

Report of Director of International Affairs BKA 2017/2018

I have now been in this position for 3 years. The DIA has continued to update the BKA membership database on the EKF website and to match the data so that it corresponds with the BKA's own records. This ongoing process which needs constant attention is time consuming.

The DIA is responsible for the UK administration of the EKC, EIC and EJC as well as the EKF Kendo Refereeing event in Brussels and the Kitamoto Summer Seminar in Japan. This year includes the admin liaison with the AJKF for the WKC. Individual applications for grading overseas amounted to around 60 or more cases which is growing year on year. Also individual enquiries concerning transfer of membership both from abroad to the UK and vice versa to other federations require constant upkeep. UK gradings between the three Bu take place throughout the year and produce administration work in the update of new grades and new dan members. Currently this is around 17 events spread across all three arts. The DIA has regular contact with both the EKF and the All Japan Kendo Federation dealing with various requests, updates or to liaise information. The DIA must also attend the scheduled NC meetings reporting on matters of relevance happening at an international level and once a year attend the General Assembly of the EKF usually held in conjunction with the EKC. This year it will be held in Korea at the WKC.

We are longstanding members of the European Kendo Federation which presently stands at 44 representative and affiliate federations spread across Europe. This group of countries make up one of the five zones worldwide including Asia, America, Oceania & Africa. All are members of Federation of International Kendo (FIK). FIK is run by a board of directors representing those areas which presently stands at around 15 people. Like the BKA, FIK has to administer and deal with issues affecting its membership, the implications of which range from drug abuse in competition, rules for governing competition and technical information relating to coaching and teaching. The EKF is collectively responsible for negotiating with AJKF/FIK in arranging to send qualified teachers to attend EKF competitions and high grade examinations. It arranges these events on a rotating yearly calendar to give as many countries as possible the chance to host major events. Any country can apply to host such events.

The BKA is still currently the fourth largest member country with an active Dan membership of 817 at present compared to France (4003), Germany (1365) and Italy (1039). It should be noted that these numbers fluctuate constantly with the introduction of new dan members at gradings.

As I remarked last year it is encouraging to note a steady growth of the membership in terms of its development and stability within Europe. This is reflected in the successful events which are organised by all three Bu and the high standard of gradings both at home and abroad in all three arts. I trust this trend will continue.

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