**SQUAD NEWS January 2018**

**Congratulations to the UK Iaido team for a very commendable performance and show of fantastic team spirit at the 2017 EIC in Turin, Italy.**

I would like to thank all the senior grades who attended and contributed to the squad training sessions (STS) last year. Your experience and input has been invaluable in helping us to build a competitive team.

I would also like to thank all the squad members and the general membership who supported and thus helped finance our team’s participation at the 2017 EIC. We hope to have your continued support in 2018 at the STS.

**ALL 2017 SQUAD MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO INFORM VIA EMAIL IF THEY WISH TO REMAIN ON THE SQUAD AND ALSO THAT THEY AGREE TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS. IF I DO NOT HEAR FROM YOU I WILL ASSUME THAT YOU NO LONGER WISH TO HOLD YOUR SQUAD PLACE:** [**karliaidoteammanager@yahoo.com**](mailto:karliaidoteammanager@yahoo.com)

We will pick our team for the 2018 EIC from the registered squad, so apply for a squad place now.

Only squad members will be eligible to accumulate points and be considered for a team place.

STS will remain open to ALL Iaido bu membership, except the last session, which will be squad and team plus invited guests only.

Dojo leaders if you have a good standard Mudan please encourage their STS attendance.

Attendance points, which are helpful to the selection criteria, will be awarded to squad members for attendance at STS session’s, named seminars and medal winners at the BKA Iaido Nationals.

Final team selectors will be:

1) Squad Manager. 2) Team Coach. 3) Bucho: each having one vote.

Selectors will have the right to consider wild card choices; this will enable us to be flexible enough to pick our best team.

Skill, attendance at STS, named events, personality, team compatibility, overall benefits to the Iaido bu through a member’s participation will all be factors considered when picking our final team.

The team management reserves the right to change STS, squad and selection format if required, with the agreement of the other selectors and Bu-EC. The selectors’ decision is final.

The 2017 STS and EIC managed to stay very close to the predetermined budget and cost the Bu membership £8700. This is a considerable saving to our membership on recent events. We will strive to give best value for money to our membership for the 2018 event, which will be held in Poland.

**All Iaido Bu Members are welcome to attend Squad Training Sessions**

**STS SESSIONS 2018 (Attendance 2 pts)**

STS1. 24 March - Halesowen

STS2. 8 April - Edinburgh

STS3. 24 June - Northampton

STS4. 12 August -Middlesbrough

STS5. 22 September -Sheffield (TBC)

STS6. 20 Oct -(Squad only) Halesowen

**Seminars 2018 - 1pt for attending both days**

Spring 17-18 March. 2018

Scottish 28-29 April.2018.

West Midlands 19-20 May.2018

Summer 6-8 July 2018

**National Championships 26-27 May**- 3pts for attending and 6pts for Gold, 4pts Silver, 2 pts bronze.

**EIC Judges Selection**

In order to make EIC judge selection less arbitrary, senior grade support and participation at STS will be a deciding factor in the Bucho’s final selection for EIC judging nomination.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Karl Gibbons

United Kingdom Squad Manager