

Bu Personnel

Elected Officers:

Bucho – William Heal, Events Officer – Martin Chambers, Grading Officer – Gill Wacey

Co-opted Role Holders:

Senior Advisor – Jock Hopson, Senior Advisor – Peter West, Cashier – Rob Townson, Squad Manager – Kevin McNeill, Squad Coach – Martin Clark

2020–2021 and Covid

Since the 2019 AGM, disruption due to the global pandemic of COVID-19 meant that we have not been able to run seminars or gradings.

Since the start of the pandemic, and through the various lockdowns, the bucho has been involved in writing the Iaidobu risk assessment and action plan, and Iaidobu FAQs. With help from Amanda Allen, the documents draw on our legal, health & safety, and dojo experience to provide the bu membership with robust and extensive guidance. Using these, dojos could write their covid risk assessments, introduce mitigations, and train as safely as possible. Amanda has worked tirelessly to respond to government guidance (at times changing on a daily basis) and to provide accurate and up-to-date advice throughout the pandemic for all parts of our Association; At the June Iaidobu EC meeting a formal vote of thanks was passed unanimously.

We are aware of several groups who have been holding online training sessions and we would like to acknowledge the time and effort that has gone into organising and running these. Some of these groups have been within dojo, inter-dojos, and some have been pan-European or even further. In some cases, Iaidokas have had more contact with international friends than under non-covid circumstances and this is a great example of the relationships and connections we make through our training.

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020 the bucho has received 1683 emails to his BKA account (not including spam, marketing etc.) and sent 372, as well as responding to a vast number of messages through social media and other channels. The other bu EC officers and co-opted role holders have also been active throughout this time.

Event Planning 2021-2022

We realise that members will be both very cautious about events as covid case numbers remain high, but also very much looking forward to meeting up and training together with friends from near and far. We want our members to feel safe and confident attending our events.

We have organised Southern (Swindon) and Northern (South Shields) Iaido Seminars for November 2021, having in place reasonable and proportionate covid mitigation measures, along similar lines to other events being held in these times. These seminars, and some future events, will be discounted by £10 (the annual bu membership fee) as a 'thank you' to our members for sticking with us.

We will also include gradings at these events, up to sandan in the first instance, with higher gradings planned for 2022.

Depending how things pan out through the remainder of this year, it is our hope that the 2022 calendar will see a return to the usual number of events and gradings up to godan where possible.

Swindon Seminar 6th–7th November 2021

This, our first event since covid, was very well attended (65 attendees and 34 graders) and was run successfully. We hope the South Shields seminar on the 13th–14th November will be a similar success.

Finances

01/01/2020	2020	2020	31/12/2020
Opening balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing balance
£17,526	£10,246	£5,950	£21,822

01/01/2021	2021	2021	30/06/2021
Opening balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing balance
£21,822	£2,335	£0	£24,157

Membership Fees

No changes:

Full	Concession	Student	Junior	Associate	Temporary
£10	£5	£5	£5	n/a	n/a

N.b. Concession = In receipt of state registered benefits or full-time student

Junior = Under 18s

EICs, Autumn 2021, Belgrade, Serbia

The EKF and the Serbian organising committee had announced their intention to try to run the EICs this autumn. The iaidobu EC had many of the same concerns as this time last year, with little currently known about how the pandemic will pan out.

However, covid notwithstanding, the UK attends the EICs every year and so not sending a delegation would represent a significant change in bu policy. For this reason, a vote was put to the DRC. Unfortunately, due to the deadline for registering our intentions with the EKF, it was not possible to convene this vote the stipulated 90 days before an AGM. But DRC chair Alan Nash kindly convened an e-vote via the online DRC discussion forum.

The vote was overwhelmingly against the bu sending a delegation of competitors and referees to the EICs this Autumn. The EKF were duly informed of our member's view via the DIA. The Bu EC would like to thank the DRC chair and all the DRC reps who took the time to consult with their dojo, consider the proposition and vote accordingly.

Several other countries also chose not to register for this taikai. Additionally, since that time, several of the countries have pulled out and eventually the organisers decided that running the event was no longer viable and the cancellation has been announced.

We are hopeful that the EICs can go ahead in 2022.

Acknowledgements:

All officers and co-opted role holders of the iaidobu; The Bucho is very grateful indeed for their efforts.

We are also very grateful to our members, who have shown a great deal of understanding and patience during these unprecedented and very challenging times.

BKA Iaidobu EC

November 2021