

## **Report of the Chair of the Iaido DRC (Chris Buxton) for the 2016 BKA AGM**

Dear Iaido Dojo Representatives,

Once again I do hope that you will, along with other dojo members, be able to attend this year's AGM to be held in London on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July. It is of course a long day from 10am to 5.15pm, but your presence and voting means that it is our Association moving forward with our wishes being heard. There will be an opportunity to train as well, of course.

This year has been notable in that a number of people have gained their 7<sup>th</sup> dan in Iaido and in Jodo. Philippe Bruwier from Belgium, Andre Schiebroek from The Netherlands, Hunor Milhalik from Hungary, Paulo Grosso and Gianfranco Moretti from Italy have all gained 7<sup>th</sup> dan Iaido. In Jodo Edwin de Wit gains 7<sup>th</sup> dan and Rene Van Amersfoort becomes the first European to gain 8<sup>th</sup> dan. Well done to Rene and those gaining 7<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> dan. This surely gives encouragement to everyone, to maintain and develop their progress in their chosen art.

We have also seen development with regard to Shogo. The BKA has during the past year held examinations for both Iaido and Jodo Kyoshi Shogo. Congratulations to those passing and this includes Louis Vitalis from the Netherlands. It is very pleasing to note that two Europeans ie Jock and Louis, now have Kyoshi in the 3 disciplines of Kendo, Iaido and Jodo.

Our usual Seminars all seemed to go well and I once again enjoyed this year's Nationals. Let us hope that the skills on display the other day can be replicated at the Europeans in a few months. Good luck in Budapest this November. Last year in Berlin in the Individuals: Will Heal got Sandan Bronze, Ben Emberley Fighting Spirit in the Yondan, Dan Silk Bronze in the Godan and Andy Watson Bronze in the Rokudan Division. Well done to everyone in attendance.

Our Iaido Ishido fund stands at £3,959 and I look forward to hearing your ideas on how some monies could be employed. Do also e-mail in: either expressing concerns, or expressing your pleasure. Please also e-mail in if there is anything to be considered in A.O.B. at the AGM. To date I have received no written complaints/items that require attention. One hopes that this means you are fairly satisfied with all of our Unpaid Team of Workers.

This neatly brings me to my final item. A big big thank you to Neil Andriot who is stepping down as Membership Secretary and to Martin Farncombe our Treasurer who is off to Canada.

Regards Chris