



By Pesilat Ian Llewellyn

My name is Ian Llewellyn. I am a *pesilat* (silat player) in the Black Triangle Silat tribe studying the Minangkabau Harimau Pencak Silat system from West Sumatra.

My instructor is the exceptional Pendekar Scott McQuaid—an individual I am honored to call my friend. Within this interview I hope to capture a written view of the my teacher's origins and his perspective on silat, combat and life.

How long have you been studying in combative arts?

McQ: Just over 28 years.

And how much of that has been in Harimau (tiger) Pencak Silat?

McQ: Almost two decades... and I still got work to do.

Can you remember much of them early training days?

McQ: Actually I can't, especially the karate which was what I first started with. I just remember wanting something that was practical. I floated between different styles because I was searching for something that suited my body and that I could make work for me. I think ju-jitsu was a good base and boxing brought the realness of a fight. I was studying under Sensi Robert Lawrence who founded the British Fudoshin Association. He was an incredible guy—a 10th

dan. He taught ju-jitsu, karate, judo, all Japanese weapons and kick boxing. He taught it all. He was the first instructor that I had met up until then that actually made all his fight game work, but he had evolved the Japanese systems, they were not so rigid and direct.

What weapons did you learn?

McQ: My weapon of choice was the ton-fa. It's so effective and very difficult to counter. But I learned the katana, sai, jo staff, nunchuka and kubotan. A lot of these weapons crossed over in their techniques like the sai and ton-fa so it was easy to continue to study a new weapon because you had the grounding of another.

Did you study kick boxing with him?

McQ: No, I should have. I can't remember why I didn't. I studied with a guy called Danny Haywood who was an Essex golden boy of kick boxing. I think he was the region's champion. He was a terrible teacher. He just used his students to dog on, but in retrospect that was good for me as I was only a fourteen year old kid and I was taking a beating from a heavyweight pro kick boxer and still standing.





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Interview with the author of the book "The Black Triangle Silat Tribe" was conducted on 18th January, 2010. Exclusive publication for blacktriangle.silat.com