newsletter

EUROPEAN KYUDO FEDERATION

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Contact:

www.ekf-kyudo.org

Welcome

This is the fifth issue of the EKF-newsletter. The initial idea was to provide information on the kyudo activities and to keep the members updated with news and developments.

Right from the beginning the editors have tried to involve members from different federations adding to the diversity of the publication. By now topics such as the IKYF seminars in Europe, the section on younger member federations or the EKF Shogo Benkyokai have become a regular part of the newsletter. Other reports such as the "News from the Shidoiinkai" will be added as this was one of the wishes at this year's AGM.

In this issue there will be an article on the beginnings of kyudo in Europe and the role of the Japanese masters like Onuma sensei. The president of the American Kyudo Renmei will say a few word on kyudo in the Americas.

Again, I would like to thank everyone who has supported the project of the newsletter so far, particularly those who have contributed to its publication. We look forward to many more.

Gérald Zimmermann
EKF President

Makiwara Sharei – Ite: Shibata Sensei, Kaizoe: Usami Sensei

Opening Ceremony of the Koryu Enbukai 2016 in Amsterdam

Successful IKYF Seminar and Enbukai 2016 in Amsterdam

The 2016 IKYF seminar has been held in Amsterdam, together with an Enbukai on behalf of the 10th year anniversary of the IKYF.

Looking back at the seminar and Shinsa we can say that cooperation within the EKF has been worthwhile. Thanks to the Swiss and the French connection we could use much existing material from those countries: screens and an azuchi for more than 20 mato. This made a difference in all the necessary preparations.

It must be said that organizing a seminar and Shinsa is a big but not an impossible job. The most important aspect is the venue where you build the dojo. And of course, you need a lot of volunteers who also want to participate in the seminars. In our case more than 30 Dutch members volunteered. Also we were very lucky to find that European Shogo and other European Kyudojin were willing to offer their support on Shinsa and Enbukai and to function in different roles; another example of cooperation on EKF level.

Waiting for Shinsa

Organizing an Enbukai is something else. It is a by the ANKF tight regulated event. Lucky for us it was to be a demonstration Enbukai, so the regulations were not as strict as e.g. in Paris. Therefore fewer officials were needed. This put less pressure on especially the participation of kyudojin in the execution of the Enbukai.

Enbukai – Opening Ceremony

What was a complex and time consuming job, especially in the preparation of this all, was the celebration of the 10th anniversary. With the coming of the Her Imperial Highness princess Hisako Takamado everything had to be prepared to the minute, knowing we had to be flexible at the same time. We were of course very honoured that her Imperial Highness came to the anniversary and to Amsterdam. Her coming to the Enbukai made all the efforts very much worthwhile.

Demonstration: Satsuma Heki-Ryu Koshiya Hozonkai

So we had three events in 2 weeks. The organization of this combination of events was rather complex. But during these 2 weeks we met a lot of nice and well behaving participating EKF members. E.g., the employees of Sporthallen-zuid had never met such well behaving and nice people. They said that time after time. It gave us energy to work with and for all these IKyF members. The success of these events is also due to their cooperative behaviour.

Jaap Buitink
Vice-President of the Kyudo Renmei Nederland

Facts & Figures

Enbukai and Seminar Participation
Enbukai Participants: 135 (Kaichu: 5)
C-Seminar (Mudan & Shodan): 194 B-Seminar (Sandan & Yondan): 198 A-Seminar (Godan & Shogo): 103

Shinsa Results

Shodan: 116/116 (100%)	Sandan: 41/103 (40%)	Godan: 6/45 (13%)
Nidan: 70/77 (91%)	Yondan: 22/91 (24%)	Rokudan: 2/11 (18%)
		Renshi: 0/33 (0%)

Fifth EKF Shogo Benkyokai

This weekend seminar was led by Tryggvi Sigurdsson Sensei, Kyoshi Nanadan, supported by six of the other EKF holders of the Kyoshi title.

As another newcomer put it succinctly: "It's a new beginning, like starting at secondary school." An appropriate feeling for those of us newly entitled to take part, and a familiar one in kyudo: the beginner's heart and mind.

The seminar opened under auspiciously blue skies and we were welcomed by Sigurdsson Sensei with a short but profound address about the importance of sincerity in kyudo practice. Gérald Zimmermann, EKF President, then highlighted the doubling in the number of participants since last year's Benkyokai, a positive development for kyudo in Europe. Claude Luzet Sensei, Shidosha at Noisiel and our host for this event, told us this was the second most important event for the dojo since its inauguration attended by Princess Takamado in September 2014.

EKF Shogo Benkyokai 2016

Yawatashi was performed by Sigurdsson Sensei, assisted by Hoff Sensei as Daiichi Kaizoe and Oriou Sensei as Daini Kaizoe. It was a demonstration of the beauty of harmony (Chōwa no Bi) which Liam O'Brien Sensei often referred to when giving feedback on ceremonial shooting: three people evolving together on the Shajo as if they trained in this very place every week together.

After we had performed Hitote Gyosha, Sigurdsson Sensei pointed out that, although it is easy to see mistakes when we watch other people shooting, "the heart of the matter is to make the necessary changes in our own shooting". The sincerity of our practice must include addressing technical difficulties.

Over the weekend, we received instruction on the Tenouchi by Sigurdsson Sensei who said it was currently an obsession of his, we practised Tachi Sharei, of which Zimmermann Sensei said the difficulty resided in keeping the form alive when it can appear static, and Luzet Sensei talked about the importance of the written exam (Gakka). Writing about kyudo is an opportunity to display the same attitude as in any aspect of our practice and can support passing or failure.

Presentations were also given on The Origins of Taihai, and on Renshi no Kokorogamae. Throughout the weekend, that same rich seam was running, which helps us recognise kyudo through the personalities and histories of those who generously share their experience with us. Hoff Sensei went back to the origins of the Raiki Shagi from a longer text by Confucius, and Zimmermann Sensei explored principles such as Shu Ha Ri and Shin Gyo So from ANKF / IKYF materials and instruction he had received. The presentations in their own ways both illuminated the purpose of practice: "Find your centre, then adjust to others", said one; "Self-cultivation, which benefits us as individuals, consequently benefits the society in which we live", said the other.

Teaching through demonstration is what O'Brien Sensei believed in and I hope one day to be able to express the same qualities of dedication, patience and sincerity which were demonstrated that weekend.

Luzet Sensei's hospitality kept us replenished with energy to face ourselves in the Dojo, and allowed us to relax in the evening and get to know each other a little better.

Many participants commented on the value of training with people we have known for years, an opportunity to keep those relationships alive and renewed.

Azuchi and Yamichi – Maku (from right to left):
和 (wa :harmony) – 敬 (kei: respect)

It did rain on the Sunday, but the sky cleared before we left, and we said goodbye to the greenest Yamichi shining brightly under a freshly washed blue sky.

Claude Le Guyader
Renshi Godan, Participant

24 and 25 September 2016
From the National Dojo, Noisiel, France
www.ekf-kyudo.org/event-2016-09.html

Report from the EKF-Shidoiinkai

The second formal meeting of the EKF-Shidoiinkai was held in the Noisiel-Kyudojo on 23rd of September this year. The meeting was organised the day before the beginning of the two days EKF Shogo-Benkyokai.

Seven of the eight EKF-Kyoshi attended the meeting but one could not attend for personal reasons. At the meeting various subjects were discussed, amongst those issues related to the practise and teaching of ANKF-kyudo in Europe, the involvement of members of the Shidoiinkai in IKYF seminars in Europe, both as teachers and eventually examiners and the organization of future seminars in Europe. At the request of the EKF-President, Gérald Zimmermann, the following issues were also discussed:

1. Proposal for the establishment of an arbitration committee with the role of approaching difficulties that might arise in member-federations of the EKF.

It was decided that Charles-Louis Oriou sensei would draft a proposal for guidelines on how to approach this problem with my help for further discussion within the Shidoiinkai.

2. Support and involvement of the shidoiinkai and the EKF at IKYF events in general and also in view of the organisation of the 2017 IKYF seminar in the United Kingdom.

It was decided that the United Kingdom Kyudo Association and the IKYF/ANKF communicate their needs for assistance to EKF/Shidoiinkai and that the EKF would then send out requests for help to its members. A meeting will be held in Tokyo in October with the IKYF to discuss this issue further.

3. Means to finance the cost involved for teachers from the Shidoiinkai at seminars organized by the EKF.

Because the cost involved for the teachers at the Shogo-Benkyokai is considerable, and that the EKF has so far only covered a tiny part of this cost, this issue was discussed at the meeting. It is obviously not acceptable that official teachers from the EKF cover the cost for their travelling and lodging expense at events like the one held in Paris in September. It was therefore decided that the numbers of teachers from the EKF would be limited to two to three Kyoshi but also that their cost should be covered by the EKF. The selection process of the teachers will be decided by the Shidoiinkai.

The methods to finance this cost and the consequences for the EKF membership fee were also discussed. It was agreed that this was not a matter for the Shidoiinkai to deal with but rather the EKF-Board.

These are the important issues discussed at our meeting in Paris. The establishment of the Shidoiinkai marks in my view an important milestone in the development of the EKF. The involvement of the most experienced and highest graded kyudojin in Europe in matters related to the further development of kyudo in Europe is indeed important. I want to use this opportunity that thank my fellow members of the Shidoiinkai for their generous contribution the very successful running of the Benkyokai in Paris and the functionning of the Shidoiinkai.

Tryggvi Sigurdsson
Kyoshi Nanadan
Chairman EKF-Shidoiinkai
Noisiel, France, 23 September 2016

EKF Taikai 2017 in Frankfurt Germany

The 2017 European Kyudo competition will take place in Germany, in Frankfurt am Main, FFM. Apart from Kyudo, being the city of money and the European Central Bank, (ECB) Frankfurt has a lot of interesting things to see, www.frankfurt-tourismus.de, that you should see at least once in your life. With its geographical position in the center of Europe it's really easy to reach from everywhere.

A little outside from FFM, the country sports union of Hessen, LSB-Hessen, www.landessportbund-hessen.de, provides the Taikai location and the accommodation facilities. It's easy to be reached by S-Bahn and car from central station and the airport. The date of the competition has been fixed and will be over the weekend in June, 10th and 11th, in 2017. The exact address is: Otto-Fleck-Schneise 4, 60528 Frankfurt, Germany.

The venue: LSB-Hessen, Frankfurt

The sports hall, accommodation and restaurant are all within walking distance so you will not need a car,

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nor even an umbrella. It has place for at least 3 teams in one course.

The Kyudojo Frankfurt, www.kyudo-frankfurt.de, welcomes you in behalf of the German Kyudo Federation, www.kyudo.de, DKyuB, and organizes the Taikai and the accommodations for you. It was founded in the early eighties and has grown to one of the largest dojos in Germany and the largest one in the state of Hessen. Close to 100 members between 11 and 65 years, about a third of which are female, practice Kyudo regularly. The club is very successful in national German competition, this year again it won the fourth time continually the German Team Championship.

Hope you are all doing well and have good progress in your Kyudo practice.

Michael Perschke
Vice President for Competition
German Kyudo Federation

EKF-Taikai

The first EKF-Taikai took place in Hamburg in 1989. At that time the event was an individual taikai only. A few years later, the intercity-taikai was added where teams of cities competed against each other. The current mode with a maximum of two teams of three archers per country has been in existence since 2000. The finalists for the individual taikai will be selected from the 20 highest individual scores in the team event.

2015 - Moscow, Russia
2013 - Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2011 - Vienna, Austria
2008 - Stockholm, Sweden
2006 - Cornaredo, Italy
2004 - Hannover, Germany
2002 - Basel, Switzerland
2000 - Paris, France
1997 - Leiden, The Netherlands
1995 - Munich, Germany
1993 - Porvoo, Finland
1991 - St. Laurent-du-Pape, France
1989 - Hamburg, Germany

IKYF European Seminar 2017

The IKYF European Seminars 2017 will be held in Telford near Birmingham, Great Britain. This will be the sixth time the United Kingdom Kyudo Association has hosted the European Kyudo Seminars.

Previous seminars took place either in a national sports centre (Lilleshall in 2013) or at university campuses (Loughborough in 2008 and Canterbury in 1996 and 1997). With the trend of increasing numbers of participants and due to the fact that the national sports centres and university campuses will not be available next year, UKKA has resorted to the international centre in Telford.

The venue is centrally located in the heart of the Midlands and easily reachable via Manchester or Birmingham airports.
Link: http://www.theinternationalcentretelford.com/

The facility will provide a hall that is large enough for four shajo. There are three large hotels onsite to guarantee suitable accommodation. UKKA has made provisional bookings of the Telford Exhibition Centre from 10th until 25th of July. The IKYF/ANKF will discuss and decide on the programme and the sequence of the seminars when they meet with the local organisers in Tokyo in October. More details and information will be provided to the EKF members in November.

Ironbridge Gorge near Telford

Once again the EKF/IKYF Seminars offer a unique opportunity for participants to develop their practice of kyudo. Members of the United Kingdom Kyudo Federation will work hard to offer the best possible facilities for the practice of kyudo. But such an event is not possible without collective effort of many people. UKKA will be looking not only for interpreters like the hosting federation in 2016, also other tasks will need the cooperation and the support of the EKF member countries.

UKKA is looking forward to welcoming participants to the IKYF seminars from all over Europe in 2017.

Ray Dolphin
Chairman
United Kingdom Kyudo Association

New EKF Members: History of Kyudo in Poland

First documented Kyudo presentations in Poland had been done in the middle of 1990's. After that in 1999 first group of five people started regular Kyudo practice. At the same time one of foreign students from Poland started practicing Kyudo as a member of Kyudo club of Miyazaki University under Sensei Shigenobu Kazuyuki, Kyoshi Nanadan from Miyakonojo.

In 2001 thanks to a support from Sawada Kinichi sensei, now Hanshi Hachidan the first kyudojin from Poland passed his shodan exam in Japan. Meanwhile in Poland more and more people started to express their interest in Kyudo. Informal groups started their practice thanks to their private contacts with Japanese or European Kyudojin.

In 2007, an event of Japan Week has been held in Warsaw. On this occasion a group of five Hanshi made a Kyudo presentation in Torwar, one of the most famous sport venues in Poland.

The first attempts to create formal Kyudo groups in Poland were done in 2008. It resulted in raising of three Kyudo clubs: in Wroclaw (Wrocław Kyudo Association), in Pabianice (Kai Kyudo Club) and in Warsaw (Tametomo Kyudo Club). All three groups exist until now and number of their members is continually growing.

National Taikai 2016

Starting in 2008, thanks to support from Austria's Diethard Leopold and Christian Offenbauer, a workshops are been held every year, with participants mainly from Poland and from Czech Republic. Polish participants have also been attending seminars and tournaments held in Vienna. Also in 2008 first polish participant attended EKF Seminar in United Kingdom. From that time on number of participants has been growing and last year in Magglingen 16 of us were taking part in seminars and shinsa.

Polish team has been representing Poland during First Sekai Kyudo Taikai in 2010 in Tokyo. Following year we were also participating in European Championship in Vienna.

In 2012, members of all three kyudo clubs decided to raise a Polish Kyudo Association (PSK) as a representative body of kyudo community in Poland with headquarters located in Warsaw. Currently, nine female and 16 male members of our national association have their dan grades, with four persons graded yondan, four persons graded sandan, seven persons graded nidan and 10 persons graded shodan.
In 2015, number of kyudo clubs raised to five with Poznan and Cracow as the new locations. Total number of practitioners exceeded 60.

Also in 2015, Poland, represented by PSK became a member of European Kyudo Federation

Other activities financed by a non-profit foundation supported a workshop with the Ogasawara school for etiquette and a seminar lead by Heki Ryu Insai Ha instructor.

2016 is a time for Wroclaw to be a European Capitol of Culture. With support from EU-Japan Fest Japan Committee, PSK had an honour to guest two Hanshis for Kyudo Presentation held in Wroclaw on 24th September. Hanshi Hachidan Toba Hisayuki and Hanshi Hachidan Sawada Kinichi performed Hitotsu Mato Sharei during Budo Matsuri organized by Nami Foundation from Wroclaw. For Toba Sensei this was a second occasion to visit our country after presentation in Warsaw in 2007.

Seminar with Sawada Sensei and Toba Sensei

This kind of activities motivates members of our Kyudo society to work on their self-development. We become more and more a team unified by an idea of spreading Kyudo as a way of life in our country.

Lately, four of us have completed a course and got national licenses of archery instructor, issued by Polish Ministry of Sport. As a part of our future plans we consider teaching Kyudo as one of the aspects of archery for example at schools or at the universities.

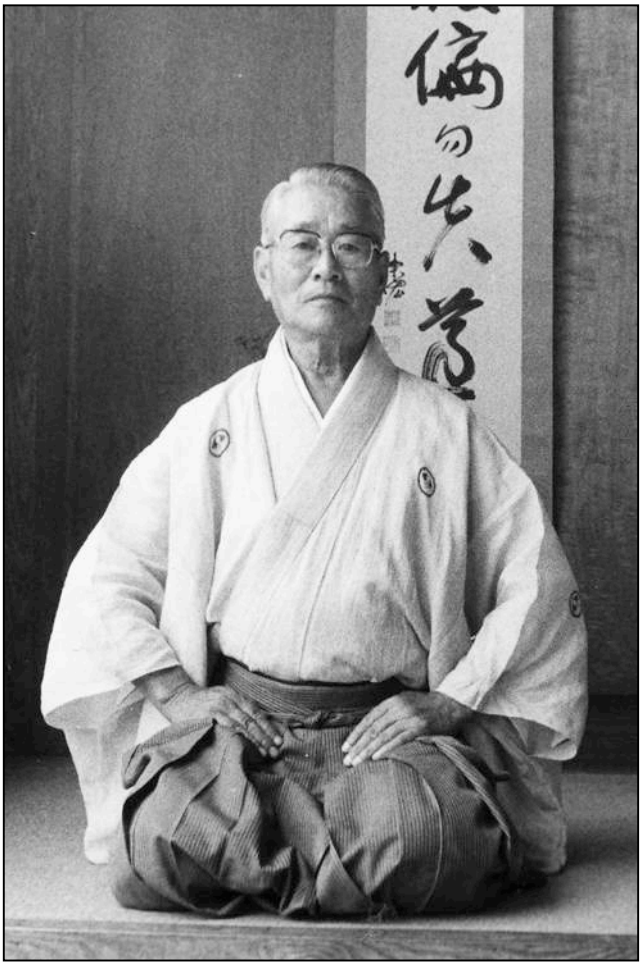
Michal Mazurek
Presiden,
Polish Kyudo Federation

The Early Development of Kyudo in Europe

In the last issue I read with interest the article about the formation of the European Kyudo Federation in 1980.

I am very proud to have been a part of this process and to have seen the organisation grow and develop over the years. However, as with most organisations, it was built on existing structures and the previous work of individuals. In fact, a European Kyudo association was formed as early as 1970 consisting of the national organisations of France, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Due to the expansion of Kyudo in Europe, it was disbanded in 1980 to make way for the current EKF.

It is important to mention this early part of our history in order to highlight the work of a very significant influence.



Onuma Sensei in his dojo

Onuma Hideharu, Hanshi Kudan was the ANKF foreign representative during this period and attended the inauguration in London. He was particularly suited to the role being an accomplished English speaker, an excellent communicator and a person who believed passionately in the value of Kyudo for everybody, regardless of nationality. Besides being an expert practitioner, immersed in the traditions of Kyudo, he was a wonderfully broad minded and rounded human being with a great love for all aspects of life.

Onuma sensei in kai

Born in Tokyo in 1910 Onuma Sensei began Kyudo at the age of seven. During his life he became the 15th Grand Master of the Heki Ryu Sekka Ha, studied ceremonial shooting with the Ogasawara Ryu, and after World War Two introduced Western Archery to Japan becoming an expert in that field. In later life he became one of the foremost ANKF teachers. He passed away in 1990. His legacy is preserved by his daughter Mrs Tsutako Onuma, president of Asahi Archery in Tokyo.

From the late 1960's through to the 1980's Onuma sensei made many visits to Europe. He also welcomed and supported visitors to Japan of whom I was one. I started Kyudo in the UK in 1969 and studied in Japan from 1972 to 1975. He was a major influence on many people in the early days and I would like to feel that any record of the development of Kyudo in Europe should acknowledge the debt we owe him.

Mike Cundy
Renshi Godan

Up-coming events

2017/06: EKF Taikai 2017 in Frankfurt, Germany
2017/06: EKF AGM in Frankfurt, Germany (before the EKF Taikai)
2017/07: IKYF 2016 European Seminars in Great Britain (tbc)
2017/09: EKF Shogo Benkyokai (tbc)

Letter From America

Dear Friends of the International Kyudo Community,

Autumn greetings from the American Kyudo Renmei. As incoming President of the AKR, I am following the path of my predecessors, and will strive to continue the nurturing of kyudo in the Americas. I am greatly assisted in this endeavor by the other incoming officers of the AKR, Carly Born sensei (AKR Vice President, President of the Minnesota Kyudo Renmei), Jeremy Cail (AKR Secretary, member of the Southern California Kyudo Renmei), and David Barootian (AKR Treasurer, member of the Southern California Kyudo Renmei).

Hayashi Fumio Sensei

All of us in the incoming AKR Office are deeply indebted to the leadership and legacy of the outgoing officers, Yoshiko Buchanan sensei who is stepping down after 6 years as AKR President, Tomio Kato sensei, former AKR Vice President, Jannette Curran, former AKR Secretary, and Andrew Platzer, former AKR Treasurer. Our sincere gratitude to all of you for your years of service.

Kubota Kiyoshi Sensei *Ogura Masaki Sensei*

Kyudo in the Americas is vibrant and strong, with two Renmei (USA and Canada) and affiliated kyudo groups in several countries of the Americas. Three affiliate countries are formally mentored by the AKR, including kyudo groups in Mexico, mentored by Aaron Blackwell sensei, Brazil, mentored by Yoshiko

Enteki Practice

Buchanan sensei, and Argentina, mentored by Tomio Kato sensei. Kyudo is also growing in several other Pan American countries, including Chile, Panama, Paraguay, and Uruguay. The AKR maintains contact with kyudo groups in all of these countries, and we welcome participation from all at the IKYF American Kyudo Seminars.

American Kyudo Seminar 2016

In July 2016, the IKYF American Kyudo Seminar was held in Northfield, Minnesota, hosted graciously by the Minnesota Kyudo Renmei. We were fortunate to receive excellent instruction from Hayashi Fumio hanshi, Kubota Kiyoshi hanshi, and Ogura Masaki hanshi. Students attended from several countries of the Americas, as well as Austria and France. For the first time at an American seminar, a special Enteki practice was held, on a gorgeous and sunny day in the verdant fields overlooking the wind turbine of Carleton College. The comradery formed at the Enteki practice set the stage for a most enjoyable 3-day seminar, followed by a day of testing. The seminar days are short and evenings are few, but we also found time for the AKR Taikai and a group banquet for socializing with kyudo friends from near and far.

Sincere regards to all of you
Maria Peterson, AKR President

www.kyudousa.com
Photos courtesy of Daniel Kim