



**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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