Why do we need Kissaki-Kai?



In this issue I include parts of a longer interview with by sensei Boris Deraeve (4th Dan Belgium) with someone (identity protected) who has things to say which, I believe, have direct references to why Kissaki-Kai exists, and what the differences are between Kissaki-Kai and regular Japanese style Sport Karate.

I have noticed that - in the main because of the spreading popularity of Kissaki-Kai Karate, and the increasing number of sensei and students who are asking to become members, very many are not aware of just how different we (Kissaki-Kai) are from most sport karate Dojo.

Some will, of course, have trained in these Dojo and becoming aware of the differences is a great part of why they want to make the change.

Others, who may come without former martial arts experience, will not even be aware of any differences. Thus I feel a little background would be helpful.

(From the main www.kissakikarate.com website) Kissaki-Kai Karate-Do was founded by Vince Morris, now 9th Dan of Nottingham, Great Britain LIKE US ON FACEBOOK add comments and questions and become friends - VINCE MORRIS

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in March 1993 at the behest of senior black belt members who had become disillusioned with what the "traditional" karate schools had to offer in terms of "real" fighting techniques.

It is impossible to list all the difference here, but, for example: Original Okinawan karate used the front hand as a weapon, whereas in modern karate it is normally used to defend; *Hikite* (pulling back the opposite fist) originally was to pull an enemy onto a blow or to control him, modern karate uses it to aid punching power and speed; Blocks were originally two-handed, modern karate mainly uses one hand; original karate made great use of throws and control methods; modern karate only recently has allowed the use of a variety of throws in Kumite: original karate utilized different hand and fist types to attack the vital Kyusho points, these are generally not used in modern training; in original karate opponents were usually immobilized before being struck with blows, modern karate is more mobile against moving opponents.

Originally, karate taught methods of defense against a variety of weapons, modern Dojo karate does not, side-kicks and round-kicks are common in modern karate; they do not feature in original karate (but they can indeed be useful in some situations!); original karate contained choking, strangling, locking and grappling methods, modern karate pays little or no attention to these aspects; originally Kata were supposed to be practiced after learning the Bunkai, modern karate does not do this and the Bunkai is mostly forgotten - in fact all the many vital techniques needed to save your life in a real attack situation have either been banned

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completely or so watered down as to become almost useless. The list goes on.

Remember - if something is not considered useful, it will probably not be practiced! How many times in a sport Dojo do you practice a head butt, or a shin kick or an eye-gouge or hair grabbing....?

I like to describe the differences in terms of a simile of artisan's toolboxes:

Think about it. Every workman needs a box of tools which are necessary for the particular demands of his work. A plumber will need different tools than a carpenter, for example. Kata are the Karate-Ka's toolboxes!



All the tools you need for effective Self-defense - Original Karate



Many tools now removed - Sport Karate - Good luck with that!



Interviewer Boris Deraeve 4th Dan

The problem is, however, that huge numbers of the important tools have now been discarded and so, everyone interested in effective self-defense, is forced to either look elsewhere and cross-train, or in the end seek out a system like Kissaki-Kai which not only continues to use them, but also updates them for the 21st century. Remember too - each one of you will need a box filled with tools which work for you!

Anyway, You will see, as you read, the interviewee makes certain statements based upon the dangerous realities he has experienced over the years.

Interestingly, without formal training, he and his friends tried techniques from a variety of martial arts, to eventually build their own 'system.' Very much as the old Okinawan masters would build their 'Styles' - by taking and using what actually worked!

I advise students to 'Build their own 6 - pack!' That is - develop a few techniques that you can be really confident of and train them again and again! 'Keep it Simple, Stupid!'



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Extracts from Boris's interview: "But I will share this with you: the idea is always to distract the attacker; to make him startle so that you disrupt his focus. You strike at that very moment. It is one of the key things to observe! (Exactly as our Rule of Combat dictates).

You can train the whole day on a mat working on certain situations which can bring a lot of value if done properly. But keep in mind that real fights are much different. It is very violent and goes lightning fast. I once froze during a fight and before I even knew it, it was over. So this is why I personally believe that it is very hard to train real situations due to the level of aggression involved."

Question: On the other hand, would such experience not be an argument to integrate these kind situations more into one's training? "What one could do is to train these type of situations at a somewhat lower speed in order to train best possible responses. Obviously, if you would just go at full speed without caring about the safety of your training partner, your training would not last for long.

During this training, ask yourself the question: was it effective? Did I make a difference? For example: what about the timeframe? A fight usually only lasts a very short time - certainly not three full minutes. What about your weapons? My favorite weapons are my knees. Within the limited space I have as a bouncer, they are the ideal weapon to unbalance an opponent or to hurt him. (*Train for what actually happens! Rule of Combat*).

Question: Do you also use your elbows? "Yes - head-butts too! The usual targets to aim for are the kidneys and liver or even the larynx. As regards the groin, bear in mind that most troublemakers anticipate being hit there. So contrary to what most people think, you do not want to go there first."

Question: So as a kind of wrap-up; any final thoughts?

"The cliche is true: if you can avoid a fight, then you should avoid it at all times. I am not superman, you know. One way to do this is to stay away as long as possible out of one's personal space. Avoid having a big mouth. Be self-confident but remain humble. Above all, never ever show fear. In terms of martial arts practitioners, be conscious of the fact that in the Dojo you are being protected by many rules. For good reasons of course but, again, it is a different world out there. Mastering

certain techniques says nothing about your fighting mindset.

True fighting spirit is essential for surviving a real fight. Try focusing a bit less on rules and a bit more on mindset. Adapt to the situation."

Remarks worthy of remembering and thinking about! Thank you to Boris and our mystery interviewee.

Interestingly as this indeed is, it does not say anything that we in Kissaki-Kai have not been promoting for years! In fact these remarks from someone at the real frontline of actual experience only serve to underline once again just how important it is to question exactly what your current training offers you!

Is it reality based? Or is it more of a pastime, based upon a martial art, but now sunk into Dojo ritual?

Whatever you chose, that's fine - but do it from a position of knowledge and evidence.

By the way, I also want to take the time to dispel an idea which seems to have circulated. That Kissaki-Kai is against all modern techniques! Far from it! If you can kick fast, high and powerfully like some of my friends, why would you not use these 'newer' techniques? Some sport karate training is very helpful, and only a fool would throw away a weapon he could use well because it was 'new' or 'old' or whatever. The bottom line is you do what is necessary to survive and use whatever weapons will do the job for you!



Remember - You must also keep your toolbox up-to-date! Remove techniques you used to be able to do and replace them with ones you can still rely on! I was good at this when I was in my 30's and 40's - Maybe I wouldn't rely on it now!

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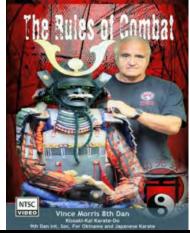








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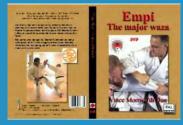
This is invaluable to all who want to master Kissaki-Kai, but who do not live near a Kissaki Dojo!

Why not take a look and see if it could help you?

www.kissakikarate.com



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