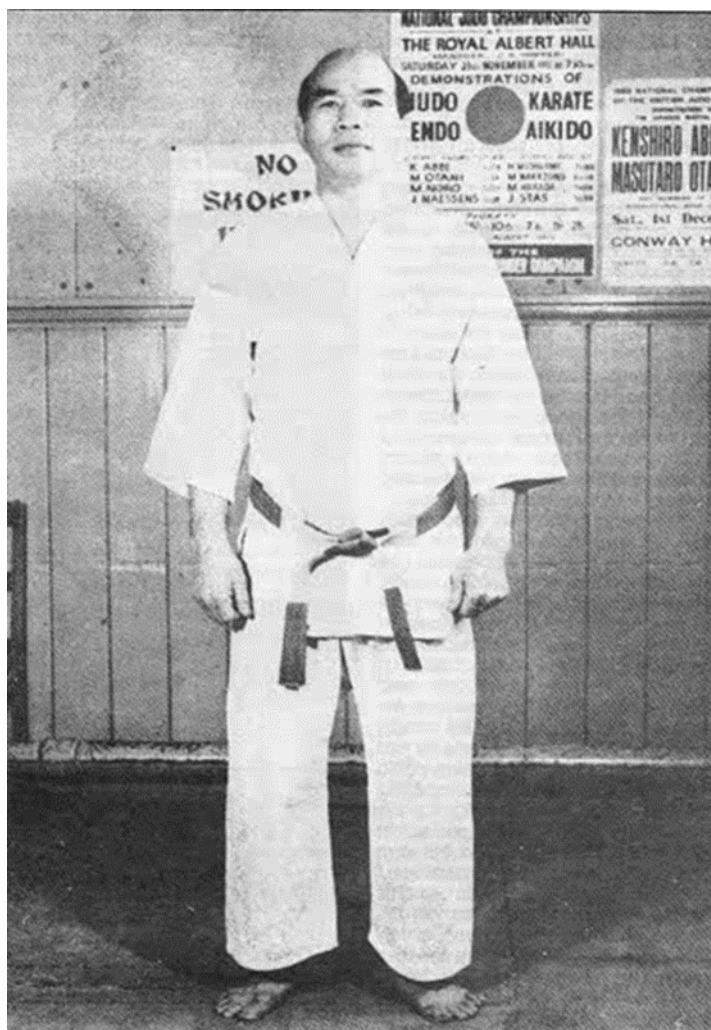


Kenshiro Abbe



Mr. Kenshiro Abbe was born in the Tokushima province in 1916 and became a very able judoka at a young age. Starting Judo at the age of 14 in 1930, he was awarded his 2nd Dan a year later from the Butokukai - the National martial arts Organisation. At 18, he was awarded 5th Dan from the Butokukai, the youngest Judoka ever to hold the grade.

In his fighting career, he won a number of major championships, including the East Japan versus West Japan contest, and the 5th Dan Championships held in the Emperor's Palace. In 1938, he was promoted to 6th Dan, the youngest in Japan and in 1945 to 7th Dan. He became Chief Instructor of Doshisa University, as well as the Instructor for the Kyoto Police.

In 1955, he came to England at the invitation of the London Judo Society, a South London Club but a year later left to form his own school. In 1960, Abbe

was badly injured in a car accident and four years later, still not fully recovered, he returned to Japan, only making brief visits to the UK before passing away in 1985

George Mayo, or 'Chief' as some instructors called him, was a Frenchman who moved to the UK in the 1940's and studied various martial arts before meeting with Kenshiro Abbe during the period 1955-1960. During this time George Mayo developed the Kyushindo theory into the Kyushindo International Association (KIA) and the Kyushindo International Judo Association (KIJA). George was primarily a Judoka and used Karateka from various styles to help him develop Kyushindo Karate.

George Mayo



In the late 1960's George Mayo set up Karate clubs, alongside his Judo clubs, in London, Luton, Bristol, Southampton, Oxford and Northampton but kept them separate and tried different things and syllabuses in each of the areas. During this time the KIA merged into the (KIJA).

By the early 1980's the KIJA Karate was concentrated in 5 areas, listed below with their Area Coaches.

Oxford - Derek Collins

Southampton - Ray Wood

London - Paul Sockett

Surrey - Martin Hardy

Luton - Dennis Graves

In 1982 George Mayo moved back to France but frequently visited England to attend seminars, gradings and give private tuition. Some of the areas came together and formed a common syllabus, which is still in use in some areas

today. This relatively close association lasted until the mid 1990's. George Mayo passed away in December 2004.

Present Day

The London club is run by Paul Sockett in Highgate and a nearby club in North Enfield is run by John Lacey-Smith. The Surrey clubs are now led by David Frost, with David instructing the Banstead club and there are also associated clubs in Dorking. Sean McCrossen instructs Kyushindo Karate in Kingswood, Surrey under the Kyudokai Association.

Some of the Oxford clubs are now training under the title of 'Mayoshindo' with Derek Collins and they have associated clubs in Cornwall.

The London, Surrey and some Oxford area clubs, have formed the Kyushindo Martial Arts Association (KMAA)

Dennis Graves runs his Luton area clubs under the title of 'Kyu Shin Ryu'. Peter Berridge of the Northampton club moved to Australia in 1969 and now runs some clubs there.

The Southampton club, originally based at Totton, now trains in Marchwood but Ray Wood is now retired as the area coach. There are 5 new Bristol clubs that have been operating since 1997 under the Kyushindo International Association run by Ricki Giardena, who studied at Bristol originally under George Mayo in the 1970's. Ricki moved back to Italy in the 1980-90's and set up many clubs there before moving back to the UK in 1997. The original Bristol Budokan club, setup by George Mayo, is now run by Chris Freke.

There are quite a few Kyushindo Judo clubs in the UK, the nearest ones being in Oxfordshire.