



Bucho Report Jodobu AGM 2017



BRITISH KENDO ASSOCIATION

Dear Jodobu members,

To start with some parish notices, Dan and Kristina Silk have resigned from their roles as GO and EO. I have co-opted David Parker and Mark Thurman to replace them. David has already run two gradings and proved himself excellent as the new GO. Mark has got off to a flying start as EO, finalising the organisation of the Summer Seminar. Ed Marshall has left the role of bu cashier, and Rob Colson has been co-opted into this role. Many thanks to Dan, Kristina and Ed for all their work. Thanks also to Andy Watson who was co-opted as interim Events Officer.

As of 3 June 2017, jodo membership stands at 233, an increase of 7 on last year. Of these 233, 227 do both iaido and jodo, meaning that 41 per cent of the iaido membership are also jodo members. We have 42 jodo dojo with two new dojo created in the last year, and hope to increase membership for next year. To this end, I intend to hold a taster day for kendo and iaido members to introduce them to jodo. I also urge all joint iaido and jodo members to encourage iaido-only members of their dojo to try jodo.

I am pleased to report a healthy growth in bu finances over the past year. The year-end position for 2015 was £13,133. The year-end position for 2016 is £15,117, of which £4,591 is from the Ishido fund, which is managed by the DRC. At the AGM 2016, the then treasurer Martin Farncombe had advised that a healthy position for us is £18k, so this represents a very pleasing advance towards that position. Operating costs for the year broke even. This means that the profit for the year is equivalent to the income from the annual membership fee.

(Please note that finances reported by the treasurer are not the same as the one I report. As the treasurer is currently on holidays, these will be confirmed on her return).

Attendance at seminars was solid through the year, and we were able to minimise the costs of the EJC thanks to squad members and referees for their personal contribution, their efforts in various sponsorship and fund-raising activities, and also to the generous support of bu members and teachers from Japan. In our ongoing search for additional funds for the EJC, this year we approached several companies to ask for corporate sponsorship, but with no success. We would like to widen this search for next year and approach as many companies as possible for sponsorship. If there is anybody within the jodo bu who can spare some time to help with this, please let me know. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

In the light of these healthier finances, I have lifted the discretionary petrol-only claims for officers and teachers and reverted back to the full claims policy of 45p per mile driving allowance. In addition, in future I hope to expand the expenses so that assistant teachers are given more support. Many thanks to all officers, teachers and assistants for limiting their claims over this difficult period. The healthy position has also opened up the opportunity to expand our events for the coming year. For next year, I intend to build on our koryu knowledge with a dedicated koryu jodo seminar and also a tanjo seminar. Tanjo will be taught for the first time at the 2017 Summer Seminar, and we would like to build on this teaching in coming years.

For 2018, we intend to continue to hold joint events with the iaido bu for four seminars: Spring, West Midlands, Summer and Darlington. These events need to remain joint events due to the congested nature of the calendar and the various commitments of our teachers. In addition to these joint events, the koryu seminar, tanjo seminar and IT sessions, we hope to hold a new event for the North East, which will combine an IT session with a koryu day. At the spontaneous initiative of Ojika dojo, a trial weekend has been organised and funded by them for late September 2017, with all proceeds of the event being donated to the bu. A big thank you to Ojika dojo.

From 2018 onwards, the Jodo Nationals will be held in early spring. This is being done in order to allow us to select squads for the EJC in time to book the cheapest flights and hotels.

For 2017, the West Mids seminar was charged at one day and a half, but please note that, from now on, all two-day events will be charged as two full days due to the costs involved.

One aspect of this year's events that has not gone as planned is the scheduling of Intensive Training sessions. We have only been able to schedule two sessions in total for 2017, where we would ideally have at least four. This is due to a very late change in policy by the iaido bu, who informed us in December that they were separating the IT sessions and that they had already created a calendar for iaido IT for 2017. This left us with two difficulties, which we hope to resolve for next year. Firstly, the budget for 2017 was set on the assumption that IT training was to be held jointly as before. Secondly, we were left with no space in the calendar to schedule jodo IT sessions once the iaido sessions had been booked. Given that most attendees at jodo IT also wish to participate in iaido IT, we need to schedule separate events on different weekends. This requires joint planning of calendars with iaido, something that we hope will happen for 2018 to increase the number of jodo IT sessions. Many thanks to everyone who came forward offering us solutions for IT sessions in 2017, particularly Kenmukan, Eishinkan and Ojika dojo. Your offers were greatly appreciated.

The other event whose scheduling for this year was less than ideal is the Jodo Nationals, which are being held in Leicester the day before the iaido nationals are held in Sheffield. In an ideal world, these two events would be held at the same venue. Apologies that this was not possible for 2017, but from next year onwards the two events will not be held in the same month.

One final explanation concerning the 2017 Summer Seminar. The original plan was to hold a large joint event with the iaido bu, inviting Ishido sensei to lead both the iaido and the jodo parts of the event. Due to circumstances beyond the control of the jodo bu, Ishido sensei is not coming to the UK this year, and the seminar will be led by Louis Vitalis sensei, who will be teaching seitei, koryu tanjo. We regret the absence of Ishido sensei, but look forward to a great seminar with Louis sensei. Our plan for 2018 is once more to invite Otake sensei to lead the seminar, as has been the case in even-numbered years in the recent past.

I would like to thank all officers, whether ongoing, outgoing or incoming, for their hard work, and all the teachers, dojo and members for their support in the last year. With your continued support, we hope to be able to build on a good year and to expand jodo within the UK.

Stojanka Vidinic