

Chair of the Iaido DRC's Report for the 2017 AGM, Saturday 8th July, Birmingham.

Following a lively AGM last year, we have continued with a lively year.

There have been a number of complaints over the year, some of which still seem to be in need of closure. Various members have felt the need to withdraw their support from Iaido events. Many would have loved to have seen Ishido Sensei at this year's Summer Seminar, although those of us who went to Villingen and trained with him there, had a most memorable learning experience. In addition there have been changes to the way travel expenses are paid and in the organisation of the Squad. No doubt these changes will get bedded down in time. I believe we need to be more considerate in how we communicate with each other, especially when using the modern media. The tone used in e-mails could also be moderated so as not to cause offence.

Despite all these problems, a full year's programme has been accomplished. Congratulations to those who have been successful in their gradings and good luck to those retaking their exams, or just starting out.

One of the highlights of the year was the 23rd EIC in Budapest. In the team event we came 3rd after beating Poland who won Gold last year. The individuals fought well and we achieved: Andy Watson 3rd place in the 6th dans, Dan Silk Fighting Spirit in the 5ths and Antony Baker 3rd in the Mudan Section. Here's wishing everyone the very best for the 24th EIC in Turin, later in the year. In our own Nationals we had a very high entry. A different venue in the same weekend for the Jodo and Iaido competitions made travel and timing a problem, but despite this, both had a good turnout. Congratulations to all those who took part.

Please try to attend the AGM, it is a long day, but it is your association and your vote dictates the future.

I step down from Office this year and wish the new Chair all the best and I wish to thank all other officers for their hard work.

Chris, 19th June 2017