

BKA Jodo bucho report AGM 2019

Dear Jodobu members,

I start this report on a sad note as we lost in November Chris Buxton sensei (kyoshi 7th dan in Jodo and Iaido) I would like to remember Linda Tattoli sensei who left us in January 2018. Both were taken by cancer.

At the time of writing the jodo membership stands at 216 members, a loss of three compared to last year. There are 40 Jodo dojos, one more compared to last year.

I am very glad that the Jodobu team is now working with the newly elected Iaidobu team. This means that we now have joint events with all officers working together on these events. I apologise here for the late advertising of these joint events. It proved difficult for our EOs to find venues for the chosen dates. It was for no lack of searching as they contacted about 60 venues for the Spring Seminar. They will be starting looking at the 2020 venues much earlier. I would like to thank the membership for their patience.

Attendance at seminars, Nationals and IT sessions remains constant compared to last year across all events except for the Northern and West Midlands seminar which saw a drop in attendance. The new Koryu two-day seminar saw a very small attendance. With the event running at a loss, that seminar was not added to the 2019 calendar. The one-day Koryu Northern seminar, now in its third year, is however still running.

The EJC 2018 proved very tough with a strong European competition. Most of the squad managed to go through their pools with Rob Townson winning the Silver medal in the Nidan category. Congratulations Rob. 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.

Grading applications have decreased, with fewer applications compared with the previous year. We now have a new 7th dan and two new 6th dan. Congratulations to Andy Watson sensei, Rachel Hahn Morris and Al Colebourn sensei. We now count three 7th dan sensei and seven 6th dan sensei.

The summer seminar is now fast approaching and I look forward to welcoming back Shoji sensei and Louis Vitalis sensei. It is now two years since the last visit of a Japanese sensei, and I am very pleased to be able to invite Shoji sensei jointly with the Iaidobu and the organisers of the 40th Anniversary of Ishido sensei's visit to Europe Seminar. There is still plenty of time to register to this event and I hope to see many of you at the main event in the calendar. There will be a grading up to 4th dan.

I am hoping to invite Ishido sensei for the 2020 summer seminar. As Japan will be hosting the Olympics that summer the cost of the flight is likely to be very high and I will be discussing the possibility of organising jointly with the iaidobu and other European organisations. We may need to bring the event forwards to May/June time.

As predicted, the finances for the financial year 2018 (January to December) were down, making a 1K loss. This was due to smaller surplus/loss from events and a costly EJC (the competitors were asked to contribute this year £228 towards the event). On 31st December, the funds stood at 17.5K. This includes 4.5K from the Ishido Fund. Our funds are a little under the recommended amount but we are not in an alarming position. I would like to thank all the teachers and officers who have donated to the bu (a total of £667 for 2018). As a precautionary measure I asked the teachers and officers to claim for petrol rather than the mileage rate in 2019. I would like to thank them for their support.

The jodobu will be hosting the EJC 2020, which should help to bring the bu accounts back to a very healthy position. A report on the preparations has been presented at this year's EKF AGM. The Stevenage venue is now booked and Mark Thurman has started working on the website, with a logo designed by Yuki Shima. We are now a year and four months away from D day with plenty to prepare. I will soon start organising a team of helpers for that big event.

I would like to thank all officers from the jodobu and iaidobu for their hard work, 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 jodobu and Malcolm Smalley for his help with the online system.

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BKA Jodo bucho