

Report of Director of International Affairs BKA 2020/2021

This is the sixth year of my term as DIA of the BKA. In accord with European National Federations activities being cancelled due to the ongoing COVID Virus, the EKF had no alternative but to put all events on hold since March 2020 and this has remained unchanged.

At present (July 2021) we are beginning to see the gradual emergence of activities like seminars and examinations and very possibly the EIC in Belgrade later this year. In this regard the DRC representing the laido dojos of the BKA have made it known on behalf of their members wishes that the UK should not send a team and delegation to this event this year in light of current COVID virus concerns. In similar fashion the 2021 EJC which would have been hosted by the BKA in September 2021 in Stevenage was postponed until 2022 when it is hoped the pandemic situation will allow for a more normal resumption of sport activities.

The EKF and the Serbian Kendo Federation are still proceeding along the lines of organizing the EIC later this year based on those European Federations attending.

It is hoped that a more normal return to EKF and AJKF activities will resume sometime in 2022.

For my part, I have continued to administer the EKF database and correlate its membership against the BKA's database to ensure individual records are maintained to allow members to continue to participate in European events. However, 2020-2021 has seen an overall reduction of previous pre-pandemic level numbers of about 30% of total membership. The pandemic has also naturally affected most if not all other Federations in Europe and the rest of the world.

We are founding members of the European Kendo Federation which is presently made up of 44 Member Countries, of which 5 have affiliate status (so 39 full members). The business of the EKF still proceeds even though activity levels have been very low. At the General Assembly online meeting at the end of May 2021, Georgia was admitted as an affiliate country.

Current active dan grade members of the EKF total 14,065 with at least one dan in any of the 3 disciplines.

So in conclusion we seem to be making a slow recovery everywhere which is a positive sign for the future.

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24th June 2021