

Kendo na hÉireann AGM

2nd June 2012

Minutes

Attendance

The meeting was quorate with over 30% of membership present and all clubs represented.

The following members were present:

Aaron Kelly	Jason Clouston	Pamela Verona
Adrian Moloney	Karolina Nowak	Patrick McGuire
Africa Monton	Kathryn Cassidy	Raul Fernandez
Agnieszka Lyznicka	Lee Cahill	Sergey Koloskov
Brendan Hickey	MacDara McGuire	Sergio Milani
Daniel Mulcahy	Martin Kiosew	Szymon Gardzielewski
Daniel Sheridan	Michal Glowacki	Tomasz Pawlak
David McGlynn	Michal Walz	Vincent Long
Gerard Bridgeman	Mihailo Lalevic	Yamato Sakaki
Gyula Toth	Natalia Betanska	Zuzanna Koperska
Hannah Keogh	Nina Ruminska	

Nomination of meeting chair

Aaron Kelly was appointed meeting chair.

Annual report

President Jason Clouston gave a report on the activities of the past year and future plans.

Jason said that this has been a very successful year for the federation on several fronts.

He highlighting the success of Ireland at the World Championships and reminded us that this success is due to the efforts of all members, not just those who travelled to Italy, but all those who have trained with them over the years.

He also stressed the success of the new fee structure, which gives the clubs more of a role in collecting membership details and fees. This has worked very well and has, for the first time, given us an accurate picture of the state of kendo in Ireland as well as more healthy finances. He reminded club leaders that the fees and membership forms for next year would again have to be collected and they should be sent to the federation by 1st February 2013.

The emphasis this year has been on running national events in order to close the gap between the dan grades and kyusha in the federation, and Jason indicated that this will continue to be the focus for next year. The federation plans to hold two or three kyu grade seminars and

gradings during the year. We will also organise a shodan grading, perhaps with a foreign sensei, when there are enough members ready for a dan grading.

He concluded with an appeal for support from all members, encouraging those with ideas to get in touch and offer to help out.

Financial Report

Treasurer Martin Kiosew gave a report on the finances of the federation. He echoed Jason's comments about the new fee structure, saying that it was a huge help in administering the federation and gave us accurate figures for the purposes of insurance and EKF/FIK membership. Martin stressed that the new system meant that fees had actually been reduced for members, but it had resulted in the federation having more money overall, with almost double the money we had available this time last year.

He gave a brief summary of the income and expenditure of the federation and indicated that more money would be spent on organising national events such as the kyu grade seminars.

Election of Officers

The following officers were elected unopposed:

- President - Jason Clouston
- Vice-president - Vincent Long
- Treasurer - Martin Kiosew
- Secretary - Kathryn Cassidy

Motions for discussion

1. Policy for new dojos.

Jason voiced a concern that many of the requirements for new dojos are not currently met by the existing dojos.

Gerard was concerned that this document would make it difficult for people to set up new clubs, in particular he was concerned about section 3. Jason stressed that this was not about control, but merely about helping to put new clubs on a solid foundation.

MacDara suggested a trial period, Jason felt that because any new club could be in an uncertain position for a year or more before they became fully established with a strong member base, this might be difficult to implement.

A general point was made that safety has to be made a priority, and many of the requirements relate to this. It was agreed that efforts should be made by the existing dojos to implement the items given as requirements for new dojos.

It was agreed that discussion of this document would be put on hold while the existing dojos become compliant with the recommended requirements. The federation will investigate organising a first aid course to help dojo leaders to get certified. At the same time the document will be reviewed.

2. Coaching Manual

It was agreed that the coaching manual document will be made available on the KnhE website for download by dojos. In addition, the federation will purchase a copy of the AJKF Official Guide for Kendo Instruction for each dojo.

3. Removal of IIGT section of the constitution

Jason explained the financial risk involved in running the IIGT each year, and proposed that the requirement to run in should be removed from the constitution to allow the board to exercise discretion when deciding whether to commit to the expenditure.

Gerard argued that the requirement was put in there for a reason and that it should not be

removed. Jason replied explaining that much of the reason for running it in the past, and what made it attractive to foreign competitors, was the presence of Yanai sensei. Aaron argued that as a business model having a requirement to run a potentially loss-making event made no sense, and Brendan added that it was not giving sufficient return on investment for the federation due to the low numbers of foreign competitors attending in recent years. Adrian pointed out that the INC is a more important event for most Irish kenshi and he would rather see more money spent on this and other national events. Sergey suggested that we organise sponsorship and apply for grants in order to reduce the financial risk in running the IIGT in future. A vote was held with 25 in favour and 9 against. The motion was passed.

4. IMAC membership discussion

Jason reminded dojo leaders to provide details for the IMAC membership as soon as possible.

Any other business

There was no other business.