

Kendo Bu Strategy Statement - 2010

The BKA constitution states:

"The objectives of the Association shall be to foster and develop the practise and spirit of Kendo, Iaido and Jodo on traditional lines; to organise, regulate and promote Kendo, Iaido and Jodo on a National and International basis; to represent the United Kingdom in Kendo, Iaido and Jodo internationally; to regulate the promotion of members to higher degrees."

To achieve the objectives laid out in the constitution the Kendo Bu organizes the following events:

- Gradings
- Seminars designed to improve the skill of members
- National taikai
- A national squad that represents Great Britain at international taikai

A new initiative for 2010 is for the Event support fund created to encourage dojos to organize local events attended by members from other dojos and new or existing national events; which at the moment is budgeted as a lump sum.

The Bu is committed to keeping members informed and this process includes maintaining an up to-date calender of events, delivering a budget for the next year and reporting details on how member's money is spent.

Grading

The Bu seeks to ensure that those who have applied to take a grading have the best chance of succeeding. The seminars held the day or morning before a grading are intended to both help those who are grading polish their skills and be a learning experience for those who are not grading. Depending on the number of attendees these seminars may make a small loss or profit. These seminars are seen as a service to members, not a source of income.

For members convenience (i.e., reducing travel costs and scheduling clashes with non-Kendo activities) the Bu aims to organize gradings at disparate locations throughout the country and times throughout the year.

For many years our senior grades have tirelessly traveled the country sitting on grading panels (there were four gradings in 2009 at nidan and above). It is time for our 5th and 4th dans to take on some of this work. It would be a large step for godan to start grading applicants to sandan, but we plan to offer training and practical experience for those godan interested in doing so, to eventually be able to grade candidates to sandan.

Ikkyu and shodan grading applications make up over 60% of all grading applicants. In 2010 we plan to have at least two grading panels predominantly staffed by fifth dans.

From 2010 the Bu will maintain a list of EKF approved Grading panel candidates.

Kendo growth seminars

BKA seminars

- **Japanese sensei Seminars:** Senior Japanese sensei provide essential input to the development of Kendo in the UK at all levels. In particular dojo leaders need to acquire as many points of reference for techniques, styles and mental attitudes that they can. Inexperienced kendoka are likely to enjoy the experience and they also get to practice with a variety of sensei.
- **Intensive Training:** The path to stronger Kendo requires regular intensive training. To help members grow stronger monthly training sessions, over a weekend, have been planned. These are open to all members and regular attendees at these intensive training sessions are intended to form the pool from which members of the GB squad can be drawn to compete at international events. The sessions will be run by the GB squad coach and organized by the squad manager.
- **UK sensei Seminars:** The BKA membership includes five 7th dan and three 6th dan. Dojos will be encouraged to organize local seminars that are taught by one of these sensei. Dojos may apply for sponsorship from the Event support budget to help with the financing of such events.

Refereeing seminars

Refereeing a shiai requires knowledge and experience and s. Some of this knowledge is available in books and some is can only be obtained through senior grade instruction. The refereeing seminars provide a forum for gaining knowledge and acquiring experience of both refereeing and shiai techniques. Teachers may also choose to discuss shiai techniques during the seminar.

A command of refereeing skills also helps members who have an active interest in taikai.

A refereeing section will be set up to promote refereeing skills and provide a point of contact for those interested in refereeing.

Within the BKA there is one member qualified as an international referee and two as European referees. To encourage additional members to reach this level of proficiency the Bu offers to make a contribution towards the expenses of the Brussels refereeing seminar.

Educational events

Running a dojo involves various non-Kendo activities and the Bu aims to support these, in particular coaching (the financial responsibility of the NC) and first-aid by assisting with teachers and making contact with the appropriate course organizers.

Dojo events

The Kendo Bu has approximately 1,000 members and yet there are only around 200 places available on BKA non-grading seminars. This gap between membership numbers and seminar places can only be filled if dojos host events.

The Bu wants to encourage dojos to organize their own seminars, taught by either senior BKA members or senior kendoka from other countries, and an event support fund has been created to

help dojos finance the running of an event. To show that the Bu are completely open to proposals the budget does not give any breakdown for how the Event fund might be spent, it is listed as a single amount. Experience gained this year will enable us to identify growth areas for 2011 and to perhaps provide a more detailed breakdown next year.

Applications for funding have to be accompanied by a budget outlining the expected incoming and outgoing expenditure. The Kendo Bu will decide which events receive funding.

National taikai

Shiai is part of Kendo and the British Open is the GB national taikai. The Bowden and Premier Cup are BKA organized taikai through historical precedent.

British squad

The performance of the squad at international taikai is an important face seen by the rest of the world. We need the best we can get to represent at European and World Championships.

The BKA Kendo Team is selected from those members attending Intensive Training sessions which are open to all members. Selection is made by the Team Manager in conjunction with the Team Coach.

Informative Annex

Where does our money come from?

The income for the Kendo Bu comes mostly from membership and grading fees (this differs from other Bu whose income primarily comes from surpluses generated by seminars).

Membership fee

The BKA has moved to an accounting system that ring-fences the financial dealings of each of the Kendo, Iai and Jodo bu. This ring fencing raises the question of how the BKA membership fee is to be apportioned. After much discussion it was decided that each Bu and the National Committee would set their own membership fees.

Within the Kendo Bu 86% of members practice Kendo only and we decided to set a Bu membership fee which would result in the total BKA fee paid by these people remaining unchanged at £50. We expected the NC to set its fee at £23 (however, this was changed at the last minute to £27) and a Kendo Bu membership fee of £27 was chosen.

Gradings

Gradings are a source of income through application and menjo fees; just under £5,000 after running costs are taken into account.