

Kendo Bu, Bucho Report 2016

Introduction

This is my fifth year ending as Bucho and the BKA still appears calm with no significant issues brought to my attention. This coming year is my final one and so you all need to consider candidates for Bucho next year. As per last year we have run a large number of successful taikai, grading's and seminars, played host to visiting sensei and moved forward with initiatives to promote kendo within the UK with particular focus on Ladies, juniors and university students. We also sent men's, ladies and junior teams to the recent EKC in Macedonia – with associated financial implications – see Budget heading below.

As reported last year there are areas where we still need to progress, most notably delivering coaching & refereeing courses. To help with this and to continue to develop kendo we do need to engage more active support from the membership.

Taikai

Again we held the Premier Cup at the same venue as the AGM last year. This proved satisfactory not only as a taikai, but also to enable a quorum for the AGM itself. A change to this taikai is taking place this year with a separate Ladies and Men's sections. This change was proposed in a subcommittee meeting and agreed by the officers for 2016 however, it will require ratification at the BuAGM for future years.

We also successfully held the Bowden and the British Open taikai. Some of you have queried the name and nature of the Bowden – a discussion point I think at the Bu AGM.

As regards private taikai, many took place throughout the year under the auspices of the BKA, again including amongst others: London Cup, Northern Open, Mumeishi 3s, Combined Forces (military) and the Universities taikai and events. The Bu will always support such events in response to requests for assistance from the organisers – typically advertising, provision of scoreboards/flags and referees where appropriate.

The Six nations in Birmingham as an event, was successful. However due to two countries dropping out and the lack of sponsorship the Bu significantly exceeded its budget for the event – see Budget heading below and Squad Managers report.

Geoff Salmon was again a UK Referee at the European Championships in Macedonia this year - well done Geoff. We also sent a full team of men, ladies and 3 under 18s team. However, the Bu significantly exceeded its budget for the event, primarily due to high travel costs – see Budget heading below and Squad Managers report.

Taikai Complaint

Following the Open in December I received a complaint from a ladies' representative. Basically there was a number of issues regarding the British Open, but two of a more serious nature:-

1. The use of hantei in the pools which the competitors were not aware of
2. A change in the order of those going from pool to knockout

The key issue here was that at the start of the day the rules of the Open were announced, but not those of the Ladies and juniors. On the day there were various time pressures – largely as we did not know the final numbers or the draw prior to the event as several people entered in the last day. The Bu and both Shimpanchonin and Shimpancho of the day accept that we were all in error by not announcing the rules of all classes up front. Also we need a more organised approach to sorting names and draw numbers prior to the draw so we can get the admin sorted prior to the event.

For all of the above I formally apologise to the ladies and will take all necessary steps to ensure that this does not happen again.

Squad Managers Report

The following budget exception report was received from Nigel Collings the Squad Manager, Details of both 6 Nations and the ECC placing can be found at the end of this report.

As we overrun the Bu budget for both events I asked Nigel to identify the principal reasons for the increased costs associated with attending the EKC in Macedonia. He reports:

1. Due to the late change in the Manager and Coach of the GB Team following the WKC 2015, it was necessary to run the selection process at a later date than normal. This was on a one-off basis. It was considered necessary to give management and coaching a good view of potential members, and for all potential team members to be considered fairly.
2. There are very limited flights to and from Macedonia. The remoteness of the location proved to be a problem for many kendo associations and not only the BKA. Remoteness led to a severe lack of departing airports in the UK and availability of flights. The knock-on effect of selecting later due to a change in management and coaching exacerbated this issue. The majority of any cheap flights had already been taken and options to use multiple airports, differing airports and ridiculously long waiting times at on-route European airports was discounted as unfeasible.
3. The Macedonian Kendo-Iaido Federation booking system for accommodation proved to be inadequate for what it was trying to achieve. To compound these procedural issues monies sent by the BKA to secure accommodation could not be accounted for in Macedonia. After much concern and chasing, it was eventually accounted for, although at that time we were informed of limited accommodation availability. As you would expect in such a circumstance, the cheaper accommodation packages had already been secured.

Seminars

Again we ran the Watchet, Stoke and Glasgow seminars this year – all reported successful with no complaints. At the Brussels refereeing seminar this February, the Bu again funded a fighter - food and accommodation was paid for by the EKF.

Gradings

The following report was received from John Gale the Grading Officer:

Again this year we have conducted regional Ikkyu/shodan level grading events and plan a further event at the Tsubaki dojo on October 2nd in Carshalton (south London). This will be an open grading to 2nd kyu for both juniors and adults along with a BKA 1st kyu grading. The event is planned with a junior emphasis.

This approach has generally proved successful, but it does detract from numbers attending the more established grading events in Watchet, Stoke, Glasgow and Mumeishi. However, it does encourage Mudan to progress and remain BKA members.

In 2015 we again ran a 5th dan grading in Kodokan taking advantage of sensei Sumi and Tashiro availability. However, as the ZNKR are now restricting visiting sensei from attending grading panels, and the fact that we have sufficient 7th dan in the BKA, we will no longer need to rely on visiting sensei. The Mumeishi grading in October will therefore have an exclusive BKA 7th dan panel for the 5th dan grading event.

Referee Seminars

Only one seminar completed this year so far, another planned for later in the year – we need more and I am conscious that we have not done enough in this area.

Bucho Activity

I have again been active this year attending major events and grading's plus many other events including: Ozawa seminar, Stoke and Watchet seminars, several Universities taikai and events, London Cup, Tonbu Cup, squad trainings plus dojo visits, etc, etc. Basically I have tried to show a Bucho face whenever I can.

Events Officer Report – Report 2015/2016

The follow was provided by Stephen Martin the Events Officer:-

Regular Seminars & Grading's (Glasgow, Watchet, Stoke, Mumeishi):

We continue to run these seminars at the predictable times of the year so that kendoka can manage their own grading clock in the timing of the seminars that they regularly attend. The online booking system with 3+ week 25% discount continues to work and seems to generate regular attendance. Because we can be more certain of attendance we have been able to keep seminar costs to 2011 prices for those who book early.

Regular Taikai (Premier, Bowden, Open)

Following the AGM discussion last year and this, we have reformatted the Premier and the Open. This new structure needs to be ratified at the AGM but offers an exciting response to kendoka requests:

- Ladies and Men National Individual Championships
- A more European focused Open (despite recent events)
- Additional Junior and Mixed team events in conjunction with the Open

Private dojo event support from BKA

We support many private/local events. Applications for financial support need to be made to the Bucho, publicity support for all events is available on request from the Events Officer at bkaevents@gmail.com

Communications

Facebook continues to be the main venue for communication, but all event announcements are duplicated on the website. The diary (provisional) is shared with dojo leaders in December.

Kendo Bu Budget for 2017

The following was provide my Malcolm Smalley the Bu Cashier following discussion and agreement: -

Key Premises of Budget

- Existing Longstanding events and Seminars to continue to be run on the basis of 'covering costs'. I.e. no net gain or loss
- Gradings continue to provide income
- Support of Kendo & Dojos through key initiatives
 - First aid courses provided at no cost to attendees
 - Coaching courses provided at no cost to attendees
 - Refereeing seminars provided at no cost to attendees
 - Dojo Start up assistance through support of dojo costs & costs for regional sensei visits
- Continue with Positive Support of Ladies & Junior Kendo
- Continue with 2015/6 initiative to engage with University Dojo & encourage membership through this
- Set aside funds to contribute to funding a team entering the 17th WKC in 2018 (US)
- Contribution to costs for 6 Nations & Squad Training
- Maintaining a realistic contingency surplus

Year on Year

	Budget	Expected	WKC Fund ¹
2016 Starting Position	£37,992	£37,992	£0
2016 Budgeted Event P&L	-£25,250		
2016 Expected Final Event P&L		-£31,970	
2017 WKC accrual for 2018	-£4,000	-£4,000	£4,000
2016 Budgeted Membership Income	£18,135		
2016 Expected Membership Income		£19,345	
2016 End position	£26,877	£21,367	£4,000
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2017 Expected Starting Position	£21,367		£4,000
2017 Budgeted Event P&L	-£18,550		
2017 WKC accrual for 2018	-£4,000		£4,000
2017 Budgeted Membership Income	£19,345		
2017 Budgeted End position	£18,162		£8,000

Note: WKC Fund figures are INCLUDED in budget totals not in addition to. This shows the amounts put aside.

Membership Fees

Membership	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 (Cur)	2017 Fee	Estimated Income ¹	Increase/decrease per £ in the fee
Full	712	702	687	740	761	795	£20	£15,900	£795
Concession	203	223	230	280	282	262	£10	£2,620	£280
Junior	91	107	95	107	150	165	£5	£825	£165
TOTAL	1006	1032	1012	1127	1193	1222	-	£19,345	£1240

Recommend Fee remains unchanged for 2017

¹ Assuming 2016 Numbers with 2016 Fee structure

	2014	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016	2017
	Actuals	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual (ytd)	Projected Additional	Budget
Admin							
Bu Administration	-1,569.60	-£500.00	0	-£500.00	-1,656.60 ¹	0.00	-£500.00
Events							
Glasgow Seminar	-396.19	500.00	983.65	500.00	1,730.80	-	1,500.00 ³
Watchet Seminar	3,527.29	2,500.00	1,122.99	1,100.00	1,553.93	-	1,500.00 ³
Stoke Seminar	1,025.39	1,000.00	1,025.39	1,000.00	-	1000.00	1,000.00 ³
Mumeishi Grading	1,255.00	600.00	1,914.05	600.00	-	600.00	600.00 ³
Bowden taikai	-54.19	-200.00	-357.50	-200.00	-	-200.00	-200.00 ³
Premier taikai	-	0.00	-483.33	0.00	-	-500.00 ⁴	0.00 ³
British Open Taikai	368.45	0.00	-205.55	0.00	-	-2,000.00 ¹⁴	-2000.00 ¹⁴
Kyu Grading's	28.20	300.00	-	300.00	640.40	0.00	600.00 ³
Northern Grading	81.20	500.00	429.60	500.00	-	500.00	500.00 ³
Gateshead Grading	125.96	0.00	-	0.00	-	-	0.00 ³
Kodokan Grading	-57.30	0.00	842.30	0.00	-	-	500.00 ³
University Taikai	-125.27	0.00	112.13	0.00	112.13	0.00	0.00 ³
Auspices Events		-500.00	91.58	-500.00	-	-500.00	-500.00 ³
Events Total	5,778.54	4,700.00	5,475.31	3,300.00	4,037.26	-1,100.00	3,500.00³
Initiatives							
Dojo Start-Up	-700.00	-500.00	0	-500.00	0	-200.00	-500.00 ⁵
Coaching	-	-1,200.00	-80.00	-1,200.00	0	0	-1,200.00 ⁵
Referee seminars	-390.34	-1,200.00	0	-1,200.00	0	0	-1,200.00 ⁵
First Aid	-	-1,200.00	0	-1,200.00	0	0	-1,200.00 ⁵
Junior Support	-4,669.79	-2,500.00	-1,994.49	-4,000.00	-461.57	-3500.00	-4,000.00 ⁶
Ladies Support	-1,630.86	-2,500.00	-1,037.04	-2,000.00	0	-2000.00	-2,000.00 ⁶
Bucho Discretionary	-652.77	-2,000.00	-2,310.51	-2,000.00	-700.46	-1000.00	-2,000.00 ⁷
University Support		-1,000.00		-1,000.00			-1,000.00 ⁸
Initiatives Total	-8,043.76	-12,100.00	-5,422.04	-13,100.00	-1,162.03	-6700.00	-13,100.00
International							
Japanese Sensei	-	-1,000.00	-	-1,000.00	-	-1,000.00	-1,000.00 ⁹
Brussels Seminar	-1,734.81	-1,500.00	-924.79	-1,750.00	-1,062.93	-	-1,750.00 ¹⁰
International Total	-1,734.81	-2,500.00	-924.79	-2,750.00	-1,062.93	-1,000.00	-2,750.00
GB Squad							
EKF Taikai	-7,974.33	0.00	0.00	-8,000.00	-15,408.76	-	0.00 ¹¹
Squad Training	-1,500.00	-2,700.00	-2,255.63	-2,700.00	-375.98	-2400.00	-2,700.00
6 Nations	-	0.00	-1,466.29	-1,500.00	-5,146.94	-	-2,000.00
Squad WKC	-	-12,000.00	-10,181.41	-4,000.00	-	-4000.00	-4,000.00 ¹²
GB Squad Total	-9,474.33	-14,700.00	-13,903.33	-16,200.00	-20,931.68	-9,400.00	-8,700.00
Net Total Costs	-15,043.96	-25,100.00	-14,774.85	-29,250.00	-20,769.98	-15,200.00	-22,550.00
Membership							
Full	14,800.00	13740.00	15,220.00	14,800.00	15,900.00 ²	-	15,900.00 ¹³
Student & Concessionary	2,800.00	2,300.00	2,820.00	2,800.00	2,620.00 ²	-	2,620.00 ¹³
Junior	535.00	475.00	750.00	535.00	825.00 ²	-	825.00 ¹³
Membership Income	18,135.00	16,515.00	23,679.00	18,135.00 ¹³	19,345.00 ²	-	19,345.00 ¹³
Net Budget	3,091.04	-12,000.00	4,408.28	-11,115.00	-1,424.98	-15,200.00	-3,205.00

Notes:

1. £1569.60 Admin for Menjo printing (sufficient for about 3 years)
2. Provisional values for 2016 as at 01-06-2016 assumed final
3. 2016 budgets for events based on 2015 actuals & 2016 where available
4. Premier Cup – New trophy cost
5. Coaching, Refereeing & First Aid remain despite minimal spend in 2013-16
6. Juniors budget & Ladies budget remain unchanged
7. Bucho discretionary unchanged.
8. Continuation of University support
9. Japanese Sensei costs based on 2013 but assumes better attendance.
10. Brussels Seminar based on 2014 costs
11. No EKF Taikai in 2017
12. Cost for WKC in 2017 accruing for 2018
13. Membership Income based on 2016 Numbers at 2016 Fee structure