

Dear Member

As I am stepping down from being the BKA Chair, I would like to share with you some of my reflections of the past three years.

As you all know, it has not been an easy path, certainly a challenging experience.

The study of budo, I believe, is intended to forge you into a person of character and ethical integrity. When Budo core values are stripped away leaving only a physical activity the soul of the art is lost.

Anyone bestowed with *Shogo* needs to reflect upon the values and responsibilities such an award presents. It is essential that we all pledge to behave in a manner that befits a budo organisation.

### **Code of conduct**

I am pleased to inform you that a Code of Conduct with ethnics and governance has now been accepted by the National Council (NC). This is at the heart of what I believe has been, and is, required to ensure the safeguarding of all BKA members - especially those who take on a volunteer role within our organisation.

### **Volunteers**

Volunteers do not have the protection of a contract of employment or the financial rewards allocated to a position of responsibility. Such acts should be acknowledged and encouraged. As part of our responsibility towards each other, along with our legal and moral obligations as an association, we should make this a number one priority.

I trust we will now embrace our new *Code of Conduct* with an open mind and heart.

### **Seminars and Events**

We had many successful seminars with leading Japanese Sensei and European support for which we are most grateful.

## **Shogo**

Two years ago, in 2016, we were able to start the BKA Shogo Award (*Kyoshi* and *Renshi*). We are very grateful to our Japanese Sensei, *All Japan Federation* and our own senior Sensei for their support and guidance to achieve this.

## **Sponsorship**

I am grateful to our sponsors including Nine Circles and Endsleigh Insurance for supporting *Kihaku*. Also, *Turkish Airlines* for sponsoring the World Kendo Championship Japan in 2015 including flights and documenting this prestigious occasion.

## **Website**

Members feedback from the *SurveyMonkey*, confirmed you wanted a website that was visually appealing and easy to navigate. This was achieved.

## **Kihaku**

To highlight key events and share insightful information complimentary to budo, we produced a new professional magazine *Kihaku*. My sincere gratitude to Frazer Biscombe and all contributors for making *Kihaku* such an international success.

## **Literature**

To promote each art three professional brochures were designed and made available on our new website.

## **Merchandising**

And lastly a new BKA badge was designed to proudly represent our organisation.

## **Last words**

All organisations comprise personalities with multiple opinions. Harnessing differences can be challenging. Lack of communication and disinformation leads to divisions resulting in fractured friendships and stagnation of the organisation. This is not the way of Budo. In budo we should have the honour and humility to accept our mistakes and try to put them right. We should strive

to work with each other by guiding, supporting, respecting and, in all matters, conducting ourselves with compassion and empathy.

### ***Gratitude***

May I thank all of you who have served and will serve as a volunteer, teacher, coach, and earnest practitioner - everyone who genuinely contributes to the growth and sincerity of our art. In particular, all members of the NC who have been invaluable and especially my Vice Chair Debbie Bevan and International Affairs Director Chris Mansfield.

All in all, let Budo be about peace, harmony and enlightenment.

I wish you all the very best from my budo heart and leave you my final thoughts:

*In laido we need to be sharp yet soft  
In control but able to relax and let go  
Be respectful, compassionate and show no fear  
The path is unknown, yet the goal is clear*

Fay Goodman  
BKA chair July 2018