

# British Combat Association



## Information Pack

*The Founding Organisation of The Combat Group*

# British Combat Association

Established 1993



## BCA History

2020 sees the 27th anniversary of the founding of the BCA. No other martial arts organisation has had the impact that the BCA has had on the issues of self protection and the 'practical' landscape of U.K. martial arts. Whilst it now seems commonplace to see magazine articles espousing such issues as 'reality based', 'practical systems', 'self protection' and the like, prior to 1993 there were only a few voices crying in the wilderness, arguing that traditional martial arts would not work without many modifications in a 'street' situation.

Whilst the original concept for the Association was to provide a home for the practical martial arts instructor, it soon became clear that the other attractions of the BCA were also appealing to the traditional martial arts instructors. This was the freedom from political and often petty restrictions, and also that we are an organisation where egos have no part to play. Many of us are all too familiar with the barriers that are put up by the many 'style' associations so as to prevent an Instructor from looking outside the organisation to further his or her knowledge.

After a number of years locked into a style association, Instructors often come to realise that questioning received wisdom is simply not allowed, thus preventing personal growth. Being with the BCA is being with an organisation that is recognised, more so than any other, for educating the martial arts fraternity about the true realities of personal combat and the complexities of self defence as well as being a non-political home for the single style, martial arts Instructor.

### A Member of The Combat Group

Instructors are then faced with the dilemma of either accepting the situation or move to a non-style association where they are often left to their own devices,

without the support of a like minded association. Often, the bigger the association the smaller the support network, but with the BCA we have numerous testimonials about the help our people receive. It is important that instructors who follow a more practical, combat oriented approach belong to an organisation which shares the same philosophy and which actively works at gathering information on the latest concepts and studies on the subject and sharing this with its people.



Equally important for the single style martial arts groups is that their requirements are understood and that

a route for progression by means of gradings for instructors is available. We have senior martial artists across most disciplines, available for both courses and gradings.



We also recognise the need to help clubs with their promotional efforts and our 'club listing' pages starts this process. Our member clubs also benefit from the wider promotion that the BCA achieves in its own right, together with the facility to promote events and courses through our vast mailing network.

Publicity is a vital part of any organisation and all members benefit from the high profile of the BCA and **Combat Group**.

Check out the **Combat Group** website

[www.thecombatgroup.com](http://www.thecombatgroup.com)

## The Chief Instructor

The BCA has, over many years, become to be recognised as the international centre for the development of defensive tactics and concepts. The BCA Chief Instructor - **Peter Consterdine 9th Dan Karate** are, is acknowledged as a world authority about practical martial arts. His books are recommended reading for police forces and his DVDs are watched in every corner of the world. Being with the BCA is a very prestigious membership and is recognised internationally as a sign of quality.

Alongside Peter's 55 years of high level martial arts he has had a long career within the specialised security and risk management industry with many years spent as an international Close Protection (CP) operative and CP trainer.



**Geoff Thompson (Co-founder of the BCA) with Peter**

In the BCA we actively encourage our Instructors, as part of our open philosophy, to seek as wide a range of martial arts experience as possible. We now have Karate people skilled at grappling and Judo people striking with great skill. Whilst a cross-training network exists within the BCA, we ensure that Instructors are exposed to a wide range of systems and the best instruction available through are Instructor Courses (see our photo album on site). These courses have become the focal point of the Association's calendar of events.

Instructors are regularly brought up to date with events and issues by means of the our weekly newspaper **Combat Corner** which comes out via our mailing list.

As well as being kept up to date through Combat Corner we have numerous notifications of events, courses and club promotions and we encourage all our instructors to make use of this facility for reporting events, results and upcoming courses.



## Instructors

Every instructor who is accepted into membership of the BCA is also entered into the Instructor Register. We are often asked by outside groups or individuals to recommend an Instructor in a particular area and it is from the Register that these people are recommended

## Instructor Levels & Qualifications

Currently, the Association has three grades of Instructors - two of which are achieved only through qualification of the **Self Defence Instructor's (SDI) Certificate** and **Combat Coach (CC) Diploma**

### Instructor (Recognition)

### Senior Instructor (SDI Certificate)

### Coach (CC Diploma)

**Instructor** - a person joining the Association who is running a martial arts club, or group of clubs should, with a provable, legitimate background be able to meet the standards we require to 'recognise' that person as an Instructor. It isn't necessary, however, to be running a formal martial arts group, but could be a professional instructor in, say, the police, prison service, army, or health service where they are occupationally engaged in teaching personal defensive tactics, or control and restraint. For every instructor we require to see evidence of prior training, grading, qualifications and teaching experience before acceptance. We reserve the right to request any applicant whose background is uncheckable, or who is unknown to us or another BCA instructor to be required to demonstrate both knowledge and skill level.

**Senior Instructor & Coach Awards** - Elevation to **Senior Instructor** or **Coach** is via the **Combat Coach** programmes - probably the most comprehensive course available either in the UK or Internationally. Comprising of some 55 distance learning Units, submitted work and face-to-face time with the Associations senior Coach, Peter Consterdine. For a prospectus on the programme, visit the Combat Group website, or email for details.

**This is the most prestigious and comprehensive personal combat qualification in existence.**



## Gradings

### Club Gradings

The BCA, unlike many traditional martial arts organisations has no financial interest in club gradings which is the responsibility of the club Chief Instructor. If any Instructor feels they need an additional Instructor to assist with a grading to form a panel then that arrangement is between those Instructors, but at the BCA we are happy to help to find a co-examiner if one isn't readily available.

### Dan Gradings

Throughout the year we hold Black Belt grading panels and these are announced via our mailing system. Given the wide diversity of the styles and systems practised within the BCA we may, on occasions, have to grade individuals separately to the panels and this can be arranged as and when required. We have a set grading fee for all Dan Grades (see below) and grading intervals are in line with traditional Japanese Budo gradings, i.e. 4yrs between 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan and 4<sup>th</sup> Dan etc.

### Dan Grading Options & Costs

We have 3 options for Dan gradings within the Combat Group Associations.

#### Option 1. Dan Grade 'Recognition'

Where a Dan grading has been awarded outside of the BCA by an organisation, or grading examiner we approve, we are happy to 'recognise' that grading and issue a 'Dan Grade Recognition' certificate to that effect. The cost of this is just £25 to include an A4 certificate\*.

#### Option 2. 'Time-Served Award'

Where we have an Instructor or club Black Belt who has genuinely reached 4th Dan with a physical grading and is now due on a time-served basis for 5th Dan, say, (or higher), then within the Combat Group Associations we do not expect these to be physical gradings unless the individual so desires.. The cost of this is £75 to include an A4 certificate\*.

#### Option 3. A Physical Grading

As outlined above, we hold both panel and individual Black Belt gradings across a wide range of martial art disciplines. The cost of this is £125 (for all Dan grades) and includes an A4 certificate\*

\*where an individual requires an A3 certificate add £25 to all the above three costs..

## Fee Structure

### Club or Group Fee - £50 per annum

For clubs who, in 12 months from renewal, licence 50 students or more, there is **NO** renewal fee.

**NB.** The Club Fee includes the individual membership to the BCA of the Club, or Group's Senior Instructor. As well as his or her individual membership, the fee includes both the Instructor's Certificate and Dan Grade Recognition Certificate (if applicable).

### Additional Instructor - £25

To register another Instructor in your group the cost is at this initial level, which is a once only payment. This is a processing fee to cover the vetting of the proposed Instructor's C.V. and certificate issue. Renewal is then at the standard adult £16 p.a.

### Adult Individual Club Member (+15 yrs) - £16 per year (in

### Junior Individual Club Member (-15 yrs) - £13 per year

All members receive a comprehensive membership/grading/record book and insurance cover confirmation slip.

### Associate Instructor - £75 (renewable annually)

For those Instructors who do not run a typical martial arts club and without long term members, we have the membership status available of Associate Instructor. This membership may be appropriate for someone teaching short, self defence classes, private lessons, and/or courses, but who does not have regular student members to license/insure with us. For example, we have a number of serving police officers who outside of their regular work deliver self defence classes and for whom the Associate Instructor membership and accompanying liability insurance is ideal

## Insurance Details

For information on both our comprehensive Student and Instructor Personal Accident and Liability cover please get in touch - [info@britishcombat.co.uk](mailto:info@britishcombat.co.uk)

## How to Join

The first step is probably to absorb the information in this brochure and take time to understand what we are all about and whether the Association is what you are looking for.

The next step, assuming you have questions, is to get in contact either by email or, by all means, give me a call (Peter Consterdine) on the BCA office number.

Club and Associate Instructor application forms are available from [info@britishcombat.co.uk](mailto:info@britishcombat.co.uk) to complete and get this back to us and we will let you know what additional documentation we may need.

Alternatively, download the form from the BCA website under the 'About' heading. fill it in and post it back to us with any copy documentation you have to help us get a good picture of what you have done and where you hope to go with yourself and your group in the future.

Payment can be made securely through PayPal, bank transfer, over the phone with a credit/debit card, or by cheque if you are posting everything off to us.

Feel free to give me a call.

## Regards

*Peter Consterdine 9th Dan*

*Chairman & Chief Instructor*

