

Squad Manager Report

Jodobu AGM 2017

By Ally Mihaylova

The **BJA National Jodo Championship 2016** was held on 12th June 2016 in Northampton. A total of 38 individuals participated (9 Mudan, 9 Shodan, 4 Nidan, 9 Sandan, 3 Yondan and 4 Godan), with 12 teams in the 2-person team event and another 5 teams in the Asahi event. The Championship featured 3rd place play-offs, as there was only one bronze medal awarded for each category. The results were as follows:

	Mudan	Shodan	Nidan	Sandan	Yondan	Godan	Team	Asahi
Gold	Rob Townson	Ally Mihaylova	Ed Lief Marshal	Oliver Jarvis	Dan Silk	Elena West	Mugenkan	Nanafushi
Silver	Mark Snowdon	Abdul Oyede	Jenni Wilding	Yuki Shima	Rob Colson	Stojanka Vidinic	Ryoshinkan Mizu	Ryoshinkan
Bronze	Tsuyako Ohara	Jim Price	Colin Porter	William Heal	Carlos Xilotl	Fay Goodman	Ryoshinkan Kaze	Ojika
Fighting Spirit	Dan Harding	Chris Penfold	Sam Coe	David Parker	Carlos Xilotl	Stojanka Vidinic	Hagakure West London	

The **European Jodo Championship (EJC) 2016** was held in Magglingen, Switzerland on 24th and 25th of September 2016. Great Britain had an almost full squad – eleven competitors and one reserve, covering all dans and coming from eight different dojos. The BKA also had the honour to have six referees selected by the EKF (full list of the squad and referees can be found further below).

Competition, as always, was tough, but everyone showed great performances, with at least one person passing the pools in Mudan, Shodan, Nidan, Sandan and Yondan. Our lower-grade competitors showed especially great potential, with Rob Townson snatching the Mudan Gold and Mark Snowdon receiving one of the two Best Uchidachi awards (chosen out of all competitors irrespective of grade). Daniel Silk got bronze in Yondan and the GB team, after passing their tough pool, was unfortunately knocked out just before the quarterfinals.

List of the British EJC 2016 delegation

7 dan Kyoshi	Jock Hopson Sensei	Referee
7 dan Kyoshi	Chris Mansfield Sensei	Referee
7 dan Kyoshi	Chis Buxton Sensei	Referee
6 dan Renshi	Greg Drewe Sensei	Referee
6 dan Renshi	Andy Watson Sensei	Referee
6 dan Renshi	Harry Jones Sensei	Referee

5 dan	Stojanka Vidinic (Ryoshinkan Dojo)	Competitor
4 dan	Carlos Xilotl (Ryoshinkan Dojo)	Competitor
4 dan	Daniel Silk (Mugenkan Dojo)	Competitor
3 dan	William Heal (Kashiwa Dojo)	Competitor
3 dan	David Matthew Parker (Kenyukan Suffolk)	Reserve
3 dan	Kristina Poslusna (Mugenkan Dojo)	Competitor
2 dan	Jenni Wilding (Masamune Dojo)	Competitor
2 dan	Edward Lief Marshall (Ryoshinkan Dojo)	Competitor
1 dan	Abdul Oyede (Kashiwa Dojo)	Competitor
1 dan	Mohammed Shakir Abdur-Rahman (Eishinkan Dojo)	Competitor
0 dan	Mark Snowdon (Kuroi Inu Dojo)	Competitor
0 dan	Rob Townson (Budokan Dojo)	Competitor
2 dan	Ally Mihaylova (Hagakure West London Dojo)	Manager

Here is some feedback competitors provided after the event:

Mark Snowdon:

“EJC 2016 was an amazing experience that surpassed all my expectations on every level. The seminar was very well planned, with precise instruction on every kihon and kata. The sensei teaching the groups by grade were excellent at taking us to the next level, showing us how to apply the earlier teachings and also introducing us to the other competitors and students, enabling us to gain confidence in ourselves and in each other.

The competition itself was very well planned and smoothly executed and exiting to watch. As someone new to Jodo it inspired me to open my mind see more detail, especially how other countries performed their jodo.

As an individual yes I believe it has helped my character and gain in confidence to begin my own dojo and learn as much from students and myself as from the sensei who teach me.”

Abdul Oyede:

“The EJC for me was a great experience. I've not competed at that level of competition in my life, so I didn't know what to expect. I went in thinking that my club and national experience was enough and come away from the championship knowing that I still have so much to learn.

I have now realised that paying attention to detail is a vital part of becoming a top Jodoka. The very best of the Europeans exhibited this quality as well as calmness under pressure. It is these and other qualities that make the Jo an effective and deadly weapon.

I personally have changed my attitude to Jodo since competing in the EJCs. I try not to just rattle through kata but practice them as defensive/offensive manoeuvres needed to overcome my enemy.”

Jenni Wilding:

“The EJC 2016 was an important milestone for me, as not only was I competing, I also graded there. The seminar was well-structured and I noted down a few technical points, which I found very helpful in my competition as well as later in my grading.

The taikai taught me to be calmer and not go into 'kendo fighting mode!'. The challenge there was to keep the feeling of fighting spirit while at the same time aiming for as much technical perfection as one can. In the preparation for the competition I worked a lot on my

posture and I think this has paid off in improvement in my jodo. I was pleased to get a flag against an opponent who ultimately won the Nidan section.”

David Parker

Current responsibilities: Dojo Senpai, relay of Jodo teachings

--Dojo Impacts:

Since last year we have gained a 4th member who is interested in returning to jodo. While at the EJC I made many notes of the seminar which I brought back, and notes where this was not possible, these containing the most up to date clarifications on all kata, points of interest included the newer footwork for Tachi side as this has changed. I was also lucky to again be on the receiving end of a very in-depth run through of correct Hikiotoshi technique from Yasumaru-sensei while training with Will Heal.

Attending the EJC was also beneficial as I was able to take a small amount of video for the dojo for demonstrative purposes only. Some of the more obscure points taught would have been very hard to explain had I not been present at the EJC to film this.

Related: Our transfer student from another dojo to ours mentioned in last year's report has settled in quite well, he has greatly benefited from these points I was able to bring back and has recently passed his Nidan.

The 4th member, an existing laido practitioner, who joined us has already passed his Ikkyu.

--Subsequent Impacts:

At this seminar and subsequent events, the practising Jodoka attending were encouraged to come to an intensive training event (where scouting for the EJC often takes place). At the subsequent Intensive Training at Xandy Sahla-sensei's dojo, we had one of the largest turnouts in an intensive training to date.

--Taikai Impacts:

As a result of attending the grading at the EJC, I am now more confident with the Okuridashi grading system and its associated floor managing which is used in gradings for Jodo outside the UK.

--Long Term Development Impacts:

In the future I hope to attend a Level 2 coaching course, as I would like to give back more to the bu and help further the newer generations' practice.

The instruction given at the EJC has made me analyse how I move my body and the varying tempo of different forms, mainly from Kurogo-sensei's explanation on the different aspects of what makes up the correct attitude when practising Jodo.

--BKA Impacts:

I have been co-opted as Grading officer in the time since the EJC and the information relayed during the seminar portion has made me more confident in my ability to carry out the grading paper side of this, the focus points emphasised by the ZNKR delegation give a direction as to which points need to be reinforced.