



## Chungdokwan UK



Everybody within the Martial arts knows the name of Chungdokwan. Most Taekwondo practitioners and clubs owe their knowledge, style and basis to Chungdokwan.

However most people in Europe, and I suspect many other parts of the world, have forgotten or have little regard for the name of Chungdokwan.

In fact today, the “word” in this age of many “words” has become meaningless. “Words” however, were invented to pass on our meanings; to enable humans to convey and share their innermost thoughts and emotions. If the Martial art has no deep meaning, then why would we practise it? All practitioners know how hard the Martial art is! Ultimately though, it is not for physical prowess that a Martial artist trains.

It follows then, that the words we have within the Martial art should have meaning. Chungdokwan’s meaning, among other things, is a martial arts family. A style, a way of practicing, thought through and planned on the very basis of knowledge. Innovations and developments are always welcome and necessary; however we must be careful not to lose the very underlying principles of our art as development takes place.

This, I believe however, is what has happened to our art. We have, although inadvertently, lost some of the fundamental basics of our art.

How do we put this right? Go back to the essentials and re-learn the basics, starting with the name.

Chungdo is our family name. How important is this? In the modern Western society some of the pride and honour of our families’ names have been lost, but this has only been a surface loss! Stop - Think! How important to you is your brother, your sister, your uncle, your mother and your father? I suggest that to most people, these people are very important. What links them to you? They are *your* family; they carry and show your name. As such, the name is an indication of how important they are to you. This is the essence of Chungdo! This Chungdo is not just for clubs, it’s all the clubs within Chungdokwan. After all, even when you eventually leave home, your mother/father will always remain your mother/father, and it’s in that respect it can be said that no matter how scattered our family, they are still our family.

If we adopt this family attitude throughout Chungdokwan, then our Martial arts family can overcome/achieve anything! What is this most fundamental type of family? One that gets on, one that respects each other and one that respects the elders within the family; these are the essences of a good family. Of course any family has disagreements, however if we maintain respect for one another, all these differences can be overcome.

This is why Chungdokwan UK was launched in May 2011 in the UK. Chungdokwan UK is a fully registered group authorised by Grand Master Uhm and Master Kim Yong Ho in Korea. This launch was in no way meant to be disrespectful to any existing Chungdokwan club or group, it was intended as a rallying cry to all Chungdo based practitioners no matter what they currently call themselves. It is designed to assist, nurture and show the way back to the Martial art.

Its aims are simple and fundamental:

1. To return to the original principles of the Martial art
2. To reawaken respect within the Martial art
3. To act as a knowledge conduit for the Martial art.

This path will result in the production of leaders/masters who are *true* masters, not masters who are there due to longevity! Most certainly not masters whose wish is power, money or authority. It will create masters whose drive is based on Martial art knowledge, and who strive to help students of the Martial art. Masters whose drive is the propagation of this Martial art spirit throughout the world.

At this moment in time, anyone who understands and wishes to support their purpose are welcome into Chungdokwan UK, be it a beginner or an existing Master.

If any of the above has interested you, please contact:

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