

Report of Director of International Affairs British Kendo Association 2015/2016

It has now been one year since I took this position within the BKA.

An overview of the activities of the DIA might be helpful to gain an insight as to what happens on an administrative level. The post holder is responsible for dealing as a main point of contact for all international related matters concerning grading applications overseas, maintenance and upkeep of EKF database for BKA members, submission and administration of applications for EKF major competitions and ad hoc requests from members for information. The post holder has to carry out these activities for all 3 Bu, so the number of events in any given year is multiplied respectively.

Weekly communication takes place between the DIA and the EKF and monthly with the All Japan Kendo Federation dealing with various requests or updates. The role also calls upon the individual to attend NC meetings reporting on matters of importance and once a year attend the General Assembly of the EKF (usually held in conjunction with the EKC).

I would like to give some background information on the EKF/AJKF so members can appreciate the scope of topics engaged with. We are longstanding members of the European Kendo Federation which now totals 32 Representative Member Countries and 12 Affiliate Member Countries awaiting full membership. This group of countries make up the European Zone and other zones include Asia, America, Oceania & Africa. These groups in turn are members of Federation of International Kendo (FIK or IKF as it was previously known). All come under the control of All Japan Kendo Federation and FIK is run by a board of directors representing those areas which presently stands at around 15 people. Like the BKA which has to administer and deal with issues affecting its membership, the EKF/AJKF also has to consider implications which affect the whole international community, e.g. Drug Abuse in competition, Rules for competition and governance of technical information relating to coaching/teaching. We also rely on the AJKF to send recognized teachers to attend EKF competitions, although this year a new rule has been introduced which states that unless a Japanese teacher is an approved member of a delegation sent by the AJKF, then they are no longer permitted to sit on grading panels. The effect of this which has already been felt is that there will be a growing need for European 7th dans to take on this role.

The BKA is currently the third largest member country within Europe (following France and Germany). Details of statistics are available for all to view on the EKF website as are individuals grades.

With that point in mind I would like to report the numbers of BKA members whom I have registered on the EKF database who have been successful in passing examinations over the last year.

Kendo

Shodan = 53
Nidan = 25
Sandan = 11
Yondan = 3
Godan = 1
Rokudan = 0
Nanadan = 0

Iaido

Shodan = 37
Nidan = 31
Sandan = 11
Yondan = 10
Godan = 4
Rokudan = 0
Nanadan = 0

Jodo

Shodan = 12
Nidan = 2
Sandan = 2
Yondan = 3
Godan = 0
Rokudan = 0
Nanadan = 0

These successes should be congratulated in terms of the hard work responsible members of the BKA are making. Outside of this there were a small number of individuals who undertook various gradings overseas.

The international importance that is now associated with all Kendo organizations has a far reaching impact for the activities that are undertaken and will in the future I am sure become ever more so. International cooperation and goodwill makes possible many of the events that take place around the world and it should be borne in mind that the systems that allow individuals to participate are often performed by volunteers who give their time freely.

Lastly I would like to say we cannot operate the systems in place unless we have up to date information about individuals. Clearly if you want to take a grade overseas or participate in an international event you must ensure enough time and correct information is available.

Chris Mansfield
Director of International Affairs