the others at Yves and Nathalie's or at the hotel, and we went to bed almost early in anticipation of a weekend that was going to be busy!

The next morning, everyone was on the tatami at 6:30 a.m. for the Kenjutsu class led by Jean-Claude. We were joined on site by Pierre and Jean-Marie, who came from Belgium the day before, by Corinne and Lionel from Paris, by Dominique from Cahors and by Anastasia from Grenoble, as well as by practically all the students of SMR Jodo Lyon, and two students of Unsui Dojo, Etienne and Thomas. So, we got together about thirty of us to work on " the quality of contact", the theme chosen for the workshop and which is precisely one of Jean-Claude's favourites!

We didn't stop until 8:30 a.m., for a quick breakfast (the coffee was good!) and we started again at 9:00 a.m.! With the latest arrivals who had joined us (Sébastien, Eric, Andréa and Candice, from Grenoble, Carlos from Saint-Etienne, Mario and Adriano from Unsui Dojo, and a few Lyonnais who were reluctant to work too early) there were about forty of us and it was really nice to be so numerous!

Especially since the morning started in a rather exceptional way, since Gilles and Jean-Claude gave Jacky and Marie their Shomokuroku! And it was the first time Pascal calligraphed a common certificate, he did not want to separate in the Ryu those who had been united in life for so long!



After the applause ended, Jacky and Marie presented the calligraphy they made to illustrate the theme of the workshop "HON SHITSU SHIKKAKU" translated as "the quality of contact", and explained both the meaning of the ideograms they used and the types of writing they chose to trace them.

Then we got to work, and the rest of the morning was spent on the Kihon Sotai.

For the very beginners (in this case the four students from Unsui Dojo, Mario and Adriano who joined us), it was a discovery of the first two Kihon. And during the morning, we had the pleasure to see Catherine, coming from Paris, who, prevented from practicing by a bad cut that had almost taken away half an inch, came anyway to attend the class for the greater part of the morning.

We stopped at 12:30 for the traditional picnic (sheltered, the weather was not fine at all to put a Jodoka outside!) and a little nap for the better organized, and we resumed at 2 pm.



The afternoon was devoted first to the Sôtai no Te sequence, developed by Gilles to work on the points of the first two series where we often fall into the trap of using the wrong hand, then to the two series Omote and Kage, with each time the corresponding kata worked in parallel for those who knew the two series.



At 5:30 p.m., the training ended to allow the organization of a graduation. Jesus Gonzalez, a long-time practitioner who joined our club last September, passed his 3rd Kyu with the congratulations of the jury. Well done Chucho! And thank you to Gilles and Jean-Claude for accepting this extra responsibility!

And then a most of the students met as usual at Yves and Nathalie's house

But this time, the evening started with champagne: Jean-Claude, with the help of Yves, had organized everything to celebrate the first double Shomokuroku of Seiryukai Europe!

Then we found out what Eliane had prepared for us: "Carne alla pizzaiola"! It was really good and we licked the dishes! And the evening went on, not necessarily until very late (we had a big day and it was



the night of the time change, we knew that the awakening was going to be rough), but still, we enjoyed it!

And so, the next day, at 6:30 a.m. (new time!), almost everyone was on the tatami for the Tanjo class given by Gilles. And just like the day before, we had a hard time stopping! But at 8:30 the coffee REALLY felt good, and everyone almost had both eyes open after eating a bite.

Suite à cela, nous sommes donc repartis à 9h00 pour la dernière ligne droite. Les membres de Seiryukai ont tout d'abord pris leur Ken et servi de partenaires aux moins avancés, puis ils ont consacré la fin de la matinée à Okuden et aux armes parallèles. Pendant ce temps, les autres pratiquants se sont répartis

After that, we left at 9:00 a.m. for the home stretch. The members of Seiryukai first took their Ken and served as partners to the less advanced, then they devoted the end of the morning to Okuden and parallel weapons. During this time, the other students divided into several level groups and also worked among themselves.

And at noon we shared a last picnic before everyone went their separate ways. Everyone came back safely, and as usual it was a real relief to learn about it, because the hours on the road can be long after a training!

And now we just have to wait for next year for a new edition, and I end as usual by thanking all those who made this course possible, our teachers (especially!), the students who sometimes came from far away and who gave us the pleasure of coming to work with us, and also all the students of SMR Jodo Lyon who got involved, before and during the workshop, and who were present throughout: Eliane in the kitchen, Cécile and Laurence for the photos, Marie-Pierre for the registrations, Pierrick for the cleaning of the Dojo....and all the others who gave a hand at every opportunity!