



For the third year in a row we have had the pleasure to receive Gilles TACHE and Jean-Claude HAMEL for a Jodo Gasshuku at la Mulatière, in the suburbs of Lyon, Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th, March 2016. Same as usual jodokas from Cannes and Nice arrived with them in scores, Jacky's van was full and so was Marie-Ange's car! And there were other ones who came from everywhere in France (Grenoble, Paris, Remilly, Clermont-Ferrand), and even one from Switzerland! And with the people of our group of course, we were up to thirty to work together.

Most of our visitors had arrived on Friday evening, so that they would be fresh for the laido course Jean-Claude had offered to give on Saturday morning. All the people who had wished to stay with families went to several Jodo (or even Aikido) practitioners who had proposed to receive them. And so on the following morning, there were 18 people on the tatami at 06:30 am! Jean-Claude proposed us to work on some notions coming from Tai-Chi practice (opening of the hip) and then we apply this work on aikido and laido movements.

Then, from 9:00 am to noon, Gilles gave us a Kenjutsu course, and we were lucky enough to be able to work outside under a sunny sky! First of all Jacky and Marie presented the calligraphies they had prepared on the Gasshuku theme (Iri_to cut and Setsu_the act of cutting). And from there, we worked on these notions first through the two first Kihons of Ken-jutsu (Kesa-Giri and Shomen), and then with the Kenjutsu katas, most particularly the last four ones using the kodachi

After a lunch together (as usual a picnic prepared by the Jodo section, eaten outside, we have been once again lucky with the weather!), there has been another training session up to 6:30 pm. during the first part everybody trained together, first the Kihon (Honte-Uchi, Guakute-Uchi, Ikky-Otoshi and

Maki-Otoshi , then Omote waza. In the second part of the afternoon, the practitioners were divided according to their level, so the most advanced could work on Chudan and Ran-Ai.



And during all this time, two brand-new students, who had come from Clermont-Ferrand, were shown the first Kihons Tandokus .

On the evening everybody shared a meal at Yves and Nathalie's home. Eliane and Yves had done the cooking, and on the menu there was a cake made of poultry livers (with a home-made tomato and mushrooms sauce !), and Roïgebrageldi (an Alsatian speciality, which taste better than you could think when you hear its name !). And as everybody had brought something to drink or something to eat...well, it was a very good evening!



Despite this good (and quite late) evening, and above all despite the time change just this night (which made us all lose one full hour of sleep!), we were 22 the next morning, still at 6:30 am, for a Tanjojutsu course with Gilles, during which we managed to work almost the whole serie. Then everybody was together at 9:00 am for the Kihon Sôtaï practice, and after that, the practitioners were once again divided according to their level: the elder students worked successively on Kage and Okuden, and during the Okuden session the practitioners who were not concerned took the bokken to help the beginners.

And at noon it was the end of the Gasshuku, and everybody went back home, tired but happy, after we had shared a last picnic together. We can now begin to think to the next "summertime gasshuku" (It will be the fourth!) next year.

We are already looking forward to it, but now is the time to send a big “Thank you” to all the people who have made this Gasshuku a success : these who came from far away (or even not so far away) and brought us their energy and their “training lust” (as well as some exotic concoctions for the evening), and all the people of the Lyon’s group who have helped during this Gasshuku and enabled us to receive properly our guests , who have cooked, helped for the registrations, hosted friends, gone shopping, cleaned the Dojo...and removed all the difficulties before they could appear !