Bill Vaughan took up Daito Ryu Aiki bujutsu, at the age of ten towards the end of 1942 when World War II still had more than three years to run. At the same time, encouraged by his father, he took up boxing. He loved it. He still believes it was boxing that gave him his ability with his hands and made his footwork pure reflex.

In our interview he stated: “Although there is a movement against boxing I feel Karate, Kung Fu and Tae Kwon Do practitioners can benefit from taking lessons from boxing or kickboxing instructors”.

“At least you will find out what it is like to be hit”, he added.

In those days, Bill said boxing was actually encouraged and practiced in a lot of schools. In the gyms it was not unusual to have a real fight at least once a fortnight in front of, as fight fans were called in those days, “The Fancy”.

These fights were attended by fight promoters and managers looking for potential professional boxers. Bill estimates he probably had 400 fight as an amateur boxer winning all but two of them. His amateur career culminated in him winning the all Britain Inter Club Light Weight division in 1947 / 48. He then turned professional.

Bill had thirteen fights as a pro, winning twelve inside the distance and losing the 13th on a disqualification. Regarding the disqualification, he said “I was under a bit of pressure. I thought this guy was going to kill me. So seeing an opening I flattened him with a side kick to the jaw. It worked like a charm but the referee and the officials took a dim view of it. End of boxing career”.

Karate competitions did not really get going until the late 1960’s. Just about everyone of them was billed as a championship event. “Let me put it like this. In my competitive days I never lost a bout,” said Bill. “Probably the hardest type of competition to fight in, if no-contact bout can be called a fight, was the 일본 or one point events. I was fast with my hands and feet and had good control but those fights aren’t for real. I agree with Mas Oyama when he said non contact karate is a game of tag for two”.

“The last big event in the United Kingdom that I took part was a tournament billed as a European championship. In 1987. I took out the middleweight title”. Bill also told me that he won the Kata event with a Kyokushin Kata called Ganyu. “I could leap a bit in those days and my high round house kicks weren’t bad either,” he added. Not long after
Shi-ho-nage: Shi = four, Ho = direction, Nage = throw (four directional throw)

1. Uke prepares to attack using a Taisho in a side strike to the head or neck. Tori (myself) stands to the left front facing shomen (front-facing).
2. Tori launches his attack. Tori anticipating the attack steps back left foot (wearing black) simultaneously delivering a smacking hammer fist blow to the side of Uke's head, (preferably hitting the side of the left eye). In a real combat situation this could fracture the side of Uke's skull, possibly causing the eye to pop out. Hence the name of the style: Metatuki, Literally "smashing the eyes".
3. Shows the next movement returning Uke's arm up and striking the rear back of the arm. This can clearly be seen in the photograph. Tori steps under Uke's arm. He does not turn. It is just a step through.
4. Shows the start of the being thrown. Please note that for practice Uke's arm must be allowed to come out of the wayushiro position otherwise serious injury to Uke's arm and shoulder will occur. From so it can be seen from the photograph that Uke is being thrown against his locked elbow joint. When practicing this technique, data is deep enough to Uke's body that your shoulder goes under his arm. This reduces the risk of injury.

that Bill migrated to Australia. In 1969 he entered the "Moss Hollis" Australian Championship and won. He performed in Kata with Shusiko and Kanka - Dai, Tameshiwara (Breaking 100 Tosa tiles in under 30 seconds. Later shown on Channel 7) and in a special event - nailing two pieces of wood together by punching nails through them. In the free style sparring he won the black belt and the open divisions. After the event Moss Hollis asked Bill to teach for him.

In 1983, by now much too old for competition fighting (52 years), Bill entered a team in the South Australian Championships at Flinders University with himself as captain.

Much to his surprise and delight they won the title. In that tournament Bill and his team also won the team weapons kata with "Jion".

Since then Bill has won best instructors and best referee trophies several times. He has also won a gold medal for rifle and pistol shooting. "Shooting is surely a type of martial art" says Bill. Master Vaughan has spent 58 years in the martial arts and says he would "do it all again if it could".

Master Vaughan's principal teachers have been Shinan Jim Hipillos (Daito Ryu Aiki Bujutsu), Sifu Ah Fat (Chuan Fa Kung Fu), and his favourite Mas Oyama (Kyokushinkai Karate). From training all over the world Bill now lives and teaches Zenzukan Karate (the "correct way") in Adelaide, South Australia. For any further information or enquiries Bill can be contacted at the Australian Martial Arts Association at P O Box 350, Ingle Farm, SA 5098.

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