



The Lyon Jodo club once again had the great pleasure of welcoming Michel DUCRET, who came to lead his annual course on January 25 and 26, 2025. On the evening of the 24th, the Lyonnais had the privilege (as usual, we are spoiled !) of a bonus since Michel, accompanied by Jean-Jérôme and Barbara, was there in time to lead the section's weekly Jodo course. While the beginners were deepening their learning of Kihon Tandoku, the older practitioners, Swiss and Lyonnais, mixed together to work on kata of their choice, under the watchful eye of Michel who gave advice and corrections to each one.

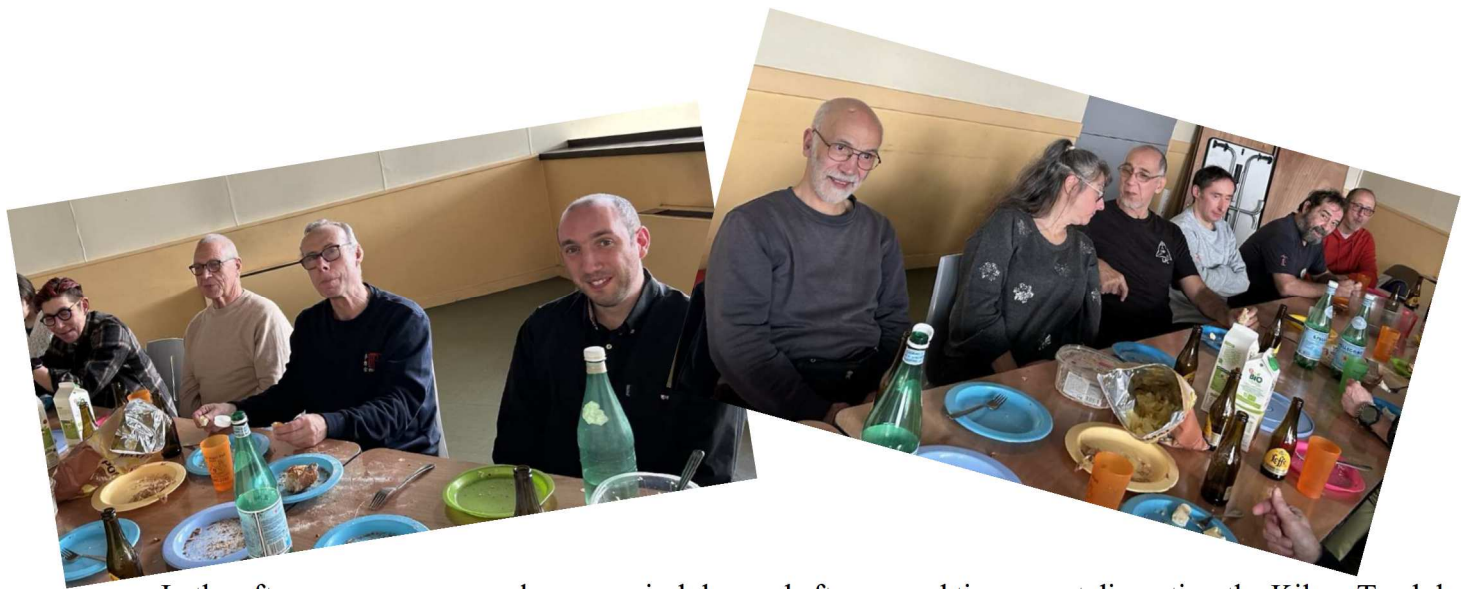
From Saturday morning, change of scene, we found ourselves at the Vaulx-en-Velin Sports Palace, which also hosts our group's other weekly training sessions, for a Kenjutsu class. As in previous years, we had invited practitioners from friendly clubs to join us and there were, in addition to almost all the jodoka of the club, Aikido practitioners from the Vaulx-en-Velin club, as well as Iaido practitioners from Unsui Dojo. And on the Jodoka side there was also Thibi, who had arrived from Grenoble!

The first part of the morning was devoted to working on the basics and studying several sequences developed by Michel. Then, after a well-deserved break, we moved on to studying Shinto-Ryu Kenjutsu. Michel chose to have us work on Surikomi and as for the majority of the practitioners present it was a discovery, it kept us busy for the rest of the morning!



At half past twelve, everyone stopped for the picnic organized by the club. Indoor picnic, but given the weather no regrets, it was better to be warm!

And you can see that we were good, there are almost only bottles of water on the table...



In the afternoon, we were only among jodoka, and after a good time spent dissecting the Kihon Tandoku in detail, Michel decided to have the more advanced practitioners work on Samidare and Kage right away, while the other ones focused on Chudan or Omote. And Laurence, the only one in the group that day who wasn't yet in the kata, courageously chained the Kihon lengths all afternoon long. Well done Laurence!

And at the end of the afternoon, the more advanced took the ken and served as partners for the other practitioners, which allowed everyone to work together!

In the evening, almost all of us met up as usual at Yves and Nathalie's, and after an aperitif that turned into a DIY session (there was an extra table to set up, we would have been a bit too cramped!), we did justice to the pork sauté that Eliane had prepared, accompanied by cardoons straight from the garden, an iconic dish of Vaulx-en-Velin if ever there was one!

So we had a very pleasant evening, suitably watered (although with a little less water than at midday...) but everyone being a little tired, it did not last that long and everyone went home quite early (and with guests for those who were hosting practitioners)

So on Sunday morning, we were fresh and ready at 9am at the dojo and Michel decided to start the session with a moment dedicated to the new kata: Thibi learned the second kata of Okuden, Pierrick completed the Samidare series, and Cécile advanced in Chudan by discovering the Ken part of Taisha and Kengome. During this time, the rest of the group, led by Jean-Jérôme, worked on Happo-giri and the first six kata of Kenjutsu, except Nathalie and Barbara who took advantage of this moment to review the first kata of Kusarigama. And like the day before, the work ended with a rotation that allowed all levels to meet up.

At noon, after a final picnic (which went on long enough for the guard to almost have to throw us out!), everyone went home. It's always a bit sad at the end of a training course, and no one really wanted to leave, but if we want to see each other again, we have to say goodbye at some point!

We just have to wait for next year and once again, thank you Michel, for all the energy and attention you gave us, and for your tireless patience. It was a great course and I only have one regret, that Coco couldn't be with us! I hope that next year you will both be able to come to our place, and we are already looking forward to welcoming you! In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to also thank all those who contributed to making this Gasshuku a success: the jodoka from our group and elsewhere, of course, and also the practitioners from friendly clubs who came to share the Kenjutsu course with us.

Nathalie