



**BRITISH KENDO
ASSOCIATION**

IAIDO SQUAD TRAINING SESSIONS 2017 INFORMATION AND POLICY



Karl Gibbons – Squad Manager

**Greg Drewe – Squad Coach
Martin Clark – Assistant Coach**

Welcome:

Squad Training Sessions (STS) are open to all BKA laido-bu members regardless of squad aspirations, grade or indeed ability. Despite the daunting name they are intended to help all members have more opportunities to develop their laido. The STS will be led by the Squad Coach; assisted by the Squad Manager and other nominated officers and invited seniors to focus on notable technical weaknesses or specific themes to better equip those in attendance to do more effective laido. The STS are not seminars, so explanations will be short and to the point so that more repetitive practice can be achieved with specific and quick one-to-one feedback given when needed.

The STS will be used in conjunction with two other events to select the laido squad members who will represent the British Kendo Association at the European laido Championships. Participation in the BKA National laido Championships and the new POST-AGM Taikai-Shinpan Training Event will be pivotal for those wishing to be considered for squad selection, so we hope to see squad potentials there.

Any BKA member can be considered for Squad selection and if **anyone** is interested in being considered for the 2017 Squad they must e-mail the Squad Manager and inform of

the desire to be considered and confirm that they have read and agreed to the Code of Conduct. Please also listing your name, e-mail address, contact phone number, current grade, when you are next eligible to grade, and a summary of any national and/or international results (if available): Code of Conduct: <http://www.britishkendoassociation.com/resources/>

*** Members of the 2016 team should also contact the Squad Manager to confirm if they wish to hold their place. If there is no email confirmation it will be assumed that you are not available for 2017 Team selection and will not be considered.

You can contact the Squad Manager on: karliaidoteammanager@yahoo.com

Only attendance at BKA laido events will be considered for squad selection and will be based on skill, enthusiasm, attendance and attitude. Each Dan grade will ideally have between 4-6 Squad candidates with 1 or 2 being selected for the final team.

A points system will be used as an indicator of attendance and success and will be used in conjunction with a log of a candidate's performance and attitude to select a final team. Squad and final team selection will be by democratic process involving the Team Manager, Team Coach and Bucho.

Event	Point Value
BKA Seminar Attendance	1
Squad Training (no points for half day attendance)	2
laido Nationals Attendance	5
Nationals Medal Win (Gold)	5
Nationals Medal Win (Silver)	4
Nationals Medal Win (Bronze)	3
Post-AGM Event Attendance	5
Post AGM Event 1st or 2nd place	5

Coaching Format:

The format of the coaching will alter slightly, although not written in stone, it is important for you to have an idea of what to expect when you attend a STS. There will be two parts to the STS event: the open event, and a closed event for squad members.

STS will start at 09.30 with a warm up led by the team coach and we intend to make this more relevant to laido (e.g. cutting, chiburi, noto practice etc.) The Squad management think it is fair for us to expect serious contenders for the squad to be responsible for their own fitness level and be stretched and ready for laido STS at the start of proceedings. Competing at an international level requires a high level of fitness and commitment to achieve successful results. laido-ka and especially those with aspirations for a Squad place are expected to

participate fully in all practice sessions organised by Squad management throughout the period of the event. Following notification of selection as a Squad member you will be required to maintain good physical condition and should advise the Squad Manager of all injuries and or illness so that expert advice may be sought.

The group in attendance will run through all twelve ZNKR Seitei Gata to allow insights into who is doing what and to assess the coaching requirements of the individual. STS hopes to use a mentoring system for the various grades. After a set period, we will do all 12 kata again looking to make sure that the instruction has been implemented by the individual.

BRING A PAD AND PENCIL SO THAT YOU CAN MAKE WRITTEN NOTES OF ADVICE GIVEN

On occasion, STS will implement an open taikai session where non-squad members can challenge a squad member to a dual with feedback coming from the judges. Squad positions can change during the year so be prepared to defend your place.

General Rules:

All team members are expected to behave in a manner which befits the art of laido. Members should remember that they are not only representing the BKA, but that they are sporting ambassadors for the United Kingdom before, during and after an event and particularly at any social event which they may be required or opt to attend. The Squad Manager will provide the squad and final team with a full code of conduct and expectations, befitting of an international competitor.

Team members are expected to co-operate and to assist in the building of team spirit. This will also factor into final team selection. The objective is to achieve the best performances in each event and to achieve, overall, the highest possible team and individual results. The European laido Championship is about going and doing your best, and being your best. We in the Squad Management believe winning is a by-product of that.

Important STS Dates:

	Date	Proposed Area
Squad Training Session (1)	Feb 26 th	Edinburgh
Squad Training Session (2)	April 23 rd	Northampton
Squad Training Session (3)	May 21 st	Halesowen
Iaido Nationals	June 11 th	Sheffield
Post-AGM Event	July 9 th	Birmingham
Squad Training Session (4)	August 19 th	Durham
Squad Training Session (5)	Sept 16 th	South TBC
Squad Training Session (6)	Oct 21 st	North TBC
European Iaido Championships	Nov 4-5	Turin, Italy

Cost:

The cost to attend STS is £15 (or £8 concession rate). No half-day rate is available to members. This rate is charged to assist cover hall-hire and pay modest expenses. Excess funds will be used to support squad only sessions and for sending our final team to the EIC.

Updates and venues will be posted on:

BKA website: <http://www.britishkendoassociation.com>

BKA calendar: <http://www.britishkendoassociation.com/calendar/>

BKA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/britishkendoassociation/>

In closing, to every person in the laido Bu please take this as an open invitation for you to attend UK Squad Training Sessions in 2017; to help improve your laido, and if you desire to challenge for a squad place and represent your country.

You can contact the Squad Manager on: karliaidoteammanager@yahoo.com

Squad Coach on: gandldrewe@hotmail.co.uk

laido Bucho on: iaidobucho@britishkendoassociation.com

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COMMUNICATION POLICY and FACEBOOK:

If you have an enquiry regarding Bu operations then please email the relevant Bu Officer/s directly, making sure that all relevant persons are included and named. Thus, if an issue is laido only then address your concern to the laido Officer/s. If it involves other Bu or NC Officers, then be sure to include them and add them in your salutation making sure all relevant Officers are addressed for clarity.

Although the BKA webpage and Facebook will be utilised by the Bu Officers to put poster and advertisements of Bu activity for members, Facebook is not what we consider our official or an appropriate method for answering enquiries. Not all Officers, faculty or indeed members use Facebook (or similar media). Questions posted on Facebook can often go unnoticed or unaddressed, so please send direct Email to avoid disappointment or confusion. The other laido Officers email addresses are available on the BKA webpage.