

■9 May 2005

AUSKF NEWSLETTER

Finally, as there continues to be a growing criticism about the timely level of communication and the quality of membership services provided by the current volunteer services of the respective AUSKF officers, board of directors, etc.. Even though I issued executive orders for a more timely advance notification of AUSKF board of directors meetings to the member federations, timely distribution of AUSKF board of directors meeting minutes following approval, and provide the end of year financial report required by the AUSKF by-laws; nevertheless, it may now be the appropriate time to seriously plan for the opening of an official AUSKF Office and the hiring of a part-time office assistant, provided that this can be fiscally supported.

So, as I conclude my second and final term as your AUSKF President from 2001-2005, I strongly feel that my kendo philosophy has served as the guiding principle for the successes achieved. To reiterate: 1st: TADASHIKU; 2nd: TANOSHIKU; and 3rd: NAKAYOKU.

By continuing on with the established fiscal policies currently in place, and by continuing to practice the aspects of the kendo philosophy stated above; it is clear to me that the kendo practiced in the United States will someday in the future become the best in the world.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your AUSKF President for two full terms of office.

Sincerely,

Charlie Tanaka, AUSKF President
1156 Blackfield Drive
Santa Clara, CA. 95051
PH/FAX: (408) 984-0226

e-mail: ktanaka 1115@comcast.net
Highlights from the April 9-10, 2005
AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting,
New Brunswick, New Jersey:

Reported by AUSKF Executive VP
Norman K. Otani
Highlights from the April 9-10, 2005
AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting:

[Note: This report is being made pending the approval of the minutes of the April 9-10, 2005, AUSKF Board of Directors meeting; **the reader is forewarned that this information is subject to modification**]

I. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Committee Report Update RE: Guidelines for Member Association.

It was reported by committee chairman Norman K. Otani that Tim Yuge, has resigned from this committee, due to changes in his personal employment demands and in order for Mr. Yuge to have sufficient time to devote to other current AUSKF pending projects, and continue with other currently assigned tasks and committee work.

Upon presenting the summary of the prior discussions held in this committee; additional criteria was recommended and approved by the AUSKF board of directors to be included, regarding what type of AUSKF benefits will be extended to non-AUSKF members of any proposed new member association during the probation period, the filing of a roster fee for the total number of members in the new member association [equivalent to the current AUSKF membership dues amounts].

Further, discussion was held regarding the AUSKF promotion policy for acceptance of kendo ranks 1-dan and above issued by a non-IKF recognized country for the members in the new member association. It was suggested that the kendoists in this circumstance can either accept a new kendo rank of 1-kyu or be re-tested for the previous rank granted.

As there was insufficient time to develop and finalize the proposed AUSKF promotion policy to resolve the above concern, the final approval of the proposed changes to AUSKF Policy and Procedure section 4.00.00, was tabled.
C.13th WKC-Team U.S.A. Selection Process.

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B. Develop and Propose Mission Statement.

Committee chairman Norman K. Otani reported that Tim Yuge has resigned from this committee also, for the reasons stated earlier.

The remaining committee members consisting of: Norman K. Otani, and Dr. Walter Hashimoto, agreed that additional time is needed to do additional research as to other corporate and non-profit organization mission statements prior to proposing the AUSKF Mission Statement; matter was tabled.

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C.13th WKC-Team U.S.A. Selection Process.

AUSKF Vice-President of Competition, Yoshiteru Tagawa reported on the following events:

(1.) 2nd Kyoka Senshu.
This event was scheduled for Sunday, April 10, 2005, and was held in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

(2.) 2005 AUSKF Championships.
This event has been scheduled for July 2 & 3, 2005, and will be held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, at the University of Michigan.

In order to successfully coordinate the various logistics for each of the championship venues, it was recommended and the AUSKF board of directors approved the selection of ten (10) tournament coordinators; travel expenses will be paid for these individuals selected.

Also, 150 volunteers will be needed to provide tournament court staff for timekeeping, scorekeeping, tasuki, and other necessary duties. It was recommended that each member federation [depending on the size of the federation] provide 5-10 volunteers.

(2.) 2005 AUSKF Championships.
[continued]

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Each volunteer will be provided bento each day, and receive a souvenir STAFF t-shirt to easily identify those serving as volunteers.

It was reported that the making of the Medals for the 2005 AUSKF Championships has been negotiated with a trophy company in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The initial die cast will cost \$400 for the medals: Gold, Silver and Bronze.

In addition, re: Individual Championship: a Do will be given to each 1st place in each division, a shinai set to each 2nd place in each division, and bamboo take to each 3rd place in each division. For the Team Championship: 1st Place will receive a shinai set, 2nd Place will receive bamboo take only.

The AUSKF board of directors agreed to purchase the do and shinai awards from both Eguchi and E-bogu.

Another bogu company: AOI, has requested to sell their kendo equipment at the 2005 AUSKF Championships. It was agreed to approve this vendor, but a vendor fee of \$500 will be charged.

Also, it was reported that a souvenir tenegui will be provided to each participant; total of 600 tenegui will be ordered, remaining available tenegui will be sold.

There will be 6-courts, 1-court judge per court, and 5-shimpan per court.

The AUSKF member federation team manager and coach are not able to serve as shimpan. Court judges must be 70-years and under. A senior division competitor may serve as shimpan.

Tournament chairperson is Charlie Tanaka. Tournament advisors: 8th dan Hanshi; the respective member federation is responsible to pay the travel expenses for these individuals.

Highlights from the April 9-10, 2005 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting:

E. AUSKF Data Base Project & ID

Management Co-ordinators for Sales: Ichiro Murakami and Dr. Walter Hashimoto.

Nihon Kendo Kata demonstration will be performed by: Uchidachi-Koki Ariga, Shidachi-Shozo Kato.

Two guest AJKF sensei will be invited.

Tim Yuge will obtain a July, 2005 liability insurance coverage letter for the 2005 AUSKF Championships. Also, a 3rd party spectator coverage for non-member students will also be needed; this will require added cost for extra general liability coverage.

Lastly, it was reported that the individual match drawing for tournament charting in each division will be done in advance of the 2005 AUSKF Championships, and submitted to: Yoshiteru Tagawa by the deadline date. If not timely received from any member federation, the selection will be done by Yoshiteru Tagawa.

(3.) Final Kyoka Senshu [Labor Day Weekend, 2005].

Due to the IKF proposal announced by Charlie Tanaka to have the 13th WKC on December 8-10, 2006, in Taipei, Taiwan; it was decided to CHANGE the date of the Final Kyoka Senshu to January 14, 2006. Tentative location will be in Studio City, California, hosted by the Southern California Kendo Organization/Osaka Sangyo Kendo Dojo.

(4.) Confirm Date of 13th WKC-Taipei, Taiwan [see above].

(5.) Budget for Team U.S.A.-13th WKC.

The estimated Team U.S.A.-13th WKC budget expenses is \$80,000-\$90,000 [including the AUSKF responsibility to pay for 13th WKC Shimpan selected from AUSKF].

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Cards.[continued]

selected AUSKF officers to be used on

D. New AUSKF Logo: Sample of Polo Shirt, Tie, etc.

Tim Yuge displayed samples of a polo shirt and tie with the "new" AUSKF logo. It was agreed to have a smaller size logo on a better quality polo shirt; the color of polo shirts to be ordered with the logo will be white and black. A lighter deep red color tie with the smaller logo will also be ordered.

The above items are to be ordered and made available for sale by the time of the 2005 ASUSKF Championships.

E. AUSKF Data Base Project & ID Cards.

Tim Yuge reported on the progress to develop the AUSKF Data Base Project and ID card.

Effective with the 2005 AUSKF membership roster; an AUSKF membership/ID card with a photograph was proposed. The cost will be approximately fifty cents to produce each. Information on the card will include current kendo rank and iaido rank.

The Data base part of the project will still entail a questionnaire to be completed by each AUSKF member to state AUSKF seminars attended, WKC shimpan selection, etc. Also, a digital photo will be requested to be taken for each of the dojo members.

Bar code capability is available; this will require a bar code machine to read the bar codes. Alternatively, a lap top can be purchased with the soft ware for using only an identification number to access the data base information on each AUSKF member; this can then be transported to the major AUSKF events, to verify or ascertain information. Also, the soft ware will be purchased for

their home computers.

The Goal for 2005 is to issue an initial

AUSKF membership/ID card with the identification number for each AUSKF member federation members.

F. Koushinkan [Yale Kendo Club] Proposal to Establish AUSKF Collegiate Kendo Federation.

Shozo Kato reported that he talked with Naoko Kozuki, President of Koushinkan. Ms. Kozuki, who indicated that it would be preferable not to have to be involved in the business affairs of the AUSKF.

Shozo Kato also reported that the formation of the AUSKF Collegiate Kendo Federation may not be feasible at this time due to the unsettled status of the current policy for formation of new member associations. Also, an additional concern is who will oversee the AUSKF Collegiate Kendo Federation, to ensure year to year continuity, etc.

In addition, another concern of the collegiate kendo groups is that the current AUSKF membership fee is considered too expensive; a reduced collegiate student AUSKF membership dues was requested, e.g. \$25 per year. Discussion was held regarding this matter; it was decided to table this matter for further review, to form a committee, etc.

G. March 12-13, 2005 IKF North America Shimpan Seminar.

Charlie Tanaka reported that the 2005 IKF North America Shimpan Seminar was successfully held in Milpitas, California.

H. April 10, 2005 AUSKF Kodansha Shinsa.

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF Vice-President for Promotion & Examinations reported that there will be a Kodansha Shinsa held on Sunday, April 10, 2005, following the completion of the 2nd Kyoka Senshu in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Due to a large number of 5 dan candidates, there Highlights from the April 9-10, 2005 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting: [continued]

will be two examination panels formed; one for 5 dan, and the other for 6 dan & 7 dan candidates.

I. 2005 AUSKF Summer Kendo Camp.

Koki Ariga, AUSKF Vice-President-Education reported that the 2005 AUSKF Summer Kendo Camp will be held on July 22, 23 & 24, 2005. Also, on Sunday, July 24, 2005, there will be an AUSKF Promotion Examination for the kendo ranks of 1 dan - 7 dan. The proposed location of the 2005 AUSKF Summer Kendo Camp is at the John G. Carlisle Elementary School, Covington, Kentucky.

Proposed subjects for the 2005 AUSKF Summer Camp include: Nihon Kendo Kata, Bokuto Kihon Kendo Kata, Reiho, and Shimpanho.

Instructors from the All Japan Kendo Federation will be requested for the 2005 AUSKF Summer Kendo Camp.

J. 2005 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp.

Takeshi Yamaguchi, AUSKF Iaido Committee Chairman reported that the 2005 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp will be from Thursday, September 29, 2005 to Sunday, October 2, 2005 at the Charles Wilson Park Gymnasium in Torrance, California. Details will be sent to each AUSKF Member Federation by the organizing committee.

II. NEW BUSINESS:

A. 2006-2008 AUSKF Board of Directors Election Procedure.

Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive Vice-President presented a document that listed the previously approved amendments to the AUSKF by-laws RE: Election of Directors to the AUSKF by-laws effective as of the November 6-7, 2004 AUSKF Board of Directors meeting,

(3.) Promotion Committee report.

and to be implemented for the 2006-2008 AUSKF Board of Directors Election.

The record date was approved by the AUSKF Board of Directors and set as April 15, 2005; effective this date, the AUSKF paid membership dues from each of the member federations will be used to determine the number of authorized voting representatives for each AUSKF member federation for the 2006-2008 AUSKF Board of Directors Election.

Pursuant to the AUSKF by-laws Article VIII, Section 2 (3), Charlie Tanaka, AUSKF President, selected AUSKF directors Ichiro Murakami and Dr. Walter Hashimoto to serve on the 2006-2008 AUSKF Board of Directors Election Committee, together with Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive Vice-President.

B. 2005 IKF Kitamoto Foreigner's Summer Kendo Camp.

Charlie Tanaka, AUSKF President announced that he received, by the pre-determined deadline date, the names of four (4) AUSKF kenshi from their respective member federations whose names will be recommended for approval by the AJKF to attend the 2005 IKF Kitamoto Foreigner's Summer Kendo Camp, in the previous determined rotation order pursuant to AUSKF policy and procedure effective 2005.

C. Committee Reports:

(1.) Budget-Finance Committee report .

Masaharu Makino., AUSKF Treasurer, did not have any additional report to make at this date [see above].

(2.) Competition Committee report.

Yoshiteru Tagawa, AUSKF Vice-President-Competition did not have any additional report [see above].

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF Vice-President Promotion & Examinations requested that the AUSKF board of directors review the

situations in which a new AUSKF member has been awarded a kendo rank by a non-IKF country.

After lengthy discussion, the AUSKF Board of Directors approved a new AUSKF promotion regulation stating:

1. The procedure for a new AUSKF member who has received a kendo rank from a non-IKF country is that this individual must take a qualifying examination to validate the previous kendo rank given by a non-IKF country.

2. The date to be used after taking the qualifying examination for the next kendo rank, for the purpose of determining the waiting period, will be the date that the non-IKF country granted the previous kendo rank.

3. The status of a new AUSKF member with a kendo rank issued by a non-IKF country, IF the individual decides not to take a qualifying examination, will be non-recognition of this previous kendo rank.

4. If the new AUSKF member with a kendo rank issued by a non-IKF country decides not to take a qualifying examination; option to accept 1-kyu kendo rank, in the interim time period, until the next AUSKF promotion examination is taken.

(4.) Education Committee report.

Koki Ariga, AUSKF Vice-President-Education had no additional report [see above].

(5.) Iaido Committee report.

Takeshi Yamaguchi, AUSKF Iaido Committee Chairman had no additional report [see above].

(6.) Development Committee report.

Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive Vice-President distributed a Development

Report From VP-Education:

Report submitted by Koki Ariga.

Committee report updating the current projects under his responsibility: 1. AUSKF Newsletter; 2. AUSKF Archives, AUSKF Hall of Fame, AUSKF Oral History Project; 3. AUSKF Website; 4. Marketing and Advertising; 5. Policy and Procedures Guidelines; 6. AUSKF Office & Part-time Staff Person.

D. Other:

1. AUSKF Liability/Medical Insurance Claim Procedure.

Tim Yuge, AUSKF Liability/Medical Insurance Co-ordinator requested that all AUSKF member federation dojos contact Tim Yuge by e-mail to notify him of any AUSKF liability/medical insurance claims:

e-mail: tmyuge@sbcglobal.net

After notification, Tim Yuge will either provide the AUSKF liability/medical insurance claim forms directly to the requesting AUSKF member federation dojo representative, or provide the AUSKF liability/medical insurance carrier's contact person information.

2. Charlie Tanaka, AUSKF President reported that he has discussed the proposal of the 14th WKC to be hosted by the Hawaii Kendo Federation with their President Terushi Ueno.

Mr. Ueno agreed that the Hawaii Kendo Federation could host the 14th WKC; however, the support of both the AUSKF and Canada will be required to provide both financial assistance and manpower.

Charlie Tanaka indicated that he will discuss with the Canadian Kendo Federation President Roy Asa to make a contribution of \$30,000 to the Hawaii Kendo Federation to host the 14th WKC. After further discussion, the AUSKF board of directors approved the amount of \$30,000 to be contributed to the Hawaii Kendo Federation to be used for the hosting of the 14th WKC.

Recently, an e-mail with the attachments was sent to the AUSKF Member Federation Presidents announcing the

3. Tim Yuge reported that he is working with the 2005 Nikkei Games program as the Martial Arts Chairman.

During the Nisei Week Parade-August 14, 2005, a request has been made for a kendo sensei to ride in a car representing kendo.

Tim Yuge was requested to contact Yoshinari Miyata, 8 dan Hanshi to participate in this event.

4. The next AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting was proposed to be held in Los Angeles, California, on November 12-13, 2005.

From VP-Competition:

Report submitted by Yoshiteru Tagawa.

2005 AUSKF Championships and the related selection events is reported in the **Highlights of the April 9-10, 2005 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting** section of this newsletter.

If there are any additional questions, please contact:

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

From VP-Prom & Exams:

Report submitted by Atsushi Hori.

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

details of the 2005 AUSKF Summer Kendo Camp to be held on July 22-24, 2005 in Covington, Kentucky.

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In addition, there will be an AUSKF Promotion Examination held on Sunday, July 24, 2005 for the kendo ranks of 1 dan through 7 dan.

For further information or any questions regarding the 2005 AUSKF Summer Kendo Camp contact:

Koki Ariga, AUSKF VP-Education
223 S. Plum Street
Troy, Ohio 453-73
e-mail: kariga@fandp.com

Report From Treasurer:

Report submitted by Masaharu Makino.

NOTICE-NOTICE-NOTICE-NOTICE

Recently, the banking institution used by the All United States Kendo Federation: *Bank of the West* notified Masaharu Makino, AUSKF Treasurer, giving notice to the All United States Kendo Federation, that **effective immediately, all checks deposited must be written payable to: All United States Kendo Federation.**

Checks written payable to AUSKF, WILL NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED for deposit by the Bank of the West.

This change in policy is reported to be due to national security policies affecting banking institutions.

Therefore, Masaharu Makino, All United States Kendo Federation Treasurer, will NO LONGER BE ABLE TO ACCEPT checks written payable to the AUSKF; **if such checks are received, they will be returned for reissuance to the correct payee name: All United States Kendo Federation.**

For any questions regarding the 2005 AUSKF Membership Dues, AUSKF treasury matters, etc., please contact:

5. Report from the Southern California Kendo Organization [SCKO].
Submitted by: Michihiro Nakashima
President

Masaharu Makino, AUSKF Treasurer.
327 Towne Avenue
Los Angeles, CA. 90013
e-mail: hiromi@pickjit.com
makinomasaharu@aol.com

REGIONAL MEMBER'S NEWS:

1. Report from the Northern California Kendo Federation.
Submitted by: George Nishiura, President.

For current events, results of recent kendo tournaments go to the Northern California Kendo Federation website found at:
<http://www.nckf.org>.

2. Report from the Greater Northeastern United States Kendo Federation.
Submitted by: Tsuyoshi Inoshita
President

The 2005-17th Annual Cleveland Kendo Tournament Results:

Junior A: 1st: T. Akamatsu
2nd: H. Desouza
3rd: M. Matsuyama
Yumi Matsuyama

Junior B: 1st: C. Eamon
2nd: Y. Tsuji
3rd: A. Borschel
Man San Ma

Junior C: 1st: D. Hirahata
2nd: E. Altilla
3rd: Yuki Desouza
Yoshimi Desouza

Mudansha: 1st: R. Blakney
2nd: Tae Up Kang
3rd: Hyuk Kyu Seoh
Keita Kibe

Shodan: 1st: A. Fortier
2nd: M. Cole
3rd: A. Shikatani
N. Sarwark

2 Dan/3 Dan: 1st: T. Matsuno
2nd : K. Yasui
3rd: M. Manning
H. Murata

Women: 1st: Y. Hoang

IN MEMORIAM:
ETO, TARO GENE
[1919-2005]

2nd: R. Desouza
3rd: M. Shiveley
M. Matsuyama
4 Dan & above: 1st: S. Kamata
2nd: H. Sugawara
3rd: K. Ishimatsu
R. Tanaka
TEAM: 1st: Ontario Kendo Federation
2nd: Shidogakuin - New York
3rd: Georgia Kendo Alliance
University of Pittsburgh
Kendo Dojo

3. Report from the Pacific Northwest Kendo Federation, submitted by:
Tom Bolling, Recording Secretary
7318 23rd Avenue N.E., Seattle, WA.
98115.
See PNKF's *Kenyu* online at:
<http://www.kendo-pnkf.org/news/kenyu.phtml>

4. Report from the Southern California Kendo Federation [SCKF], submitted by
Guy Urata.

It appears that the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force ship will be able to visit Port Hueneme from June 29 to July 1, 2005.

Tentatively, there is a kendo practice scheduled for Wednesday evening June 29 and Thursday evening June 30, 2005; location to be announced.

For more information contact:
Guy Urata:
e-mail: guyurata@worldnet.att.net

Additional information for the Southern California Kendo Federation can be found at their website located at:
<http://www.eanet.com>

Eto sensei, 7th dan, Hanshi, passed away on February 12, 2005. Eto sensei was a long time advisor of the Southern California Kendo Organization, and

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continued to practice kendo actively prior to his untimely passing away at the Gardena Kendo Dojo.

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6. Report from the Southeastern United States Kendo Federation.
Reprinted with permission from:
Editors Ken Strawn and Mike Yongue

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Winter, 2004
Volume 8, Number 3.

15th Southeastern United States Kendo Championship Tournament
November 6, 2004
Wingate University, Wingate, N.C.

Junior Youth: 1st: E. Felton-Curtice
2nd: Eun Park
3rd: H. Desouza
Ah (Koryo)

Senior Youth: 1st: Yuki Desouza
2nd: Eric Gaddis
3rd: G. Park
J. Moon

Kantoshō: Matsushita
Mudansha: 1st: Jason Lane
2nd: Daryl Weade
3rd: Gendo Yokote
Tae Young Park
Kantoshō: Karina Vas

Shodan-Nidan: 1st: V. Vulfson
2nd: Chang Suk Oh
3rd: N. Sekita
H. Uehara

Kantoshō: Katalin Nieves
Sandan & above: 1st: M. Shimada
2nd: Shinobu Maeda
3rd: Frank Nieves
W. Colazo
Kantoshō: Ryoko Barr

TEAM DIVISION:

1st: Charlotte Kendo Club
2nd: Triangle
3rd: Tennessee Meiji Gakuin

IAIDO NEWS:

Part two:

FROM WAHIAWA TO KYOTO

Wahiawa, Hawai'i is a land of

2005 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp

Report submitted by Takeshi Yamaguchi, AUSKF Iaido Committee Chairman; and, Dennis Ralutin.

[see the Highlights of the April 9-10, 2005 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting]

Information and registration sheets are available on the following websites:

AUSKF IAIDO:

<http://www.auskf.info/mainpages/AUSKF>
F
iaido.htm

SCIA: <http://groups.msn.com/scia>

NCIA:

<http://www.nckf.org/Main%20Pages/iaido.htm>

For additional information or questions:

Dennis Ralutin
Southern California Iaido Association
dmralutin@yahoo.com

Richard Hill
Northern California Iaido Association
iaido@nckf.org

David Nakanishi
Northern California Iaido Association
kendodude@aol.com

International Kendo Federation [IKF] News:

Report submitted by Charlie Tanaka, AUSKF President

1. 2005 Pan Am Kendo Championships
The AUSKF is invited to participate in this event which will take place in Aruba on October 12, 2005.

Previously, the AUSKF Board of Directors has approved individual participation in this event at the kendoist's pineapples and the hardworking people who nurture and harvest this prickly and delicious fruit, and it was here on October 9, 1918 that Rod Nobuto Omoto was born

own expense.

For more details contact:
Sergio A. Velasquez
e-mail: kendoaru@setarnet.aw

2. International Iaido Seminar: British Kendo Association.
The AUSKF is invited to participate in this event which will take place at the University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, UK on August 14-19, 2005.

Previously, the AUSKF Board of Directors has approved individual participation in this event at the iaidoka's own expense.

For more information contact your AUSKF Member Federation President.

AUSKF WEBSITE:

Richard Hill, AUSKF Webmaster.

AUSKF website is located at:
<http://www.auskf.info>.

Please send any changes in dojo address, contact person, etc., to: Richard Hill, AUSKF Webmaster at:
e-mail address: rhill@nckf.org

OTHER KENDO RELATED NEWS/INFORMATION:

I. GUEST AUTHOR:

Tom Bolling, PNKF Recording Secretary and Editor of Kenyu, recently authored an article about AUSKF sensei, Rod Omoto, 7 Dan. This article was featured in the November-December, 2004 Issue of Kendo Nippon Monthly Magazine, and with permission of the author will be reprinted in the AUSKF Newsletter, in several parts.

into a family which would include an elder sister Judy Yukiko, a younger brother Brian Tomio, and four younger sisters, Jean Hideko, Syllvia Miyako, Phyllis

Takako, and Ruth Yoshiko. His parents were Shinichi Omoto of Kureshi, Hiroshima-Ken, who had been a farmer in Japan, but was a blacksmith in Wahiawa, and mother Tameno (Toshie) Oda, also of Hiroshima-Ken, a picture bride housewife. Here, too, he embarked at the age of 14 on his extraordinary life journey of Kendo, starting in 1932 with Miura Kenji Sensei.

Omoto Sensei remembers fondly his "small kid" days of Kendo, carrying his bogu through the pineapple fields for daily practice, tournaments with children from other Dojo, developing lifetime Kendo friendships, among them the late James Shinso Oka. Introducing Oka Sensei at Seattle Kendo Kai on one of his frequent visits a few years ago Omoto Sensei said, "He was that big kid who used to beat me up -- still does!" In recent years Omoto Sensei often travelled to Oahu to enjoy Oka Sensei's Mililani Taikai, and at the same time visit his sisters.

Leaders of Hawai'i Kendo in those days included Mikami Shuji Sensei, Furuyama Chuichi Sensei, Sugiura Yonematsu Sensei, and Wada Sensei.

At Wahiawa, Miura Sensei was the head. Later there was also Tsuda Sensei, who later adopted the name Kozaki by marriage. Fifteen years ago, Omoto Sensei met Kozaki Sensei up at the Steveston Taikai. Kozaki Sensei passed away after that.

In September 1938, after graduation from Leilehua High School, Omoto Sensei's dad and Miura Sensei sent him to Japan to study at the Kodo Kan, the personal practice hall of the great Ogawa Kinnosuke, head of Busen -- Budo Semmon Gakko. The Butokukai, an organization devoted to all the Budo, had been established in 1895 with headquarters in Kyoto, and Busen was the Butokukai's technical university for training professional teachers of the Budo.

KENDO IS MIND OVER MATTER

One day Omoto Sensei said, "Be proud of your body! Kendo is mind over matter. But first, you've got to get the body!"

Omoto Sensei was staying with his grandparents in Kure and attended the 4th and 5th grades at SeiHo middle school. With Sugiura Sensei's recommendation he applied to Busen. The first year his Japanese wasn't strong enough, so he attended Ritsumeikan to learn Japanese. He stayed in the change room at the Kodo Kan until he was admitted to Busen. During that period he waited on Ogawa Kinnosuke Sensei. Omoto Sensei had many tasks, including such things as making shinai. He learned tea ceremony by being a "practice dummy," playing the part of the guest for Ogawa Sensei's daughter Michiko. Michiko and her husband Ogawa Masayuki had two children, Hiroyuki and Michiko, and it was part of Omoto Sensei's job to babysit them on a regular basis. Walking Ogawa Sensei's dog Jiro was another duty. Ogawa Sensei's wife also raised crickets, and she taught Omoto Sensei the intricate details of caring for them.

KENDO IS CHOOSING LIFE

"One of the boys committed seppuku. Ogawa Kinnosuke Sensei called us all together and said: "OK...it takes a lot of guts to commit seppuku. And if you have that kind of guts, you have to LIVE, and correct your mistakes." So that's the 'seppuku spirit'...live, and correct your mistakes."

The curriculum at Busen consisted of Japanese history, Japanese literature, and intensive training in the Budo. For Kendo, that meant practicing about four hours a day, six days a week. For one year, practice consisted of nothing but "kirikaeshi till you drop." Besides the hard training, there were many life lessons from Ogawa Sensei as well.

[To be continued in next issue]

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

*Future news items for the next issue to be published on or about December, 2005, can be submitted to my e-mail address:
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