

## Membership Report

After the reduction in Membership from 2009 – 2013 the subsequent years began to show growth, and by the end of 2015 I'm happy to say that the Members total was very close to that from before the levels began to drop. The count from June 2016 shows an increase on this and we now officially have the most members for more than 8 years. This is a result of hard work from a lot of people involved in the BKA, from Dojo leaders and secretaries, to the students practicing and supporting, to officers who work hard at developing the association. Kendo numbers are up again as are the amount of clubs offering the art. Iaido and Jodo are both showing stability with steady memberships and increased dojo numbers. In my time as Membership Secretary I've seen and heard an awful lot of negativity about the association, but the figures show we have a lot to be proud of, moving through difficult times financially with a lot of uncertainty. We shouldn't ignore how well we coped. There could be difficult times ahead but as an association we've proven that we can come through these times stronger than before.

There weren't many changes made during 2015, but the main one was changing the system to make Dojo renewal online. In previous years hundreds of cheques and forms were posted in and had to be added manually, followed by a lot of refunds as people were overpaying for coaching indemnities, taking weeks. This change was a massive success, and saved everyone an awful lot of time and work. It was on the back of this success that we have removed postal system entirely, making the online system the only way of paying for Membership and booking events. This has been in place for several months now, simplifying everything, and has streamlined the role of the Membership Secretary, ready for the next incumbent.

As I step down from the role now there are loads of people I really need to thank for putting up with me over the past 4 years; far too many to name, but I'd like to put a special thank you out there for the following people who either supported me, helped me, or made me laugh when things really weren't funny: Kris Andriot, Anil Sahal, Amanda Allen, Andy Watson, Steve Martin (not the actor), Chris Buxton, Phil Henderson, Hilary Hadley, Judy Farncombe, John Bates, Peter West, Errol Blake and of course, *the* Martin Farncombe. And many thanks to so many others.

Thank you.

Neil Andriot

Membership Secretary BKA