Mentoring Journal

Mentor: Mr Kesuke Miyagi

Mentee: Daniel Larusso

I must admit I was a but worried at first about taking Daniel-san on as a mentee. When I was asked to do it I thought *'Hang on, he's coming into karate school at the same level as me, he's new to the place yes but he's been teaching karate for a number of years. How is he going to feel about being mentored by me?'* However I needn't have worried, it's been fine, well better than fine to be honest. It's actually gone really well and I've learned a lot. When I think about what the process actually involved then initially it was to make sure he knew his way around that he had all his kit and his internet password and who everyone was, that type of thing. Also he hadn't taught any karate lessons before at this level so for the first few times as well as inviting him to watch me, I sat in on his classes a few times and made some suggestions afterwards about things he might try to keep them interested – things that work for me. The nice thing was that when we had our regular weekly meetings we got to talk about the subject area as well, how to perfect the crane kick for example because it turns out we're both interested in that area; and we've passed on email contacts to each other and tournament details and stuff like that. But the most rewarding aspect of this mentoring experience, for me at least, has been the fact that Daniel has made use of our regular weekly meetings to talk through aspects of his work here that have been particularly difficult for him. it's not that I've been handing out advice all the time or anything like that; it's been more about listening, and maybe asking questions from time to time hopefully to help him clarify things for himself. And Daniel-san says he's found that really useful. And it's nice to feel useful, isn't it? He still struggles with waxing the car though but it's a work in progress…