

Three Cheers for the Meijin



A wee word about Spring School. For me yet another great course. Billy Haggerty has done it again. He has managed to guide us through another weekend course full of fun and learning. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their overwhelming response to my grading. It is slowly starting to sink in.

I felt a need to put pen to paper and congratulate the three candidates presented for Meijin grades. As expected three great demos and they should be very proud of their achievements and the superb displays they produced. It is easy to forget watching Pauline on the floor that she was diagnosed with cancer less than a year ago. As if her bravery and courage in dealing with this is inspiring and challenging enough, Pauline felt a need to chose the most physically challenging topic for her to model in her demo due to limitations on her body as a result of surgery and follow up treatment. I have been amazed

at how quickly she got back to training and how quickly her fitness and skill level improved. I watched as she prepared herself for her Meijin demo, pushing her body to the limits of its capabilities each and every week. She did this while also preparing myself, and others for our gradings. Her use of modelling allows us to learn quickly and improve a lot and have fun at the same time. My last word on this remarkable woman would need to be WOW!! What a flying arm bar.....Brill.

I also watched with great pleasure Graeme on the floor showing us his great skills yet again. Again what was shown was incredible. Graeme easily disposed of multiple attackers not only using hands and feet but weapons. He did this with a calmness and ease that was a pleasure to watch. I would also like to remind you that Graeme recently had to fight through an industrial injury which severely damaged his hand and carried out this entire demonstration with site in only one eye!. How do these guys keep going?

Last but not least Hugh Russell. Another superb display of positioning and movement using locks and takedowns. He never ceases to amaze me the amount of different ways to put locks on and adapting the same lock so it works in a variety of circumstances. I know he works hard at this stuff, but he does make it look so natural. A superb demo of Hugh doing what Hugh does best it was fabulous to watch. Thanks to all three Meijins, you were a delight to watch.

Reported by Pauline Sharp