

BKA Jodo bucho report AGM 2020

Dear Jodobu members,

I hope this report finds you and your family safe and well from the coronavirus COVID 19.

At the time of writing the jodo membership stands at 207 members, a loss of nine compared to last year. There are 35 Jodo dojos, five less compared to last year. Because of the lockdown period we may lose new members and see a smaller membership in 2021.

Since the last AGM the jodobu team has carried on working jointly with the iaibu team in organising this year seminars. We have seen a good attendance across the year, mostly constant with the previous year.

We were glad to host Shoji sensei, Louis Vitalis sensei and Jock Hopson sensei in Cambridge for our well attended summer seminar covering in depth the AJKF Seitei kata set.

As it was not possible this year to host the joint jodo/iaido Northern seminar at the usual Darlington venue which was already booked for the Sunday, we held a very well attended seminar in Newcastle.

The EJC 2019 held in Poland proved very tough with a strong European competition. Most of the squad managed to go through their pools with Dan Silk (Godan division) and Ed Marshall (Sandan division) taking away a gold medal. Kris Silk (Sandan division) and David Griffith (Shodan division) took home a bronze medal. The team (Dan and Kris Silk, Rob Townson and reserve Ed Marshall) lost to Slovakia in the semi-final taking a bronze medal.

Congratulations to all. I would like to particularly thank Harry Jones sensei (Jodo squad coach) for the excellent coaching at our IT sessions. Thank you also to the squad members and referees for their fantastic effort and contribution towards the cost, and Ally Mihaylova, jodo squad manager, for the smooth trip organisation.

Grading applications and passes have increased from the previous year with an encouraging 11 new ikkyu. We now have a new 7th dan and a new 6th dan. Congratulations to Harry Jones sensei and Elena West sensei.

We now count four 7th dan sensei and eight 6th dan sensei.

Due to the Coronavirus COVID 19 pandemic we took the joint decision with the iaidobu to cancel the Spring seminar, the Nationals, the London and Northern IT sessions, the Northern Koryu seminar and the Summer seminar which was to take place this year in June (the 2020 Olympics held in Japan would have made for a very expensive flight costs). I am glad to say no financial loss.

It is not at present possible to say if we will be able to hold the West Midlands seminar in August or the Northern seminar in November.

We were meant to hold this year EJC in the UK and in consultation with the EKF we found it preferable to report the event to next year. I am glad to say we will still be holding the event.

The finances for 2019 are down by 1.8K. (Please note that I report these differently from the treasurer as I look purely at the loss/surplus of all events in 2019)

The credits/debits on events and membership income remain more or less the same as last year but the EJC is as always a big loss (yet costing 1K less than in 2018). I am grateful to the squad, referees and officers who contributed to the costs (respectively £100 and £50).

On 31st December, the funds stood at 16.2K. This includes 4.5K from the Ishido Fund. Our funds are a under the recommended amount but we are not in an alarming position and should reach a comfortable position by the end of 2021.

I would like to thank all the teachers and officers who have donated to the bu (a recorded total of £706 for 2019). As a precautionary measure I had asked the teachers and officers to claim for petrol rather than the mileage rate in 2019. I would like to thank them for their support.

I would like to thank all officers from the jodobu and iaidobu for their hard work, the teachers, dojo and members for their support in the last year. I would like to particularly thank Andy Watson for his support to the jodobu and Malcolm Smalley for his help with the online system.

I hope we will be able to see each other very soon at a seminar.

Stojanka Vidinic
Jodo bucho