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www.ekf-kyudo.org

Welcome

As president of the European Kyudo Federation I welcome the publication of an EKF newsletter and I am delighted to introduce this first edition.

I believe it will be a very useful vehicle for informing you and keeping in touch with news and developments which relate to EKF events and Kyudo in Europe and for promoting our activities both internally and externally.

This is our first effort and we intend to make it a regular publication. The EKF office would welcome feedback and comments on the structure and content. We hope that this will be the first of many and that all members will contribute to future editions

*Tryggvi Sigurdsson
EKF President*

History of the EKF

The EKF was established in 1980 and has now 19 member countries and 4 associate members within its affiliation. At the last annual general meetings it was decided that the history of the EKF should be documented. As one of the still active founding fathers the current EKF Vice-President Feliks F. Hoff was asked to take on the task.

Some facts and figures are already available but it would be ideal to collect texts and photos on the following topics:

1. Establishment of the national Kyudo Federations:
 - Date of establishment
 - Founder and/or founding Dojo
 - Accession to the EKF
2. Organization of EKF events such as
 - EKF seminars
 - EKF Taikai

For this purpose, it would be wonderful, to get photos, the list of the teachers and the printed booklet for the occasion.

These materials could be sent to me as an original or as a scan in sufficient resolution.

The presentation of the EKF history should be limited mainly to a collection of facts that has to be provided by the member countries.

The editing will be done by the EKF presidency.

I kindly ask the members to send us data, pictures and other documents by the end of June 2014, so that before the EKF AGM in July a first screening and evaluation can be made.

*Feliks F. Hoff
EKF Vice- President*

EKF Shogo Benkyokai

In 2012 the first EKF Shogo Benkyokai was held at Lilleshall near Birmingham in the United Kingdom. Sixteen Shogo from France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland und the UK joined in for a weekend of intensive kyudo practice and study.

Video sessions reviewing the instruction and wealth of information from the IKYF seminar 2012 in Paris, as well as analyzing various other sources, were used to help the participants better understand the shooting technique (shagi) and improve the basis for practice within the EKF.



The benkyokai in Lilleshall was organized as a workshop led by Liam O'Brien sensei, kyoshi 7 dan. The workshop format helped to create an intensive teaching and learning environment within a harmonious atmosphere.



The second official shogo benkyokai took place at the Waseikan Kyudojo near Rome, Italy. The event was attended by five Italian, five French and two German shogo.

During two days the participants analyzed various aspects of Kyudo and detailed corrections from the warm-up techniques before practice and the right attitude in ceremonial shooting, the correct use of the body and the improvement of basic postures and movements.

Regardless of the different styles and orientation, adhering to the fundamental form (kihontai), the practice was carried out in great harmony, with Feliks Hoff sensei and Laurence Oriou sensei working together with the aim

of improving the quality level of the Kyudo expressed by the European Shogo.

The EKF strongly supports the development of the shogo level within Europe. The third EKF Shogo Benkyokai is planned to take place at the Kyudojo National at Noisiel (K2N) near Paris, France at the weekend of 11/12 October 2014.

*Gérald Zimmermann
EKF Secretary General
(based on Pascale Faccia's notes of for the Rome seminar)*

Shogo in Europe

There are 52 shogo in Europe: 1 Kyoshi 7th Dan, 7 Kyoshi 6th dan, 13 Renshi 6th Dan, 31 Renshi 5th Dan

Grade and titled ranks are awarded by practical examination and a written test. In Europe, it is possible to take examination from 1st Dan to 5th Dan and occasionally 6th Dan and the instructor rank of Renshi. More senior grade and rank examinations are only available in Japan.

Through the European Kyudo Federation and tutelage of the All Nippon Kyudo Federation (ANKF), the member nations of the EKF are the governing bodies for ANKF style, which is the established style for kyudo worldwide.

Kyudojo National de Noisiel : a Chuo-Dojo à la française

The "Kyudojo National de Noisiel" (K2N) is conveniently accessible from Paris centre, at 30 minutes by train from the Châtelet station, plus a 10mn leisurely walk. It is situated in a very nice spot next to the "Ferme du Buisson", an architectural complex listed as a National Heritage Site.

It respects all the characteristics of a traditional Japanese Kyudojo, with a Matoba that can host six targets at the standard 1m80 spacing. It has been intended as a genuinely public Kyudojo, and priority will be given to international, national or regional Kyudo events. The local club will have reserved weekly sessions, and reservation will be possible for Kyudo clubs or leagues wishing to organise their own private events. Also 'individual free practice' will be possible under certain conditions.



This has been a long-term project as the first official demand, complete with architect's plan, etc. was already lodged by Claude Luzet in 1999! Thanks to the constant and important support from the Mayor of Noisiel city, the Kyudojo is now a reality. Thanks also to all members of the French Kyudo Federation FFKT who have supported, financially and otherwise, the construction.

The city has provided a building plot of 1.560 m², landscaped, with all the networks and facilities, as well as the deep foundations. The Kyudojo association as gathered some 250.000€ for the construction itself, and provided innumerable days of volunteer work provided through the Kyudo members

of the Paris Region League. On the late, we have also received some subventions in cash, some free building and garden materials, as well as many plants and trees.



The IKYF has been impressed by the project, and has answered positively to the Mayor's request to preside at the Dojobiraki. The ceremony will be held on the afternoon of Monday the 23rd of June, and will be honoured by the presence of her Imperial Highness the Princess Takamado, and of the IKYF President Ishikawa Takeo. Invitations will be sent later to the presidents of all European IKYF member federations.

The official website: <http://www.kyudojo-noisiel.fr>

The Facebook pages with many pictures depicting all phases of the construction:
<https://www.facebook.com/Kyudojo.Noisiel>

May the Kyudojo National de Noisiel contribute to the harmonious development of Kyudo in the world.

*Claude Luzet
K2N project leader*

Up-coming events

2014/07: EKF AGM, Paris France during the IKYF Taikai and Seminar

2014/10: EKF Shogo Benkyokai in Noisiel, France (tbc)

2015/05: EKF Taikai 2015 in Russia (tbc)

2015/07: IKYF Seminars and ANKF Shinsa in Magglingen, Switzerland supported by the EKF

Role of the EKF

As President of the EKF, I am grateful to have the opportunity to share with you some reflexions on the role of the EKF at this time of change as the organization of Kyudo is concerned. By "time of change" I have in mind recent the establishment of the International Kyudo Federation and also the steadily growing number of the member Federations of the EKF.

In the articles 5 of the constitution of the EKF it is stated that "its sole objective being to promote the practice of Kyudo in the European countries as accepted by the All Nippon Kyudo Federation, irrespective of nationality, race, religion, disability, sex or other differences". In order to pursue the objective there is amongst other issues emphasis on strengthening bonds of friendship, hosting seminars and examinations led by the ANKF and co-ordinating and disseminating information received from the ANKF between members.

It is worthwhile considering how the objectives of the EKF as stated in the constitution are still valid and what further revisions are necessary in order to "follow the flow of time". I will not enter into the discussion whether the EKF is needed or not. In a recent survey carried out by the EKF, the vast majority of the member federations feel a need for the EKF. This is especially true for the smaller federations and the "new" federations.

In our constitution there is obviously no mention of the International Kyudo Federation, since it did not exist at the last revision of the EKF constitution. We are hopefully all aware of the importance of the ANKF in the development of Kyudo in Europe and worldwide. It is obvious that without the ANKF and its ongoing support there would be no Kyudo outside of Japan. Without the ANKF the establishment of the IKYF would not have been possible. The ANKF is thus the "backbone" of the IKYF and by far its most important and influential member. However the respective roles of the ANKF and the IKYF need in my view to be clarified. This concerns for example the international seminars and examinations. The role of regional organizations like the EKF also need to be clarified. What is the relationship, if any, between the EKF and the IKYF? Should the EKF have a formal responsibility concerning the organization of events in Europe or, only an informal one as it is now?

These are amongst the questions that we need to reflect upon, not as passive "bystanders" but as the largest regional organization outside of Japan. I see no risk in setting forward our views on matters of importance to the future development of Kyudo in Europe and elsewhere. On the contrary, I think that our views will be welcome and given consideration by the other Federations of the IKYF, the ANKF included.

To summarize I suggest that we prepare the next revision of our constitution to adapt it to our increasing number of members and the foundation of the IKYF. I would like to suggest that a committee be established at our next AGM with this in mind.

I would like to end by briefly discussing changes within of the EKF that were raised at our last AGM the Netherlands.

1. We need urgently to have an improved communication between the EKF member Federations. This newsletter is a step in this direction. I am especially grateful to our Secretary General, Gérald Zimmermann for his enthusiasm in moving this project forward.

2. We need to organize regional seminars with senior European Shogo under the "umbrella" of the EKF. This is of course especially important for the newer federations and is in my in no way incompatible with the IKYF events, on the contrary. These events would be the responsibility of the Shidoiinkai, the "Teaching Committee" of the EKF. I think that the role of the Shidoiinkai should be clarified in our Constitution.

3. Feliks Hoff Sensei has as you know agreed to write the history of the EKF. As some of us, senior members of the EKF are getting elderly, useful information might get lost if it is not written down. I am therefore grateful to Hoff Sensei for having agreed to help us in this matter.

These are the issues I like to share with you in this first edition of our Newsletter. My hope is that it will turn out as a useful tool for sharing information and mutual knowledge amongst us.

Tryggvi Sigurdsson
EKF President

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