

BRITISH AIKIDO BOARD
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – 26TH JANUARY 2008
USE OF WEAPONS
REPORT BY VICE CHAIRMAN

1. Home Office Consultation on the Use of Samurai Swords.

The Board contributed to the consultation process, recommending that “Samurai Swords,” which includes replicas, should continue to be permitted for recognised martial arts.

Notification has now been received that in response to the consultation the Government intends to add “samurai swords” to the Offensive Weapons Order but to include exemptions for collectors of genuine Japanese swords and swords used by martial arts enthusiasts.

Under the proposals the Government will ban the import, sale and hire of Samurai swords from April 2008 (subject to the exemptions for genuine collectors of original weapons)

2. Use of “Live Blades” in Aikido Training.

All members and officers of the Management Committee were invited to comment on this matter and apart from one dissent, there was a strongly held view that the use of live blades (including sword replicas and tanto) has always been, and should remain an inherent part of aikido training.

It was however recognised that the use of these weapons, on the mat, would need to be carefully controlled and it is suggested that if the Board support the use of live blades, then an appropriate Code of Practice should be developed.

At the present time the Insurance cover, effected through Perkins Slade, specifically excludes the use of such weapons. If the Board support the proposal then it is recommended that Perkins Slade be asked to quote for the inclusion of this activity. Such insurance could either be as an integral part of the overall cover or could be a specific “add on” for Associations wishing to take it up. In anticipation of the latter option and on advice from an Aikidoka working in the insurance industry, an informal approach has been made to Towergate Brokers, who specialise in one off insurances to ascertain whether they could provide the required cover at a realistic rate.

Keith Holland