



**EDITORIAL**

**Inveterate Appearance and Conduct in Martial Arts**



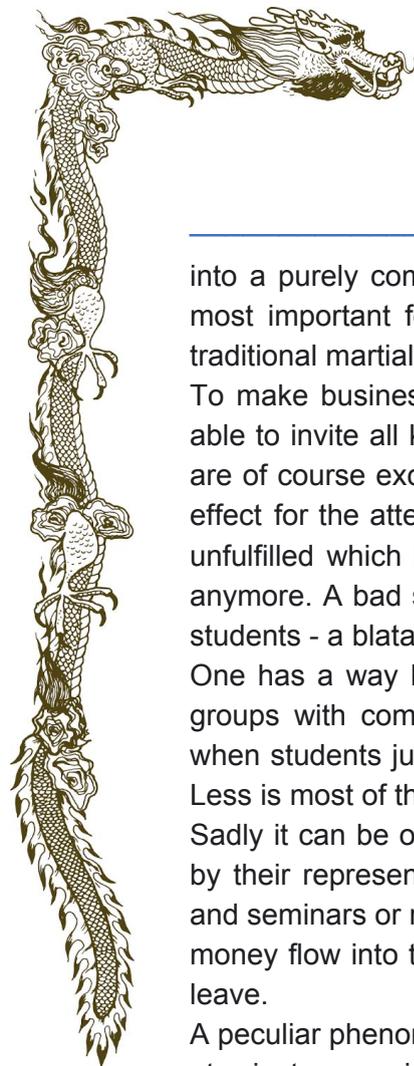
In our crowd of traditional martial arts there are many wannabe prophets and puffers roaming the scene which makes it hard for people that do not know better to keep a clear perspective. I used the Corona time out to go through my old emails and correspondence to clean out and get rid of unnecessary and obsolete items. Going through documents of the past 30 years I noticed, and was also confirmed, that the attitude of well known wannabe belt holders has not changed over the years and in some cases even got worse. It is much alike fighting windmills. 55 years ago I started as a 19-year old at a private Judo school in Bonn/Germany. In the first years everything was circling

around physical fitness. Even if I was not a real tournament kind of guy I would sometimes represent my Judo school as a substitute during my time as an apprentice, in the military and as a university student. My main concern was the execution of techniques and the aspect of self-defence since I was also practicing Ju Jutsu. In all those 12 years practicing martial arts in Munich, I got to know good and humble people in Judo, Ju Jutsu, Aikido, Karate and others, that one could look up to because of their abilities and achievements. Back then a 3rd Dan was even for Asians a noticeable rank which was supported by the personality and the history of a person. Of course there were higher Dan holders as well who stood out for their technical brilliance and knowledge. But that was only a rare occasion.

A big part of people attracted attention due to their arrogance, however they did not have much to show on the mat; their technical presentation did not correspond with their rank. It was much more likely to learn from lower belts who practiced their martial arts out of passion and with conviction than from these posers. I know so many Dan holders who have been active over 30 - 40 years and still stay modest towards lower ranks, having the actual idea of the martial art in focus instead of their own ego. This stands diametrical to the hordes of 8th to even 10th Dans, much like breeding rabbits, with constant promotions without the required qualifying period or grading. For the outside clueless observer who first puts value on the number of rank of the belt holder, it is sad to then notice after a while that a lower rank has probably way more knowledge and abilities.

After practicing martial arts for 12 years I got to know a traditional Asian Karate master by accident, who introduced me through his tough school to the actual essence of traditional martial arts, and I learned through an arduous way the difference between a tournament oriented sport and the personality building martial art. In a traditional martial art, no matter what style, there is no promotion to the next higher rank but only gradings, no matter what age. The Rank should reflect the technical as well as the personal level. There is no speeding through the ranks. If a person tested like that steps on the mat even a layperson notices immediately what that person is capable of, even if he or she shows up to class with a beginner's belt. Those people immediately have the respect of others.

Ever since the time of the Bruce Lee movies there have been self proclaimed wannabe grandmasters, with their numerous schools emerging like mushrooms from the ground. Unfortunately the so-called modern martial sports and martial arts has in many cases degenerated



into a purely commercial business. For business reasons and marketing purposes it is therefore most important for these people to flaunt the highest possible rank to the public. Nothing of a traditional martial art is recognisable anymore.

To make business seminars and clinics are often offered, often from different martial arts, to be able to invite all kinds of 8th Dan holders and up - acknowledged Grandmasters in their martial art are of course excepted - who then just present their own self-portraying show. The actual learning effect for the attendees and the hope of gaining growth in knowledge unfortunately often remains unfulfilled which inevitably leads to disappointment. Those students might not show up to clinics anymore. A bad sign in clinics is always when the amount of high ranks outnumbers the amount of students - a blatant disproportion. The pyramid was turned upside down!

One has a way better outcome during a bigger clinic when the participants are split into smaller groups with competent instructors. It is very questionable how effective the learning process is when students just switch from one instructor to another covering as many new things as possible. Less is most of the time more!

Sadly it can be observed more and more that today even official sports associations, represented by their representatives of their committees, force their members to constantly visit pricey clinics and seminars or renew dubious licences, to compensate for their decline in memberships and have money flow into their coffers. And then they are wondering why members are getting irritated and leave.

A peculiar phenomenon is also when members of official associations are trying to get higher ranks at private associations, which they would never get in an official association, and then show off these ranks at events of official associations just to satisfy their own egos. There is no trace of any idea of a martial art in that.

I am aware of the fact that these phenomena will not change. However I see it as an attempt to sensitise a big amount of motivated but maybe unaware martial artists for these odd phenomena.

Sah Bum Nim Klaus Togemann, Germany

## NEWS AND EVENTS

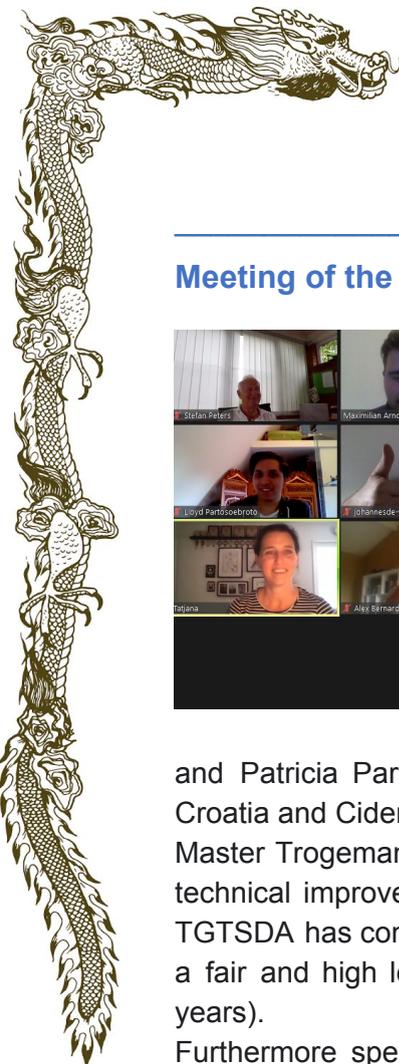
### Welchome Indonesia Tang Soo Do!

The members of the TGTSDA welcome the country representative Patricia and Master Karyo Partosubroto and their students to our martial arts family!

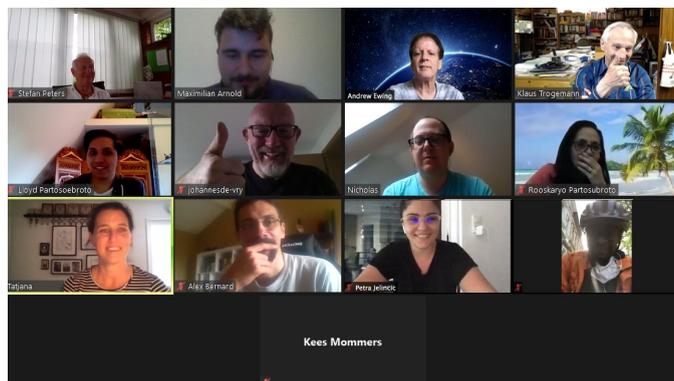
Indonesia Tang Soo Do was founded in 2009 by Karyo and Patricia Partosubroto at the request of GM Jae Chul Shin. They started in Bali and later moved to Jakarta. Indonesia Tang Soo Do focuses on the technical aspects and disciplines of Tang Soo Do, keeping the traditional Tang Soo Do on a very high level.

We would like to thank Master Karyo Partosubroto for his translation of the Beginner's Booklet into Bahasa which gives us the opportunity to offer this booklet to our new students now in English, Spanish, French, German, Croatian, Portugese and Bahasa.





## **Meeting of the TGTSDA Board and the Country Representatives**



July 10, the TGTSDA board and the country representatives held an online meeting to inform the members on the current status and development in the TGTSDA. Master Peters from Switzerland, Master Ewing and Tatjana Schwarz from Sweden, Master Trogemann and Maximilian Arnold from Germany, Lloyd Partosubroto and Kees Mommers from the Netherlands, Jan de Vry from Great Britain, Nicholas Procopenko from Luxembourg, Master Karyo Partosubroto (not in the picture)

and Patricia Partosubroto from Indonesia, Alexandre Bernard from France, Petra Jelincic from Croatia and Ciden Manuel from Mozambique zoomed into the informative meeting.

Master Trogemann gave an overview on test requirements, the range of forms and an outlook on technical improvements and changes in the upcoming years. He specifically pointed out that the TGTSDA has common test requirements applying to every member and member country to ensure a fair and high level of gradings with a minimum age for Blackbelts of 16 years (Junior BB: 15 years).

Furthermore speakers were presenting information about the financial situation of the TGTSDA, the Chung Shin management software, the website ([tgtsda.com](http://tgtsda.com)), the Facebook page and publications which are already available or in the making and answered questions of the attendees.

During the throughout positive meeting it was noticeable that the TGTSDA is on a prosperous way into the future due to its dedicated and committed members.

Tang Soo!

Tatjana Schwarz, E Dan, Åkersberga TSD, Sweden

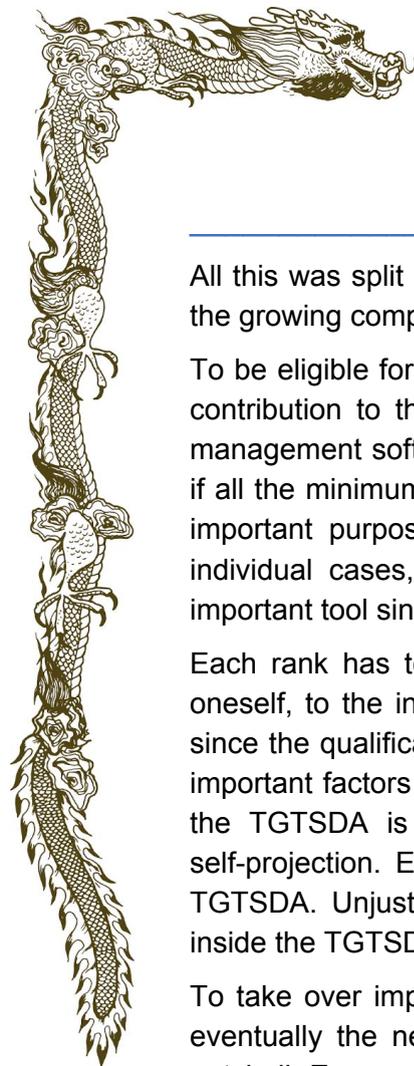
## **Letter from Master Trogemann: Progress in the TGTSDA in Corona times**

Dear members of the TGTSDA,

As the developments of the recent times show we will still have to deal with the consequences and restrictions of Corona. Unfortunately it also influences our travel plans as well as the possibility to hold clinics and frequent meetings for further training. However, we are seeking to use these times as effectively as possible to establish and advance the operational capability of the TGTSDA.

For future gradings and tests a grading chart with requirements was compiled. The TGTSDA follows in this case the principles of Shotokan founder Ginchin Funakoshi. The selected traditional forms that Funakoshi brought from Okinawa to Japan are the foundation on which the traditional forms as well as the philosophy and the alignment of the TGTSDA are based on.

Besides the approximately 50 forms, including weapon forms and Ki Gong, up to the 8th Dan, there is also a big variety of one-steps which will considerably expand the repertoire of techniques.



All this was split and distributed according to the increasing requirements, the level of difficulty and the growing complexity of the testing and grading rules up to 8th Dan.

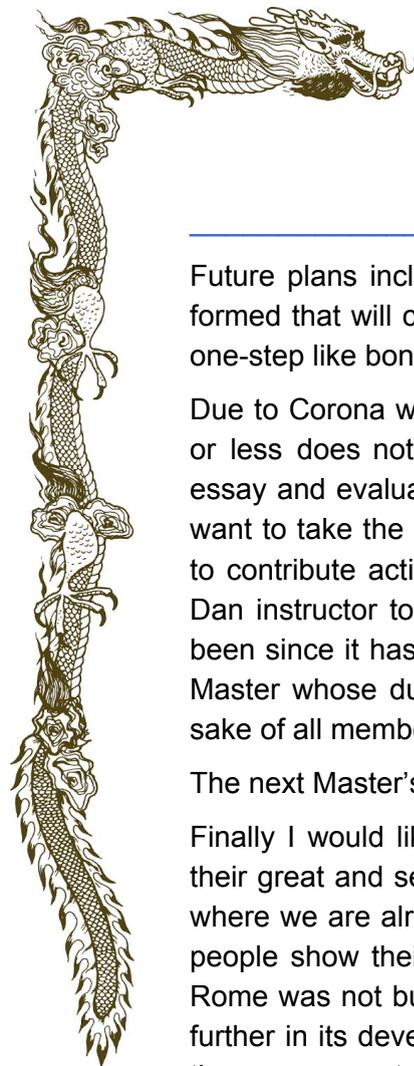
To be eligible for the ranks and gradings the personal age, the qualifying period and the individual contribution to the association play a major role. The necessary parameters were stored in the management software of the TGTSDA. It checks, based on the entered parameters and keypoints, if all the minimum requirements to achieve the next rank are met. This control function serves the important purpose to prevent possible abuse. Of course, exceptions can be made in justified individual cases, this should however not be the rule. The new membership ID cards are an important tool since they give the possibility to register all previous feats automatically.

Each rank has to be achieved through efforts and contributions. Only then it has meaning for oneself, to the inside and the outside. There is no automatism to get promoted to a higher rank, since the qualification is not only based on achieving the minimum requirements but also on other important factors and therefore simply running through the ranks without effort and contribution to the TGTSDA is stifled. The TGTSDA needs doers and not beltholders with the only aim of self-projection. Exceptions to these rules only creates bad blood in the clean community of the TGTSDA. Unjustified claims and misbehaviour as well as disrespectful interactions outside and inside the TGTSDA disqualify for higher achievements in the TGTSDA.

To take over important tasks or in the TGTSDA, it is not necessarily the rank a person holds but eventually the necessary skills to successfully carry out the assigned and assumed tasks. In a nutshell: Everyone can complain and grouse but what we need are constructive members that can successfully handle their roles and manage their tasks which is the key to own success but also for the success of the TGTSDA. The TGTSDA is a non-profit organisation and can therefore afford to have a noble aspiration on its appearance. To lead a traditionally geared association to success, a firm leadership is needed. The association serves everyone, not just a single person trying to force their egoistic views and individual system on the association. The board is not a collection of puppets directed by a single individual. Those egoists should better sooner than later find their own place for their self-realisation.

So far the constitution, the by-laws and the association logo were legally registered. The necessary software is working in its essential parts so that the registration of members, gradings, invoices and other tasks can be done. Soon every member will get an individual membership card with picture, with which the participation at TGTSDA seminars and activities will be recorded. The receipts of payments will soon be recorded automatically according to the transfer of data from the bank to the TGTSDA. There will be no services from the TGTSDA without a payment confirmation and therefore no accrued or not collectable receivables for the TGTSDA.

I would like to give you an outline on how we will proceed and what direction we are heading to: As soon as it is reasonable to travel again and regular training is possible, regional seminars and clinics will be held to introduce the wide range of forms, which will then be taught according to the rank. The announced future one-steps, including self-defence and weapons have to be reviewed and set. This will happen in the next month and will take approximately 1 - 2 years. The creation of necessary educational material in several languages are either already available, like the beginner's brochure and the Gup manual, or in progress like the Dan and Masters manual, the Samurang Kids booklet and the Championship manual. This should be done by the end of 2020.



Future plans include digital material for forms, weapons and one-steps. A team of experts will be formed that will cover the tasks of Gup- and Black Belt forms, weapon forms and techniques, and one-step like bong, dagger, sword, cane and spear. This also will take at least 1 - 2 years.

Due to Corona we were not able to hold the planned masters grading for 2020 but one year more or less does not matter in a martial arts life. Every candidate can use the time for the required essay and evaluate, what value the achievement of a master's rank has for them and if they really want to take the demanding path of a martial arts master in the TGTSDA. Only with people willing to contribute actively a traditional association can flourish in the future. The transition from a 3rd Dan instructor to a 4th Dan instructor and eventually to a master rank will be kept the way it has been since it has proven itself. There is the transition from Gup to Blackbelt and from Blackbelt to Master whose duty, together with their fellow masters, is to further develop the TGTSDA for the sake of all members and to establish it.

The next Master's grading is planned for the beginning of June 2021, if nothing comes between.

Finally I would like to cordially thank all the members of the extended TGTSDA board again for their great and selfless efforts to establish the TGTSDA. Without their terrific work we would not be where we are already today. As the feedback to our website shows we are monitored closely and people show their respect in requests, phone calls, emails and letters. Please always remember: Rome was not built in a day! Since its founding in December 2019 until today the TGTSDA is way further in its development than other associations had been in a comparable period of time, due to the engagement of the members of the extended board and despite the current Corona handicap.

Please keep in close contact with each other to direct our association into a bright future!

In this spirit I wish all our members health and well-being.

Yours sincerely,

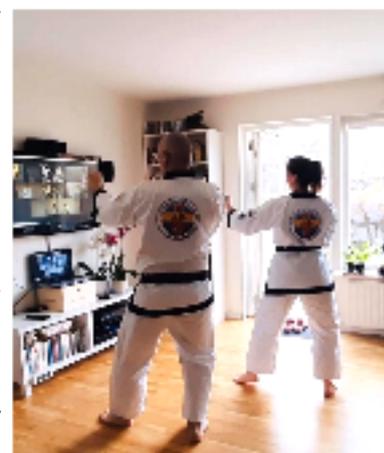
Klaus Trogemann, Chil Dan and elected president of the TGTSDA

### **Sweden Meets Germany**

Living in Stockholm/Sweden approximately five hours from Master Andrew Ewings Dojang in Gothenburg makes it sometimes hard to keep my own progression going and 'Corona' really does not help either.

How great that I have the possibility to take part in Master Ewings online classes (see Newsletter 02/2020) and just recently, at the end of July, when I was at last allowed to travel to Germany again, I had the wonderful opportunity again to have a class with our TGTSDA founder Master Klaus Trogemann!

We went through open hand forms, knife and sword form and I got a lot of input on what to work on and how to improve. Master Trogemann also gave me an insight on the new forms which will be part of the TGTSDA curriculum in the future. I am always really nervous to perform in front of Master Trogemann - that was however



Akersberga TSD Home Dojang



not the only reason I was sweating so much. Master Trogemann's classes are always inspiring, educational and challenging. To get his concentrated knowledge and wisdom in a private lesson makes it even more rewarding and I do not take it for granted that he takes his precious time for these lessons.

Thank you Master Trogemann! It is a pleasure and honour, and also a privilege to train under your guidance! Tang Soo!

Tatjana Schwarz, E Dan, Åkersberga TSD, Sweden

### **5th Tang Soo Do Summer Camp in Switzerland - Register!**

Tang Soo Do Switzerland is inviting all Tang Soo Do friends to its 5th Summercamp from the **18th to 20th September in Hemishofen**. Master Klaus Trogemann, Master Stefan Peters, Master Christian Preiss and 3rd Dan Gareth Peters will be teaching weapons, forms, one-steps, falling techniques, self-defence and sparring.

### **Note from the Newsletter team**

We would like to encourage all our members, regardless of your rank or function in the TGTSDA, to contribute to our newsletter. Let us know what you are doing! Write about your training, gradings, seminars, clinics, events and other TSD related subjects. We are looking forward to reading your short or long stories in our next newsletter! If possible add a picture!

Please send your article in English, German, French or Spanish to [tatjana.schwarz@tgtsda.com](mailto:tatjana.schwarz@tgtsda.com).

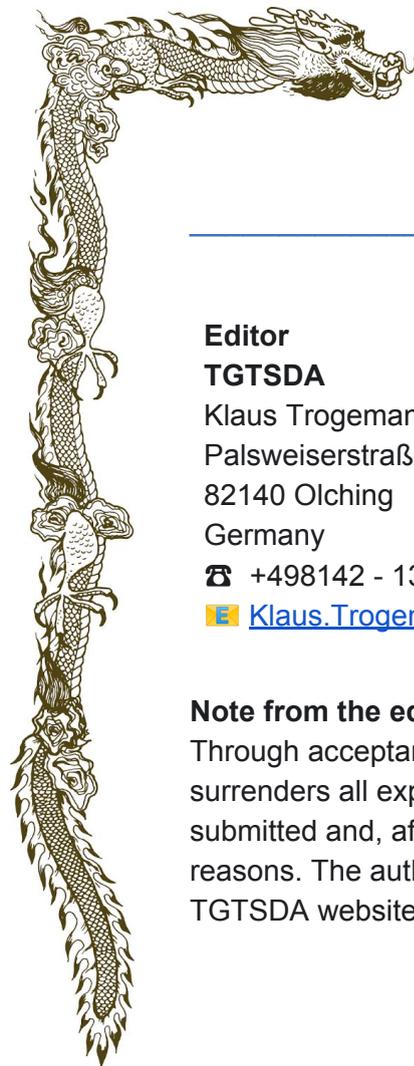
### **PLEASE NOTE**

The **TGTSDA newsletter** will be published periodically.

Please send text contributions and photos for the newsletter via mail to

[Klaus.Trogemann@tgtsda.com](mailto:Klaus.Trogemann@tgtsda.com).

For more information about upcoming **TGTSDA events** please go to [www.tgtsda.com](http://www.tgtsda.com) or visit us on Facebook .



---

**IMPRINT**

**Editor**

**TGTSDA**

Klaus Trogemann  
Palsweiserstraße 5i  
82140 Olching  
Germany

☎ +498142 - 13773

✉ [Klaus.Trogemann@tgtsda.com](mailto:Klaus.Trogemann@tgtsda.com)

Please send text contributions and photos  
for the newsletter via mail to

[Klaus.Trogemann@tgtsda.com](mailto:Klaus.Trogemann@tgtsda.com)

**Note from the editor**

Through acceptance of texts and illustrations by the newsletter editorial team, the author surrenders all exploitation rights to the TGTSDA. The editorial team is entitled to select the reports submitted and, after consultation with the author, to change and / or shorten them for editorial reasons. The author assumes liability for the content and text contributions published on the TGTSDA website. Publications will be signed with the name of the author.

Klaus Trogemann, TGTSDA editorial team