

International Nan Shaolin Wuzuquan Union

Minutes of Meetings, November 2012

The venue for this meeting was the 11th Floor of the Overseas Hotel, Quanzhou, Fujian Province, Southern China. Some of the attendees for the meeting as follow...

Representatives from:

UK / Europe – Master Kim Han, Nigel Gilham, Tracy Gilham.

Australia – Master James Chee, Lilley Chee, Johnny Yap.

America – Master John Graham

Philippines – Master Henry Lo

Singapore – Master Koh

Hong Kong – Master Lee Kong

China – Master Chou Kun Min

Master Xu Keng Huai

Master Zhang Xiao Feng

Mr Wu Shao Jie



The meeting was conducted in Mandarin with sporadic translations from Master Henry Lo and Johnny Yap. To that end I believe I have captured the 'essence' of the meetings but I will apologise in advance for any errors, spellings or names I may have missed. It is quite confusing to minute a meeting when you are unable to entirely understand what is being said. Thank you, Nigel Gilham.

The meeting opened with the introduction of those heads of the associations that were present. There were messages of apology from those association heads that were unable to attend the meetings. It was pointed out that there were a number of government officials present at the opening dinner on the evening of the 2nd November '12. They were interested in an event being planned for September 2013 (dates to be confirmed). The event will be a competition to coincide with the annual Mid-Autumn Festival to which the government will be adding considerable financial support.

The current president of the International Nan Shaolin Wuzuquan Union, Master James Chee made a short speech declaring how happy he was to be present, thanking the organisers of the meetings and the attendees for coming and giving their support. Master Chee then reported to the meeting details of the competition event and the combining of the Mid-Autumn Festival as a cultural event planned for 2013.

Nan Shaolin Master and retired Deputy Mayor of Quanzhou, Master Chou Kun Min, then made a speech outlining the activities for last year (2011-12) and those proposed for next year (2012-13)...

Last year's activities: There was an update of a major initiative to teach a modified syllabus of Wuzuquan in a range of local schools and age groups. In the last few years there has been more support from Beijing for the project. Approximately 800 people have been qualified to teach the syllabus in schools. These teachers provided posters and DVD's of the syllabus with details of the standard that the teaching has produced within the schools. They report that students are happy and willing to learn the short routines and that the project has been very successful. The next projects will be to expand and aim at adults and senior citizens. Master Henry Lo indicated that he and the Kong Han Association would be rolling out the syllabus to schools in the Philippines.

A Shaolin artefact found: Master Chou Kun Min discussed the finding of an artefact that indicates that in addition to the Shaolin Temples in Putian and Quanzhou there was another in Yong Chun with evidence both above and below ground. Archaeologists found a tomb that was occupied by the body of a monk with a stone 'tablet'. The stone tablet has been dated at approx 300 years old and the text on the tablet refers to a Shaolin Temple (in Quanzhou) that was under attack when the monks moved

to Yong Chun. Master Chou Kun Min held up a brass rubbing of the stone tablet found in the tomb of a Monk.

A Cultural event and Competition: The Chinese government is keen to promote a Mid-Autumn Festival and cultural celebration to include Taiwan to be held in Quanzhou around the 19th and 20th September 2012/3. One of the events to mark this celebration will be an invitational martial arts competition for the Southern Shaolin martial arts styles. The organisers expect to cater for approximately 700 to 1000 competitors. Beijing will be giving support to this major event so as many competitors from overseas as possible will be encouraged to come and support or participate. Advance notice of the exact dates is urgent for all overseas people that may be interested. There will be a commemorative plaque for all of the attendees. One of the events for the competition will be full-contact sparring. The rules, limits and parameters of which will be discussed in more detail at this afternoons meeting. The sparring competition rules and regulations would be discussed at a separate meeting.

The 24th Anniversary: Next year will be the 24th Anniversary of the International Nan Shaolin Wuzuquan Organisation so the members would like to produce a commemorative book of research on the organisation itself. The committee members are looking for contributions from all of the members to be included in the publication. Examples of contributions will be to include articles of research of the member schools in the various countries i.e. England, Philippines, Singapore, Hong Kong, etc. etc. The committee would like the book to contain as much of the history of Wuzuquan as possible before it is lost. This book will be published in July 2013 and passed to the Henan People Cultural Society to ensure that the information therein is not lost.

A Parade and Traditional Lion Dance: There will an event with performances of the King of Lions (aka The Green Lion) from a number of associations and clubs. The Lion Dance performances will be included in a parade along with all of the competitors to advertise the event whilst making its way through Quanzhou. The Hong Kong representative anticipates having approx 50 people in the parade. The organisers would like to see as many people as possible with an emphasis on overseas visitors to include other races as a demonstration of a fully equitable, friendly and open event.

Master Chou Kun Min finishes.

Time for Questions and Answers:

Master John Graham: Agreed that the parade should include and highlight the local schools alongside international participants.

Master Kim Han: Pointed out that detailed, written instructions to include contact names, diagrams, parade line up order, times, places, route, etc, will be essential for the parade to run smoothly. The instructions will need to be in correct English as well as Chinese so a competent translator will be required. As an example, reference was made to the translation that Nigel Gilham had organised for the UK meeting notes at this years meeting. It was also pointed out that at all previous competitions there has not been any English translation or translators to assist with those countries that do not understand Chinese. This will be essential to encourage more overseas interest.

Master John Graham: Asked if other martial arts were permitted to enter the event (e.g. karate, tae kwon do, etc)?

Answer: No, only the Southern Chinese martial arts will be accepted because this will be a Chinese, Minnan People Cultural Event.

Master Kim Han: Asked all those present to read the proposal from the UK (clearly presented in both Chinese and English). If there are any comments please address them in this afternoons meeting as the will be competition based comments. Concerns were emphasised with insurance, the difficulty of obtaining Chinese visas (very strict requirements) and the health risks associated with sharing of competition equipment. It was suggested that the organisers supply the equipment and sell it at the competition to the competitors at a discounted rate. The organisers should supply Tao Lu weapons of a good standard. Supplying the equipment will mean that there will be far less problems with other countries travelling with and experience awkward situations with customs etc.

Answer: the committee said that the supply of equipment and weapons would not be a problem and that a 'tick list' will be generated for the equipment needs.

The Wuzuquan Exercise DVD: The meeting was to watch a DVD of the exercises routines used in the syllabus that has proved to be successful in the schools. There were 10 basic routines for infant

children with 10 more difficult routines for the older children. Everyone agreed that the format was very good. Free posters and copies of the videos were made available to all.

Discussions surrounding the Competition Events:

The meeting would have two main topics:

- 1) The Practical Use of Wuzuquan in combat.
- 2) The Rules and Regulations of the Fighting Event.

The committee arranged for three demonstrations in order to show the traditional techniques that would score points from hand techniques, kicking techniques and takedown techniques. The individuals demonstrating would not wear head guards or gloves. Chest guards would be worn and there were to be no techniques aimed at the head. The demo would be performed on mats but the competition arena would be a raised circular 'Lei Tai'.

Master Huang Wen Zheng demonstrated the use of etiquette that would be required by all of the fighters when entering the competition arena. The ritual for the salutes will be performed in four directions.

The three demonstration fights would be of 3 rounds of 2 minutes with a 1-minute break. The competition rounds will last for 3 minutes. For the demonstrations there will be two judges and a timekeeper. The three demonstration groups consisted of; the first fight showing two Shaolin Temple fighters, the second fight showing two local Kung Fu school fighters and the third fight showing a local kung fu school fighter against a Shaolin Temple fighter. We believe that for the purposes of point scoring, there are a total of twelve hand techniques, six strikes and eighteen takedowns. After the demonstration fights there will be five minutes for discussion.

Demo 1: Strikes (the routines were videoed). A number of students performed 12 hand-striking techniques, 6 leg-striking techniques, 8 blocking techniques and 3 fight opening techniques.

Comment: The recommended hand positions for guard, hands are vulnerable to attack?

Demo 2: Kicks (the routines were videoed). A number of students performed the kick, sweep and push combinations that would score favourably in competition.

Comment: Specific punches and kicks for specific responses? No variations?

Demo 3: Take-downs (the routines were videoed). A number of students performed 18 different takedown techniques.

Comment: A very fixed range of techniques from Wuzuquan to score from takedowns.

Fight 1: Beware of the kicking / stamping to the knee. The fingers in the guard are possibly exposed to attack / damage. No headshots with either hands or feet.

Discuss all points after demo.

Fight 2: Knee strikes to the body are ok. Sweeps are ok but if incorrectly executed lose points? Knees attacked with stamping again?

Fight 3: Need information about the weight categories. Knees attacked? Stances are long / wide? *The sparring looked similar to that in a grading.*

Master Han (UK & Europe) opened the questioning:

- For an international event, an international committee is required. Not a committee consisting only of Chinese people. Not equitable.
- All referees must be trained to control the fight with the correct signals and etiquette. More research and input is required.
- Apparently the rules were issued in 2011 but we have not seen them? This is not good communication. The rules need to be in Chinese and English.
- The stamp to the knee is allowed but not to the joint.
- Elbow strikes are allowed but not to the spine.
- Deadlines must be put in place for all actions to be carried out.

Master John Graham (USA): Suggested fight 'clinics' for training the coaches, fighters, referees and judges. Use the competition in 2013 as a fight clinic not a competition?

The committee pointed out that the current rules and those demonstrated are from the existing rulebook and are a suggestion only. The organisers are looking to all those present for advice for

making decisions on the rules and regulations. Master Han and others were asked to write their suggestions for improvement and submit them to the committee.

Up to now no hits to the head was considered safer. Headshots would be permitted but with light weight fingerless gloves for protection. No head guard is preferred but may be required for insurance (though MMA fights take place without head guards?).

Insurance is a major consideration!! Who will be responsible? The competitors must have their own insurance but so must the competition itself.

Master Koh (Singapore): Suggested the age range of 18 years to 40 years. The ages will be mixed. Head guards should be used if headshots are allowed. Weight divisions will prove a safer way of matching fighters. Insurance and a medical check up should be compulsory.

The committee are happy with head strikes. They suggest not but use a head guard and gum shield never the less.

Master Han (UK) wanted a clear list of actions for follow up and to ensure that all information is received and processed in good time.

The committee suggested 9 categories from age 18 years. No hitting to the spine. The fingers may be attacked if offered on guard.

Summary of Suggestions for the Fighting Rules:

- Three head judges made up from three different countries. This will allow for fairer voting and arbitration. A Doctor must be present at all times.
- Insurance proof is required from the competitors and from the competition organisers.
- Equipment: Minimum = gum shield, groin guard, 4oz fingerless gloves. Head guard??? The equipment shall be supplied by the organisers and sold to the competitors at a discounted rate. All participants must be informed of the costs in good time for the competition.
- Points scoring. Head hits will be allowed but no points (???). No points for 'pushing'. Maximum points for a clean takedown. Not allowed to continue fighting on the floor.

A draft copy of the full set of rules will be made available the day after this meeting. They will be available for a review only. Suggestions will be received with respect to any mistakes or modifications. *(PLEASE NOTE: The rules were made available as promised BUT only in Chinese!)*

Comments on the Tao Lu (Forms / Routines) Rules:

- The time limit rule needs to be amended or removed to respect the times of other styles.
- For marking the form. Points should be based on the quality and impression of the performance
- Weapons should be supplied on loan or for purchase by the organisers so the overseas competitors do not need to bring them with them.

Meeting concluded.

Minutes by: Nigel Gilham and Tracy Gilham



A panoramic view of the competition venue, The Stadium in Quanzhou.