



Kazoku Kai International

Switzerland 2003

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Kazoku Kai International Joint English and German Trip to Switzerland 2003



On 17th January a group of Kazoku Kai England members set off for Switzerland to meet up with our German colleagues for a weekend of training high in the swiss alps. Pascal met us at Zurich airport with a minibus, and then, followed by a convoy of about 5 other cars we headed for the mountains. It didn't take long to reach our destination, but the worst part of the journey was yet to come - the dreaded cable car.

As we were stopping in a cabin at 4500 feet up (higher than Ben Nevis!) the cable car was one of the only ways of getting to the cabin.

The journey was a little bumpy, but when we got to the top, the views were fantastic. The snow wasn't too deep, and you could see across the valley to the lights of the towns down below.

We took all the luggage, food and beer into the cabin, which was nice and warm, and had a great dojo - matted as it was a judo dojo.

We had some dinner, and a few beers, then settled down for the night ready for a 6am start with a jog in the snow!

There is nothing more refreshing than an early morning training session in the snow looking out over the Alps! It may look like some of us only have our Ghi's on, but rest assured there were at least 3 layers on underneath!

We returned to the dojo for the next session which Sensei Pascal took, and consisted of Competition Techniques and pad work. As you cansee from the pictures below, everyone got stuck in!

After breakfast, it was Sensei Derek's turn to teach us Tomari Bassai. This is a

very nice kata, with some very interesting Bunkai. The pictures below show people practising the kata

Then it was time for relaxing, and dinner.

Pascal cooked us some fantastic meals over the

weekend, and no-one went hungry with some people (Keenan - how did you guess) having anything up to 4 helpings. (well he is a growing lad!!).

Obviously all this food needed to be washed down with something, and that was lots of German and Swiss beer, not forgetting the wine, Schnapps and baileys passed round the room from time to time

As the evening wore on, the beer flowed, and the jokes came out. There was much merriment, and plenty of actions as you can see from these pics No prizes for the best joke teller of the evening!

The last session for today, after a splendid lunch, was again taught by Pascal, and involved som of

Kase's Shuto techniques

Finally we decided it would be a good idea to have a picture taken in the snow before we left - with no shoes on!!

Everyone put on a brave face, but as you can see

from the second picture, it was a bit cold!!

