

Draft Report of DIA of BKA on EKF GA Meeting of 23rd May 2019

The following report lists the business and subsequent general discussion of the above meeting which was held in Belgrade, Serbia. Draft minutes from the EKF GS are awaited.

I have listed my comments in the order of the EKF's Agenda for convenience of reference. All agenda papers and presentation materials presented to the GA are attached for reference.

Agenda Item 1 - Listing of Affiliates

After the registration of member countries the meeting commenced. There were 35 country members/affiliates present. All were confirmed to have paid their EKF (FIK) fees. In addition a number of observers and invited guests from AJKF were present.

Agenda Item 2 - Report of the EKF President (Mr Dieter Hauck)

The President praised the EKF's achievement in reaching 50 years in 2019 and was grateful to all those present, especially the founding members for their contributions over that time.

The EKF President then gave an overview of the previous year's activities and was encouraged to report that in general the aims of the EKF were being met and the Federation was in good health. He again emphasized the importance of an updated database as there were some 500 exams and 2500 new grades achieved in 2018.

A new EKF website was being developed and should improve both links and communications between the EKF and its membership countries.

One of the EKF's projects is the creation of historical data surrounding Kendo Championships and the general history of the EKF since its foundation which was an ongoing project is now developing at a good pace and whilst still much data needs to be collected he was happy to report progress was being made.

The 2018 Population Survey conducted by FIK and to which ALL federations had to contribute needs to be rechecked. There are inconsistencies in the figures presented. The numbers for headcount of federations for 2019 need to be re-checked and re-input before the end of 2019.

The President again reiterated the importance of appointing a person (preferably with some medical background) to be responsible for Anti Doping in their country. Where possible, this person should work with local authorities and WADA to raise awareness within their respective federation by active engagement. Drug testing took place in Belgrade, Serbia during the EKC.

Lastly he was pleased to report that the activities of the EKF had run very well in the last year and with the accomplishment of the present EKC it was a remarkable success to see for the first time a Kendo Taikai of around 300 or so competitors and an organization in

attendance of around 1000 people. He warmly applauded the efforts of the Serbian Federation.

Agenda Item 3 - Approval of Minutes of previous GA

There had been no comments received to amend these minutes and so the assembly was formally requested to approve them. They were unanimously accepted and approved.

Agenda Item 4 - Report of the Vice President of the EKF (Mr Zsolt Vadadi)

The VP shared his thoughts on the general administration of the EKF's grading registrations and that as such things were for the whole running quite smoothly with most country administrators paying attention to the online system requirements. He appealed to all countries treasurers that when making payments any bank charges for NON EU countries MUST be borne by those countries.

He reiterated the importance of annual fees to the EKF by member countries and the great importance to ensure that headcount numbers were MANUALLY input on time and that country administrators ensure prompt payment to the EKF. The best way to do this was to update at year end so that an invoice could be issued before the end of the following March.

He again stressed the up and coming importance of the Anti Doping procedures which for the first time would come into effect at the present EKC in Belgrade 2019. Anti Doping was already in force at the 2018 WKC and its role in future events was anticipated to reach countries national level events. Member countries ADO needed to be updated with EKF.

Following the VP's address Dr Miyasaka, Chair of AJKF/FIK for Anti Doping was invited to give a short presentation/update. Delegates were reminded of the overall procedures involved in Doping Testing and the various sources where current information could be found such as FIK & AJKF websites (hotline/link), WADA's official website including up to date lists of prohibited substances. There is also a downloadable pdf for competitors. Of note was the fact that if any competitor was found to be in breach of the enforcement then a 4 year ban for the first offence would be implemented, leading to more severe penalties if repeated. It was made very clear that countries needed to be proactive in this area for their respective Budo arts and this meant that whoever was responsible needed to establish close working links with national agencies in their countries. At present IC (in competition) testing is the normal practice for Anti Doping, however the next stage is OOC (out of competition) testing which needs to be developed by ALL countries.

Agenda Item 5 - Report of the EKF Treasurer (Ms Donatella Castelli)

Ms Castelli presented previously distributed copies of financial spreadsheets of the last year's income and expenditure. A few items had been highlighted as minor variances, but in general expectations of income and expenditure were in line with forecasts. There were two questions from the assembly relating to small differences, but were satisfactorily explained by the Treasurer and the Board.

The 2019 Accounts had been audited and the Auditor who was present confirmed all was in order. The 2019 accounts were unanimously approved by the assembly. The 2020 budget proposal was also unanimously accepted by those present.

Agenda Item 6 - Report of the General Secretary (Mr Pekka Nurminen)

The GS was happy to report another very busy and successful year of the federation's activities and that the Board of Officers was now complete with the new Technical Director.

He went on to say that if member countries did not keep the EKF database in reasonable shape then future problems would reach a point where it might become inoperable and have very far reaching effects in terms of legislation like Data Protection laws which impose operating conditions on all organizations who hold people data.

In particular the EKF's Kendo Refereeing Seminar is expanding year on year with the addition of top fighters from both Europe and Japan and will include Korea. Numbers will be capped at 30 of which it is expected, a one third ratio will be applied. European fighter selection will be taken from top 20 competitors at previous EKC.

He again stressed the need for good communications to be maintained throughout all member countries representatives and administrators. Specifically he drew everyone's attention to national federations officers email contacts. Ideally it was preferred to have at least more than two contacts listed as there had been problems in the past when urgently contacting members.

The GS finally concluded his address by thanking ALL present for their time and support.

Agenda Item 7 - Report of the Technical Director (Mr Jean Pierre LaBru)

The TD reflected on the EKF's events in his first year as Technical Director. He apologized for his absence from the EIC and EJC due to family commitments, but was now becoming fully immersed in his role.

He briefly commented on the WKC in 2018 and the efforts by FIK to maintain the highest possible level competition for competitors and referees alike. The 2018 EIC and EJC were both successfully run events and continued to add momentum in the EKF's calendar.

The 2019 Kendo Referees Seminar (held annually in Belgium) has become so popular that that the number of referees was 99 complimented by 20 top European fighters with an official delegation of Japanese Sensei from AJKF/FIK. In future selection/nomination of EKF and WKC referees will be made through the establishment of a 4 member panel (consisting of TD and 3 others) who will vet candidates based on experience.

There now followed an overview summary of EKF grading events throughout 2018/2019 which are listed in chronological order.

European Kendo Championships – NONE as the 17 WKC was held in Incheon, Korea

The 18th European Jodo Championships 2018 (Budapest, Hungary)

- o 14 Teams, 120 Fighters, 194 People,
- o 65 candidates at exam, RESULT: 9 Rokudan, 1 Nanadan.

The 25th European Iaido Championships 2018 (Zawiercie, Poland);

- o 21 Teams, 183 Fighters, 317 People,
- o 109 candidates at exam, RESULT: 3 Rokudan.

The 28th European Referee Seminar February 2019 (Brussels, Belgium)

- o 99 Referees (42 RED, 57 Black); 20 Fighters
- o Japanese Fighters (Preparation for WKC)
- o Selection System;
- o 84 candidates at exam, RESULT: 4 Rokudan, 1 Nanadan.

Other major events with EKF 6th and 7th Dan Exams

- o Iaido Exams in Bruges June 2018 – 49 6/7 candidates, 3 Rokudan.
- o Kendo Exam in Budapest July 2018 - 19 6/7 candidates, 3 Rokudan.
- o Kendo Exam in Paris 2. December 2018, 51 6/7 candidates, 5 Rokudan, 1 Nanadan.
- o Iaido Exams in Modena May 2019 –39 6/7 candidates, 6 Rokudan and 1 Nanadan.

It was agreed that the next Kendo Referees Seminar would take place in Brussels on the weekend of 31st January - 2nd February 2020.

The next EKC will take place in Kristiansand, Norway in 2020, although it was pointed out by some countries that there was a conflict of religious calendar festival dates which meant that if the proposed dates went ahead, it would mean about 6 or so countries would not be able to attend as they had to observe religious holidays. The matter was left for the Norwegian President to establish if dates could change. The EKF would then decide the matter based on the evidence provided.

Agenda Item 8 - Question of Iaido Examination Rules (in EKF Grading Rules)

The General Secretary then proceeded to outline the proposed change in Iaido Grading Rules on which the Assembly needed to vote. After clarifying the current rules and comparing the new proposed rules and allowing the delegates assembled to make comments or raise any questions. The representative from Hungary made a general comment as did the representatives of Greece and the UK to seek clarity for future practices, both these issues were addressed by the EKF Board and as there were no new motions or proposals, the GS moved that the assembly vote on the matter.

Accepted = 29 Against = 1 Abstentions = 5

The new rule was accepted and would be implemented in future EKF Iaido exams.

I have copied both the old rule and the new accepted rule below for information purposes.

At present, the EKF Grading Rules on Iaido examinations stipulate the following:

“6.1. For Iaido, the examination subjects are: Dan applied for: Subject: 1st to 3rd Dan: 5 Shitei Waza from the ZNKR-Iai-Kata; (Note: the first of the Shiteiwaza may be replaced by 1 free choice Koryu-Kata); 4th to 5th Dan: 1 free choice Koryu-Kata & 4 Shitei waza from the ZNKR-Iai-Kata; 6th & 7th Dan: 2 free choice Koryu-Kata & 3 Shitei-waza from the ZNKR-Iai-Kata. From 6th Dan onwards, the use of a Shinken is obligatory, unless Force Majeure (including legal restrictions) prevents such use. The elapsed time is a consideration, but there will be no strict time limit.”

At the FIK General Assembly 2018 in Incheon, the “FIK Standard Guidelines for Dan/Kyu Examinations” were modified to include examination subjects to Iaido Examinations.

The relevant provision according to the FIK Guideline reads as follows: “Shodan - 3rd Dan: AJKF Iai 5 forms (1 koryu form may be included). Time limit: 6 minutes 4th Dan & 5th Dan: AJKF Iai 5 forms (1 koryu form may be included). Time limit: 6 minutes 6th Dan & 7th Dan: AJKF Iai 6 forms (2 koryu form may be included). Time limit: 7 minutes Torei (protocols for sword etiquette) must be that used in AJKF Iai. Examination time commences from the bow to the Shomen after entering the examination area and ends when the candidate stands up holding the sword to the side after performing the final bow.”

EUROPEAN KENDO FEDERATION ヨーロッパ剣道連盟 EKF General Assembly Agenda 2019 - 5 / 9 - In the context of the EIC in Zawiercie in 2018, an information session was organized. By invitation to the General Assembly in Belgrade, the EKF Board has asked the national federations to reflect the matter and send ideas/suggestions by 23 March 2019. By the deadline the Board has received written input from three federations. One suggested sticking to ZNKR Seitei kata only, two were in favor of allowing koryu katas as options. For time limits and number of kata, all favored aligning the EKF Rules to FIK Guideline. The EKF Board has considered the matter and proposes to approach it with two principles: - Maximum alignment to FIK Standard Guideline. - Minimum change to existing EKF Grading Rules and practices.

On basis of that, and taking into account the input from National Federations, the Board proposes that article 6.1. of EKF Grading Rules is changed to read as follows:

“6.1. For Iaido, the examination subjects are: Dan applied for: Subject: 1st to 3rd Dan: 5 Shitei-waza from the ZNKR-Iai-Kata; (Note: the first of the Shiteiwaza may be replaced by one free choice Koryu-Kata, if so decided by the organizing federation). Time limit 6 minutes. 4th to 5th Dan: 5 Shitei-waza from the ZNKR-Iai-Kata; (Note: the first of the Shiteiwaza may be replaced by one free choice Koryu-Kata, if so decided by the organizing federation). Time limit 6 minutes. 6th & 7th Dan: 6 Shitei-waza from the ZNKR-Iai-Kata; (Note: the two first of the Shitei-waza may be replaced by two free choice Koryu-Kata, if so decided by the organizing federation). Time limit 7 minutes. From 6th Dan onwards, the use of a Shinken is obligatory, unless Force Majeure (including legal restrictions) prevents such use. Torei (protocols for sword etiquette) must be that used in ZNKR Iai. Examination time

commences from the bow to the Shomen after entering the examination area and ends when the candidate stands up holding the sword to the side after performing the final bow.”
When EKF is the organizing federation, its intention is to maintain the option of Koryu Kata in place for examinations of 4th to 7th Dan. In 1st - 3rd Dan examinations, the examination subjects will be ZNKR Iai only.

Agenda Item 9 - Coffee Break

Agenda Item 10 - Affiliations

10.1 Morocco

The proposal and background information on the status of Iaido and related Budo in Morocco was presented by the Federation's President to the assembly which was duly noted and unanimously approved for affiliated membership to the EKF for 2 years after which it may seek full membership.

10.2 Confirmation of Provisional Members to Full Members/Affiliate Members

It was unanimously agreed by the voting assembly to approve Moldova as a full member of the EKF and Tunisia as an affiliate member of the EKF.

It was further noted that the Federation in Madagascar, which had been approved as a provisional affiliate member in 2015, had not since that time actively participated in European Championships and their overall activity was low level. It was proposed and accepted unanimously to extend their provisional membership by another year.

The EKF President then commented there had been some interest shown by a few African and middle eastern countries in joining the EKF but at the time of speaking the EKF BO was of the opinion there needed to be more established activity taking place before a decision could be taken with a view to joining the EKF.

Agenda Item 11 - EKF Relations with AJKF and FIK

The EKF President gave the assembly a brief overview of its relations with AJKF and FIK which continued to be amicable and serving the needs of all the Federations throughout the world. In particular the EKF needed to address the results of the recent FIK Population Survey as there were discrepancies.

The issue of SportAccord remains unchanged since last year.

There then followed a short discussion concerning experiences from the last WKC in Korea which were then addressed by the President of France for incorporation in the 18th WKC in Paris in 2021.

There were no new developments presented from the delegates present.

Agenda Item 12 - Future Championships

12.1 Rules Issues

Data Protection - agreement to pictures and video should be made at each event.

Selection of Fighting Spirit & Referee Selection - to be actioned at EKF BO level.

6th Dan category at future EJC - the EKF BO had received a request for a new fighting category of 6th Dan for future EJC championships. It was reported that according to the EKF database there were not enough candidates to support this new category. However, the EKF BO would hope to see this happening in the future.

The representative for GB proposed a 3 day event for the 2020 EJC hoping for a positive response from the EKF BO. The BO confirmed no objections as long as a proper schedule was forwarded to them for consideration. He promised to relay the request to the UK Jodo Bu to action. Further adjustments may still be needed to accommodate the fixing of schedules.

EKC - Split of Juniors by Boys and Girls - the EKF rules are under consideration and will be announced in the future.

New Shinai Measurements (Junior & Nito) from FIK - EKF rules under review for change in 2020. Also stricter control checks by weight and examination to be implemented.

Rule on incompatibility competitor with Coach and Manager - The present EKF rules for Kendo will be brought in line with those stipulated for laido and Jodo. In particular they will specify that while it may be possible to enter as a competitor (if not enough participants/team members) the role of Coach/Manager is not a dual purpose one so a case of either/or.

12.2 EKC 2020 in Kristiansand, Norway 16-19 April 2020

There followed an update from the President of Norway on this event. Matters were proceeding to be arranged with sponsors and helpers locally. It was commented from the floor that there seemed to be a conflict in the scheduled times as a number of countries would be unable to attend due to religious festivities by the Christian Orthodox Church. Discussion followed to explore alternatives, but at this stage it would prove to be impossible to change dates or location. This was later confirmed by the EKF that the event will go ahead as planned with apologies to those countries who will not be able to participate.

12.3 EIC 2019 in Athens, Greece

There followed an update from the President of Greece on this year's EIC. Arrangements were all in hand. It was pointed out that under no circumstances were SHINKEN to be taken to Greece. Also hotel bookings should be made directly by delegations at the President Hotel which is the main hotel. Dates were as published and all information could be found at www.26eic2019.gr This year's logo will be an Olive Branch and Sea Waves.

12.4 EJC 2019 in Zawiercie, Poland

A scheduled presentation was listed on the agenda, but the representative from Poland was not present so the assembly did not get an update.

The representative from UK gave a brief update on the 19th EJC to be held in Stevenage, UK in 2020. Arrangements were on track to schedule the planning with an organizing committee. He also reported that the 2020 logo for the EJC would incorporate the EKF's colors although a symbol had yet to be chosen.

The President then opened the floor for future nominations for EKF Championships for 2021 and beyond. The Serbian Federation expressed its wish to host the next EIC in 2020 in Belgrade and gave a short presentation. Following the anticipated success of the current EKC the Serbian President said they had prepared for the 27th EIC to take place in a Sports Hall close to the Tulip Hotel where delegates were staying and it was the intention to use these facilities based on the experience of the present EKC. Proposed dates were 30th October 2020 - 1/11/2020. An organizing team had been prepared to advance preparations.

The President of the EKF asked for a round of applause to Serbia for hosting this event. He also stressed the importance of Federations to promote their candidatures for future championships at the earliest possible times as without these EKF Championships were in danger of disappearing.

Agenda Item 13 - Other issues raised by Member Federations

13.1 Germany organizing a Kendo Seminar for 6th & 7th Dans once a year

The German President was proud to announce his Federation was taking the initiative in hosting and organizing this event for 2019 and to see it established on the EKF calendar as a yearly item. Communications had been sent out giving the necessary information. The EKF BO commented that such events could be organized by hosting countries and would be supported by the EKF, although with no official involvement.

13.2 - Discussion on EKF Referee Seminar for Iaido & Jodo

This item had been carried forward from the previous GA in which the delegate from the UK had proposed the BO consider the proposal to make the EIC and EJC seminars include a full day Referees seminar similar to the EKF Kendo Refereeing Seminar held in Brussels every year. The President by way of answer explained this had been looked at in great detail and in conclusion the BO had found the needs of Kendo were different to that of Iaido and Jodo in that decision making in Kendo refereeing was based on the practice of deciding in an instant, whereas Iaido and Jodo decision making was based on having some time to decide a winner.

Because of this difference it was decided the needs of Iaido and Jodo refereeing were adequate and could be included at a referees seminar at the respective EIC & EJC. However, if the hosting country of any EIC/EJC Championship event wished to set a specific timetable to include a longer than normal referees seminar it could suggest this to the BO EKF.

The meeting was concluded around 6.30pm by the President who reminded all the delegates that on this special occasion there was an evening dinner from 7pm to celebrate 50 years.

Chris Mansfield
Director of International Affairs
British Kendo Association 10th June 2019