

EDITORIAL

Grading into the master ranks – more than theory and technique

During our annual TGTSDA Master's clinic, gradings for Master candidates and Masters always take place. Applicants often seem to lack the necessary insight into what else is expected of them in addition to the technical and theoretical requirements. In addition to the usual time frame in traditional martial arts, the technical and theoretical skills and abilities, there are other requirements, namely the additional contributions to the association and the respective martial art practiced. After the examination for 1st Dan up to the 3rd Dan, you are in a further training phase, both theoretically and practically. Martial artists gain experience in other areas of the practiced style and expand their skills and repertoire.



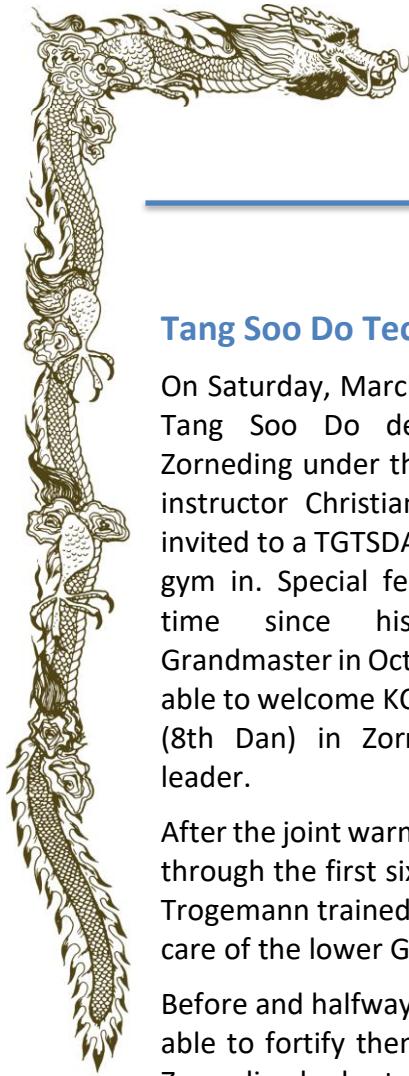
Many support their club as instructors, as well as in other areas, such as the club management, or they help to organize competitions and demonstrations. These Dan bearers are a role model for the students in the club, as well as in the association. Masters hold qualified courses and lectures, organize tournaments for the association, conduct Master clinics or take on higher organizational tasks for the association. Examples of this would be the development of software programs for organizational support of the association, or the creation and maintenance of the association's website. Other tasks can be the editing and creation of the association's newsletter or taking over the position of treasurer – all important tasks for an association to function and grow, in short: these people take on tasks that serve the continued existence of the association. The further training to become a specialist in technical sub-areas of martial arts and the passing on of the acquired knowledge and skills to the members of the association at corresponding association seminars contribute to further development. Others use their skills in the development of manuals and videos for the members of the association. The members see that they have become a corresponding specialist worthy of the title of a Master.

And something else is important being a master: The appearance of the person to the outside world. Modesty and humility in dealing with fellow human beings, not pushing oneself into the foreground, not having to present oneself constantly, because a master knows about his skills and knowledge and does not have to show them off seeking constant approval.

Serving the minimum of the required period of time to the next higher degree is therefore far from sufficient. As with the Gup ranks, there is no automatism in progressing through the ranks. The quality and reputation of an association, both internally and externally, must have a qualified, carefully trained master team. "Tinsel wearers" don't help.

The TGTSDA is not a procurer of worthless papers. Behind each certificate is a documented achievement that, in the case of a Master's certificate, is worthy of a Master title.

KCN Klaus Trogemann



NEWS AND EVENTS

Tang Soo Do Technique Seminar in Zorneding with KCN Klaus Trogemann

On Saturday, March 15 at 10 a.m., the Tang Soo Do department of TSV Zorneding under the direction of their instructor Christian Fasold (3rd Dan) invited to a TGTSDA technique seminar gym in. Special feature: For the first time since his promotion to Grandmaster in October 2024, we were able to welcome KCN Klaus Trogemann (8th Dan) in Zorneding as seminar leader.



After the joint warm-up and a quick run through the first six Hyungs to the beat of the drum, the participants were divided: Grandmaster Trogemann trained the black from 4th Gup up to blackbelts, Master Thomas Krause (4th Dan) took care of the lower Gup grades.

Before and halfway through the course, the guests, some of whom had travelled a long way, were able to fortify themselves with pretzels, cakes, pastries, fruit and drinks – the members of TSD Zorneding had set up a sumptuous buffet with small but fine contributions. Of course, the training of one's own martial art was in the foreground and so Hyungs and one-step techniques were diligently practiced.

For me it was my first TSD seminar ever. As a freshly certified 9th Gup, i.e. "seed that lies dormant under the snow", I was curious to see what awaited me. And it was worth it: I saw a lot of new things and hopefully learned some of them. Although I quickly reached the end of my still very manageable repertoire, the guidance from Master Krause and the exchange with students from other studios enabled new perspectives on what I had already learned. The first immersion in new, much more complicated, but very aesthetic forms and techniques gave me a motivating outlook on what will soon (?) lie ahead of me. A friendly "Just run with us and try ..." of the master: and off we went.

The course lasted until 1 p.m. and then the stop at the nearby Gasthof Neuwirt helped to a cozy and sociable end, with renewed strengthening. A total of 32 participants attended the course.

We would like to thank KCN Trogemann and Meister Thomas Krause for the implementation, and our Sah Bum Nim Christian Fasold for the organization of this seminar. Also, a big thank you to all participants for coming: We hope that you enjoyed your time in Zorneding and we look forward to seeing you again – Tang Soo!

Christian Liefhold, 9th Gup, TSD Zorneding/Germany



Välkommen till Sverige!

KCN Trogemann and I were able to experience how nice it is to be back in Sweden again at this year's weekend clinic in Åkersberga/Sweden at the beginning of May. Åkersberga is a suburb of Stockholm and is home to one of our two Swedish clubs – the other one is in Gothenburg.



For me, it is always special to visit my old club, TSD Åkersberga, which I founded in 2019. It's wonderful to see how Nick is moving the club forward and how students who started with me as a Samurang Kid have now made it to brown belt. But the adults are also making their way – but more about that later.



15 participants from the clubs from Åkersberga, Gothenburg, as well as the German clubs from Senden and Esting experienced an instructive, enriching course under the direction of KCN Trogemann and Master Andrew Ewing (6th Dan). Forms, weapon forms and one-step techniques with variations formed the central contents of the weekend. Divided into higher and lower belt grades, even the smallest, our Samurang Kids, could get something out of the clinic.



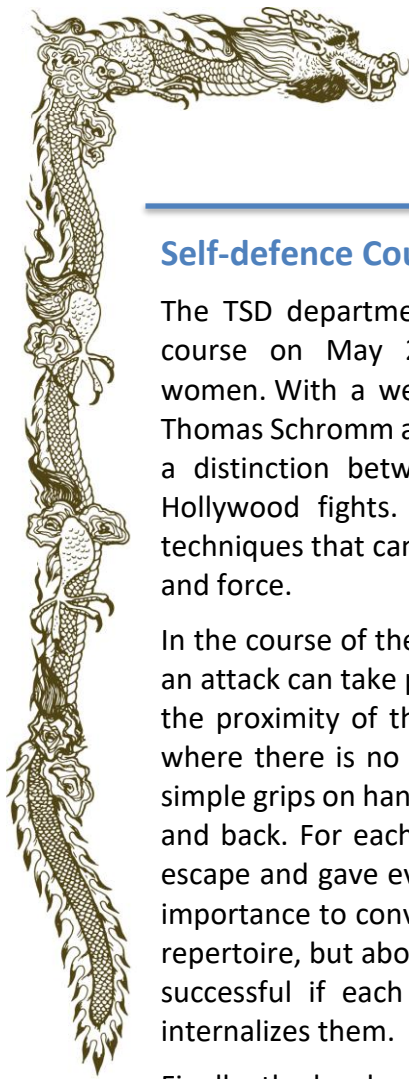
In the afternoon, the skills of the examinees were required. Nick was tested for 2nd Dan and Peter for Cho Dan Bo. Under the guidance of Master Ewing and 3rd Dan Nguc Nhu Phan and the strict supervision of KCN, Nick and Peter passed their exam with very good results. I am especially proud that both of them started their TSD journey with me, Nick as a white belt in our former club in Täby and Peter started his TSD journey at TSD Åkersberga, and that they continue this journey together at the club in Åkersberga. Stort grattis, ni två!



Of course, Nick had also thought of the physical well-being during the organization and so, Saturday evening was filled with delicious Chinese food and a lively conversation with the very international attendees, who originally come from Australia, the USA, Vietnam, Germany and of course Sweden.

After another training session on Sunday, it was unfortunately time to say goodbye again. Many thanks to KCN Trogemann and Master Ewing for sharing their knowledge and skills, and many thanks to Nick Scardigno and his team for the smooth organization and hospitality! We will come back!

Tatjana Schwarz, 3rd Dan, Bulsajo TSD Senden/Germany



Self-defence Course at TSD Solln

The TSD department of TSV Solln organised a self-defence course on May 24, which was especially intended for women. With a well-mixed group of all ages, the instructors Thomas Schromm and Oliver Stahl (both 3rd Dan) started with a distinction between street self-defence and well-staged Hollywood fights. The focus was on simple but effective techniques that can be effective even with a difference in size and force.

In the course of the 3-hour seminar, the three zones in which an attack can take place were discussed, which are defined by the proximity of the attacker. It starts with the green zone, where there is no contact yet, followed by the yellow zone, simple grips on hands and shoulders, and increases to the red zone with chokeholds from the front and back. For each of these situations, the instructors showed ways to defend themselves and escape and gave everyone the time to try it out for themselves. In doing so, they attached great importance to conveying a clear selection of techniques. Street self-defence is not about a broad repertoire, but about the confident mastery of individual effective methods. The course is already successful if each of the participants takes two to three techniques home with them and internalizes them.

Finally, the legal aspects of self-defence were addressed, which are anchored in Article 32 of the German Criminal Code. Self-defence must always be adapted to the situation at hand, as self-defence only refers to the defence required to repel an attack.

Charlotte Unsöld, 1st Gup, TSD Solln/Germany



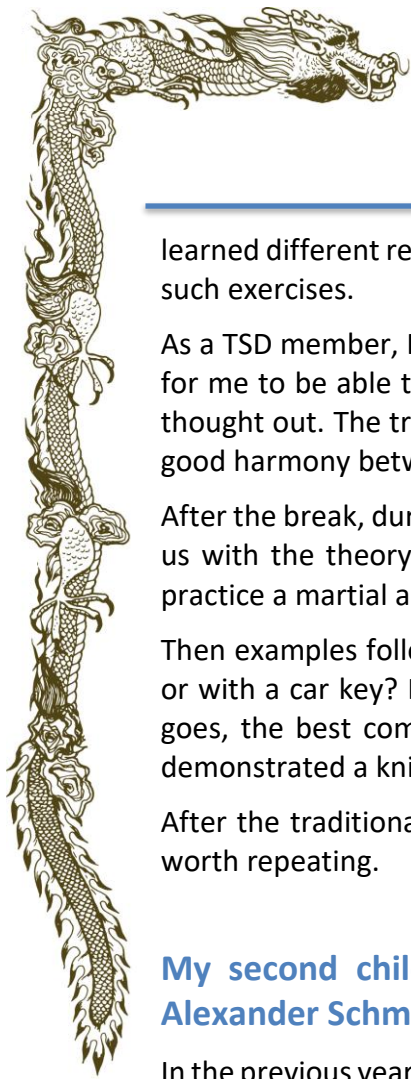
First TSD / Hapkido course in Solln

Under the direction of Thomas Schromm and Oliver Stahl (both 3rd Dan), a self-defence course took place on Saturday, May 24 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the gym of TSV Solln in Munich.

Organized by Oliver Stahl, it was an open course for anyone interested, but mainly for women. As a member of the TSD club Esting I had the honour to participate. There were numerous participants, both older and young. More than 25 women of all ages had appeared. Many members from other departments of the TSV Solln were also present.

After the traditional line-up and announcement of the commands, it started. As far as the practical part is concerned, it was about preparing for attacks. How do I react? We did various exercises with partners. Depending on whether the attack comes from the front or from the back, for example, we





learned different reactions. Although you can't be prepared enough, the right reflexes develop with such exercises.

As a TSD member, I was familiar with many techniques, unlike my partner. It was a great pleasure for me to be able to take something with me. The course was structured in three steps and well thought out. The trainers took turns and built up the techniques one after the other. There was a good harmony between the two instructors.

After the break, during which we were spoiled with food and drinks, Thomas Schromm familiarized us with the theory. There was a proportionality between attack and defence, especially if you practice a martial art or if you provide assistance.

Then examples followed with everyday items. How can you defend yourself with a mobile phone or with a car key? How do you react when you're on the ground or can't breathe? As the saying goes, the best comes last, Oliver enriched us with a special Hapkido technique at the end. He demonstrated a knife defence with a take down to the ground and fixation of the opponent.

After the traditional greeting, the course was over. A valuable day full of knowledge - definitely worth repeating.

Christiane Tchouamani, 4th Gup, TSD Esting/Germany

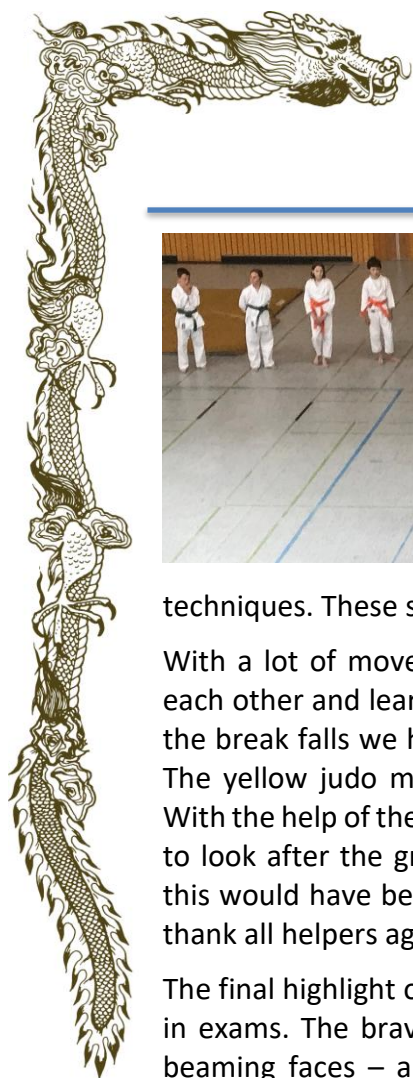
My second children's and youth seminar - Experience report and opinion by Alexander Schmid

In the previous year's planning for 2025, I had offered to take over the children's and youth seminar. Since I had already led a "Ki&Ju" in 2023, I thought it would be easier this time. I was able to build on the experience from back then: I requested the hall reservation from TSV Neufahrn at an early stage, requested the necessary material from the DTSDV and retrieved the documentation from 2023 from the database. Some ideas from last year were omitted this time, but one topic that I would have liked to have included in 2023 was now at the top: the break falls. So, I planned three thematic focuses for the "Ki&Ju25" plus a final highlight for the children: foot techniques, hand techniques, break falls and the final with the board breaking.

I shortened the foot and hand techniques a bit to gain more time for the break falls. In preparation, I refreshed my knowledge again – especially regarding safety and age-appropriate implementation of the break falls for children. The result was a 14-page guide for the "Ki&Ju25" with a schedule, variations,



alternatives and assistance. How much of this was ultimately feasible only became apparent on the day of the seminar itself – depending on how many children and young people took part and what prerequisites they had.



It started with the foot techniques. The chair in particular is a great tool for me to show kicks cleanly and make them understandable – and a tool to practice at home. We used the rubber band for exercises on blocking techniques and kicks twisted over the back. The balloons provided the fun factor: We had prepared 60 small and 15 large balloons. The idea: from a static chair to a dynamic, moving target. Even if the kids just had fun with it, that was perfectly fine – because fun is an important part of our TSD. This was followed by the hand

techniques. These should be carried out quickly and precisely.

With a lot of movement, the children were able to motivate each other and learn from each other in partner exercises. For the break falls we had prepared mats in different thicknesses. The yellow judo mats were intended for advanced students. With the help of the adult accompanying persons, we were able to look after the group well – without their support, none of this would have been possible. At this point, we would like to thank all helpers again!



The final highlight of the course was the board breaking. We had bought extra lighter boards than in exams. The bravest were allowed to start, and we hoped for many successful attempts and beaming faces – and that's exactly what we got! The group dynamics motivated everyone to participate. Almost all boards broke on the first attempt. As a souvenir, each child received a drinking bottle in the TSD design and was of course allowed to take his or her board home with them. After the course, everyone who wanted went to the restaurant "Der Grieche" for a cozy get-together, a nice end to a successful day.

For me, the course was exciting, instructive and associated with a lot of joy – I hope you enjoyed it as well! My conclusion about the second children and youth seminar: It wasn't any easier the second time – the planning as well as the implementation were exciting, challenging and quite exhausting, but above all one thing: very nice!

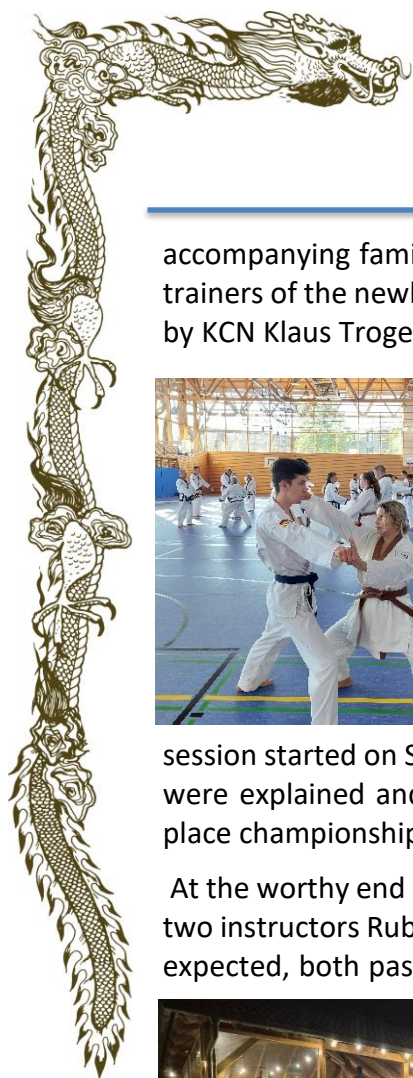
A big thank you to all helpers and co-organizers - without your support none of this would have been possible! Tang Soo!

Alexander Schmid, 3rd Dan, TSD-Neufahrn

Fantastic weather at the fourth summer training camp of the TSD department of TSV Kirchdorf/Inn

The weather gods meant very well with the organizers of this year's TSD summer camp and sent a lot of sun and pleasant temperatures to us in Kirchdorf. This made these three days unforgettable again for all participants and





accompanying families. We welcomed guests from all over Bavaria, North Rhine-Westphalia, the trainers of the newly founded TSD club from Austria and even from Hamburg. The seminar was led by KCN Klaus Trogemann, 8th Dan, from Munich, in proven high quality.



On Friday afternoon, the training started in the Otto-Steidle gym and in this first training session, all Hyungs were intensively practiced in 1 1/2 hours. Here, for the first time this weekend, the sweat flowed in streams. As a reward later, there was a barbecue in the beer garden down in the Au on the beautiful TSV grounds.

After the usual morning Qigong session before breakfast on the meadow at the Hotel Inntalhof, which was almost completely in TSD hands again this year, the longest training session started on Saturday from 9 a.m. to about 3 p.m. Many facets of free fighting with a partner were explained and then practiced very intensively. The competition rules for the soon to take place championship were discussed and then applied in some sparring matches.

At the worthy end of the long training day, the black belt exam of the two instructors Ruben and Desirée de Cilla from Austria took place. As expected, both passed the exam with flying colours and are now the first TSD Blackbelts with their own studio in our neighbouring country.



The evening ended again with good conversations, the obligatory barbecue, as well as great campfire songs in the Au.

On Sunday, there was a 3-hour training session with Master Thomas Krause, 4th Dan, who taught us attack and defence techniques with the staff.



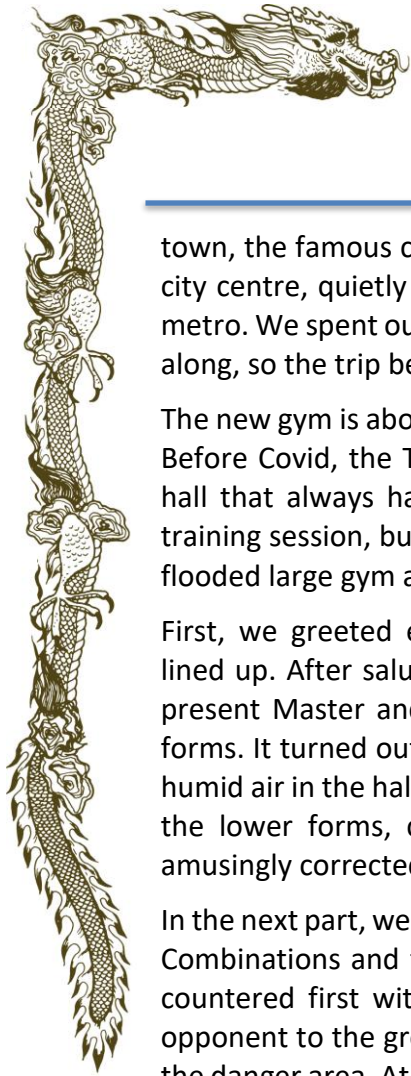
Afterwards, everyone started the at times very long journey home, tired but satisfied. We all had an incredibly nice and instructive summer training camp with a lot of community spirit!

Jo Kandlbinder, 3rd Dan, TSD Rottal/Inn/Germany

TGTSDA Clinic in France

From June 13 to 15, the French Master Alexandre Bernard invited to an international clinic on self-defence and continuation of the TGTSDA one-step techniques. The interest was great and this was also reflected in the number of participants from Germany. Ten TSD practitioners accepted the invitation and arrived by car, mobile home or plane.

Since we were picked up from the airport on Friday afternoon, we used the time for a city tour. Alexandre's wife, Elodie, had already prepared a plan for us. Among other things, we visited the old



town, the famous cathedral hill and the amphitheatre. The hotel we stayed in was away from the city centre, quietly located, but centrally connected. We were able to reach everything easily by metro. We spent our free time with beautiful walks in Mediterranean flair. The weather also played along, so the trip became a combination of vacation and sporting event

The new gym is about five minutes by car from the hotel. Before Covid, the TSD Lyon club was located in a small hall that always had to be rented separately for each training session, but we were amazed: A beautiful, light-flooded large gym awaited us for the next few days.

First, we greeted everyone from the French club and lined up. After saluting the flag and introduction of the present Master and Grandmaster, we started with the forms. It turned out that the previous excursion and the humid air in the hall had an effect on the body. We sweated after just a few minutes and even with the lower forms, careless mistakes crept in in the movements or stances. Our grandmaster amusingly corrected us with some fun words to loosen up.



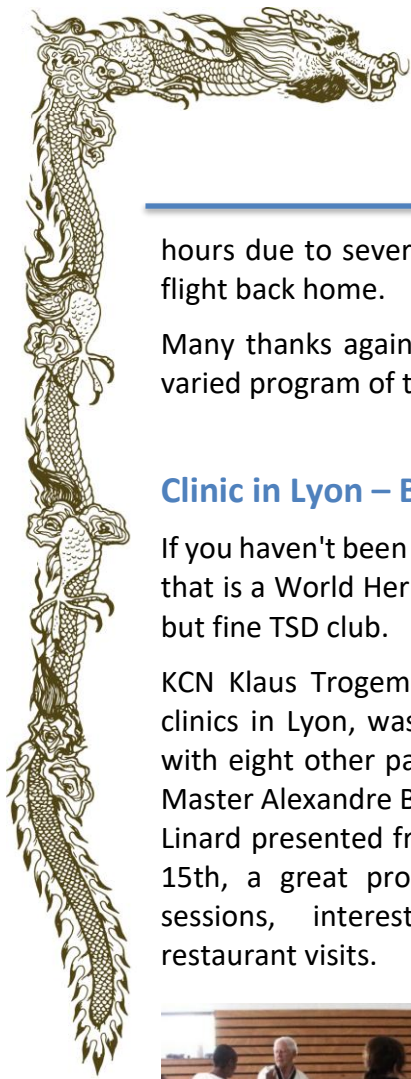
In the next part, we practiced the first five hand techniques with a partner. Then came the increase. Combinations and take downs to the floor followed. It became even more interesting when we countered first with a kick and then with our hands. The next day we practiced bringing the opponent to the ground, fixing him in such a way that we could move away quickly or step out of the danger area. At this point, it should be said that all explanations were first taught in English and



then in French. Both the trainer and our KCN kept changing the language so that everyone understood everything at all times. After one-steps, take downs and realistic defences, it was also a matter of deviating from the actual TSD techniques. It has been explicitly pointed out several times that we do not train blows to the larynx or stabs in the eyes in our martial art. But it's also not wrong to think outside the box and think about which blows are fatal, how I can break bones or avoid injuries myself. How do I deliberately bring my opponent down or to the ground? How do I protect myself? We were always aware that everything can and will turn out quite differently in an emergency. At the end, KCN Trogemann showed some techniques from his repertoire about self-defence.

The visits to the bistros rounded off the visit. In addition to local food, the wine and beer were a perfect complement after the hours of training. Not only during class, but also in the evening, we all got to know each other better. That is also a goal of such meetings. Everyone trains the same thing, no one is alone! The French colleagues quickly recognized this, too. With German, English and French we all talked animatedly until late in the evening. Friendships have been made, phone numbers have been exchanged and TSD France has seen that it is supported and appreciated.

Unfortunately, we ended the weekend in a thunderstorm. In heavy rain and hail we left the gym and met one last time for lunch. At that time, we didn't know that Munich Airport was closed for



hours due to severe weather, so we waited exhausted until the very late evening hours for our flight back home.

Many thanks again to Master Alexandre Bernard and his wife Elodie, who have put together a varied program of training and sightseeing.

Oliver Stahl, 3rd Dan, TSD Solln/Germany

Clinic in Lyon – Bien sûr!

If you haven't been to Lyon yet, you should definitely go there. It's a city with a beautiful downtown that is a World Heritage Site, with great food – Paul Bocuse is from Lyon – and best of all, a small but fine TSD club.

KCN Klaus Trogemann, who has already led several clinics in Lyon, was on site again this time, together with eight other participants from Germany. 4th Dan Master Alexandre Bernard, together with E Dan Elodie Linard presented from Friday 13th until Sunday, June 15th, a great program of instructive TSD training sessions, interesting sightseeing and sociable restaurant visits.



In addition to the always important explanations of the forms by KCN Trogemann, Master Bernard opened up variations and application of self-defence techniques to us. In extremely varied exercises with different partners, the French and German participants deepened their understanding of the well-known one-step techniques and certainly gained one or two new insights into their use. Master Bernard repeatedly pointed out the balance between attack and appropriate reaction in order not to come into conflict with the law.

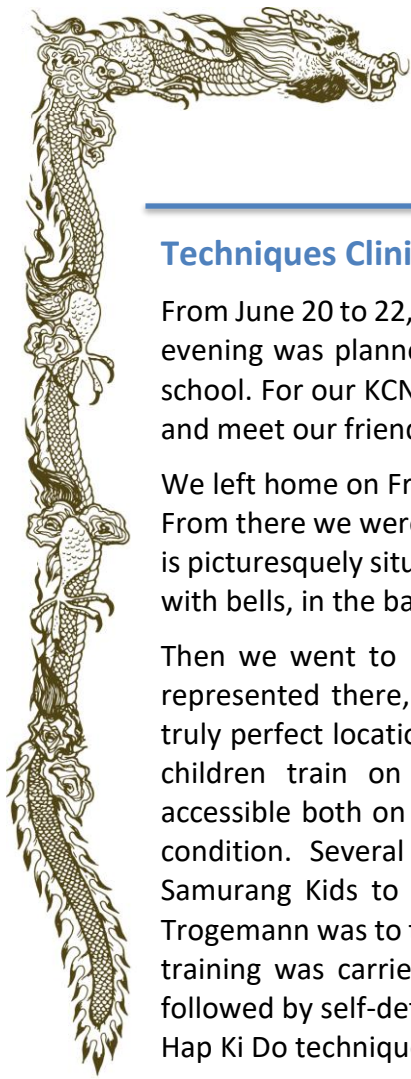
Classic French, but also modern cuisine awaited us during the visits to various restaurants and bistros. Elodie was a wonderful advisor when it came to Lyonese specialties, such as "quenelle" or "oefs meurette" – be sure to try it when you're there! The entertaining conversations with our French TSD friends made these evenings very entertaining and it must be emphasized how important and beautiful these meetings outside the Dojang are for our community.

My personal highlight of this weekend was the sightseeing tour with Elodie, who brings so much historical background knowledge that I could follow her for hours through the entire city without getting tired – thank you very much for that!

The hardest part was the departure, not only because we had a very nice weekend behind us, with great hosts and nice training partners, and I would miss the French food, but because our return flight was delayed by several hours due to a storm over Munich.

I'm looking forward to visiting you next year. À bientôt!

Tatjana Schwarz, 3rd Dan, Bulsajo TSD Senden



Techniques Clinic in Switzerland

From June 20 to 22, Gareth Peters invited people to train together in Hinwil, Switzerland. A training evening was planned in the TSD studio and then at the weekend in the sports gym of the local school. For our KCN Trogemann and me, it was almost a matter of course to accept this invitation and meet our friends again.

We left home on Friday morning by train and reached the city of Winterthur relaxed at lunchtime. From there we were picked up by car and taken to our hotel above Hinwil. The hotel "Hasenstrick" is picturesquely situated on a slope with a view of the entire valley of Lake Zurich. In front the cows with bells, in the background the mountains. The weather also played along.

Then we went to Hinwil. One of the Swiss TSD clubs is represented there, with a studio in a shopping centre. A truly perfect location. While the parents go shopping, the children train on the 1st floor. The studio is easily accessible both on foot and by car. The rooms are in top condition. Several groups train here on Fridays, from Samurang Kids to the teenagers, to the advanced. KCN Trogemann was to take over a teaching unit. The warm-up training was carried out with short, concise commands, followed by self-defence techniques. Several TSD, but also Hap Ki Do techniques were briefly discussed.



In the evening, we were chauffeured to the Indian restaurant, where we were enjoyed the Indian cuisine. Late in the evening we drove back to the hotel and enjoyed the scenery and cocktails on the terrace.

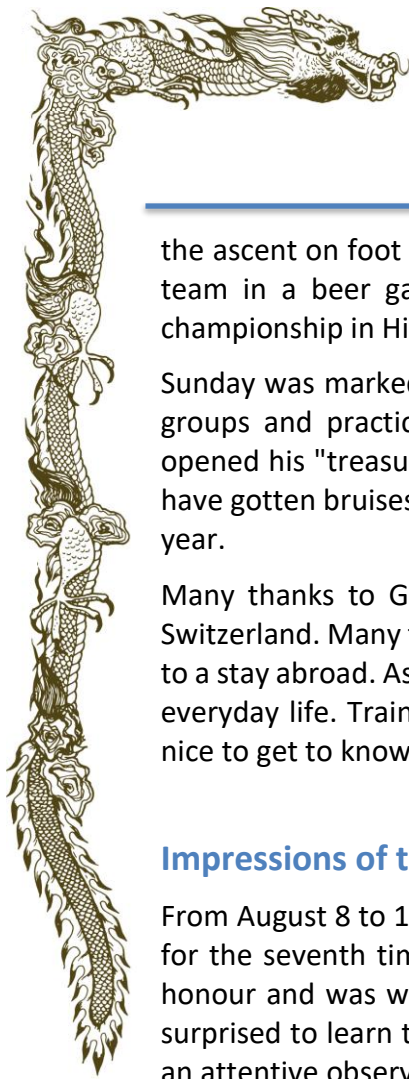
Saturday began at six o'clock in the morning with cowbells and wonderful sunshine. After breakfast we drove to the school in Hinwil, where the training began with all participants. GM Trogemann started with the drum, and we trained the first forms to the rhythm of the drum. The aim is to hold the trunk of the tree and to trim overgrowing branches. Larger deviations in the techniques or positions were corrected. Under the guidance of Gareth Peters and Leanna Schoch, groups were formed, and various bong techniques and forms were practiced. Under the supervision of master



Christian Preiss, the morning flew by. Much was new, some repetition. Especially the hip swing and the transfer of strength into movement and technique are very important in Switzerland.



In the afternoon we met for an excursion. After a visit to the harbour of Rapperswil and the adjoining old town, we visited the famous tower of the "Bachtel Kulm" at 1115 meters altitude, but by car, because



the ascent on foot would have been too strenuous in the heat. In the evening, we joined the TSD team in a beer garden and talked about the clinic, possible future clinics, but also about a championship in Hinwil.

Sunday was marked by the topic of break falls and self-defence. We were first divided into three groups and practiced all break fall variations with the children. Afterwards, our grandmaster opened his "treasure chest" and demonstrated various self-defence techniques. I think some will have gotten bruises at this point. Everyone agreed to repeat such a clinic in the same location next year.

Many thanks to Gareth Peters, who has set up something wonderful here. We all liked it in Switzerland. Many thanks also to Leanna Schoch, who is now unfortunately leaving us for year due to a stay abroad. As always, the clinic was instructive for me, exhausting, but also a little away from everyday life. Training TSD with other people, friends somewhere else is a great experience. It's nice to get to know new, nice people in the big wide TSD world.

Oliver Stahl, 3rd Dan, TSD Solln

Impressions of the 7th Worldwide Tang Soo Do Family World Championships

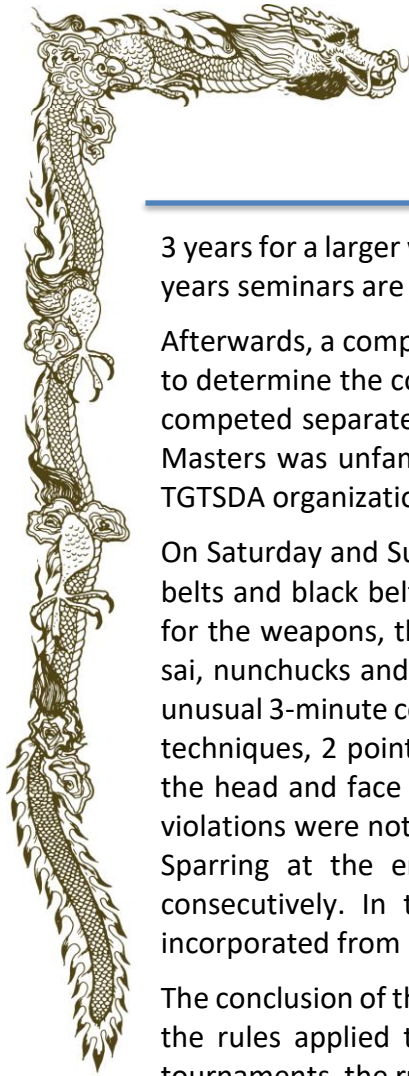
From August 8 to 10, the Worldwide TSD Family Championships took place in Inverness, Scotland, for the seventh time. I had been invited there as a representative of the TGTSDA as a guest of honour and was warmly welcomed into this illustrious circle of Grand Masters. I was extremely surprised to learn that I was not an unknown name in the insider scene for all of them. I became an attentive observer during the three days. On this occasion, there was also a warm reunion and exchange with many old nice acquaintances from earlier times at the WTSDA.

About 400 participants from many countries and associations attended the championship, such as Tang Soo Do Mi Guk Kwan USA, Malaysia TSD, EMTF Holland, Germany and England, UTA TSD England, Combat TSD South Africa and of course STSD Scotland, which were represented by their



respective presidents in the rank of grandmaster. Under the direction of the Kodanjas Jan de Vry and Kelly Murphy from Scotland, a great tournament was held over the three days. There was an exemplary friendly atmosphere among all participants present during the whole tournament.

On Friday afternoon, a meeting was held under the direction of GM Charles Ferraro, 10th Dan TSD, with the present masters on the topic of founding the WWTSDF Association. The aim of this was to bring together all free TSD associations that do not belong neither to the Moo Duk Kwan, nor the WTSDA, under one loose roof without mutual obligation for the purpose of organizing international world championships and conducting TSD training seminars, in order to preserve and continue the original Tang Soo Do for posterity. At the same time, the individual associations remain self-sufficient in terms of their training, education and examinations. They only come together every 2 -



3 years for a larger world championship under the umbrella of the WWTSDF, and in the intervening years seminars are held to maintain the original TSD training.

Afterwards, a competition judges' seminar was held in preparation for the following championship to determine the common competition judges' rules under which to compete. After that, Masters competed separately by age group in the categories of forms, weapons and sparring. Competing Masters was unfamiliar for me since I did not know that from the Moo Duk Kwan, WTSDA and TGTSDA organizations.

On Saturday and Sunday, the various disciplines were held separately by age group for the colour belts and black belts. A distinction was made between traditional TSD forms and open forms. As for the weapons, there was the traditional staff, knife and sword forms. In addition, short sticks, sai, nunchucks and various free weapon forms were also shown. In sparring, there was for us an unusual 3-minute competition time with up to a maximum of 6 hits. For certain jumping and turning techniques, 2 points could be awarded. Fist techniques, also in rotational form, were allowed to the head and face and you could score points with them. Escape from the mat and various rule violations were not punished. Furthermore, there were also categories for Team Forms and Team Sparring at the end. Here, 2 groups of 3 to 4 participants competed against each other consecutively. In the team forms, a form was run and then self-defence techniques were incorporated from it.

The conclusion of the three days for me: If you want to go to such a tournament, you have to follow the rules applied there and accept the consequences. If participants join TGTSDA events and tournaments, the rules and categories written in the TGTSDA Championship Manual apply without exception.

All in all, it was a nice experience to have been at this World Championship. Friendly participants and excellent atmosphere among all those present. In addition, the professional exchange of views and opinions among the higher Masters and Grandmasters was very fruitful and productive.

The championship was concluded with an atmospheric party for all participants present. A thank you also goes to GM Ashok Kumar from the EMTF for the friendly invitation. The result is not in vain.

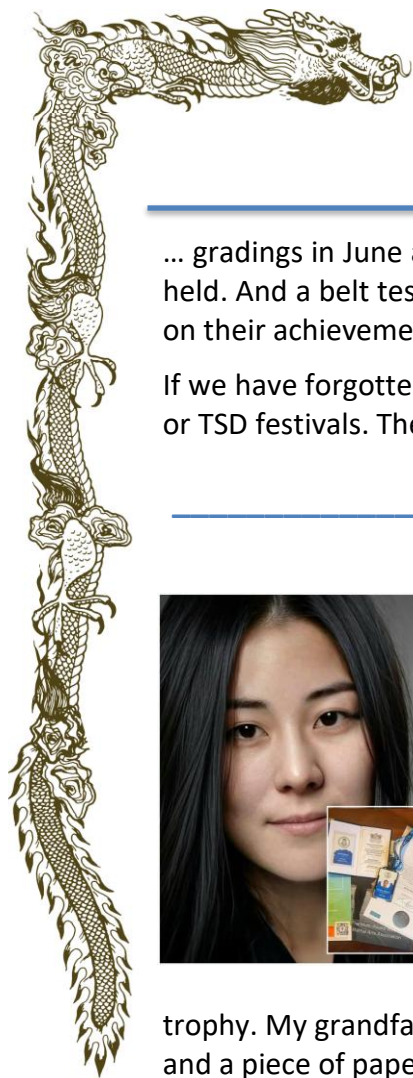
KCN Klaus Trogemann

And then there was...

... a weekend clinic in northern Germany in April with our latest member of the TGTSDA, the TSD Birten. Master Viviane Roeloffs (4th Dan) is the head instructor of the Dojang, which is located in a small gym in a neighbouring town of Xanten, which is steeped in history. KCN Trogemann, Master Gerold Engenhorst (5th Dan), Master Achim Brall (4th Dan) and Master Roeloffs shared their knowledge and skills at the seminar with around 45 participants.

... a seminar on Saturday, July 19 in Au in der Hallertau, where Patrick Zapf is the club's head coach. Forms, with and without weapons and the one-step techniques were practiced under the guidance of KCN Trogemann and Master Thomas Krause.





... gradings in June at TSD Neufahrn, to which examinees from TSD Leitershofen and Au were also held. And a belt test also took place in Senden at Bulsajo TSD in July. Congratulations to everyone on their achievements!

If we have forgotten something: Feel free to write an article about your training, seminars, exams or TSD festivals. The newsletter team is always happy about contributions from our members!

Tatjana Schwarz, Newsletter Team

Interesting Read



Sumiko Nakano was born in 1998 Japan. She is an MMA fighter and a writer. To read the unabridged text, please click on the link in the name.

Sumiko Nakano

I remember the day I proudly brought my Taekwondo black belt certificate [...] to my grandparents in Japan. [...] I was proud. I wanted them to be proud too. My grandmother had been teaching me naginatajutsu since I was five, and my grandfather trained me in jiu-jitsu and Shōtōkan karate whenever I was in Japan. [...]

Instead, they looked at me like I had just handed them a participation trophy. My grandfather [...] held the paper up and asked: "Why are you so proud of a colored belt and a piece of paper? What does this say about your real skill?"

[...] ... They didn't need official paperwork or some colored fabric around my waist to tell them I had improved. The proof was in my movement, my execution, my ability. Their respect had to be earned in the dojo, not bought with a promotion.

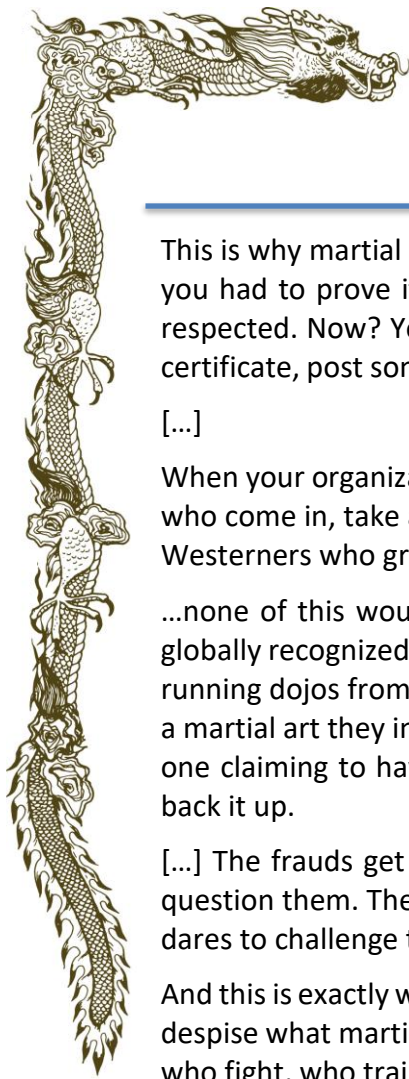
That was the day I realized how meaningless belts and ranks really are. [...] When I train in a dojo, I wear a white belt or whatever fits the gi. Not because I'm against ranking systems, but because I don't need validation from a strip of cloth.

Ironically, now I'm an instructor myself—an officially registered instructor under the British Martial Arts & Boxing Association (BMABA) [...] They regulate instructor qualifications, verify backgrounds, and ensure that those teaching martial arts meet real, measurable criteria. Unlike most self-proclaimed "grandmasters" floating around the industry, BMABA instructors have to prove their legitimacy.

[...]

Let's take a deep breath and dive into the absolute circus that is modern martial arts rankings—a world where self-proclaimed Sōke, Shodai Grandmasters, and Professors of Ninjutsu Sciences have built an empire of lies, and no one is stopping them because, well, there's no actual system to regulate this nonsense.

Unlike legitimate sports—boxing, judo, BJJ, or even MMA—where rankings are based on competition, recognized federations, and skill that can be proven against resisting opponents, traditional martial arts suffer from a complete lack of oversight. [...]



This is why martial arts today are a complete joke. It used to be that if you wanted to be a master, you had to prove it. You had to fight, to teach, to demonstrate knowledge and skill that others respected. Now? You just declare yourself a 10th Dan grandmaster, design an impressive-looking certificate, post some blurry photos of yourself in a black gi with a wooden sword [...] It's that easy.

[...]

When your organization is built on selling mystery instead of combat efficiency, you get people [...] who come in, take a piece of that mystique, slap their own spin on it, and start selling it to gullible Westerners who grew up watching Enter the Ninja. [...]

...none of this would have worked if martial arts had an actual ranking system. If there were a globally recognized authority that enforced real standards, we wouldn't have 22-year-old "Hanshi" running dojos from their mom's garage. We wouldn't have guys awarding themselves 10th Dan in a martial art they invented last week. We wouldn't have Sōke popping up every five minutes, each one claiming to have rediscovered a lost samurai style, despite having zero historical records to back it up.

[...] The frauds get away with it because they know their students don't have the knowledge to question them. They exploit ignorance, sell mysticism, and build cult-like followings where no one dares to challenge the master.

And this is exactly why real martial artists, real fighters, real practitioners of combat arts, absolutely despise what martial arts have become. Because the loudest voices in the industry aren't the ones who fight, who train, who prove their worth—they're the ones who sell the best fantasy.

[...]

There's no challenge, no accountability, no requirement to prove anything. Just wear a flashy gi, spew some philosophical nonsense about the way of the warrior, and start handing out certificates like they're participation trophies at a school sports day. No one questions it, because questioning a master is apparently forbidden.

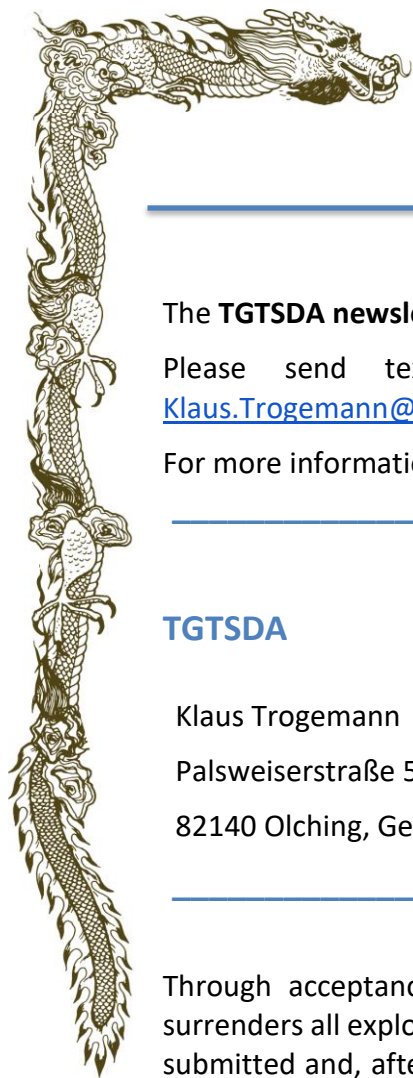
But maybe it's time to start asking questions.

Because at the end of the day, martial arts shouldn't be about the biggest title, the fanciest rank, or the most dramatic lineage story. It should be about skill, discipline, and the ability to prove yourself through action. And you know who actually does that? The real martial artists. The ones who train, who fight, who teach without the need for some ridiculous mystical backstory.

They're the ones not screaming about how legendary they are. They don't need to tell you they're a 27th-degree Supreme Grandmaster of the Forbidden Tiger Fist—they just teach. They pass on their knowledge with discipline and respect, without the smoke and mirrors. They're proud of what they do, and they should be. There's nothing wrong with being proud of your skills, the way you teach, or even advertising your school—just as long as it's real.

[...]

If you would like to read the entire article, please click [here](#).



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TGTSDA

Klaus Trogemann



+49 8142 13 773

Palsweiserstraße 5i



Klaus.Trogemann@tgtsda.com

82140 Olching, Germany

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