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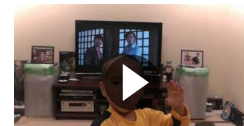
Head Hunter to Referee at World Kendo Championships

1st May 2015

Recruitment consultant and Kendo 7th Dan Geoff Salmon

world kendo Championships in Japan.

New on Martial Arts [Unltd]



5 year old acts out Game of Thrones



Head Hunter to Referee at World Kendo Champs



Mayweather v Pacquiao [Infographic]



8 year old Evnik Saadvakass shows off her



Press Release: 30th April: A recruitment consultant from Camberley in Surrey has been given a smashing opportunity to be a martial arts referee at the World Kendo Championships (WKC) in Japan.

Geoff Salmon is swapping his day job as a senior recruiter for a global network security company to officiate in front of 14,500 enthusiasts at the world famous Nippon Budokan arena in Tokyo from May 29-31.

The former chair of the British Kendo Association is the only person from Britain and one of only 36 people from across the world who will referee and judge fights (shiai) after being chosen at an annual referee seminar by selectors from the International Kendo Federation.

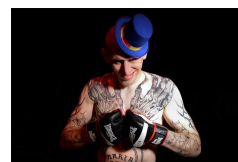
The Japanese martial art of kendo is descended from swordsmanship (kenjutsu) and involves competitors in distinctive armour (bogu) fencing with bamboo swords (shinai).

This year's World Championships, the 16th since the first in 1970, will be the biggest ever with 54 of the 56 member countries of the International Kendo Federation represented, including Britain which

skills



Master Kiros Gebremeskel (7th Dan) Interview



Colin 'Freakshow' Fletcher: Behind The Make Up



is sending 15 competitors.

Geoff has been involved in kendo for over 40 years and holds a kyoshi 7th dan, one of the most senior teaching grades. He is the author of 'Kendo – A Comprehensive Guide to Japanese Swordsmanship' published by Tuttle Publishing in 2013, and writes a weekly blog: www.kendoinfo.net.

Geoff continues to train and compete in kendo, which he says is essential to being a referee, and is a regular entrant at the Kyoto Taikai in Japan.

Formerly a member of the British team in the 3rd World Kendo Championships, Geoff went on to referee the 2012 World Championships in Italy and has officiated at numerous European championships. He also hosted Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh as a director of the 12th World Kendo Championships in Glasgow in 2006.

Geoff, who speaks fluent Japanese having previously lived and worked in Japan, said: "I feel most honoured and proud to be part of the World Kendo Championships in Japan, the spiritual home of kendo, and I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity.

"Officiating in front of so many knowledgeable people at such a prestigious venue will be very challenging and a huge responsibility, but I am looking forward to it."

He added: "Judging in kendo is highly subjective and referees need to make an instant assessment of numerous elements, including posture, distance, angle, and strength of cut, in evaluating whether a strike counts as a point.

"All points have to be agreed by at least two of the three referees for each fight, so referees need to be in a position where they can see each other as well as the competitors at all times. The entire refereeing team has already met once to train together this year in Japan to help achieve the required harmony of movement."

Kendo is an increasingly popular activity among people of all ages, with over 2,000 practitioners in Britain and 4.5 million worldwide.

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