

# **Kendo na hÉireann**

## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

### **Sunday 3th December 2017**

#### **Attendees**

In accordance with the quorum requirements laid out in the constitution the meeting was quorate by having half of all clubs represented. It was noted that as Cavan are joining from 2018 we will have to ensure that we get a larger turnout in order to be quorate in future.

#### **Appointment of meeting chair**

Kathryn Cassidy was appointed meeting chair.

#### **Annual Report**

Kathryn delivered the annual report. The report highlighted some of the successful events and activities of the past year. These included visits by Tashiro sensei (8th Dan Kyoshi), Castelli sensei (7th Dan Kyoshi), Goodman sensei (7th Dan Kyoshi) and Delepière sensei (7th Dan Renshi), as well as various other national events.

She confirmed that we have received a membership form from the leader of the new Cavan dojo, who had not joined or been in contact since their original participation in the 2016 Tashiro sensei seminar. There has also been a number of additional contacts about starting new dojos, and that there was a proposal on the agenda to review the requirements for starting clubs. Jason added although that they had had initial contact from an laido club in Cork, they had not heard anything from them subsequently.

Martin added that the Galway dojo had moved location from their Moycullen dojo to a new hall in the city centre, and had as a result seen an increase in membership.

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

In addition the post of equipment officer was proposed and was filled by Adrian Moloney.

### **Introduction of new online membership forms**

Martin explained that for 2018 a new electronic membership form would be introduced. This would be created using the DojoExpert management software. All members and clubs are asked to use this new form in future. It is hoped that this will make it easier to manage the membership and to keep up-to-date records of current members.

The current membership fees and in particular the temporary membership category were also discussed. The current system of a 3 month temporary membership is not working. Clubs are failing to forward the membership forms or the 20 euro fee for new beginners to the federation. Even where forms and fees are forwarded, the upgrade after the expiry of the 3-month temporary membership period is not being done. This means not only a loss of potential revenue for the federation, but a lack of accurate records for current members. Were an issue to arise in terms of our insurance this could cause a problem. It was hoped that the new online membership form might help with this.

Jason proposed that temporary membership be removed, but a counter proposal was that the 20 euro fee be maintained for beginners joining after 1st October. Before October beginners should pay 60 euro for membership. Kathryn proposed that the membership fees be left as they are until the impact of the new online membership forms can be assessed. If the process for managing temporary members is made easier with online forms then it can be continued, otherwise it can be reviewed at next year's AGM.

### **Update on IMAC activities and distribution of Sports Capital Grant equipment**

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

It was noted that Andorra was expelled from the EKF at the 2017 General Assembly. Members were advised to be aware that this meant they could not grade in Andorra. She also 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.

Under the IMAC Sports Capital Grant we received the following equipment:

20 pairs of Kote

20 Shinai

20 Bokuto

6 pairs of knee-pads

1 Defibrillator

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](mailto: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.

Several other IMAC initiatives were outlined and it was agreed that KnhÉ might be interested in hosting an IMAC Disability Awareness & Inclusion Training session for our coaches.

### **Change to Kendo na hÉireann policy for new dojos minimum dan**

Kathryn explained again that we had had some queries from people about forming new clubs. Some have come from individuals who have not been training for several years and some from individuals who claim to be former members of the National Federations of other countries, but on contacting these federations we were told that they had no record of these individuals.

It was agreed that the general policy should be that people should be actively training before setting up new dojos. The following change to the wording of the Policy for new Dojos was proposed:

That section "3.1 Grades" should be rewritten from "The leader(s) of the proposed new dojo should in principle hold at least 1st Dan grade in their art" to "The leader(s) of the proposed new dojo should in principle hold the grade of 3rd Dan and be active within Kendo na hÉireann". Subsequent references to 1st Dan should also be updated.

This proposal was passed with one vote against.

### **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.

### **Overview of General Data Protection Regulation implications for clubs**

Kathryn gave an overview of the upcoming General Data Protection Regulation which will come into force in 2018. She stressed that this will require clubs and the Federation to be

more careful about the kinds of personal data that they store about their members. She proposed that in order to ensure that we only collect adequate and not excessive information, Kendo na hÉireann would remove the section on health from the membership form. Oscar pointed out that the clubs may need to know this information so it was agreed that clubs should, at their own discretion, continue to collect this information as necessary.

She encouraged all clubs to conduct an audit of the information they store about their members and proposed that the Federation would send out some guidelines on this to all clubs.

### Events and Dates for the year (including setting date of 2018 AGM)

Dates for the major upcoming international events are as follows:

#### European and World Championships

Year	Dates	Event	Location
2018	September 14th - 16th	17th WKC	Incheon, Korea
		17th EJC	Budapest, Hungary
	October 26th - 28th (provisional)	25th EIC	Zawiercie, Poland
2019		18th EJC	Zawiercie, Poland
	Mid May	29th EKC	Belgrade, Serbia
		26th EIC	Macedonia
2020		30th EKC	Kristiansand, Norway
2021		18th WKC	Hungary   Canada   France
2022		31st EKC	Italy   Ukraine
2023		32nd EKC	Portugal

#### Irish Events

Tashiro sensei's visit is provisionally set for February 15th - 21st which would put the seminar on the weekend of 17th - 18th. TBC by sensei.

It was confirmed that the INC would take place on 10th June as usual (the weekend after the June bank holiday).

October 6 - 7 was proposed as the date for the KnhÉ Autumn Seminar & Grading

25th November was set as the date for the 2018 Kendo na hÉireann AGM

In addition there will be a coaching course, and if IMAC agree possibly the Disability Inclusion Training which will be scheduled during the year.

Some squad training dates are already known and more will be announced during the year.

**Any other business**

None

## **KnhÉ 2017 Annual Report**

We have had another busy and successful year. Aside from our regular trainings at our dojos, we have had something going on most months this year. We had Kendo and laido Squad training sessions running on an ongoing basis throughout much of the year. These sessions are all open (for Kendo you should be in bogu) and I would really like to encourage people to attend.

Tashiro sensei (8th dan Kyoshi) visited us again in February, running a very successful seminar and several other training sessions, including one in Cork. We also had visits from three 7th dan sensei during the year, Delepière sensei who is no stranger to Ireland, but also two seminars by women 7th dans Donatella Castelli sensei for Kendo and Fay Goodman sensei for laido.

We were unable to run as many National Kyu grading events as we have in some previous years. I hope that we can increase the number for 2018 and include an laido grading. We also have a number of Jodo practitioners now so we will look into arranging some Jodo events although we might start with informal and club-level events.

As usual we took part in the Experience Japan Festival an Farmleigh. This year we were responsible for demonstrating laido and Kendo, and we also had a short slot on the main stage which we used to give a kendo demonstration by the National Kendo Squad. We also attended Monaghan County Museum's Japan day as part of Culture Night and the celebrations of the 60th Anniversary of Japanese Irish Diplomatic Relations. We ran several laido and Kendo demonstrations throughout the day and the final evening event was completely packed with people all the way down the hallway trying to watch.

We have the Cavan Dojo as a member for the coming year and we are hoping to organise an official visit to train with them very soon. We also have a second group training laido and Jodo in Cork who have applied for membership and who have been joining some of the Cork laido trainings. Unfortunately we don't have any Kendo happening in NUI Galway this year, but overall we can be happy that the number of dojos are increasing, and the number of arts practiced and overall numbers of participants are increasing too.

Our National Squads had great success this year with both the men's Kendo team and the laido team progressing out of their pools in their respective European Championships. The Kendo Squad also travelled to Serbia to participate in the Belgrade Trophy, again getting out of their pool. Our own National Championships were a big success and were attended by the Japanese Ambassador and advertised by the Embassy in their newsletter.

I would like to end by congratulating our Treasurer and National Coach Martin Kiosew for passing his 5th Dan examination in Belgrade in October, and hope that I can look forward to congratulating several more 5th Dans in the coming year.

January	Kendo Squad Training
February	Tashiro Junichi sensei 8th Dan Kyoshi
April	Donatella Castelli sensei 7th Dan Kyoshi Kendo Squad training Experience Japan Festival demonstration
May	European Kendo Championships in Hungary 1st KnhÉ National Iaido Seminar with Fay Goodman sensei 7th Dan Kyoshi
June	Irish National Kendo Championships and Ambassador's Cup
July	Iaido Squad Training
August	Iaido Squad Training
September	KnhÉ Autumn Kendo Seminar with Dany Delepière sensei 7th Dan Renshi Kendo Squad training Iaido Squad training
October	National Squad participated in Belgrade Trophy Iaido Squad training
November	European Iaido Championships in Italy Kendo Squad Training
December	AGM and Christmas event

## GDPR Summary

GDPR comes into effect in May 2018.

What is personal data

Any identifying information, eg. Name, address, etc. Also email address.

Personal data must be:

- Used fairly and lawfully
- Used for limited, specifically stated purposes
- Used in a way that is adequate, relevant and not excessive
- Accurate
- Kept for no longer than is absolutely necessary
- Handled according to people's data protection rights
- Kept safe and secure

Implications for clubs:

- You cannot share personal data with other organisations
- Do not leave printouts with personal data lying around for others to see
- Do not save personal data on a USB drive then lose it
- Be very careful of storing personal data on computers outside Europe which are not subject to GDPR
- Previously only applied to personal data on computers, now to paper records too

Implications for Federation:

- Sensitive information must have extra protection, e.g. medical
- We will no longer request information on medical conditions on membership forms
  - see membership form update later
  - To be honest, we never used that information anyway
- We may have to ask people with medical conditions to identify themselves to first aider at start of events instead
- We might have to ask clubs for numbers of members with disability as we report that to IMAC
  - Aggregated figure only (helps with grants, etc.)