

Kendo na hÉireann
Annual General Meeting
Sunday 25th November 2018

Agenda

- Appointment of meeting chair
- Annual Report
- Financial Report
- Election of Officers
- Appointment of Non-Executive Officers
 - Anti-doping Officer
 - Child-protection Officer
 - Coaching Officer
- Update on affiliate activities
- Constitution review
- Events and Dates for the year (including setting date of 2019 AGM)
- Possibility of running an international Kendo competition
- Financial support and sponsorship opportunities
- Media strategy
- Discussion of plans for future of WKC
- Any other business

Nominees

- President: Jason Clouston
- Vice-president: Raul Fernandez
- Treasurer: Martin Kiosew
- Secretary: Kathryn Cassidy
- Anti-doping Officer: Lionel Clause
- Child-protection Officer: Oscar Breathnach
- Coaching Officer: Martin Kiosew

Quorum

There were 29 members present representing three dojos and the meeting was quorate.

Appointment of meeting chair

Kathryn Cassidy was appointed meeting chair.

Annual Report

Kathryn delivered the annual report which is attached in Appendix A. The report highlighted some of the successful events and activities of the past year, including national events, national squad activities, our first attendance at a large junior taikai and some fundraising activities.

The Annual Report was accepted with a unanimous vote.

Financial Report

Martin reported that the federation's finances are in a stable situation. The main expense this period was the National Kendo Squad. The squad had received sponsorship from Adrian's company, and Martin thanked Adrian for this. The laido squad also received some financial support this year.

The membership currently stands at 80 members, and it is hoped that the introduction of an electronic membership form might make it easier for members to register and thus allow us to keep more accurate membership records.

This year the Autumn seminar was free for participants as was the INC. The latter was possible through the generous support of the Embassy of Japan in Ireland.

The Financial Report was accepted with a unanimous vote.

Election of Officers

The following officers were returned with a unanimous vote:

President: Jason Clouston

Vice-President: Raul Fernandez

Treasurer: Martin Kiosew

Secretary: Kathryn Cassidy

Appointment of Non-Executive Officers

The following non-executive officers were appointed:

Anti-doping Officer: Lionel Clause

Child-protection Officer: Oscar Breathnach

Coaching Officer: Martin Kiosew

Update on affiliate activities

Kathryn gave an overview of the activities of IMAC, the EKF and FIK.

We still have some equipment from the last Sports Capital Grant which clubs are welcome to take. Under the terms of the Sports Capital Grant this equipment remains the property of IMAC, but if any club wants to obtain some of the equipment they can email secretary@irishkendofederation.org and let us know what you need. The defibrillator will remain in KnhÉ possession, but all other equipment is available to the clubs.

Kathryn reminded all members who intended to grade at events in Europe that a new grading registration system had been put in place by the EKF. Under the new system, the National Federation must register you via the EKF website and this will also serve as your permission to grade. Even if the local organisers have a registration form for grading, the EKF registration must be completed or you risk your grade not being recognised by the EKF. She asked anyone intending to grade to contact her in good time to allow her to complete the registration.

Constitution review progress to date

Kathryn reminded members of the ongoing effort to review the constitution. New volunteers were requested, in particular anyone with a legal background.

Events and Dates for the year (including setting date of 2019 AGM)

Tashiro sensei's visit is provisionally set for mid February, putting the seminar probably on the weekend of 16th - 17th, but this is to be confirmed by sensei

March | April National Iaido Seminar & Grading

May 24th - 26th European Kendo Championships

Sunday 9th June INC

September 14 - 16: EJC in Zawiercie, Poland

October 5 - 6: Proposed dates for Kihon Autumn Seminar & Grading, to be confirmed with sensei

October EIC, location and dates to be confirmed

Mid October Belgrade Cup

December 1st weekend AGM

Other unconfirmed events

IMAC Level 1 Coaching course

1st aid course

Disability Training

Kendo Squad training

Iaido Squad training

It was confirmed that the INC would take place on 10th June as usual (the weekend after the June bank holiday) and that the AGM would be on the first weekend of December.

Possibility of running an international Kendo competition

The possibility of running an international Kendo competition was discussed. It was agreed that it would be a good idea and that the federation would support any club who wanted to run one. It was not considered a priority at the moment for the federation, however.

Financial support and sponsorship opportunities

This year a number of fundraising events, including corporate events and crowdfunding were used to help fund the National Squad. It was suggested that this be continued in future and members were encouraged to look for other opportunities.

Media strategy

In light of some successful TV and press coverage this year there was a discussion on how we could make more successful use of media and social media. Volunteers were requested to help with the various social media outlets, including Instagram. Batman O'Brien has agreed to write additional articles for Irish Fighter magazine.

Discussion of plans for future of WKC

As mentioned in the affiliate report, there WKC is likely to change format in the coming years as it is at capacity for a three-day event. Various possibilities have been suggested in terms

of how it can increase further, e.g. adding an extra day, reducing the number of individual competitors per country, adding additional Shiaijo, eliminating pools, etc. A discussion ensued and most people seemed to favour seeing a four-day event. The board confirmed that if feedback is requested on future proposals that they will indicate that the Irish preference is for a four-day event.

Any other business

None

Appendix A

KnhÉ 2018 Annual Report

We have had another busy and successful year.

National Kendo Squad members participated in a number of international competitions in the run-up to the 17th WKC, including the Ijima and London Cups. We were also able to travel with a group of seven juniors from two different Irish dojos to the Ko Jika Junior taikai in Ghent, Belgium. As far as I am aware this was the largest junior delegation we have had at an event abroad, and we hope it that it will be the first of many.

Of course we had the WKC in Korea and a delegation of eleven competitors, officials and supporters travelled and participated in the event. This year we also participated in the European Iaido Championships in Zawiercie Poland, as well as sending our first ever delegation to the European Jodo Championships. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Gavin O'Reilly who took home a Fighting Spirit award at the EJC, and also to say thank you to all who are working so hard to ensure that Ireland is represented at the highest level in all three arts.

As a new idea, we ran a couple of fundraising events this year. These were corporate Samurai Sports and Social events with the firms Axa Travel Insurance and Waterman Moylan. We asked members of the national squads to participate and they turned out to be very successful events raising a lot of money which we used to fund some of the National Squads' expenses. This is the most successful fundraising activity that we have ever undertaken and we hope to do the same next year and in the future.

The Juniors also arranged their own GoFundMe campaign to cover the cost of their travel and accommodation at the Ko Jika Junior Taikai.

We continued to participate in demonstrations. We were at the Holiday World Show in January and we got some TV coverage out of that, with a very exciting live Kendo Demonstration on TV3. We also took part in a workshop for teens with autism, this was part of an IMAC programme where the kids did a different martial art each week and it was very successful. We again participated at the Experience Japan event. You may be aware of an incident that occurred in the run-up to the demonstration involving threats to disrupt the Kendo demonstration. As a result the Kendo demonstration was cancelled and we showed just Iaido and Jodo. It is extremely disappointing to see this sort of behaviour, which is contrary to all the principles of Budo to which we aspire. Disciplinary action did follow for the individual involved and I want to make it very clear that such behaviour will not be tolerated in the future.

In other news, we ran several events this year. We held the Irish National Kendo Championships in June in Cork. We also had the Tashiro sensei seminar in February in Galway, and the Autumn seminar with Delepière sensei in October. Young Park visited for the St. Patrick's weekend and we had a great practice with him and we also had visits from several other international kendoka.

We ran Squad training sessions for Kendo and Iaido, and I would like to remind you that these are open to all so please don't be shy about attending, even if you don't intend to try out for the National Squad. We also ran the Support Our Kids Japan social event again in July and, as always, that was a great success.

There was some sad news this year, Geert van Dort from Belgium, a good friend of Irish Kendo who visited us in 2016 passed away early this year. We were also very saddened to hear of the recent passing of Geoff Salmon sensei from the UK. Salmon sensei was a great supporter of Irish Kendo and visited here for many years and he will be sorely missed.

In terms of gradings we had a Kendo grading to 2nd Dan at the Autumn Seminar. We were also able to run an Iaido Kyu grading earlier in the year, and we provided support for Galway Kendo Club to run their own Kendo Kyu grading recently. We have not run as many gradings as we would like, as the year has been so busy.

In terms of memberships, we were hoping to have Cavan dojo as a member, but only one person from the Dojo joined. It is hoped that more members will join in the next year and it was pointed out that there could be an issue with the clubs continued membership and insurance if this does not happen.

There was an approach from another Dojo which ran into some problems as the individual involved was not willing to complete courses or Garda vetting. An accommodation was agreed upon whereby the courses and requirements would be completed before the dojo would be affiliated and this is still in progress.

I would like to end by congratulating our President Jason Clouston for passing his 5th Dan examination at the ABKF Summer Seminar. Later on you will have the opportunity to have a celebratory keiko with Jason.

Appendix B

Update on Parent & Affiliated Organisations

EKF & FIK

- There is to be a gradual increase in FIK fees over the next three years, 6% this year and 5% for each of the following two years. As a small organisation, our fee is still going to be fairly low, and we don't anticipate that there would be any additional cost for our members.
- Sport Accord has changed its name to GAISF (Global Association of International Sports Federations)
- Some changes to the FIK RTP (Registered Testing Pool) rules, but these do not affect us. However, countries are urged to conduct their own tests. Anti-doping tests will be carried out at the 2019 EKC. We can request tests through IMAC, but they are expensive and we don't believe they are necessary at the present time.
- Changes to Iaido grading rules, new EKF rules will be ratified at the 2019 GA.
- Jean-Pierre Labru was voted in as Technical Director of the EKF
- New EKF DB - dan gradings abroad registration must be done by national Secretary. Please remember to inform me in good time if you intend to grade abroad.
- Changes to the EKF Referee Seminar make it less likely that we will have fighters accepted for the seminar. We may send referees of 5th Dan and above. Those attending for grading only will now have a separate practice hall.
- EKF has selected four areas for increased investment in the coming year, these are bringing Japanese fighters to the EKF Referee Seminar, Running a Women's Seminar, Lifetime Kendo and Juniors.
- The EKF runs a number of High Level European Zone Seminars and they are looking for volunteer countries to host.
- EKC is at capacity for a three-day event, there are various possibilities in terms of how it can increase further, e.g. adding an extra day, reducing the number of individual competitors per country, adding additional Shiaijo, eliminating pools, etc.
- New version of the Regulations of Kendo Shiai and Shinpan.

IMAC

- Sports Capital Grant we have put in for more shinai, we still have some equipment including shinai, bokuto and kote if any clubs need them.
- New IMAC Disability Awareness & Inclusion Training
- Spectrum Programme
- Advertising brochure
- National Vetting
- Courses

Upcoming EKF / FIK events

Year	Dates	Event	Location
2019	May 24th - 26th	29th EKC	Belgrade, Serbia
	September	18th EJC	Zawiercie, Poland
	October	26th EIC	Greece
2020		30th EKC	Kristiansand, Norway
	September	19th EJC	Stevenage, UK
	October	27th EIC	Belgrade, Serbia
2021		18th WKC	France
2022		31st EKC	Italy
2023		32nd EKC	Ukraine
2025		33rd EKC	Portugal