

Iaido Bucho Report

Will Heal

Since the 2018 AGM the new iaido administration has returned to working closely with the jodoku. The 2019 calendar was created jointly, with teachers and grading panellists assigned to each event.

Events

So far, the bu EC have run 4 seminars and the nationals (IT details in Squad Manager's Report):

- The 2018 Northern Seminar (Darlington, November) had 63 attendees (cf. 58 in 2017) and made a surplus. To date, only positive feedback has been received from attendees and teachers.
- The 2019 Spring Seminar (Swindon, March) had 65 attendees (cf. 43 in 2018) and made a surplus. To date, only highly positive feedback has been received from attendees and teachers.
- The 2019 Scottish Seminar (Edinburgh, April) had 36 attendees (cf. 29 in 2018) and made a surplus. To date, only highly positive feedback has been received from attendees and teachers.
- The 2019 Nationals (Loughborough, April) had 42 attendees (cf. 40 in 2018) and made a very small loss (~£90). Despite issues around the suitability of the venue, very positive feedback has been received about the warm atmosphere and good level of competition.
- The 2019 Midlands Seminar (Birmingham, May) had 49 attendees (cf. 37 in 2018) and made a surplus.

Despite a number of significant setbacks, the iaido and jodoku Events Officers have worked extremely hard to secure the venues for our 2019 seminars. However, the difficulties they encountered have meant delays in being able to announce confirmed venues to the membership. More details about this in the Events Officer's brief report (verbal at AGM).

Preparations for the Summer Seminar (Cambridge) are going well and teaching will be led by Matsuoka Sensei (kyoshi hachidan) and Kinomoto Sensei (kyoshi hachidan), supported by Shoji Sensei (kyoshi nanadan) and UK nanadan sensei. These Japanese Sensei will be in Europe for two Dutch seminars either side of our seminar, so by sharing sensei travel costs fairly between the three events we have managed to make very significant savings.

Due to a clash with the EICs, and a request from the membership to avoid Remembrance Sunday, the 2019 Northern Seminar is now planned for the 16th/17th November – As soon as the venue is confirmed and booked this will be announced.

The bu received requests from the EKF to host the 2019 High-Grade Seminar and the 2019 EICs. Both were turned down due to three factors; 1) uncertainties around travel to and from the UK post-Brexit, 2) uncertainties around the bu's financial situation and 3) a focus on stability and not over-reaching after two years of difficulties.

Gradings

Full account in the Grading Officer's Report

Prompted by the gradings held so far this year, there has been some discussion amongst the bu Senior Advisers regarding the standard of iaido shown by the candidates trying for all grades but particularly 3rd and 4th dan. I would like to take this opportunity to remind dojo leaders of the importance of ensuring candidates are at the level required, and aware of the requirements for the grading being taken. This is not meant to deter anyone from trying for a grading, just an attempt to reduce the frustration felt by all (the grader, dojo leader and panellists) when someone doesn't pass.

It is important for iaidoka wishing to progress through the grades (dojo leaders and students) to attend seminars when they can to further their understanding and skills.

Finances

The bu's funds were depleted over the last year (2016 end of year balance EoY balance ~£31k, 2017 EoY balance ~£34k, 2018 EoY balance ~£20k). As far as I am aware, all income and expenditure over that period is accounted for. The current bu team are doing their best to return the reserves to a safe level as advised by the NC (i.e. one year's running costs ~£30k).

Acknowledgements

All officers of the iaido and jodoku have been working very hard, in a collaborative manner and I am very grateful for their efforts.

I am also very grateful to our members, without whom there would be no bu, no events etc., and who's friendliness and hard training have made our events so far very enjoyable.