SYLLABUS FOR NEW STUDENTS

The syllabus follows the guidelines set down by the British Kendo Association. From 6th Grade (rokkyu) up till 2nd Grade (nikkyu) the student is assessed within the dojo by three senior grades. The 1st Grade (ikkyu) examination must be taken at national level, usually at a BKA seminar, as must all dan grades (black belt equivalent) applied for thereafter.

Any student requiring clarification on any of the points listed below should ask one of the Sensei or a senior student for advice. Remember: to ask is a moment of shame, not to ask is a lifetime of shame.

ROKKYU (6th grade)

Saho (etiquette)**:**
How to work out your position in the *dojo* (training hall).
Know where *shomen* (front wall) is.
How to move safely around the dojo.
How to hand a sword to another person and how to receive one handed to you.

Reigi (bowing)**:**
Correct bow for entering and leaving the dojo and announcing oneself when entering.
Outline the method of bowing to the shomen (shomen ni rei) and your sword
(torei).

Terminology:
To know the Japanese terms used in this section of the syllabus.

Kamae (Posture)**:**
Taito shizei (sword in belt position), *chudan no kamae* (middle posture), *jodan no kamae* (upper posture).

Kihon (Basic techniques)**:**
Okuri ashi (pushing footwork) *shomen suburi, kirioroshi* (basic vertical cutting), *o chiburi* (diagonal one-handed cut).

Kata (Pre-arranged fighting forms)**:**
Be able to perform forms 1-3 (minimum).

Kata points:
Demonstrate awareness of where the opponent is and what you are trying to do to them.
Correct sequence of actions: *nukitsuke* (draw and cut), kirioroshi, chiburi, *noto* (returning the sword to the belt).
Demonstrate *sayabiki* (use of the left hand during nukitsuke).

Examination:
Written:
To test knowledge of the above points. This may be given aurally for juniors.
Performance:
Any 3 forms (not necessarily 1-3) with torei. Torei may be assisted, e.g. by copying a senior student, but the candidate should demonstrate some knowledge.