JAC Chair’s message

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Chair of the JAC. I am David Yates, a co-founder of the JAC and a member of the BAF. I have been chair since April 2018 when I was elected to succeed Gordon Jones (UKA) the end of his tenure, and apologise for the lateness of the introduction. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gordon for his work with the JAC since its inception and I will do my upmost to continue the good work he started.

A little bit about me – I started to practice Aikido in August 1973 with Chiba Sensei with the Aikikai of Great Britain. I was one of the founder members of the British Aikido Federation and remain with that organisation to date. I train in the Manchester area and I regular travel to seminars in Europe and beyond and each year to go to the Hombu Dojo to train with Doshu.

It has though been a busy year for me and Aikido in the UK. The main event was the BAF 50th Anniversary seminar which was led by Hombu Dojo-Cho in October 2018. This was a very successful event and well supported by JAC organisations, for which I thank you all. <https://www.bafonline.org.uk/2018/10/dojo-cho-course-review/>

In June 2018 an exceptional annual JAC course was hosted by DAN in Durham and as well as being a fantastic practice with seniors from all JAC organisations, we were also able to raise £650 for the Stroke Association. Congratulations must go to Paul Emmerson (DAN) for his efforts.

The 2019 JAC annual seminar will be hosted by the UKA. Please keep an eye on the website for further details and let’s make it as good as the last one.

A new innovation - thanks to the efforts of Phil Smith (UKA), Nick Waites (KAA) and the JAC website team, the ability to undertake Coach level 1 is now accessible on line. Should anybody be considering taking this please see the coaching area on the website for details.

Finally all our organisations need promoting to attract new members and to encourage former members back onto the tatami. I would encourage you all to be the face of the JAC, promote the ideals of Aikido to grow our membership. Don’t forget the JAC is the umbrella organisation available for Hombu recognised groups on the UK and we therefore have the common aim to promote Aikikai Aikido. The JAC exists for the benefit of all our members and please feel free to express your views, concerns, and ideas etc. to any JAC committee members, attend the AGM in 2019 (details to follow) or contact me directly as below.

I would like to wish all JAC members a very Happy New Year and hope to see you all on the tatami soon.

David Yates

JAC Chair

chair@jointaikikaicouncil.co.uk