

British Combat Association



Information Pack

Peter Consterdine and Geoff Thompson's

British Combat Association

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The Association & Register of Self Protection Instructors

Established 1993



History

2010 sees the 17 year 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 defence 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 a few voices crying in the wilderness, arguing that traditional martial arts would not work, without 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 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 and that what they have been told about the 'street' merits of their traditional system is flawed. Being with the BCA is being with an organisation that is recognised, more so than any other, in educating the martial arts fraternity about the true realities of personal combat and the complexities of self defence.



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.

The bigger the association the smaller the support network we have numerous testimonials as to 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 it's people.



Equally important for the single style martial arts groups that their requirements are understood and that a route for progression by means of gradings for both instructors and students is available. We have senior martial artists in all disciplines available for both courses and gradings. We also recognise the need to help clubs with their promotional efforts and our 'CLUB SPACE' website is available for clubs - free of charge. Our member clubs also benefit from the wider promotion that the BCA achieves in its own right.

Both Peter and Geoff are regular correspondents in the martial arts press, as are the BCA's Senior Instructors.

Many of our senior people are also regular contributors to the magazines, both in the UK and States, authors in their own right through the encouragement and help of Peter and Geoff. Publicity is a vital part of any organisation and all members benefit from the high profile of the BCA.

The Co-Chief Instructors

The BCA has, over many years, become to be recognised as the international centre for the development of defensive tactics and concepts. Both the Joint Chief Instructors - **Peter Consterdine 9th Dan Karate** and **Geoff Thompson 8th Dan Karate** are, in their own right, acknowledged as world leaders in practical martial arts. Their books are recommended reading for police



forces and their DVDs are watched in every corner of the world. **Geoff & Peter** Being with the BCA is a very prestigious membership and is recognised internationally as a sign of quality.

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 quarterly newsletter **IMPACT**. This is now available as a download from the Instructors Secure Area on this site and we encourage all our instructors to make use of the newsletter for reporting events, results and upcoming courses, as well as promoting these via the news section of the website.

The Association & Register of Self Protection Instructors

Every Instructor who is accepted into membership of the BCA is also entered into the 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 drawn. Club members are only members of the British Combat Association.

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 Only)

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. This person may not, however, be running a formal martial arts group, but 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, prior to 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. **We issue a 'recognition' certificate at this level.**

Senior Instructor & Coach Awards - Elevation to

Senior Instructor or **Coach** is via the World Combat Association's (WCA's) '**Combat Coach Diploma**' 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 BCA website, or email for details.



This is the most prestigious combat qualification in existence.

The World Combat Association (WCA)

The **WCA** is the international parent of the **BCA** and it's sister organisation the **British Combat Karate Association (BCKA)**. Over the years, the massive interest in the **BCA** from martial arts organisations abroad, led to the launch of the **WCA**. It is through the **WCA** that the Combat Coach programmes are delivered and recognised and through which we licence overseas groups and Instructors.

The British Combat Karate Association (BCKA)

If your group is Karate based it may be of more specific interest to look at membership, in the first instance, via the **BCKA**, particularly if you want your students to be members of the English and Scottish governing bodies - the English Karate Federation (**EKF**) and the Scottish Karate Governing Body (**SKGB**) respectively. Dual **BCA/BCKA** student membership is available, so call to discuss how this operates

Gradings

Club Member Gradings

The **BCA**, unlike many traditional martial arts organisations has no financial interest in club gradings which is the responsibility of the club Instructor. If any Instructor requires another **BCA** Instructor to assist with a grading to form a panel then that arrangement is between the Instructors and at the **BCA** we are happy to make any arrangements to find a co-examiner.

Instructor Gradings

Throughout the year we hold Black Belt grading panels for our Instructors and these are announced in **IMPACT**. 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 of £125. Grading intervals are in line with traditional Japanese Budo gradings, i.e. 5yrs between 4th Dan and 5th Dan etc.

BCA Website (www.britishcombat.co.uk)

The **BCA** website is the 'meeting place' for our Instructors, having a busy blog, news, articles, club locator (for potential students to find where you are) and the main means by which we maintain contact with the Instructor cadre. This is a massively visited site, and helps publicise the member clubs.

BCA Newsletter 'IMPACT'

IMPACT is issued quarterly, and filled with news, articles, training tips and a raft of information to help Instructors and clubs develop.

Over the years, IMPACT has become a really collectable magazine, heavily illustrated and attractively put together. For many Instructors whose articles you may now see regularly in the national martial arts magazines, it was writing for IMPACT where they first 'cut their teeth.'

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 is at the above fee, which is a once only payment. This is a processing fee to cover the vetting of the proposed Instructor's C.V. and Instructor certificate. Renewal is at the normal £16 fee.

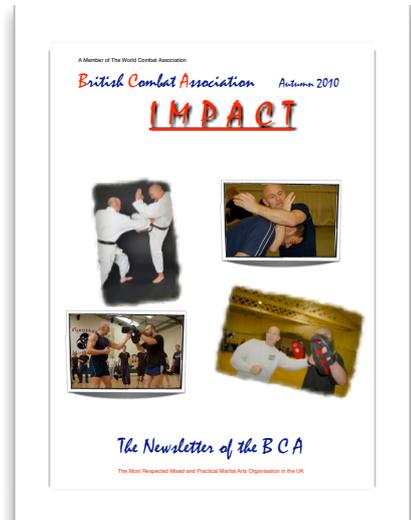
Senior Individual Club Member (15+) - £16 per year

Junior Individual Club Member - £13 per year

All members receive a comprehensive membership/grading/record book. Members also have access to the BCA member's restricted area on the BCA website and access to a higher level of post on the Forum.

Associate Instructor - £75 (renewable annually)

For those Instructors who do not run traditional type clubs with long term members, we have the status of associate instructor. This may be someone who is teaching short self defence courses, or, say, a police defensive tactics instructor who may be



A Member of The World Combat Association

teaching self defence courses outside of work. This status is ideal for people who just have private students.

Short Courses

For Instructors who are running short courses we have a 'temporary' student membership with all the insurance cover at **£6**, seniors and juniors. The maximum length of this membership is 3 months

Associate Member - £25 (renewable annually)

For students who wish to be part of the BCA and who can take advantage of discounted seminars, products and receive newsletters. Students who fall into this category may be a member of an existing, possibly traditional organisation and want to know more about practical and progressive concepts, or simply individuals who are not club members but who have an interest in the teachings and concepts of the BCA. The Associate Member receives a certificate, regular newsletter, membership/record book and discounts as advertised for club members.

Insurance Details

Student Insurance Cover (Summary)

1. **£1m General Liability & Member to Member cover**
2. **Personal Accident, Capital Benefits (Death, Permanent Disability) up to £25,000**
3. **£250 Dental Cover any one incident (£50 excess)**
4. **£250 Physiotherapy (£50 excess)**
5. **Loss of earnings (if gainfully employed) - £50 weekly (28 day excess)**
6. **Hospitalisation £25 per day (maximum 90 days)**
7. **Minimum age 5 years - maximum age 65 years**

Instructor Indemnity/Liability Cover to £5 million - £75 p.a.

General Liability, Civil Liability, Professional Indemnity.

Limit of indemnity is £5 million against liability for;

1. **Bodily injury or death**
2. **Property and products damage, whilst in your control**
3. **Third party bodily injury**
4. **Legal advice, Court costs, reasonable expenses**
5. **Full contact and mixed martial arts have limits and exclusions**

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.

Attached is an application form which you can complete on line, in the first instance and, if you want to join get this back to us and we will let you know what additional documentation we may need.

Alternatively, download the form, 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 the PayPal online, over the phone with a credit 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

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