N E W S

AUSKF NEWSLETTER

LETTEI

Vol. 5 No. 2 December 20, 2002 KENDO

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

2003-2005 OFFICERS:

<u>PRESIDENT:</u> Charlie Tanaka

EXECUTIVE VP: Norman K. Otani, Esq.

<u>VP-PROM & EXAMS:</u> Atsushi Hori

<u>VP-COMPETITION:</u> Yoshiteru Tagawa

<u>VP-EDUCATION:</u> Koki Ariga

TREASURER: Masaharu Makino

SEC-HISTORIAN: Ichiro Murakami

<u>AUDITOR:</u> Dr. Walter Hashimoto

DIRECTORS:
Kazuharu Arima
Daniel Ebihara
Dr. Tsuyoshi Inoshita
Shozo Kato
Shinichi Koike
Maki Miyahara
Mark Uchida
Takeshi Yamaguchi
Tim Yuge

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Report submitted by C. Tanaka.

To the Kenshi of AUSKF:

After serving my first term as your AUSKF President in 2001-2002, it is with great honor that I accept my recent re-election to the 2003-2005 AUSKF Board of Directors and re-election as your AUSKF President.

In addition, I welcome the newly elected 2003-2005 AUSKF Officers and Board of Directors listed in this newsletter, without whom our organization could not function to achieve all of the goals and provide the various programs that are established and approved each year by your AUSKF Officers and Board of Directors.

During the first two-year term of office as AUSKF President in 2001-2002, we saw the AUSKF Membership continue to increase, and through the implementation of fiscally conservative policies the AUSKF treasury and financial reserves have been built up to ensure a solid financial base for AUSKF that can be used for the support of Team USA in 2003 at the 12th WKC, and to achieve additional goals and promote other programs that I hope to put into place during this 2003-2005 term of office..

As I stated in my first official newsletter article two years ago, as your AUSKF President; I pledge to continue building upon the two goals that I set forth at that time:

1. To make our national kendo federation financially stable.

2. To promote the development of Kendo in the United States to be as good as that practiced in Japan, or better.

Lastly, please remember my Kendo philosophy is first, Tadashiku, second, Tanoshiku, and third, Nakayoku. By achieving these three aspects together, I truly believe that the Kendo practiced in the United States will have the potential to be the best in the world.

Best Wishes to All for a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year 2003!

Sincerely,

Charlie Tanaka, AUSKF President 1156 Blackfield Drive Santa Clara, CA. 95051 PH/FAX: (408) 984-0226 e-mail: ktanaka 1115@aol.com

<u>Highlights from the November 9-10, 2002</u> <u>AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Santa</u> <u>Clara, California:</u>

Reported by AUSKF Executive VP Norman K. Otani

The AUSKF Board of Directors met in Santa Clara, California on November 9-10, 2002; as previously approved as a policy of the AUSKF Board of Directors, the HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AUSKF BOARD OF DIRECTORS meetings will be reported within a reasonable time following each meeting via the AUSKF Newsletter.

[Note: This report is being made pending the approval of the minutes of the November 9-10, 2002 AUSKF Board of Directors meeting; the reader is forewarned that this information is

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<u>Highlights of the AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting November 9-10, 2002</u> [continued]:

subject to modification]

I. OLD BUSINESS:

A. 2001-2002 AUSKF Executive VP Dr. Walter Hashimoto reported that due to Supplemental Ballot candidate Noboru Kataoka declining to accept his election as a AUSKF Board of Director, the next candidate receiving sufficient votes was Daniel Ebihara, and he was notified of his election to the AUSKF Board of Directors.

- B. AUSKF VP-Competition Yoshiteru Tagawa reported that due to a mis-spelling in the printing of the Official Tenegui for the 2002 AUSKF Championships, this item was not put on sale; the total number of ordered tenegui will be fairly distributed to the AUSKF Member Federations in quantities based on the size of the federation.
- C. AUSKF VP-Promotion Atsushi Hori reported that he is requesting a volunteer to assist Jean Kodama in the preparation of the English Language Menjo certificates.

As a policy, it was agreed by the AUSKF Board of Directors that a Kendo Rank is *not effective* until the candidate passes both the kendo and the kata portions of the Kendo Promotion Examination.

- D. AUSKF VP-Education Koki Ariga reported that the 2003 AUSKF National Kendo Seminar is proposed to be held in October, 2003, at the Citadel, in Charleston, South Carolina.
- E. AUSKF Iaido Committee Chairman Takeshi Yamaguchi reported that the 2003 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp is proposed to be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- F. After lengthy prior discussions at the previous board of directors meeting; amended two sections of the AUSKF By-Laws [Article IX, Section 3. Election and Term of Office of Directors, and Article XI, Section 2. Election and Term of Officers] to be consistent with the International Kendo Federation ["IKF"]

Constitution: Three-Year Cycle of General Assembly Meetings and Election of Directors. It was believed by the majority of AUSKF Board of Directors that timely prudent action was necessary to correct this matter that has in the past resulted in the IKF making special requests that the AUSKF President remain in office for an additional year to ensure a continuity of leadership for IKF purposes [e.g. 11th WKC Hosted by AUSKF].

As a result of approving to change the aforementioned sections of the AUSKF By-laws to increase to three-years the term of office for AUSKF Directors and Officers, the current AUSKF Directors and Officers will be serving in these positions for the years 2003-2005.

II. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Election of 2003-2005 AUSKF Officers [see list of 2003-2005 AUSKF Officers on first page of this newsletter].
- B. Approved AUSKF President Charlie Tanaka to be AUSKF Delegation Leader to 12th WKC-Glasgow, Scotland.
- C. Board of Director Tim Yuge reported that due to increase in AUSKF Membership recently reported to the current AUSKF Liability Insurance Carrier, a sharp increase of approximately \$18,000 per year for AUSKF Liability Insurance Premium resulted.
- D. Due to the above described increase in yearly AUSKF Liability Insurance Premium, the AUSKF Board of Directors unanimously approved an increase in AUSKF Membership Dues effective January 1, 2003, as follows:

Kyu: [17yrs and under].....\$25 per year

Kyu: [18yrs and older].....\$40 per year

Yudansha [All ages]......\$40 per year

E. After approval by the AUSKF Board of Directors, a committee was appointed by AUSKF President Charlie Tanaka, consisting of Committee Chairman: Norman K. Otani, and committee

members: Tim Yuge, Koki Ariga and Dr. Tsuyoshi Inoshita; the committee was requested to review the current AUSKF Policy and Procedures Sections 4.00.00 through 4.04.00 regarding the guidelines for admission of new member federations to the AUSKF.

F. The next AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting was proposed to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, on March 29-30, 2003.

From VP-Prom & Exams:

Report submitted by Atsushi Hori.

The AUSKF conducted a Kodansha Shinsa Promotion Examination on Sunday, November 10, 2002, at Santa Clara, California; the Examiners consisted of Masaharu Ogihara, Masaharu Makino, Daniel Ebihara, Koki Ariga, Tim Yuge, Yoshiteru Tagawa and Masashi Shikai.

The next AUSKF Kodansha Shinsa will be held at the proposed AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp in October, 2003, at the Citadel, in Charleston, South Carolina.

If there are any questions about AUSKF Promotion and Examination matters please contact:

Mr. Atsushi Hori 3041 S. Bristol Santa Ana, CA. 92704 Tel. [H](714) 994-6344 Tel. [W](714) 557-3282 FAX: (714) 557-1920

Report From VP-Competition:

Report submitted by Yoshiteru Tagawa.

Following the 12th WKC-Team USA Final Selection Competition held on September 1, 2002, the 7-member Men's and Women's Teams, with alternates were determined.

In the past few months, through the diligent efforts of AUSKF 12th WKC-

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Report From VP-Competition:

[continued]

Team USA Manager Atsushi Hori, Men's Team Coach Shinichi Koike and Women's Team Coach Jean Kodama, a rigorous practice schedule has been taking place.

A Final Entry list for the 12th WKC Team USA Men's and Women's Team will be submitted to the International Kendo Federation by April 1, 2003.

For interested AUSKF members who wish additional information regarding the 12th WKC in Glasgow, Scotland to be held July 4-7, 2003, there is a 12th WKC website: www.kendochampionships.com/kendochampionships.htm

Anyone requesting additional information regarding AUSKF Competition matters, please forward your inquiries to::

Mr. Yoshiteru Tagawa 41444 Fawn Trail Novi, Michigan 48375-4813 Tel. (248) 349-5209 FAX: (248) 349-9718 e-mail: duke@twmi.rr.com

Report From VP-Education:

Report submitted by Koki Ariga..

2003AUSKF National Kendo Seminar

On October 11-12, 2003, AUSKF kendoists are invited to enjoy a bit of "southern hospitality," at the AUSKF National Kendo Seminar to be held at the Citadel University in Charleston, South Carolina.

Plans are underway to invite two top level instructors from Japan to focus on the teaching of three subjects:

- 1. Kendo
- 2. Kata
- 3. How to Referee

Due to the 2002 AUSKF Championships

creating a conflict in scheduling, a 2002 AUSKF National Kendo Seminar was not held. In light of this, it is hoped that those awaiting for this type of program will come and join us in October 11-12, 2003.

AUSKF: Books For Sale:

At the November 9-10, 2002 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, it was agreed to make available *at cost* to AUSKF Members, the purchase of three kendo related books as follows:

- 1. All Japan Kendo Federation (AJKF) Japanese- English Dictionary of Kendo; purchase price: \$23.00
- 2. International Kendo Federation (IKF) Regulations of Kendo Shiai and Shimpan; purchase price: \$12.00
- 3. Nihon Kendo Kata, English Language Textbook produced by AJKF; purchase price: \$15.00

Orders for any /all of the above three books with full payment by check or money order payable to AUSKF should be sent to:

> Mr. Koki Ariga 2470 Greenlawn Drive Troy, OH. 45373

Note: It is anticipated the receipt of the above three books will be received in mid-January, 2003; shipment of pre-paid book orders will be made shortly thereafter.

Any further questions or requests to be made regarding AUSKF Education matters should be forwarded to:

Mr. Koki Ariga 2470 Greenlawn Drive Troy, OH. 45373 Tel. [H] (937) 335-7417 Tel.[W] (937) 339-0212, ext. 111 e-mail: kariga@fandp.com

Report From Treasurer:

Report submitted by Masaharu Makino.

In January, 2003, a hard copy letter will be sent to each of the AUSKF Member

Federation President requesting their assistance and cooperation to collect the 2003 AUSKF Membership Dues [Note: See Highlights of AUSKF Board of Directors November 9-10, 2002 Meeting, Item II. D., for Amount of 2003 AUSKF Membership Dues].

Please extend your cooperation to each AUSKF Member Federation President to submit the lists of each dojos members and payment of the 2003 AUSKF Membership Dues, sufficiently in advance so that the Deadline of March 31, 2003, can be met by your AUSKF Member Federation.

Thank you for your continued support as an AUSKF member.

For inquiries regarding the AUSKF Treasury or Membership Dues Status, please forward your inquiries to:

> Mr. Masaharu Makino 327 Towne Ave. Los Angeles, CA. 90013 Tel. (213) 617-7272 e-mail: hiromi@pickjit.com

REGIONAL MEMBER'S NEWS:

1. Report from the Midwest Kendo Federation, submitted by Detroit Kendo Dojo Yukio Watanabe.

Detroit Kendo Dojo announces it will host the 2003 5th Annual Detroit Open Kendo Rensei Tournament to be held on February 8-9, 2003.

Seminars will be lead by two special instructors from Japan, the Miyazaki Sensei brothers, both former All Japan Emperor Cup Champions.

For further information contact: Mr. Yukio Watanabe, 1413 Natalie Lane, Apt. 304, Ann Arbor, MI. 48105 Tel: (734) 913-5442 FAX: (734) 668-2877 [attn: Yukio] e-mail: yuki nabe@kdd.net.

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REGIONAL MEMBER'S NEWS:

Report from Midwest Kendo Federation: [continued]

Additional information regarding the Midwest Kendo Federation can be found at their website: www.midwestkendo.com

2. Report from the Northern California Kendo Federation submitted by Dr. Walter Hashimoto..

Palo Alto Kendo Dojo:

Congratulations to:

- 1. Mr. George Nishiura: Awarded Shogo Rank of Renshi 6 Dan on November 10, 2002 by AUSKF.
- 2. Mr. Shig Hamamatsu 5-Dan: Announcement of engagement to fiancé from Los Angeles, California.
- 3. Dr. Walter Hashimoto: Re-elected to 2003-2005 AUSKF Board of Directors.
- 4. Margaret Abe, 3-Dan: In May, 2002, Elected to County Board of Education.
- 5. Brandon Shimbo and Sophia Mah: Promoted to 1-Dan in November, 2002.

Additional information regarding the Northern California Kendo Federation can be found at their website: www.nckf.org

3. Report from the Pacific Northwest Kendo Federation, submitted by: Tom Bolling, Recording Secretary Tel. [W](206) 543-2060 Tel. [H](206) 527-1190 FAX: (206) 685-8485 PNKF's Kenyu online at: http://www.kendo-pnkf.org.

DATEBOOK-2003

1. Jan. 18, Vancouver Taikai, Sat, 10am, Renfrew Community Center, 2929 E. 22nd Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.
2. Jan. 19, Joint Practice, 10am-12noon, National Nikkei Centre, 100-6688
Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby, B.C.
3. Jan. 25, PNKF Board, Sat, 2:30pm, Renton.

- 4. Feb. 8, Steveston Taikai, Sat, 10am, at 4111 Moncton, Richmond, B.C.
- 5. Feb. 22, PNKF Kendo Shinsa, Sat, Renton.
- 6. Feb. 23, PNKF Iaido Shinsa, Sun, Renton.
- 7. Mar. 8, PNKF Board, Sat, 2:30pm, Renton.
- 8. March 15, Highline Taikai, Sat, 10am, Highline.
- 9. Apr. 8, Team USA Practice.10. Apr. 12, UW Taikai, Sat, 10am, UW
- 11. Apr. 20, Team USA Practice.
- 12. May 3, PNKF Board, Sat, 2:30pm, Renton.
- 13. May 11, Team USA Practice.
- 14. May 25, Team USA Practice.
- 15. Jun 8, Team USA Practice.
- 16. Jun 21 PNKF Board, Sat, 2:30pm, Renton.
- 17. June 28-29, Team USA Practice.

PNKF Election of 2002-2003 Officers:

President: C.J. Chaney
Vice-president: Curtis Marsten
Treasurer: David S. Yotsuuye
Secretary IA: Gary Imanishi
Rec. Sec: Tom Bolling

4. Report from the Southern California Kendo Federation, submitted by: Guy Urata.

Seishin Kendo Dojo:

From on or about June 29, 2003 and July 3, 2003, the Japanese Navy Kendo Group will be visiting the Seishin Kendo Dojo for a Goodwill Keiko and Team Taikai.

All interested SCKF and other sensei are invited to attend.

The practice will be held at the Ventura High School.

Map:

http://home.att.net/~guyurata/Text/Ventura _High_School_Map.html]

Additional Southern California Kendo Federation Schedule of Events, etc., can be found at their website: www.eanet.com/sckf

www.eanet.com/scki

5. Report from the Southeast United States Kendo Federation, submitted with

permission from SEUSKF News Editor Ken Strawn.

Congratulations to:

- 1. SEUSKF President James Parker for being promoted by AUSKF to 5-Dan in 2002; in addition, Parker Sensei was granted the rank of full Colonel by the United States Army.
- 2. Frank Nieves for taking 3rd Place in the Sr. Youth Individual Championship Matches at the 2002 AUSKF Championships held July 5, 2002, in Los Angeles, California.

Best wishes and a speedy recovery to Jim Totten, Head Instructor of the Peachtree City Kendo Dojo, who recently suffered a stroke.

IAIDO NEWS:

2002 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp, National Iaido Championships & Shinsa Report::

Report submitted by Takeshi Yamaguchi and Thomas Bolling.

The 2002 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp, National Iaido Championships & Shinsa was hosted by the Pacific Northwest Kendo Federation {"PNKF"] and was held in Renton, Washington on September 20-22, 2002.

A total of 79 Iaidoka from the United States and Canada attended this yearly event; and proved to be a huge success as a result of the untiring leadership of Coordinator Brian Blomquist, Instructors/Senseis Takeshi Yamaguchi, Shozo Kato, Tatsuhiko Konno, Thomas Hooper, and assistants Pat Yoshitsugu Murosako and Henry Asai.

Special thanks is extended to supporting instructors Pam Parker, Russell Ichimura, Dick Anderson and Tom Bolling. Also, a really BIG *THANK YOU* to the many

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2002 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp, National Iaido Championships & Shinsa Report: [continued]

PNKF members, including several loyal members who don't even practice iaido, who put in many hours driving folks to and from the airport, covering the tables, donating food, organizing the food, and dozens of other jobs, which allowed the Iaidoka to be able to concentrate on the training and instruction given during the seminars, etc.

The AUSKF Iaido Championships consisted of 44 participants, including 20 in the Mudansha group, 10 in the 1st-2nd Dan group, and 14 in the 3rd Dan and above group. All participants showed very beautiful iai. Each year it is becoming much, much harder for the shimpan to judge who is better.

The results of the September 21, 2002 AUSKF Iaido Championships held in Renton, Washington is as follows:

Mudansha:

1st - Andre Chen (Shidogakuin)

2nd - Frank Nieves (Shidogakuin)

3rd- Brian Edwards (Everett)

3rd- Shinya Deguchi (Shidogakuin) Fighting Spirit- Koji Kurohara (Shidogakuin)

1st Dan-2nd Dan:

1st- Akiyo Takamisawa (Shidogakuin) 2nd- Michael Ugarte (Ken Zen) 3rd- Richard Tanaka (San Jose) 3rd- Setsuo Tanaka (Monterey Park)

Fighting Spirit- Isabella Church (Shidogakuin)

3rd Dan and above:

1st- Pam Parker

2nd- Dick Anderson (Everett)

3rd- Debi Farmer (Shidogakuin)

3rd- Susan Sekreta (Ken Zen)

Fighting Spirit- John Aquadro (Memphis)

AUSKF Iaido Shinsa consisted of 37 candidates challenging the exam and out of this number 30 passed and received the following promotional ranks:

2nd Kyu:

Rebecca Wood (SCKO)

1st Kvu:

David Christman (MWKF) Shinya Deguchi (GNEUSKF) Shigemi Matsuyama (MWKF) Emil Nguyen (SCKF) Tom Okawara (MWKF) John Suzuki (Musokai)

1st Dan:

Dick Beckstead (SCKO) Andre Dulce (Musokai) Gunnar Goerlitz (Musokai) Koji Kurohara (GNEUSKF) Peter Lichtman (SCKF) Frank Nieves (SEUSKF) Dave Thorson (Tacoma) Alan Sakamoto (Musokai)

2nd Dan:

David Bressler (AEUSKF) Brook Crihfield (SWUSKIF) Craig Fife (Obukan) Jason Hankins (SCKO) Larry Scanlon (SEUSKF)

3rd Dan:

Richard Babin (SWUSKIF) Isabella Church (GNEUSKF) Kitty Gandee (GNEUSKF) Bijan Sadrian (AEUSKF) Setsuo Tanaka (SCKF) Michael Ugarte (AEUSKF)

4th Dan:

Debi Farmer (GNEUSKF) Susie Kozawa (Seattle)

5th Dan:

Robert Stroud (Obukan)

Renshi:

Thomas Hooper (AEUSKF)

One general observation made by a supporting instructor during the 2002 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp, National Iaido Championships & Shinsa, was that the total amount of time allotted for these three events consisted of only two and half days.

As a result, although there was a tight schedule that was maintained well by the coordinator and instructors; and even though the quality of the training was excelent, it seemed to this observer that the Iaido Championships and Shinsa utilized a large amount of the two and half days, that limited the amount of direct Iaido training time.

Therefore, for future planning purposes, it is strongly recommended that the hosting group and instructors of the next 2003 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp, National Iaido Championships & Shinsa consider returning to a four-day period of time for these three concurrent events.

Onegaishimasu.

GUEST AUTHORS & KENDO RELATED ARTICLES CONTRIBUTED BY AUSKF MEMBERS:

GUEST AUTHOR:

Benjamin H. Hazard, Ph.D. Professor of History-Emeritus (ret.) San Jose State University Kendo Hanshi 7th Dan

An Overview of Kendo 1945-2000 Part One [see AUSKF Newsletter Vol. 5 No. 1 Issue]

Part Two

This <u>shinai</u> was not a complete falsehood. Today's <u>shinai</u> is essentially a cylinder comprised of four pieces of bamboo. However, this early <u>shinai</u> was a most unusual type originating in the Togkugawa Period. A cylinder of eight pieces of bamboo split twice in thirds of its length to thirty-two pieces at the tip and encased in a soft leather sheath, pliant enough to be used without protective equipment, except for a European fencing mask to protect the eyes.

March 5, 1950, the <u>Zen Nippon Kyogi</u> <u>Renmei</u> (All Japan Kendo Federation) was establishd. Almost immediately the name An Overview of Kendo 1945-2000 Part Two: [continued]

was changed to Zen Nippon Shinai Kyogi Remmei (All Japan Pliant Competition Federation). In obtaining the initial permission to start practicing "shinai kyogi" several items permitted under rules of prewar kendo were specifically banned by the Occupation: ashi-barai, tai-atari, grappling when the shinai was dropped, and kiai (loud shouts).

In 1950 with the war in Korea, the Occupation sought ways to improve relations with the Japanese people. One approach was to drop all objections to the martial arts.

The Zen Nippon Kendo Remmei (All Japan Kendo Federation) was established October 14, 1952. It clearly set itself apart from the old Dai Nippon Butokukai. It was a sports organization with strong interest in spreading its kendo among youths and students, and as a sports organization, it conducted its affairs in a democratic manner. In March 1954 the Zen Nippon Kendo Remmei and Zen Nippon Shinai Kyogi Remmei merged under the name Zen Nippon Kendo Remmei. Shinai kyogi itself did not last for very long thereafter.

The merger of the Zen Nippon Shinai Kyogi Remmei with the Zen Nippon Kendo Remmei would lead to a gradual influence of shinai kyogi technique on the kendo mainstream. The course of kendo for the future had been laid out at the time of the merger of the two federations. Essentially kendo was to be developed as a physical training sport founded by modern athletic sports guidelines as to match duration, court layout and judging by three referees. Moreover to eliminate those t hings related to the feudal samurai tradition and actual use of the sword in combat. This led to the division of kendo instructors into two camps. One that continued support of kendo as it was done in the war, and those who had adopted the athletics sports approach as in the post war era as shinai kyogi.

One of the first exchanges between Japan

and a foreign country was a group of seventeen kenshi from Southern California Kendo Federation, led by Mori Torao Sensei. They had three different tournaments with Japanese university students; first, in the Kanto area; then in Kyoto and Osaka in November of 1956. In July of the following year, 1957, a group of thirteen university students from the Zen Nippon Gakusei Kendo Remmei reciprocated with a visit to the Southern California Kendo Federation. These were the beginning of a series of exchanges of kenshi between Japan and the United States.

The First Kokusai Shakajin Kendo Sekai Taikai (International World Kendo Grand Match) was held in Taipei, Republic of China November 21, 1960. Participating countries were Japan, Republic of China, United States of America, and Okinawa. This was a major step in the direction of international tournaments leading to changes in kendo techniques, the physical layout of the match area, and the posting of results. All of this would change substantially in the next thirty-five years. The third and last of the Shakaijin Kendo Sekai tournaments was held in Osaka, on October 8, 1967 with thirteen nations participating. These nations laid the foundation for the creation of the Kokusai Kendo Remmei (International Kendo Federation). It's first Sekai Kendo Senshuken Taikai (International Kendo Championships) team matches were held in Tokyo, April 5, 1970 (team matches), and in Osaka on April 10 (individual matches), 1970.

Over the following thirty years, while there was relatively little outward change in kendo dogu, the hakama and keikogi (except for in some cases the substitution of synthetic for natural fiber textiles), and much later the introduction of carbon graphite for bamboo in the shinai. However, the bamboo shinai is still the dominant choice. The attitude in the dojo has become increasingly relaxed, although individual dojo may vary. Very recently a men with a clear plastic window has been introduced on the metal grill at eye level. Few have been seen.

The 11th World Kendo Championships, March 24, 25, 26 2000, in Santa Clara, California, U.S.A. provided an opportunity to compare the final team matches between Japan and Korea, who had also met in the first team matches of 1970. The 2000 matches were a brilliant display of sports kendo techniques, which could hardly be matched for speed and agility. It is doubtful that even a bokken could be wielded in that fashion.

In 1970 those who participated in the matches had been trained to make their blows with <u>tenouchi</u> (finger and wrist action) and conclude the blow with <u>shime</u> as if the <u>shinai</u> were a sword, although directed toward the cut, it led to greater accuracy in striking areas of the <u>men</u>. This was still residual from pre-war kendo in preparing to use the sword.

Two separate groups that shaped the evolution of kendo from the establishment of the Zen Nippon Kendo Remmei in 1952-2000. The first was composed of traditionalists at the outset. Composed of instructors of historical Kenjutsu schools such as that of Ono-ha Ittoryu, Dai Nippon Buttokukai, Rikugun Toyama Gakko, and Tokyo Keishicho (Metropolitan Police Headquarters). All had taught kendo as preparation to using the sword in battle. This group has largely faded from the scene but their students still have some impact and the police are still quite active. The second group was a new element originating during the Occupation, comprised of instructors from the athletic departments of colleges and universities. They are responsible for the creation of shinai kyogi, a sanitized version acceptable to the Occupation. A sport in which their team would win in inter-collegiate competitions, which meant they search for ways to improve their team's performance by experimenting with methods borrowed from other sports and physical training.

There was considerable tension between the two groups in the first twenty or so years over the innovations and the attitude toward the role of kendo in building character.

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An Overview of Kendo 1945-2000 Part Two: [continued]

While dogu and shinai remained essentially unchanged to the present, other changes drifted in the direction of the sports faction. In comparing the movement of the shinai in matches between the 1950's and today; there is increased speed in which the shinai is moved when striking and defending, and a concurrent reduction in the strength of the strike on contact with the target. In the conduct of tournament matches, superficially, at first glance it resembles that of the early days. However, streamlining has taken place in almost every aspect of matches. For example: threehansoku was one point - now two <u>hansoku</u> is one point; the two line judges and their red and white flags have been eliminated. Perhaps the greatest, but most intangible difference is in the mental attitude of the contestants today.

[To be continued in next issue]

2003 AUSKF OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS DIRECTORY:

President Charlie Tanaka [see From the President]

Executive VP Norman K. Otani [see AUSKF Newsletter Editor]

Vice-President Promotion & Exam Atsushi Hori [see Report in AUSKF Newsletter]

._____

Vice-President Competition Yoshiteru Tagawa [see Report in AUSKF Newsletter]

Vice-President Education: Koki Ariga [see Report in AUSKF Newsletter Treaurer: Masaharu Makino [see Report in AUSKF Newsletter]

Secretary-Historian Ichiro Murakami 4305 Mountain Shadow Dr. Whitter, CA. 90601 e-mail: ichirokendo@earthlink.net

Auditor: Dr. Walter Hashimoto 38080 Martha Ave.-Ste. A Fremont, CA. 94536-3809 Tel. [H] (510) 656-1212 e-mail: docwalt @hotmail.com

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IN MEMORIAM:

UMEMOTO, HIROSHI

Umemoto Sensei, Kyoshi 7 Dan, passed away on Saturday, September 7, 2002.

KISHI, TOSHIKI

Kishi Sensei, Head Instructor of the NYC Kendo Club Midtown Kenshinkai Inc., passed away on Monday, October 7, 2002.

AUSKF NEWSLETTER

Norman K. Otani, Esq., Editor

Thanks to all of the contributing reporters for the news items; my apologies for having to edit the material due to space limitations.

Future news items for the next issue to be published on April 30, 2003, can be submitted to my e-mail address: otaninorman@hotmail.com

or news items can be sent to: 2338 E. Minarets Avenue,

Fresno, CA. 93720.

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