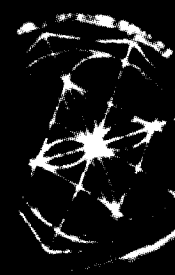




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# ***Kenpo Karate's***

## **Martin Wheeler**

**MAI editor Bob Sykes talks to Kenpo Karateka Martin Wheeler about his life and times in the martial arts and his more recent encounter with the Russian concept known as Systema.**

**Bob Sykes: Martin, perhaps you could start by giving us an insight in to why and when you originally got involved in martial arts?**

Martin Wheeler: I started training in the martial arts in Judo, at a local YMCA when I was around nine. Some of my friends had started training and I went with them. I really enjoyed the workouts even though I was far

too young to really appreciate an art like Judo. The instructor must have had a great deal of patience to have dealt with us so effectively, we were an unruly bunch of kids.

**What was it that attracted you to Kenpo Karate?**

Again a friend of mine Iain Tozer was training in it. He showed me some of the techniques and ideas and I wanted to know more. I was around sixteen at the time. I ended up going to the club in Paignton, Devon and was instantly hooked. I liked the sophistication of the art and was always attracted to its explosive nature.

There was only a few clubs in the country at the time but the level of instruction under teachers like Sean Cross, Mervin Ormand, Jackie McVicar and Gary Ellis was very high.

Ed Parker, the art's founder, visited England and taught seminars periodically, when I saw him teach and move I knew that was what I wanted to do with my time. I was not a personal student of Mr Parker, just one of the many students in a seminar, but I studied everything I could on the man by reading books and watching videotapes.