

Iaido Bucho Nomination Statement: William Heal (BKA No. 9778)

BKA Iaido

I have been an iaido bu member for nearly ten years and have held BKA offices before. I have been jodo Events Officer, iaido Squad Manager (taking squads to Helsinki, Berlin and Budapest, all whilst being a competitor myself) and have stood in as Grading Officer and Cashier for both bu on several occasions. In each of these roles I received much positive feedback from the membership and officers. I have been involved with every level of event organisation, large and small, and know what is involved in detail, including all the financial processes.

I have successfully run my own dojo (Kashiwa Dojo) for over five years now with a steady growth in membership. As a dojo we have had many taikai successes and produced national squad members. The iaido koryu taught at Kashiwa is shinkage ryu; we are the only official shinkage ryu iaido dojo in the UK and this is the first time a new iaido koryu besides jikiden and shinden/jushin has been introduced to the BKA since its founding.

I attend many iaido events each year both in the UK and abroad, typically travelling to Europe 3-4 times a year for seminars or taikai - I have won medals at national and international levels. I am well known within the bu and understand the needs of the membership both in terms of higher strategic planning and on a day-to-day dojo level. I have a good relationship with my Japanese teachers Matsuoka Sensei and Kinomoto Sensei and also with Ishido Sensei and high-grades across Europe, who I have got to know through my squad activities and involvement with the European Shinkage group.

I hope this shows amply the level of my commitment to the BKA and to the development of iaido in the UK.

About me

Outside budo I am a research scientist with 10 years' experience in the laboratory before moving into science management and chemical safety management. I am the chairman of Southfields Archery Club, a role I have held for two years, during which time the club has seen unprecedented growth in membership and many competition successes and a junior national #1 ranking.

Summary

If elected to the role of bucho I will do my best for the BuEC, the Association and, most importantly, you the membership to help you achieve your iaido goals.

To achieve this my priorities will be:

1. Rebuilding relationships with our Japanese patron teachers.
2. Rebuilding relationships with our own domestic high-grades on whose support we rely on for instruction, gradings and taikai judging.
3. Creating an inclusive and peaceful section of the BKA in which our members can develop themselves and their iaido in an enjoyable and co-operative environment.

I intend to build on the good work of all my predecessors - regional seminars, regional squad training, refereeing and grading panel development, and to continue to create informative and interesting seminars.