

newsletter

EUROPEAN KYUDO FEDERATION

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www.ekf-kyudo.org

Welcome

This is the third issue of the newsletter of the European Kyudo Federation. I hope you will find this a useful update on the kyudo activities in Europe.

At the end of August we had to inform you that UK's Kyudo teacher Liam O'Brien Kyoshi 7th dan had passed away. O'Brien Sensei had over 40 years' experience of kyudo, of which 11 years were spent in Japan. He was not only Chairman of the UK Kyudo Association but had also served as President of our association and Vice-President of the International Kyudo Federation (IKYF). We are planning a special edition of the EKF newsletter commemorating O'Brien sensei's kyudo life.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported the project of a newsletter so far, particularly those who have contributed to its publication and have written a report or an article. In this edition we continue the section of new EKF members introducing the Danish Kyudo Federation. You can read the articles on EKF events in 2015 and learn about the changes within the EKF.

We look forward to this continuing and productive dialogue.

Gérald Zimmermann
EKF President

Liam O'Brien, Kyoshi Nana Dan (1946 – 2015)



EKF-Taikai 2015 in Moscow

IPO "Kyudo Federation" Russia was host to the 13th European Taikai 2015 in Moscow. The Taikai was held at the International Exhibition Centre "Crocus Expo" which is located on the bank of the Moskva River 40 minutes from the city centre.

According to the decision of the General Meeting the 13th EKF Taikai was held in Moscow. Unfortunately, the participation was not up to unanimous vote but in the end archers from 10 nations arrived in Moscow.

In cooperation with the EKF Taikai coordinator all preparations concerning the planning and the content could be implemented successfully and the participants met in the venue a well-organized, by many helpers supported structure so that the competition could run smoothly.

The first day of competition decided on the team score and who was allowed to start the individual taikai on the next day.

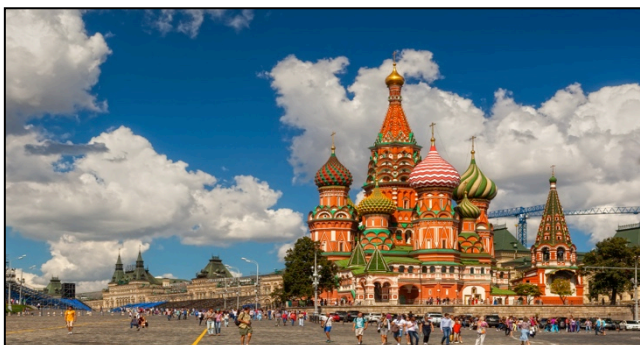


Team Competition

20 arrows were shot per archer. The results:

- 1 Germany 2 39/60
- 2 Switzerland 1 35/60
- 3 Germany 2 29/60

On Saturday night, the participants had the opportunity to enjoy a three-hour city tour, so that the trip to Moscow had not only the hall and the way to and from the airport as an impression but also the vast extent and the culture of Moscow.



St Basil's Cathedral

As referees - like on the day before - Tryggvi Sigurdsson, Feliks F. Hoff and Laurence Oriou conducted the event and fulfilled also the task as style price judges.



Judges: Oriou, Hoff, Sigurdsson

On Sunday morning the 20 best archers of the day before started in the individual championship.

Gérald Zimmermann (Switzerland) reached with 8 of 10 hits uncontested the 1st place.

Since two archers had reached 7/10 a tie break was necessary. Tobias Oswald (Germany) reached after the enkin the 2nd and Peter Humm (Switzerland) the 3rd place.

The style price was also presented for his good and above all very constant shooting form to Peter Humm.



Team and Individual winners

Feliks F. Hoff
EKF Taikai Coordinator

EKF-Taikai 2015: Results

Team competition

Team	1-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	17-20	Σ	RANK
Germany 2	8	8	8	8	7	39	1
Switzerland 1	8	8	5	8	6	35	2
Germany 1	6	6	5	8	4	29	3
Russia 2	4	6	6	5	7	28	4
France	3	7	5	5	4	24	5
UK	3	4	4	7	2	20	6-7
Sweden	7	3	4	4	2	20	6-7
Romania	4	2	4	4	5	19	8-10
Russia 1	4	3	5	4	3	19	8-10
Switzerland 2	3	4	5	1	6	19	8-10

EKF Shogo Benkyokai 2015

The fourth EKF Shogo Benkyokai was held at the Alster Dojo in Hamburg, Germany, at the weekend of 26/27 September 2015.

Eleven shogo participated at the EKF Shogo Benkyokai 2015 in Hamburg.

From the programme:

1. Instead of a yawatashi all participants performed Mochimato-Sharei commemorating O'Brien sensei. A picture was placed in the Kamiza;



Alster Dojo - Kamiza

2. Every shogo shot two arrows, all other shogo commented each shot and offered corrections;

3. Shagi kenshu in groups on thematic topics and individual corrections.

4. Answer and questions sessions;

5. Practicing Tachi Sharei: including recent information received during the IKYF Seminar 2015 in Macolin;

Individual competition

Names	Country	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	Σ	Rank
Zimmermann Gérald	Switzerland	1	2	2	1	2	8	1
Oswald Tobias	Germany	2	1	1	1	2	7	2
Humm Peter	Switzerland	2	1	2	1	1	7	3
Olivereau Pascal	France	1	1	2	0	2	6	4-5
Dascalu Traian	Romania	0	1	1	2	2	6	4-5
Tikhenko Svetlana	Russia	1	1	1	1	1	5	6-11
Brendel Stefan	Germany	1	1	0	2	1	5	6-11
Stier Thomas	Germany	1	1	1	1	1	5	6-11
Moroz Fedor	Russia	1	2	1	1	0	5	6-11
Akimova Elena	Russia	1	2	1	0	1	5	6-11
Diethard Leopold	Austria	1	2	1	1	0	5	6-11
Musa Karaca	Germany	1	1	1	1	0	4	12-17
O'Brien Liam	UK	1	0	2	0	1	4	12-17
Oikawa Yoko	Germany	0	0	0	2	2	4	12-17
Guillot Pierre	Switzerland	0	1	0	1	2	4	12-17
Lazo Sergey	Russia	1	0	1	0	2	4	12-17
Propee Boris	Germany	0	1	1	1	1	4	12-17
Ta David	France	0	0	0	1	2	3	18-20
Lanoiselle Mathias	UK	1	0	1	0	1	3	18-20
Brettschneider Michael	Germany	0	2	0	1	0	3	18-20

6. Discussion on taikai on the basis of the EKF 2015 and the regulations and experience of former taikai;

7. Discussion on the 2016 seminars, guidelines and or wishes to the ANKF/IKYF;



Participants of the fourth EKF Shogo Benkyokai

Those attending the Shogo Benkyokai expressed their enjoyment of the event with its opportunities to practice together. The group offered sincere thanks to the members of the Alster dojo for their warm and generous hospitality.

*Feliks Hoff, Kyoshi Rokudan
Laurence Oriou, Kyoshi Rokudan
Terence Griffin, Renshi Godan*

IKYF European Seminars 2015

For 20 days participants from all over the world joined the IKYF European Seminars. The seminars in Macolin/Switzerland attracted over 540 participants.

Planning and Preparations

Since it takes time to find an adequate location to host the IKYF seminars – often sports halls and centres need to be booked well in advance – the planning of the seminars and its organization started over two years ago. The facilities of the sports centre and the layout of the dojo were checked, the azuchi and the shajo drawn up, the offers and the prices for the events negotiated, initial bookings were made.

Taking into account the increasing numbers of recent years, the IKYF decided midway to run the B and C seminars twice offering both English and French translations. The A seminar for Yondan participants and higher grades including Shogo holders had English translators only.

For the organization and administration the French Kyudo Federation kindly offered their guidelines and instructions they received from the ANKF to organize the events in Paris a year ago. These were translated into English and are now made available to the next organizing host federations. Further moving towards sustainability the partition screens were offered to the Dutch Kyudo Renmei for free. They were picked up at the end of the seminars and already moved to the Netherlands to be used at next years IKYF events.



Shajo and Azuchi

The day before the start of the seminar, the venue was set up in three shajo of five mato each, the azuchi installed and the laminate flooring fitted. With a total of 137 participants the first seminar for ungraded and Shodan participants meant an initial test for the organization and the infrastructure. In the end it was not the lack of space but the ongoing and unprecedented heat that was a challenge for all – participants and staff.

Japanese Masters

The ANKF and IKYF once again sent a delegation of senior teachers of the highest level to Europe: Iijima Masao (head instructor), Toba Hisayuki and Sawada Kin'ichi all Hanshi Hachidan made the long journey from Japan to teach with great care and enthusiasm for three weeks without a break. Despite the heat the sensei all showed stamina and served as a model not only in their shooting on the shajo but also as admirable examples in life.



Japanese delegation Sawada sensei, Toba Sensei, Iijima Sensei

Raiki Shagi and Shaho Kun

For the first time the ANKF introduced the reciting of the Raiki Shagi (Record of Etiquette and Truth of Shooting) and the Shaho Kun (Principles of Shooting) during the opening ceremony on each day. Iijima Sensei explained the contents of both text and the meaning of reciting them.



Reciting of Raiki Shagi and Shaho Kun

Visit of the ambassador and special performance

At the end of the first day of the A-Seminar, the Japanese Ambassador in Switzerland visited the event and observed the Mochimato Sharei performed by EKF higher grades followed by the Hitotsumato Sharei performed by the Japanese masters. Local and national press and television coverage of the event promoted kyudo in Switzerland.



H.E. Ambassador Maeda with First Secretary Tanaka, Toba Sensei, Iijima Sensei, Sawada Sensei, European Shogo

After each seminar, participants had the opportunity to go for examination. The ANKF as examining body had announced that examinations available up to Godan.

In closing I would like to thank all participants for coming to Switzerland and I hope that they enjoyed their stay in Switzerland. I am sure that we have learnt a lot during these days and that this will keep us going for a while in our practice. We thank the sensei for their time to give us guidance and instruction on the way of the bow and life.

Gérald Zimmermann
Swiss Kyudo Federation
Photos: Alain Scherer

IKYF European Seminars 2015 in Numbers

Overview Participants

Overview Participants

	C1 11-13 July		B1 15-17 July		A 19-21 July			B2 23-25 July		C2 27-29 July		TOTAL
	Mudan	Shodan	Nidan	Sandan	Yondan	Godan	Shogo	Nidan	Sandan	Mudan	Shodan	
Austria		5	1				1					7
Belgium	1				6		1	3	4	2	3	20
Brazil	2											2
Czech Rep.	2		3									5
Denmark		2		3								5
Finland	1				1	2						4
France	9	2	2	3	18	9	9	56	22	34	22	186
Germany	34	17	19	11	10	2	1		1	1	1	97
Hungary			1									1
Iceland					1		1					2
Italy	6	2	3	2	1		1	4	4	4	3	30
Latvia			1	1								2
Lithuania			1									1
Luxembourg			2		2							4
Netherlands	2	3	2	4	1		1					13
Norway			3									3
Poland	8	2	6									16
Portugal						1		1				2
Romania	1	3	2	2								8
Russia	3		3			1						7
Spain	1	2	5	6	1				1			16
Sweden	5	1	2	3								11
Switzerland	9	6	7	12	10	9	5	8	4	1	4	75
UK	5	3	7	6	1	3	1					26
Total & Summary	89	48	70	53	52	27	21	72	36	42	33	543
	137		123		100			108		75		
	A- Seminar			100	B-Seminars			231	C-Seminars			212
	Mudan	131	Shodan	81	Nidan	142	Sandan	89	Yondan	52	Godan	27

Contacts

Officials

President: Gérald Zimmermann, gerald.zimmermann@unibas.ch

Vice-President: Laurence Oriou, laurence.oriou@wanadoo.fr

Officers

Secretary General: Ringa Baltrusaite, ringa@kyudo.lt

Treasurer: Diethard Leopold, dietpold@gmail.com

New EKF Members: Danish Kyudo Federation

As is often the case in beginnings of any story, the story of Kyudo in Demark is one of a personal journey. And since I find it silly to write about myself in the third person, this will be a story about how a personal journey manifested itself into a Danish Kyudo Federation.

It all started with a young boy watching the television series "Shogun" far too many times for his own good, and especially one scene where the fierce samurai Lord Buntaro renowned for his archery, shoot arrows through a shoji screen into a postern he couldn't see. After that, I knew I had to learn how to do Japanese archery.

Years passed, but the dream lingered on and followed me into adulthood. I started a group up with someone who supposedly knew Kyudo, but turned out to be teaching the kind of autodidactic amalgamation of Zen mysticism and self taught Japanese archery that most of us are now very familiar with as the legacy of Herrigel. I gradually realized that what I was doing had very little to do with actual Kyudo, and decided to continue onwards alone.

Since I have relatives in Norway, I contacted and visited the Norwegian Kyudo federation, and with their assistance I was invited to the now late O'Brien Sensei and his wife Yukiko San house in London, where I stayed in 2009 and started the part of my Kyudo journey that has ended up with me introducing Denmark in the EKF newsletter today.

O'Brien Sensei suggested I should build a club after I passed my shodan in Tokyo 2010, and he subsequently became Shidosha for Denmark. His advice to us was to avoid too much expansion and instead focus on a small core of dedicated practitioners for the first many years. And this is how we have tried to climb the mountain of kyudo up till now.

In 2011 we held our first really big public demonstration during the Copenhagen Sakura festival vis a vis the Little Mermaid. O'Brien Sensei with assistance of Dolphin Sensei flew in from UKKA and the president of the Norwegian federation Tom Thomassen came over from Oslo to do a Hitotsu mato sharei two days in a row during the festival, this demonstration really launched us into the eyes of the Danish public.



Copenhagen - Sakura Festival

And since then we have continued to do public demonstrations whenever possible. Like most small groups in expensive capitals we fight with the problems of the lack of adequate training facilities, combined with a small economy. But we now have a dedicated group, and are adamant that things will change for the better with time.

But we would have been nowhere without the instrumental help and mentorship of O'Brien sensei and the members of the other Scandinavians federations in Norway and Sweden who have always been very supportive and helpful as we stumbled on our feeble feet into the world of Kyudo.

We held our first Scandinavian Seminar in Copenhagen in 2013 with O'Brien sensei, and again in 2014. And now with his all too early death we are left a bit dumb struck for the time being. Even though his departure first of all was a great loss to his family and the UKKA, his influence was far reaching, and hard to underestimate, as this small tale can attest to.



Scandinavian Seminar 2014

*Nicolau Sichlau
President, Danish Kyudo Federation*

IKYF European Seminar 2016

The IKYF European Seminars 2016 will be held near Amsterdam in the Netherlands. This will be the fifth time the Kyudo Renmei Nederland (KRN) has hosted the European Kyudo Seminars - for the first time under the direction of the International Kyudo Federation (IKYF).

The Kyudo events in Amsterdam will offer three seminars with shinsa. In 2016 the IKYF will also be celebrating its 10th anniversary. A special Koryu Enbukai will be held followed by a reception to celebrate the occasion. The KRN would like to invite kyudo practitioners from all over Europe to join in the IKYF European Kyudo Events 2016 near Amsterdam.



Venue: Sportshall Zuid Amsterdam (EKF Taikai 2013)

The Venue, the Seminars and the Schedule

The EKF/IKYF Seminars offer a unique opportunity for participants to develop their practice of kyudo. The venue at the Sportshall Zuid Amsterdam will provide five shajo in three different halls. The same facilities as in the EKF-Taikai 2013 will be used. There will be an A-seminar for yondan, godan and shogo participants, a B-seminar for nidan and sandan participants and a C-seminar for ungraded and shodan participants.

Dates	Event
26–28 July	B-Seminar
29 July	Special Shinsa
30 July	Koryu Enbukai and Reception
31 July–2 August	A-Seminar
3 August	Special Shinsa*
4–6 August	C-Seminar
7 August	Special Shinsa

* The ANKF, as the examining body, is still considering whether to hold renshi and rokudan examinations.

The IKYF 2016 European seminars will be on the basis of the format “seminar only”, no lodging will be provided. The KRN will publish further information on a special website at the end of October. The website will inform about hotels and other accommodation, access and public transport etc.

Participation fees will be communicated by the IKYF in due time.

KRN / IKYF / EKF

From the Organising Federation

Requests for Translators

We are still looking for translators. There are a total of five shajo, for the duration of the three seminars we need to have five translators per day. That is three times three days. It is intended that translation is from Japanese to English. If a translator has the skill of a second language it is optional. We strongly recommend that candidates have a level of experience in Kyudo. It is likely that a translator also wants to participate in his own seminar. We strive that a translator is also free of translating during his own seminar. We need a lot of candidates to achieve this goal. We hope on the cooperation of everybody to achieve this.

What we can offer: At this time, full lodging is guaranteed including all meals. We also look at the possibility for reduction on the seminar price. If a candidate is available please specify for which seminar or seminars and which seminar you participate yourself. For the translators, we can arrange a hotel and transport or if you arrange your own hotel a fee of up to € 80,- per day is available.

Poster 10th Anniversary IKYF

We invite everyone to make a design for a poster for the 10th anniversary of the IKYF. To the design that is chosen is also a prize connected, this is announced later. Please send your design not later than the first of March 2016.

Hans de Wekker,
President, Kyudo Renmei Netherlands
Contact: hansde.wekker@hccnet.nl

EKF Annual General Meeting 2015

Following the tradition of former years the AGM took place during the European Seminars. EKF meetings are to be held, whenever possible, in connection with international events. In 2015 sixteen representatives met during the A Seminar in Switzerland.

EKF Officials 2015-2017

At AGM 2015 the country representatives elected the presidency. The officials of the board are:

President: Gérald Zimmermann (Switzerland)
Vice-President: Laurence Oriou (France)

The officers supporting the board:

Secretary General: Ringa Baltrusaitė (Lithuania)
Treasurer: Diethard Leopold (Austria)

EKF Shidoiinkai

The assembly unanimously agreed on the amendment of the section concerning the shidoiinkai in the constitution: *"The shidoiinkai is a committee of senior level practitioners within the EKF. It is not a political or a national representative body. Members of the shidoiinkai are at least holder of the title of a kyoshi. Members of the shidoiinkai will insure the keeping of the standards of ANKF Kyudo by leading and teaching at regional EKF seminars and taikai and advising the EKF in practice of kyudo (standardization of practice, teaching and learning)."*

Members of the Shidoiinkai:

Tryggvi Sigurdsson, Kyoshi Nanadan (Iceland)
Feliks Hoff, Kyoshi Rokudan (Germany)
Hans de Wekker, Kyoshi Rokudan (Netherlands)
Laurence Oriou, Kyoshi Rokudan (France)
Claude Luzet, Kyoshi Rokudan (France)
Dolphin Ray, Kyoshi Rokudan (UK)
Oriou Charles-Louis, Kyoshi Rokudan (France)

European IKYF Seminars 2017: Call for proposals

The EKF has been approached by the IKYF/ANKF concerning the IKYF Seminars 2017 in Europe and has asked the EKF if there are any candidate federations that show their interest and hand in their proposals.

Since it takes time to find an adequate location to host the IKYF seminars - often sports halls and centres need to be booked well in advance, the IKYF has been informed about these difficulties and the need to contact the member countries as early as possible. For 2017 candidates should signal their interest to EKF president as early as possible. Thus, the options could be presented and discussed with the IKYF during the Special seminar at the end of October.

Valedictions

The outgoing president, Tryggvi Sigurdsson, and head of the meeting lead the assembly through the agenda and the evening. In his report Sigurdsson Sensei mentioned his involvement with the EKF and his commitment over the past 25 years. He was a keen supporter of the EKF and an advocate of some essential values such as the importance of practising kyudo as a traditional Japanese discipline and following the guidelines set out by the ANKF. He considered the EKF as a very important organisation for the development of kyudo in Europe. Nowadays, this might especially be true for the younger EKF countries. On behalf of the EKF I would like to thank Sigurdsson Sensei for his hard work and dedication over the past three decades. As senior member of the shidoiinkai together with other kyoshi title holders Sigurdsson Sensei will continue to give advice to the EKF board and support the EKF in teaching matters.

Feliks Hoff, another EKF supporter, former vice-president and long term EKF Taikai Coordinator has stepped from his offices. Amongst many activities Hoff Sensei advised many member countries in organising an EKF taikai. His support was crucial in keeping, ensuring and enhancing the standard of the EKF taikai. Again, we must pay our respect and say thank you for all your efforts and contribution to the work of the EKF.

Gérald Zimmermann
EKF President

Obituary – Liam O'Brien (1946 – 2015)

It is with great sadness that we had to inform you that the United Kingdom's Kyudo teacher Liam O'Brien Kyoshi Nanadan had passed away on 29/8/2015

O'Brien Sensei had over 40 years' experience of kyudo, of which 11 years were spent in Japan. He was Chairman of the UK Kyudo Association (UKKA), and had served as Vice-President of the International Kyudo Federation (IKYF) as well as President of the European Kyudo Federation (EKF).

He was the visiting instructor for other federations and regularly visited Japan to train and attend seminars.

He is also the translator for the All Nippon Kyudo Federation (ANKF) Teaching Manual volume 1 (Kyudo Kyohon).

Review: Mato no Muko

I have been asked to write a few words about the film on Kyudo, *Mato no Muko - Beyond the Target*, by Erick Moisy, Renshi Rokudan, released in 2014. As you probably know, Erick is one of the pioneers of Kyudo in France. His film was realized over many years, primarily in Japan but also in Europe.

I remember meeting with Erick several years ago in Tokyo with a camera on his shoulders. He told me that he was working on a film on Kyudo at his own cost but hoped that it would be shown on television sometime in the near future. I found the idea interesting but did not hear about the film until in Paris at the World-championships in 2014 when the film was ready for publication. I ordered a copy of the film at that time and on watching it for the first time can only say that I was immediately fascinated by the result. What an interesting and beautiful film on Kyudo. In fact a pioneering work on Kyudo by a westerner.

The film starts with an interview with Ego Kunihiro sensei who had won the Japanese Kyudo-championships held in Ise every second year. The film ends when he returns the cup at the championships two years later, not having been able to defend his title due to an injury. In between there are interviews with many of the highest graded Japanese Hanshi and others, both Europeans and Japanese. There are also scenes of shooting, both performed by the Hanshi, high school students and others. A moving example is the shooting by the late Liam O'Brien sensei, performed at a special seminar for foreigners held in Tokyo.



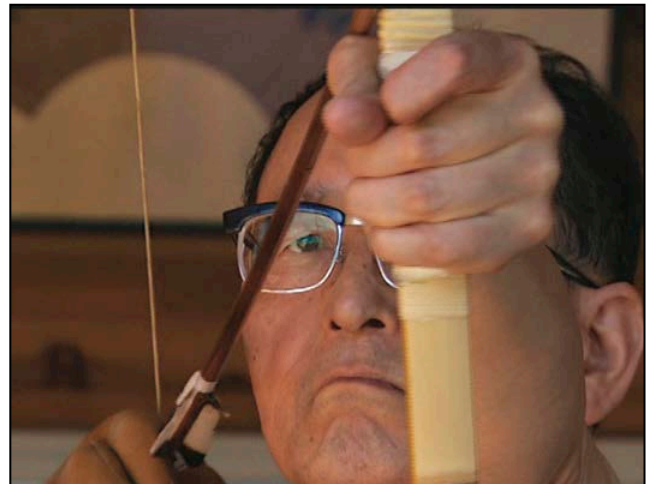
Emperor's Cup - Entrance

What I personally find most interesting are the interviews with the Japanese Hanshi where they explain the aim of Kyudo-practice. The name of the film, *Mato no Muko* means "beyond the target". What is really the ultimate purpose of Kyudo-training? This is for example admirably explained in the interviews with Ego sensei, Yoshimoto sensei and Okazaki sensei.



Okazaki sensei

We must not only look at the surface but have to search for what lies beyond the ordinary mind. It is also interesting to hear what some westerners have to say about competition and other issues.



Yoshimoto sensei

Without going into further details, I can strongly recommend Erick's film to every Kyudojin, both beginners and advanced practitioners. I have shown it to people who don't know anything about Kyudo and they were really impressed. It is therefore an ideal gift to friends and relatives who really sometimes wonder what we are up to with these strange long bows!! It is really an astonishing work realized with a deep feeling and love for Kyudo. It really has a Kokoro as the Japanese would say. Spending your time and money over many years to accomplish such a work has to be admired. In the end I would like to congratulate our friend Erick Moisy for having brought this important gift to all of us who practice Kyudo. The least we can do in return is to buy a copy of the film.

*Tryggvi Sigurdsson
Kyoshi Nanadan*

*Photos: Mato no Muko
Contact film: erick.moisy@icloud.com*