



Bucho report Jodobu AGM 2018

Dear Jodo member,

My first term as bucho is closing and I have reapplied for the position. The EO and GO roles are also up for re-election and I am grateful to Mark and David for re-applying as they have done a fantastic job in the past year.

This year's report is unfortunately not in all points as positive as last year's.

At the moment of writing this report the jodo membership stands at 219, a loss of 14 members in the year. Of these 219, 207 do both jodo and iaido, meaning that 39 per cent of the iaido membership is also jodo members. We have 39 jodo dojo, one less than the previous year. I have co-opted Stacey Knight from Seishinkan South West dojo as PR in order to look at increasing the membership. I hope all dojo will also help the growth of the membership by looking at recruiting new students.

Attendance at seminars is in decline compared to last year across all events except the Kangeiko and summer seminar, which remained constant. Grading applications have also decreased with 13 fewer applications compared with the previous year. This may be due to the total calendar split of iaido and jodo events.

A successful trial Northern one day koryu seminar joint with an IT session was created at the initiative of Ojika dojo (with all cost paid by Ojika and registration income donated to the bu) and saw a good attendance. This year will see the second edition of this event, this time entirely financed by the bu, with the organisational support of Ojika. I hope this year will be as successful so the date can be established in the bu's calendar.

The EJC 2017 was a fantastic success, with two gold medals in the shodan and godan category (Rob Townson and Al Colebourn), a silver medal in the mudan category (David Findley) and a fighting spirit in the yondan category (Yuki Shima). I would like to particularly thank Harry Jones sensei (Jodo squad coach) and Andy Watson sensei for the excellent coaching at our IT sessions. Thank you also to the squad members and referees for their fantastic effort and contribution towards the cost, and Ally Mihaylova, jodo squad manager, for the smooth trip organisation.

Due to the bad weather conditions we saw in March, the Nationals had to be re-scheduled for April. This year's attendance was a little smaller but nonetheless we saw some fantastic matches and a very good atmosphere throughout the day. The joint IT session saw a good attendance.

The summer seminar is now fast approaching and I look forward to welcoming back Louis Vitalis sensei. We will train in seitei, koryu and tanjo. The grading will be held up to 4th dan. New grading shitei waza have been voted for by the officers and will be implemented this summer. All shitei waza are as previously with the exception of the yondan grading in which one koryu form is now compulsory. You can find the document here:

<http://www.britishkendoassociation.com/gradings/>

The date for the koryu seminar weekend is now confirmed for the 13 and 14 October at the Bordesley Green School, Birmingham.

I am pleased to report a healthy growth in bu finances for the year 2017. I have not had confirmation from our temporary treasurer but I estimate our year-end position for 2017 at £18,928, of which £4,591 is from the Ishido fund, which is managed by the DRC. As in 2016, 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. I would like to thank all teachers and officers, Ojika dojo and members for their generous donations, which total a whopping £716.

Unfortunately I anticipate a decrease in funds for the year-end 2018 as participation at events since the 2017 AGM has decreased quite significantly compared to the previous year. I am glad to say that all events so far have made no loss, but there is only a very small profit compared to 2017. The 2018 EJC is also looking more costly than last year. Again I am grateful to the selected squad and referees who have been asked to contribute to the costs. Partially with the aim of reducing the cost in sending a squad to the EJC, I have sent a budget proposal to our director of International affairs for the EKF attention for the bu to host the EJC 2020.

For 2019, we would like start organising again joint seminars and IT session with the new iaido buEC. This would lighten the pressure of a congested calendar for the members, as well as the workload of the Event officers, who would be able to share the organisational work. In addition to these joint events we hope to establish the new event for the North East, the koryu day joint with an IT session, and the koryu seminar again.

It is my intention to invite Otake sensei to the 2019 summer seminar, but I have to ask all members to support our events and particularly our main event the summer seminar, so we can continue to invite Japanese teachers in the future. I also hope that a new NC and iaibu EC will start re-building the relationship between our association and Ishido sensei, our Jodo and Iaido Shihan.

I would like to thank all officers, for their hard work, and all the teachers, dojo and members for their support in the last year. I would like to particularly thank Andy Watson for his support to the jodoku and Martin Farncombe for stepping in as temporary treasurer, allowing all invoice and expenses claims to be paid.

Stojanka Vidinic.