

Nomination Statement - Iaido Bu Events Officer, 2018

Martin Chambers: BKA No 5009

Nominated by: Chris Buxton - BKA No 1627; Dave Hickey - BKA No 9197

I have been a member of the BKA since 1996 and hold grades in all three Arts: Kendo - Yondan (2008); Iaido - Godan (2010); Jodo - Godan (2018). I am dojo leader of Ojika Dojo, a Level 1 Kendo coach and Level 2 / Regional Iaido & Jodo coach in North East England. I have regularly attended seminars and competitions and supported BKA events throughout the period of my membership.

My only official role within the Association to-date has been the administration of the Examiner Mentoring Programme for the Iaido & Jodo bu. However I have arranged and run numerous private events at a local level, and co-organised Oshita & Morita senseis' visit to the 2014 Friendship Seminar (along with Lee Mountain of Budokan Dojo). I am therefore aware of most of the demands of a bu Events Officer although I am sure there will be some additional tasks which I would need to take on, particularly with regard to standardised recording of information and transparency.

I believe in cooperation and teamwork - Ojika dojo runs successfully because decisions are drawn from a group of active members working together. If elected as Events Officer I would approach the role in exactly the same way regardless of who is elected Bucho and Grading Officer. I also know I would have the help and support of my dojo colleagues who regularly attend events.

I favour evolution over revolution; there have been innovations made recently to the way teaching at seminars has been arranged which have been popular with members, so I would look to continue and build on this. However I do favour re-establishing close(r) co-operation between Iaidobu and Jodobu events - there are efficiencies to be had as each bu draws from a similar pool of teachers and members. I would also extend this to greater cooperation with the Kendo bu where possible. While there is a much greater degree of separation of members, there is a lot of scope for increasing understanding between Arts which share a common root.

Martin Chambers
4th June 2018