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[www.ekf-kyudo.org](http://www.ekf-kyudo.org)

### Welcome

***This is the first issue of the 2016 edition of the EKF newsletter. I hope you will find this a useful update on the kyudo activities in Europe.***

*This issue is dedicated to O'Brien sensei who passed away in August last year. UK's Ray Dolphin tells the story of his teacher and Tryggvi Sigurdsson remembers his friendship with O'Brien sensei and his wife Yukiko.*

*Kyudo in Europe started to take shape in the 1960s. A few of the pioneers are still active today. Manfred Speidel from Germany is one of them. He was the first president of the EKF and served the EKF in many ways. Feliks Hoff recalls the beginning.*

*Since its establishment last year, the EKF shidoiinkai have met twice. The shidoiinkai's chairman, Tryggvi Sigurdsson reports on its function and development.*

*I would like to thank everyone who has supported the newsletter, particularly those who have contributed to its publication. We look forward to this continuing and productive dialogue.*

Gérald Zimmermann  
EKF President

## The Legacy of L. O'Brien, Kyoshi Hachidan



Liam O'Brien (1946-2015) - Zanshin

**I know that O'Brien sensei would hate me writing about him. I also know that I owe it to his memory to go against his wishes this one time!**

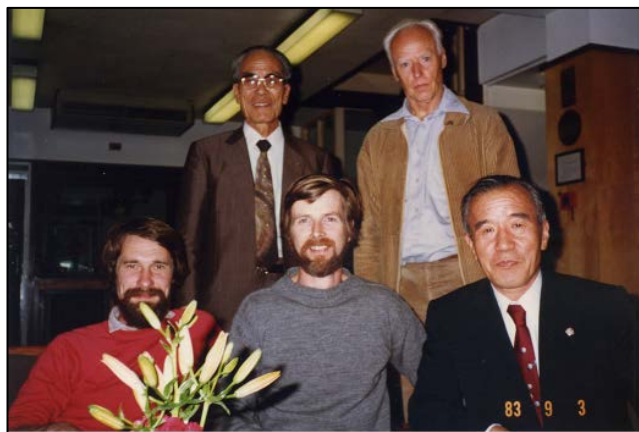
I first met O'Brien sensei in 1990; he was part of a delegation sent by the Renmei to demonstrate Kyudo in Glasgow, when that City was the European Capital of Culture. O'Brien sensei contacted one of his erstwhile students and asked him to arrange a one-day seminar in London. Little did I know then, just what an influence this person was to have on me.

O'Brien sensei practised Kyudo for 43 years. Almost a quarter of that time in Japan! He started to practise Kyudo in Kamakura in the January of 1972 under the tutelage of Takeda Yutaka Hanshi. O'Brien Sensei passed the nidan at his first grading in the summer of that year and went on to pass sandan and yondan before returning to the UK in 1974, he passed the godan at an EKF seminar in London in 1983.

It is said "that when the student is ready, the master will appear". This was certainly the case for O'Brien Sensei. In 1984, when he and his

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Yukiko returned to live in Japan, they intended to live in Kyoto. However, on his arrival at the Kansai airport, they were fast-tracked through customs by an official and when they came out into the main concourse, there waiting for them, was Takeuchi Osamu Hanshi, who persuaded them to live in Kobe. O'Brien sensei studied under Takeuchi sensei for the next nine years, practising every evening and weekend. One of his sempai in the Ashiya dojo was Hayashi Fumio Hanshi.



*EKF Seminar in London: Tekeuchi sensei, Philippe Reymond, Mike Cundy, O'Brien sensei, Kikuchi sensei*

This gave O'Brien sensei a unique insight into real dojo life. Foreign visitors tend to be treated as guests and allowance is made for their ignorance of Japanese culture. This was not so in O'Brien Sensei's case. He often said that in Japan one learns by being embarrassed, by making mistakes and receiving correction. One example of this often cited by O'Brien Sensei was when Takeuchi sensei asked a student to assist him during a Yawatashi, one woman student was given the chance to be Daini Kaizoe, but protested ignorance and felt unready. She was never asked again. O'Brien Sensei often said that when a Sempai scolds the Kohai, it should never be personal and is actually for the benefit of the junior. During this period, O'Brien Sensei went on to pass the Renshi in 1984, the rokuan in 1986 and the Kyoshi just before his return to the UK in 1992. He also found the time to translate the Kyudo Kyohon Volume 1 from Japanese into English!

On his return from Japan, O'Brien sensei offered those higher grades practising in the UK, the chance to visit him at his home in Ealing for extra practise, in preparation for the forthcoming EKF seminar and shinsa in Holland. Later that year, Sensei also arranged a Sunday practice in Heston and formed what was to become the London Kyudo Society. His dojo had previously been called Shatokurin, "the place of shooting virtue", a name passed down from Anzawa sensei. O'Brien sensei's deepest wish was to develop the level of Kyudo practice in the whole of the UK: he therefore wanted leaders from other dojo to be able to practise with him and for him to visit their dojo when invited. He adopted the name "London Kyudo Society", because a society represents a more open collection of people, whose joint aim was the study of Kyudo. Little by little, O'Brien sensei introduced the stricter form of practice

which he had himself experienced in the Ashiya dojo under Takeuchi sensei.

After the practice O'Brien sensei and his wife would invite a few of the higher grades to his house for an evening meal. We would sit and chat about Kyudo and his experiences in Japan. He told us that they used to do something similar with Takeuchi sensei. It seems that Takeuchi Sensei liked coffee and they would often sit with him in a coffee shop till the early hours, while Takeuchi sensei drank black coffee and chain smoked. One of Takeuchi Sensei's students would be "Kaizoe" with an ashtray catching the cigarette ash before it fell onto the table, but then just as everyone was getting tired and thinking of bed, Takeuchi Sensei would drop some pearl of wisdom regarding Kyudo and everyone would be sitting on the edge of their chairs again.

Having a relationship to one's teacher is paramount in Kyudo. Although O'Brien sensei's teaching was always given freely and without reservation, he did demand a proper student-teacher relationship. "Without the Sempai - Kohai relationship, one is not practising Kyudo", he would say. A group of people practising together does not constitute a dojo. He often reminded us, that at the start of every practice, one should make proper Aisatsu (greeting), first to the dojo, then to one's teacher and finally other dojo members. O'Brien sensei taught Kyudo as Shyuyodo, a way of moral cultivation. It's about how one applies oneself to the practice and not just a case of learning the skill of shooting a Japanese bow. He often said that one had to know how to play several roles. In the UK and Europe, he was Sempai to everyone. In Japan, on the other hand, he would adopt the role of Kohai as required. This was quite simply a case of knowing one's place in the hierarchy and acting accordingly.

O'Brien sensei did of course teach technique, but more importantly, he taught Reigi, respect for the people with whom you practise, respect for the place where you practise, respect for your equipment and respect for the practice itself. He often said that the purpose of bowing was not only to show respect, but also to lower the mast of the ego. Every time one bows, one diminishes the ego a little more. He once told me that he tried to take Liam O'Brien out of the shooting, to let the yumi shoot itself. He said that you should give yourself with all your body and spirit to allow the shooting to become natural and also that Kyudo is quite simple, it is we ourselves who make it complicated.

In 1992 he completed the translation of the Kyudo Kyohon vol 1 into English. Only those who were practising Kyudo before this time can truly appreciate the significance of this book. It now serves as the reference work for teaching grades and students alike.

Sensei often said that the worst thing one could do was to teach one's own ideas of Kyudo. One should teach either from the Kyohon or that which has been received from a teacher of Hanshi level.

In 2006, an extraordinary request came from the director of the world famous gardens at Kew in London. There is in Kew gardens, a replica of the Chokushi-mon of Nishi Hongan-ji in Kyoto, which was originally presented to the gardens during the 1910 British Japanese exhibition. Having fallen into disrepair, the Mon had just been extensively restored and was being re-opened to the public. With the aid of the Japanese Ambassador, arrangements were made for a Shinto blessing and O'Brien sensei was asked to perform a Yawatashi at this prestigious occasion. The whole proceedings were filmed by the Japanese television company NHK.

Over the years, O'Brien sensei and the Japanese bow-maker Higosaburo formed a very close friendship. Higosaburo sensei was very much impressed with O'Brien sensei's attitude to Kyudo. So much so that he presented O'Brien sensei with a Mangi Yumi. Mangi are the best yumi that Higosaburo sensei makes; bonded with a natural adhesive called Nibe, they are made during the night so that the bow-maker will not be disturbed and can concentrate fully on making these master pieces. On one occasion, when O'Brien sensei and his wife Yukiko san were visiting the bow-maker he made O'Brien Sensei a gift of one of these wonderful bows.

Bamboo yumi are always made in pairs, so after a brief discussion in their hotel, they decided to return to Higosaburo sensei and ask if they could buy the other one. As they were walking to the bow-maker's home, they met him coming to their hotel, carrying the matching Yumi. Higosaburo sensei said it looked lonely! He then presented O'Brien sensei with the second Mangi yumi. In 2003 Higosaburo even visited the London Kyudo Society and lectured us on how to care for his yumi.

O'Brien sensei often said that Higosaburo sensei puts something of his own spirit into his Yumi, which is what makes them so special. I remember when O'Brien sensei first used them; he said he had to get the Hanare exactly right. He often said that the better the equipment, the more experience one needs to use it.



*Higosaburo's visit to the London Kyudo Society*

As part of a series about Japanese culture, the NHK television company made a documentary about Higosaburo sensei and included a section about his friendship with O'Brien sensei. They followed this up

with a visit to London and came to the London Kyudo Society Dojo. They also interviewed O'Brien sensei again in 2008 when they were making a documentary for the Japanology series.

O'Brien sensei regularly gave of his time and effort to travel abroad, and led seminars in France, Switzerland and Scandinavia. He also invited higher grades to attend residential seminars here in the UK and at the Falaise Verte Zen Centre in France.



*O'Brien sensei and Yukiko san in Geneva, Switzerland 2011*

At EKF seminars, he and his wife Yukiko san were ever present, often translating the teachings of the Japanese delegation. Translating special kyudo terms or the terminology used by the Hanshi, can be difficult even for native Japanese speakers, especially if they do not practise Kyudo. O'Brien sensei and Yukiko san's translations were always very accurate and carefully thought out. O'Brien sensei's contribution to the development of Kyudo outside of Japan cannot be overstated. One can truly say that he had a unique perspective of Kyudo. He had experienced traditional old school Kyudo in Ashiya under Takeuchi Sensei and after he passed the nanadan in 1997 he was invited by Kamogawa sensei to attend ANKF Kyoshi seminars in Japan. These were seminars given for the top flight Kyoshi from each of the Japanese prefectures. Here he met and became friends with amongst others Ishii Sensei and Miyauchi Sensei, who are both now Hanshi level. O'Brien Sensei could however also appreciate the difficulties of practicing Kyudo in Europe.

Such was his standing in Kyudo, that the ANKF patron, her Imperial Princess Takamado expressed an interest to visit his dojo in London and of course, because she visited us, the then president of the ANKF Suzuki Sensei Sensei accompanied her. That was quite an interesting Sunday afternoon!

The All Nippon Kyudo Federation awarded O'Brien Sensei with the hachidan and a certificate was passed to me at a Shogo seminar in October 2015. This was passed to his daughter Julie who attended a commemorative shoot at the UK National sports

centre Lilleshall in February this year. The Tsuito shakai was attended by over 70 people from all over Europe. It was indeed very moving to think that so many people travelled from all over Europe to shoot a pair of arrows for him.

O'Brien Sensei practised Zazen for many years, first attending Sesshin during his time in Kamakura. He developed a relationship with Taitsu Roshi of the Ryomonji temple in Himeiji and when his wife Yukiko san passed away, O'Brien sensei arranged for her ashes to be interred in Himeiji. It was his desire that his remains will be laid to rest there also.



*Tsuito Shakai, February 2016*

O'Brien sensei had practised at the Shobo-an Zen centre in London. It was felt appropriate to hold a service and plant a small tree to his memory in the UK.

For 23 years, I had the good fortune of calling him sensei, not just as an honorific title such as "Mr." but a marker of our relationship as pupil and teacher. I was also lucky enough to accompany him on various trips to Japan. In 2008 we visited Miyauchi Sensei and trained at the Ise Shrine dojo.

I remember many years ago when we were walking to the dojo, he turned to me and said "One day, we will be two old teachers walking to the dojo together". Even though I will not have his company for the remainder of my journey along this path, he will continue to be my guide.

*Ray Dolphin  
Chairman  
United Kingdom Kyudo Association*

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## Liam and Yukiko O'Brien - In Memoriam

**I would like in a few words to describe my acquaintance with these two remarkable people that I had the great fortune of knowing for over two decades.**

As I am concerned, they are inseparable, both in life and after they passed tragically away, long before they should have. They both gave me their friendship and support and for this I will always be grateful.

Where to start? I first met with O' Brien sensei in London during the EKF-seminar in 1982. At that time he was moving with Yukiko-san to Japan where they lived for over 10 years. I have no memory of this seminar except that O'Brien sensei was in a rush to get to the airport to catch his plane for Japan after having successfully passed his godan examination. After this I was only in sporadic contact with him while he lived in Ashiya near Osaka. It was after he moved back to England with Yukiko-san that our acquaintance and close collaboration really started. At that time O'Brien sensei held the grade and title of rokudan Kyoshi. He had just finished the translation of the Kyudo Kyohon, with the assistance of Yukiko-san: a monumental task for which we should all be grateful.

Being the sempai of kyudo in Europe, it came as no surprise that O'Brien sensei was elected President of the EKF shortly after his return from Japan. I was elected as the Vice-President and we more or less assumed these tasks until the year 2009, him being President or Vice-President and vice versa. Our

relationship was therefore close and lasting and I can truthfully say without any major difficulties. Of course we sometimes disagreed but always succeeded in finding solutions to the many tasks taken on for the EKF. I cannot but express my sincere gratitude for having had the pleasure of working closely with O'Brien sensei during all these years. He was a sincere advocate for ANKF kyudo in Europe. His view was that the administration and the practice of kyudo cannot and must not be separated. This would only lead to a distortion of the practice having as a result kyudo becoming a mere western type sport. I have always shared this view and still do.

Now I would like to refer shortly to O'Brien sensei as a teacher of kyudo and the chance I had to visit Japan with him and Yukiko-san numerous times. Most of these trips were to Kumamoto, Yukiko's hometown. O'Brien sensei was a fantastic teacher, following the traditions of kyudo as it is practised in its homeland, Japan to the utmost. His true model and teacher was Takeuchi sensei, Hanshi kudan. I met with Takeuchi sensei several times, both in Japan and Europe. He was a strict but warm-hearted and exceptional teacher of kyudo. O'Brien sensei told me numerous anecdotes of Takeuchi sensei and how he was the most important person in his kyudo-life. The other was Yukiko-san. After Takeuchi sensei passed away he often said that she was his best teacher, strict and uncompromising. O'Brien sensei did not believe in an "easy way" in kyudo practice. On the contrary he was a firm advocate of a rigorous and regular practice for developing one's physical and mental skills. He often expressed his worries

about the opportunities for kyudo practice in Europe being too few and, especially that the European Shidosha or teachers being too preoccupied with teaching kyudo at the expense of their own practice. This has always been an important lesson for me.

What to say about the visits with O'Brien sensei and Yukiko-san to Japan? This was a very important step in my Kyudo-career. Practicing with O'Brien sensei in Kumamoto, most often with Ogata sensei, husband and wife, both Hanshi, was a wonderful experience. Equally with Takeuchi sensei at the Ashiya-dojo. I can only encourage Europeans to profit from such experiences, should they be available. Training in a friendly but rigorous atmosphere of a Japanese Dojo is a unique experience indeed. My trips with O'Brien sensei and Yukiko-san were by no way only about kyudo. Yukiko-san was a fantastic host in her homeland. Visits to restaurants with her family and friends were part of her hospitality. For this I am grateful and want to use this opportunity to express my deepest thanks. Several visits to Higosaburo sensei, the famous bow-maker were of great interest.

Seeing him at work in his atelier in Kyushu was unforgettable indeed.

The kyudo in Europe has suffered a great loss at the untimely passing away of O'Brien sensei and Yukiko-san, more so than I think many of us realize. He was really a protector of ANKF-kyudo in Europe. May we prove to be worthy as his successors. Yukiko-san was very important for his kyudo-career as his lifelong companion and being passionately interested in kyudo.

It is time to say goodbye to this exceptional couple, O'Brien sensei and Yukiko-san. I sorely miss both of them and would like to express my sincere thanks for their support and friendship over all these years. Yukiko-san would usually greet me in our numerous telephone conversations with the words: "Good to hear your voice" and O'Brien sensei would say: "Tryggvi, good to hear from you". These words remain with me. May their memory be blessed..

*Tryggvi Sigurdsson  
Kyoshi, Nanadan*

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## EKF Shidoiinkai Meeting

**On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of May the first formal meeting of the newly established Shidoiinkai was held at the Noisiel Kyudojo near Paris. Of the eight European Kyoshi, six attended the meeting.**

At the meeting various subjects were discussed, amongst those the role of the Shidoiinkai, the relationship between the Shidoiinkai and the EKF-Board, seminars in Europe lead by members of the Shidoiinkai, leadership and a proposal to the EKF-President for a new EKF Taikai-coordinator. The discussions took place in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere at the newly built traditional dojo at Noisiel, a suburb of Paris. Claude Luzet sensei, the primus motor of the construction of this wonderful dojo was the host of the event.

The agenda of the meeting was a balanced mixture of discussions and kyudo-training. The training consisted of performing yawatachi, hitotsu-mato sharei and practice on the makiwara with mutual

corrections. One of the subjects discussed was the strengthening the relationship between the European Shogo in general. Unfortunately, we only have rare opportunities to train together. This is one of the difficulties as concerns the development of Kyudo in Europe. For this reason a two-day seminar, EKF-Shogo Benkyokai, will be organized in Noisiel on the weekend 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> of September this year. I can only encourage all of the European Shogo to attend this event that will without doubt prove beneficial for all of us.

The next meeting of the Shidoiinkai will take place in Amsterdam this summer. More details of the decisions taken at the meeting in Noisiel will be provided at the EKF-AGM in Amsterdam this summer.

*Tryggvi Sigurdsson  
Kyoshi, Nanadan  
Chairman of the EKF-Shidoiinkai*

## Members of the Shidoiinkai

Tryggi Sigurdsson, Kyoshi Nanadan (chairman)  
Feliks Hoff, Kyoshi Rokudan  
Hans de Wekker, Kyoshi Rokudan  
Laurence Oriou, Kyoshi Rokudan

Claude Luzet, Kyoshi Rokudan  
Ray Dolphin, Kyoshi Rokudan  
Charles-Louis Oriou, Kyoshi Rokudan  
Gérald Zimmermann, Kyoshi Rokudan

## New EKF Members: Romanian Kyudo Association

**Here is the short history of the way kyudo started in Romania and our thoughts about the future.**

It was summer 2004, Japan, Aichi ken, Okazaki City Kyudojo, when for the first time I kept a yumi in my hand. I had already read the books of Onuma Sensei and Eugen Herrigel and having a lot of misconceptions in my mind I started the summer classes organized by Okazaki Kyudojo. My knowledge of Japanese language was poor and the understanding was mostly intuitively. However, I managed to finish the 6 weeks classes and I had the deep feeling that this is something I'd like to practice longer time. Together with my Romanian fellow, Nicolae Pavel, we kept going practicing in Okazaki Kyudojo and next spring we took first shinsa and both get promoted. In 2005 I returned in Bucharest and start searching for clubs or kyudoka to have a regular practice but found nothing. Once again the chance to do my job in Japan, offered me another kyudo training. In 2007, back in Romania, I had the revelation that it is possible to build at home country, despite all the economic problems the country were facing at that time, a kyudo organization that will help to promote the kyudo practice with its beautiful moral values!

I managed to convince Nicolae Pavel and my wife to help me with this project. Even that the chances to succeed were small, having in mind the purpose of creating an environment where people can get in touch with kyudo, the Romanian Kyudo Association was born in 2008. Since then more than hundred people took kyudo classes, kept the yumi in their hands, and maybe they had the feeling of kyudo's beauty.



*Private dojo, Arges County, Romania*

Eight years passed, now the organization, still very young, have more than 40 members with fifteen

people that passed examinations and hold ranks from godan to shodan. How was this possible? I may say that a decisive factor was the help given by Feliks Hoff Sensei. In 2009, when I was looking for a way to attend kyudo seminar organized in Frankfurt he kindly offered his help. I met him first time in his hometown, Hamburg, Alster Dojo where my colleague Pavel was training. Feliks Hoff Sensei was so kind and accepted to conduct a kyudo seminar in Romania. It was great: everybody felt that this experience must be repeated. When I am writing this, it is just after the seventh kyudo seminar conducted by Feliks Hoff Sensei and Cornelia Brandl Hoff Sensei in Romania. Their mentorship improved our kyudo understanding and their encouragement made us to attend seminars and examinations. Watching them during the teaching process was so instructive, sometimes difficult aspects of kyudo were repeated and emphasized in order to learn how to pass information to our younger colleagues. This is really boosting the efficiency during kyudo classes and increases our desire to follow the way of the bow. And for all of this we thank to Feliks Hoff Sensei.



*National seminar, Bucharest, Romania, April 2013*

Now, we have the courage to present a team to EKF kyudo events, and we enjoy each meeting with kyudo friends all around Europe. I would say that a practice that started more than 10 years ago just for fun, made unexpected fruits in Romania. Two clubs are open for regular practice, national seminars are taken every year, also there are demonstrations at public events. The core group of our organization seems to increase steadily both in number and skills, therefore there are hopes that soon it becomes strong enough to keep growing without permanent care.

*Traian Dascalu  
President, Romanian Kyudo Association*

## Fifty Years of Kyudo

**Kyudo in Europe started to take shape in the 60s of the last century. In its beginning European kyudo pioneers made efforts to establish the European Kyudo Federation which was founded in 1980. Manfred Speidel was the first EKF president and is still active today.**

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Manfred Speidel started 50 years ago kyudo in the kyudojo of the Waseda university in Tokyo under the tutelage of Prof. Genshiro Inagaki sensei who was the head of the Heki-ryu Insai ha.

He is by now the oldest European kyudoka and we may call him sempai no. 1.



1980 EKF foundation (Inagaki Sensei, Hanshi Hachidan, Kamogawa Sensei, Hanshi Hachidan, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Manfred Speidel)

Due to his long stay in Japan he is able to speak and write Japanese and when he returned after 10 years living in Japan he served at first the German kyudo

which was founded 1969 in Hamburg as translator during seminars.



2015 Prof. Dr.-Ing. Manfred Speidel

Beside his many obligations as a professor he practiced regularly and translated many of the historical text scrolls of the Insai-ha, i.e. Mokuroku, Hika, Mugonka and articles from Inagaki- and Urakami-sensei. He is an active kyujin and the leader of the kyudojo in Aachen (PTSV Aachen, Tai Shin Kan).

The EKF congratulates warmly for his 50th kyudo anniversary and his achievements and adds wishes for further success, good health and joy on the way of the bow.

*Feliks F. Hoff  
Former EKF Vice-President  
Honorary President DKyuB*

## Up-coming events

- 2016/07: IKYF 2016 European Seminars (<http://seminar.kyudo-renmei.com/>)
- 2016/08: EKF AGM, Amsterdam, Netherlands, during the IKYF 2016 European Seminars
- 2016/09: EKF Shogo Benkyokai in Noisiel, France
- 2017/05: EKF Taikai 2017 in Germany

## Contacts

### Officials

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Treasurer: Diethard Leopold, [dietpold@gmail.com](mailto:dietpold@gmail.com)

# EKF/IKYF Survey on Seminars and Shinsa

In the recent years, the EKF seminars and lately the IKYF European seminars have constantly been growing and the task of organizing such an event has become increasingly difficult. In order to meet the demands and requirements of future events, the EKF supported by the IKYF did a survey on the general capacities in each country.

Following the Annual General Meeting of the EKF a call for proposals to host the IKYF 2017 European Seminars was sent out the EKF members. Only one federation offered to host the seminars including shinsa and the feedback and response the EKF board received confirmed the general development of former years: the seminars are getting too big in participants' numbers and are stretching over a long period of time.

The EKF decided to do a survey on the general capacities and possibilities in each member country. This idea was supported by the IKYF.

Each member federation had to fill in a questionnaire and report if they were prepared to host an EKF seminar in future. They had to give details on the infrastructure and the preferred time of the year. They could make remarks on the challenges and obstacles they met, offer suggestions and proposals how they could be solved.

All 23 members handed their questionnaire and the results can be considered representative. The ANKF started to support EKF seminars in 1980. Since then seven member federations have hosted EKF and IKYF seminars and shinsa. These federations contributed and showed their experience and knowledge in the questionnaire. But also younger members and members who have not yet hosted and organized an event offered valuable information. Indeed, it is the combined force that will show the way to future events.

## Challenges and Obstacles

In general, the results show difficulties the EKF members face. They can broadly be grouped in three categories:

**1. Experience and membership number:** Lack of experience with bigger and international events, no (direct) contact to Japan, not enough members of staff to host such a big event: although some federations can offer the infrastructure, they lack the staff or the experience. Others can offer only smaller events. EKF members: especially younger and smaller.

**2. Long term planning:** especially for traditional A, B, C seminars. Halls need to be booked in advance, at two to three years before the event. EKF members with experience in hosting EKF seminars.

**3. Insufficient infrastructure vs participants' number:** Quite a few members may offer smaller seminars with smaller participants' number on local and regional level.

## Suggestion and Proposals

Members made suggestions depending on their experience and capacities. Thus, we are able to present quite a range of options:

**1. Keep the current system:** only two or three federations are able to host such a big event.

**2. Offer smaller lower grades regional seminars** led by ANKF teachers/masters and/or EKF kyoshi (including shinsa under the guidance and supervision of ANKF).

**3. Offer a series of (regional) seminars** in Europe led by EKF kyoshi (lower grades) und ANKF teachers/masters (higher grades) including shinsa under the guidance and supervision of ANKF.

**4. Offer joint-seminars:** some federations have the facilities but not the staff and the expertise, a supervising federation might support them.

**5. Train EKF kyoshi to become shinsa iin**

**6. Separate seminar and shinsa** (like in Japan: offer shinsa in different countries and places).

Some of the options were already discussed in the 2010 proposal of EKF. That proposal was made by the working group which was represented by a few senior grades. The advantage of the current survey is that it includes the opinions of all member federations thus given a concise overview. At the moment the ANKF/IKYF is evaluating the survey and the situation carefully. Proposals and solutions may be presented during the meeting of representatives in summer. It is to be hoped that they will come up with a feasible plan to meet the current challenges.

The survey and the results will be published on the EKF-Website.

*Gérald Zimmermann  
EKF-President*