



MINUTES of the EKF GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2011,

Held in Gdynia, Poland, on Thursday the 5th of May, 2011.

01. Listing of the representatives present

01.1 Registration of the representatives' names, observers and absences

EKF Board of Officers:

Alain DUCARME,	President (PR);
Hein ODINOT,	Vice-President (VPR);
Jean-Pierre RAICK,	Technical Director (TD) &
Dieter HAUCK,	Treasurer (TR).

Representatives of Members:

1. Miquel MORANCHO, Andorra, (AND);
2. Harald HOFER, Gernot ALMESBERGER, Austria, (AT);
3. Daniel DELEPIERE, Serge HENDRICKX, Belgium (B);
4. Thomas BERGER, Jana ZIEGELHEIMOVA, Czech Republic (CZ);
5. Ryuji ITOH, Gerry TSCHERTER, Switzerland (CH);
6. Detlef VIEBRANZ, Germany (D);
7. David CASTRO, Spain (E);
8. Jean-Paul SOULAS, Francois ISCHIA (F);
9. Niko SAIKKONEN, Finland (FIN);
10. Errol BABOOLAL-BLAKE, Jock HOPSON, Great Britain (GB);
11. Ioannis PAPADIMITRIOU, Greece (GR);
12. Zsolt VADADI, Gabor ERDELYI, Hungary (H);
13. Gianfranco MORETTI, Matteo PETRI, Italy (I);
14. Jason CLOUSTON, Ireland (IRL);
15. Israel (ISR) – Represented by AUSTRIA by proxy;
16. Baker ABBADI, Jordan (JO);
17. Vladimir KINDSZULIS, Latvia (LV);
18. Gerardas RUKAS, A. GEGLIS, Lithuania (LT)
19. Znaimo KESKOVSKI, Nikola BALESKI, Macedonia (MK);
20. Milutin NIKITOVIC, Montenegro (ME);
21. James Perry ZAMMIT, Paul BUDDEN, Malta (MT);



22. Frode NAERLAND, Norway (N);
23. Koos VAN HATTUM, Joke DE JONG, The Netherlands (NL);
24. Nunno SERRANO, Louis SOUSA, Portugal (P) (came after the break before the elections)
25. Włodzimierz MALECKI, Arkadiusz IZDEBSKI, Poland (PL);
26. Ion GARBEA, S. MAHIKA, Romania (RO);
27. Boris MISHIN, Olga SKOROKHOD, Russia (RU);
28. Annette SUNJE, Mats WAHLQVIST, Sweden (S);
29. Roy FLEMING, South Africa (SA).
30. Hakan SOYASLAN, Imre SIPAHI, Turkey (TR)
31. Konstyantyn STRYZHYCHENKO, O. CHAIKA, Ukraine (UA)

Excused:

32. Bulgaria (BG);
33. Slovenia (SLO);
34. Serbia (SER)
35. Slovakia (SK)
36. Mozambique (MZ)
37. Luxembourg (L);
38. Denmark (DK);

Absent:

39. Croatia (HR);
40. Estonia (EST);
41. Iceland (ISL);

Guests:

Wolfgang Demski, D, EKF Senior Councillor Group;
John Howell, GB, EKF Senior Councillor Group;
Raf Bernaers, former SG, retired.

Important reading notices:

To shorten these minutes, several abbreviations are used throughout the text:

- Member Countries (and their delegates) will be indicated merely by country initials, as mentioned on the preceding page and above.
- Furthermore, the European and International Kendo Federations will be referred to as EKF or FIK, respectively.



- The EKF institutions as its General Assemblies, Board of Officers, President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Technical Director, Auditor, Webmaster, Senior Councillor Group and Secretary-General, will be referred to as respectively GA, BO, PR VPR, TR, TD, Au, Wm, SCG & SG, and its championships (EKC, EIC & EJC).

01.2 Checking of the EKF Membership fee payment

The countries represented at the GA with one exception have paid their EKF dues and have the right to vote according to the Statutes. AND has not paid the fees for 2010 and does not do so, even after reminded that it will lose the right to vote.

01.3 Conclusions.

The GA is valid, as at least one third (1/3) of the members are attending. This year by 29 (after arrival of P 30) countries, a two third quorum out of 41 is reached.

02. Opening by the President.

At **15:10**, the PR is glad to welcome everyone present for this year's EKF GA, held as usual at the occasion of the European Kendo Championships. Fortunately, it was possible to precede this GA with the regular keiko, a very good tradition. Then the PR thanks the hosting country, Poland for all the good work done organizing this EKC. Then the EKF BO for the good co-operation during the past year.

This GA is especially important because the EKF is at a turning point in its development. In case of an elective GA, and it's the case this time, the GA is clearly divided in two parts.

- The first one is dedicate to the overview of the last year.
- The second one is focused on the decisions engaging the future. And that's the charge of the newly elected BO.

PR asks all to respect a moment of silence for all the victims of the catastrophe which stroke Japan recently.

This moment is particularly emotional. Since 1984, 27 years ago, Hein Odinot was part of the BO team. PR will not mention all the great and bad times lived



through together. They are so many. PR always had Hein Odinot beside him. PR and Hein Odinot even have been concurrent candidates. Hein Odinot is a living part of the Kendo history in Europe. Hein Odinot was at the beginning of the EKF present at their foundation. He knows personally all those men and women who made what we are today. Hein Odinot decided to step down from the BO. This was a hard decision for him to take and for us to accept.

Since 27 years this happens the first time. Although the BO can understand his reasons to do so, the BO does not know how the further meetings without him will be, without his wise presence, without his clever regard. For the BO it's a very emotional moment. In the name of the BO and in his own name PR thanks Hein Odinot. The BO would not have been what it is without him. PR asks the Assembly to express gratitude for all what Hein Odinot did for the EKF with a great applause. The GA agrees by applause.

The BO proposes that Hein Odinot is made Honorary EKF Vice-President with the privileges of a SCG-Member. The GA agrees by applause.

For different reasons, Raf Bernaers resigned from his position of SG November 2010. Member Countries may have received Raf' Bernaers' mailing. PR does not intend to debate single points raised, but wants to put the actions in the right context.

As Raf Bernaers was SG until Nov 2010 he made the minutes of the 2009 GA in Sao Paulo, even if they were late. The minutes of the 2010 GA in Debrecen last year contain Raf Bernaers own report. PR quotes from those minutes.

➤ **Minutes of GA Sao Paulo 2009: Para 08.09, p 10:**

"Conclusion.

It becomes more and more difficult to do this job on the professional level I d'like to reach. So if somebody thinks he or she can do better, please don't hesitate to enter your candidature for the election next year in Hungary".

➤ **Minutes of GA Debrecen 2010; Para 08.07 and 08.08, p 13:**

"The quest for a successor.

..... The main reason is simply a lack of sufficient time.

..... It has become too much to accomplish for a single (but married) man.



.....I hope you can imagine that my situation has become unbearable in itself. But I have to admit that the second reason lays in a change of working atmosphere.... It becomes more difficult to enjoy the work done. That's why I put in the agenda that the successor is awaited for at the next election."

"Conclusion.

.... So anybody thinking he or she can do better is asked not to hesitate entering his or her candidature for the BO election to be held next year in Poland. and don't worry, I'm proud of the work I achieved. So I will leave my function head up next year."

PR does not intend to argue more. For details of administrative work the TR can comment if so requested. Since at least two years Raf Bernaers intended to step out of the BO. He disagreed with the new organization, at the same time he said he cannot face the job anymore without readiness to change the way of working. If a person persistently says and writes: "please find a successor", this person cannot say he has been "forced" to retire.

As announced, the elections this year are quiet different than the usual ones. There are candidates for replacing the SG and the TR. Both candidates presented impressive CVs with their letters of candidature. All Members have received those CV with the Agenda of the GA as foreseen by the Statutes. Pekka Nurminen and Zsolt Vadadi have the full support of the EKF BO, who warmly recommends that the GA also supports them. But unfortunately Pekka could not be with us this time. His wife was severely ill and he must stay at her side and with his family. The BO hopes she will get better soon. Nevertheless, Pekka Nurminen has confirmed that this situation does not affect his candidature.

PR congratulates the "Sangiovese" group for the quality of the work done for the EKF Internet/IT-system. Under the lead of TR, with the help of Enrico Pelizza, I, and Harald Hofer, A, the earlier registration and administration system, which has been a cornerstone of EKF but has reached the limit of feasibility, was renewed and improved. The GA may thank them very much.

The top moment of the kendo year is the EKC. Two teams had and have to work together. The Polish organizing team and the EKF team under the lead of our TD Jean Pierre Raick, assisted by Emilio Gomez. This task is perfectly under control as will be seen from tomorrow onwards. This is a heavy task.



The BO thanks very much the Polish Federation, the TD and their teams for the job done.

In Debrecen last year, the spirit among the shinpan was excellent and this created a friendly atmosphere in the championship. This is the fruit of years and years of common work. PR does expect it will be the same this time again.

PR hopes that at the dinner tonight all delegates will use this opportunity to know each other better. All work for the same idea: developing kendo in the European zone in a spirit of harmony. Thank you for your patience. This was an unusual long speech. This is the first time that the BO meets such a big change.

The PR wishes everyone present a fruitful meeting. He wishes every country nice championships and then declares the GA open.

03. Approval of the 2010 GA Minutes

The minutes of the Debrecen G.A. 2010 have been sent to the Member Countries according to Art. 05.09 EKF-Statutes. Technical remarks from D have been received and included; the final version is published on the EKF-website for many months. So it is this version which is formally approved now.

04. EKF Statutes

No Proposals, no changes.

05. Report by the EKF Vice-President

The VPR points out his history in Kendo and the EKF since 1965, where he was Treasurer and Vice-President of EKF and also – and still is – President of the Dutch Kendo Federation. One of the tasks of the Vice-President was keeping contact with the Senior Councillor Group, of which two members, Wolfgang Demski and John Howell, are present. Hein Odinot explains that he has to retire for health reasons, as he cannot shoulder any more the work and required responsibilities. He will however remain connected to Kendo and the EKF, and still is President of the Dutch Kendo Federation. He asks for “discharge” for his service. No Questions are asked, the GA agrees by applause.



06. Report by the EKF Treasurer

06.1 Introduction

The TR announces that the first three countries to have remitted their yearly membership fee are POR, ESP and MA, in that order. Some countries are behind and will be reminded. For this GA only AND lost the right to vote for delayed payment.

06.2 The EKF Financial Report 2010

The financial report for 2010 has been distributed with the invitation for this General Assembly.

The income 2010 was almost the same as in 2009, the cost for the BO travel was a bit higher compared to the year before. Part of this cost goes to travelling to Brussels, Hungary, Finland, France, Italy, Poland and Lithuania, including for five Board Meetings in Brussels, three European Championships, a Referee Seminar, GAISF/Sportaccord Meetings and the Combat Games in Beijing, for which the major part was paid by the Chinese Organizers. Furthermore, 2010 the last “Green Book” was distributed, in 2009 there were no costs for such and there will be much less paper costs in the future.

The financial result was slightly negative, generally speaking. However, the reserves are still acceptable. At the moment – after having paid the fees to FIK and all known liabilities – the bank accounts are at approximately half a yearly budget, the TR aims at a reserve of one yearly budget.

06.3 Approval of the accounts for 2010

John Howell, the EKF Au has checked the accounts and announced before in writing but now personally in public that he found them in order, specifying that all money has been used for federation purposes.

The audit report, drawn by John Howell on the 8th of March 2010, states that:

“I have found the accounts duly vouched and accounted for. The bookkeeping is to general standards with funds used for the objects of the European Kendo Federation.”



The TR then asks the GA to confirm his Financial Report for 2010. D requires further explanations as to the costs of the Shinpan Seminar 2010 and the respective Budget item 2012. TR explains the way the budget is produced, by making a three year average and assuming a 10 % increase. Income will be rounded conservatively down, expenses up. Then special situations (WKC, etc.) will be regarded. D requires for next year a document showing the actual report side by side with the respective budget. TR assures that this can be done.

The GA agrees with the mentioned amounts in this financial report and discharges the BO unanimously for the year 2010.

06.4 EKF Budget 2012

The TR did make up a budget with a sufficient amount of reserve.

Still based on a slightly rising income due to the growing number of practicing yudansha and the higher number of examinations, he has made up a budget about 10 % bigger than the past year (for your information: the budget is always made up one year in advance). The main sources of income are membership fee and examinations. FIK fee is treated as just passing through, as are the costs of the shinpan seminar. The shinpan seminar is budgeted higher for 2012 than for 2010.

The proposals by D for financial matters (Committee for improvement of financial matters) are recorded at 11.1.

For your information, the calculation method of EKF's membership fees is the following; **the fees have NOT been raised for many years:**

- All members pay a minimum of EUR 200,00, except for starters who pay EUR 100,00 for the first year;
- Countries with 100 up to 1.000 members pay EUR 2,00 per person;
- Countries with 1.001 up to 2.000 members pay EUR 1,50 per capita, with a minimum of EUR 2.000,00;
- Countries having more than 2.001 members pay EUR 1,00 per capita, with a minimum of EUR 3.000,00.



The budget for 2012 is approved unanimously.

06.5 Anti-doping Rules.

The TR so far also covered AD-matters on EKF and FIK level. No new developments here. For Europe out of AD-correspondents as nominated by the Member Countries the selected doctors for the evaluation of any questions (TUE, etc.) are Paul-Otto Forstreuter (D), Jérôme Kozak (F) and Frank Grüne (NL), for the legal issues further persons nominated by Member Countries are consulted.

So far no doping testing was conducted, the costs are significant. Testing by national authorities under national local laws always is possible. TR advises all countries to have at least one doctor and one lawyer keeping an close eye on anti-doping matters on an national and international level, as the rules and documentations are quite complex. At least the list of prohibited substances and the TUE-procedures need to be monitored closely. Some but few TUE-requests have been received and examined prior to this competition.

07. Activity report by the EKF Secretary-General

07.1 Administartion of EKF

Because of the resignation of Mr. Raf Bernaers on November 5, 2010 from his Function of Secretary-General, the TR who acted since that time as preliminary SG, gives his comments on the EKF administration activities and on the level of co-operation between the EKF BO and the EKF Members.

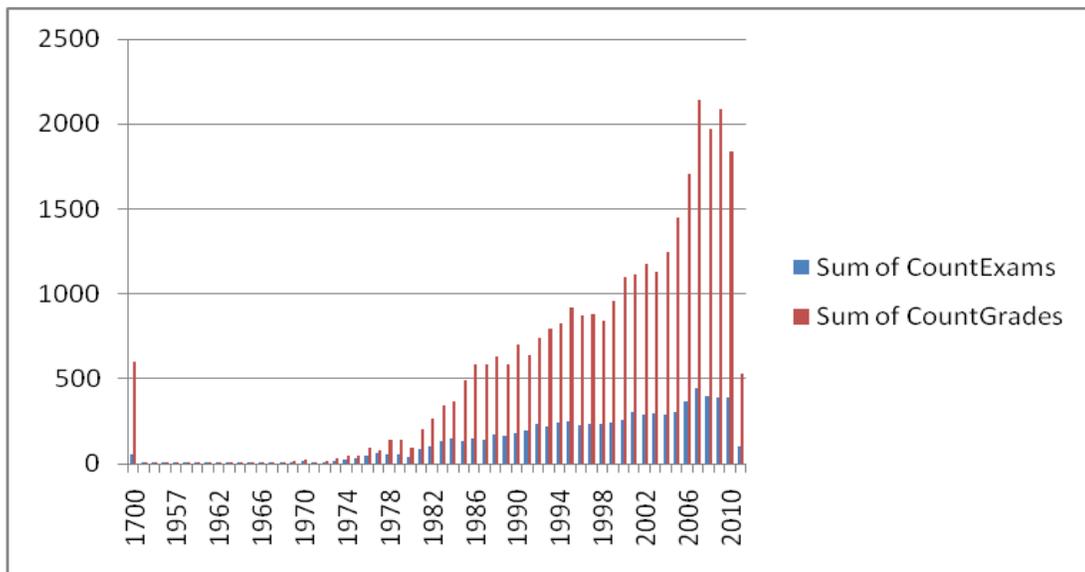
07.2 The EKF – Website – the general concept

➤ **General background**

This is the most important part of the present administration system, allowing the distribution of information among Member Countries and the public, transparency of activities and the distribution of control and work among many people, irrespective of time and location. The major reason is the growing number of events (including exams), Dojos and practitioners. TR shows some statistics. The present status is 42 Member Countries with approx. 10.100 active practitioners (yudansha!) with approx. 30.900 registered grades. In the 10 years average there are 320 exams per year and approx. 1500 grades



achieved, thereof 840 shodan. Estimated 100 national events and 450 dojos are registered on the website. All numbers are rising.



Information shall be entered where it is most easily available by those who have the greatest interest to do it, writing / copying shall be kept to the minimum, as shall be the turning around of paper. This is for efficiency, speed and costs.

The EKF Agenda of activities and the Dojo-List appear 'online' on the EKF web-site (www.ekf-eu.com). Activities and dojos added to the EKF web-site by Member Countries are approved by the SG before being published.

All grades - and only the name and the grade /shogo and its date – can be easily seen on the website. All other information of individual persons is protected by passwords. Countries see the data of their own people.

➤ **Communication**

Most of the communication between the members and the SG happens now either by email or via this website, as much as possible in a strictly standardized way. The data of your organization and representatives should be updated on the website, only for the GA one form survived; we reduced it from 8 to one page. The number of practicing members has been announced by most Member Countries, you see it on the list with signatures.



➤ **Dan Grading Examinations and Registration Procedure.**

The yudansha list on the web-site by almost all countries has been completely actualized, so the quality of data can be constantly improved. Having user code and password, the Member Countries are expected to actualize the Dan-Files' data by yourself. The SG only intervenes to solve problems and to check. For details please see <http://www.ekf-eu.com/documents/2011PersonsExamsGradesInfo.pdf>, which will be updated on the website.

For **championships and examinations organized under EKF authority**, the registration occurs by the countries' administrators online, only new (people) shodan need to be entered, all others can be selected from existing data. If ever you have questions on this subject, please contact the EKF Wm with a clear description of the problem (webmaster@ekf-eu.com).

➤ **Dan Grading Diplomas.**

All known missing diplomas are distributed, for the exams on Sunday 8.5.2011 they will be available at the spot. Please let us know, if further diplomas of EKF-Examinations are missing.

07.3 Comments on the resignation of Raf Bernaers in November 2010

Upon request by B, TR explains the beginning of the project to modernize the EKF administration / website, including moving the data (Persons, exams, grades etc.) into a data base¹, as was discussed and attempted for the last several years. After preliminary discussions, a group was formed in Sportilia 2009, consisting of Enrico Pelizza(I) a website professional expert, Harald Hofer (A) a professional data base expert, TR and some other loosely related persons for consultations², that called themselves "Sangiovese" and had the aim to develop a new system for the EKF administration.

The initial discussions and the decisions for this were all done with the continuous involvement of the Board of Directors of the EKF, including Raf Bernaers. He never objected to the project. A respective report and presentation was made to the GA in 2010 in Debrecen. The person/exams/grades data recorded and kept by Raf Bernaers for the EKF in the famous "Green Book" over more than 20 Years (more than 12.000 persons and 30.000 grades!) was by the end of 2009 electronically analyzed and imported into the system. With

¹ A professional SQL data base is used.

² Including Roger Fleury, CH, and Annette Sunje, S.



very few mistakes, this was very good data. In the new data base system, the EKF-Number is used as unique identification criteria for many things, e.g. attribution of grades to persons. Correspondingly, Raf Bernaers was informed and repeatedly requested to abstain from his earlier practice of changing the number of a person – sometime several times – due to some reasons. He did not object.

In summer 2010 TR undertook to produce missing menjo for examinations held under the authority of the EKF, as there was a backlog for several years. For that reason a second persons/exams/grades data import was necessary, covering approximately the first three quarters of 2010. Upon request Raf Bernaers provided additional data for that time (one excel file for each Member Country) and this was imported into the data base by Harald Hofer, the data base expert.

From that data source more than 600 menjo for exams held by EKF were produced, stamped, signed and sorted by country for the last five years. Raf Bernaers helped with the stamping. When the VPR at that time, Hein Odinot, carefully examined the menjo for NL, he found that they partly were not correct. Thereafter TR took several days to check all data and found that between the first data import end 2009 and the second mid 2010, more than 1.000 EKF numbers had been changed and, naturally, because of this, many grades and menjo were incorrect. It took the three experts several weeks (!) of work to get the data right again. Also all menjo had to be checked again, about one third had to be reproduced.

TR was quite upset because of this situation and informed PR, VPR and TD. The four members of the BO met in Lille/F on November 5, 2010 and discussed the matter for several hours. Taking into consideration earlier statements by Raf Bernaers that he is ready to retire from his post (as referred to by PR earlier in this meeting) and considering this most recent events, it was decided to contact Raf Bernaers immediately on this matter and ask him to resign. On the same day Raf Bernaers was given notice of the visit by VPR Hein Odinot by phone hours in advance.

Then a meeting of PR, VPR, TR and Raf Bernaers took place in the latter's house. This was unpleasant for everybody attending. After a short discussion, Raf Bernaers signed his resignation letter and asked the other Board members to leave his house. Upon request he handed over blank Yellow Card forms, open issues for dan registration and the registrations for the dan examination registration for the EIC in Paris one week later.



The BO was saddened to see more than 20 years dedicated service to the EKF being concluded like that.

07.4 Questions and discussions

Upon question by S, TR explains that the EKF-Numbers serve as the unique identification mark for a person, as names can cause problems with changes upon marriage, special characters (in various European languages!) and misspellings. This is essential for a real database system as in place now. Unlike so far practiced by Raf Bernaers, numbers will not anymore be changed on the basis of age, grade or order of examinations, but remain unchanged. All the relevant information can be seen on the website. Also numbers may be issued to people not holding any dangrades yet, e.g. on registration for championships, kendo as well as laido and Jodo.

F points out the additional workload for the number of events/grades and the fact that the data on persons/grades in F needs to be entered into an official data base of the Ministry of Sports as well. TR is aware of the vast number of practitioners/grades/events in F and the related problems. He offers – as was done in writing before – to come with WM to Paris to analyze the situation and explore solutions, e.g. by electronic data export/import or work/information flow analysis. As this is a technical problem, a technical solution will be found.

08. Report of the EKF Technical Director

The TD has handed out the printed version of his report at the beginning of the GA and he hopes that the representatives have found the time to take a glance at it prior its formal lecture. He then reads the English translation of his report for the season 2010-2011:

08.1 Championships

The **European Kendo Championship of last year (2010 Debrecen – Hungary)** has been one of the biggest in terms of numbers of participants, with 34 Men's teams for 34 represented countries, 17 Ladies' teams (14 in Helsinki), 14 Junior's team (12 in Helsinki) and even 94 Ladies' Individuals (89 in Helsinki), and this despite the reduction of possible registered participants (from 7 to 5). Because of the adoption of this new rule, we have now 166 participants instead of 198 in the Men's Individuals.



As for each Championship, the organizing country has perfectly fulfilled its task, which becomes harder and harder regarding the growing total number of participants: competitors, officials, members of staff and helpers make approx. 750 people in total!

This situation brought us from this Championship in Poland to adopt the new separation rule between the sportive and the practical aspects (accommodation etc.). **As you may know, the registrations for the Championship as well as for the draw are now directly carried out by the EKF – this is of course valid for Kendo, Iaido and Jodo.**

The registrations for the stay are carried out by the organising country, which is thus relieved from a huge part of the general work. This new system has perfectly been observed during the current Championship and we thank you for your immediate compliance.

Some extra figures for **EKC Debrecen 2010**: Referees: 12 represented countries; Result of Dan examinations: 1° Dan: 19/19; 2° Dan: 9/9; 3° Dan: 9/13; 4° Dan: 5/24; 5° Dan: 1/3, 6° Dan: 4/15, 7° Dan: 2/5.

Our **EJC** continues its progress, since 17 countries took part to the 9th edition in Brussels 2010, which justified the separation from the Iaido Championship. 145 participants to the seminar, 15 national teams and 18 referees from 6 different countries (Belgium, Germany, France, Great Britain, The Netherlands and Sweden) fought or supervised on 3 Shiai.

Results of Dan examination: 1°Dan: 10/10; 2°Dan: 10/10; 3°Dan: 12/12; 4°Dan: 5/6; 5°Dan: 0; 6°Dan: 1/3; 7°Dan: 0/2.

France (Paris) welcomed the 17th EIC 2010, which encountered 22 participating countries (compared to 20 last year). More than 150 people participated to the seminar, 20 national teams and 24 referees from 9 different countries (Belgium, Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, The Netherlands, Hungary and Finland).

Results of Dan examinations: 1°Dan: 18/18; 2°Dan: 16/17; 3°Dan: 8/13; 4°Dan: 1/7; 5°Dan: 0/5; 6°Dan: 1/21; 7°Dan: 0/3.



General remark on those two Championships:

Although we must feel proud of the now sufficient number of referees per disciplines, the present Japanese experts firmly encourage them to improve their own level of practise. This is essential to improve the refereeing as such.

For the next Championships, the organising countries will be asked to meet the terms defined by the rules (IKF – ZNKR) with even more attention, particularly concerning the requirement of a score-board.

Finally, let me highlight the excellent organisation of the countries (Belgium and France). They have promoted a serious, efficient and friendly atmosphere during the Championships.

The 4th major event of the season is our **annual Kendo referees seminar** in Brussels (February), which keeps roughly the same participation rate. This year, there were 84 referees, 47 of which applied for the selection for the current Championship in Gdynia. The represented countries were: Germany, Great Britain, France, Switzerland, Spain, Belgium, The Netherlands, Italy, Finland, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Norway, Andorra, Sweden, Austria and Czech Republic. 24 referees were selected out of 13 different countries.

Results of Dan examinations:

1°Dan: 3/3; 2°Dan: 9/9; 3°Dan: 3/4; 4°Dan: 1/9; 5°Dan: 5/14; 6°Dan: 5/49;
7°Dan: 2/11

08.2 Rules on Dan Examinations

I believe it is useful to come back to the so called EKF list of Referees and Judges. Of course, it's not EKF who decide who is official or not for each country. Each Federation has the right to establish its own list and to update it regularly during the year thanks to the website of the EKF.

Concerning the participation to a Jury from another country, each country is free to follow or not (EKF decision) the article 4 of the IKF guidelines that I find useful to quote in extenso:



“Standard Guidelines for Dan / Kyu examinations, IKF Rev. 2006.”

Article 4: An examination shall be conducted by Organization; however in case where Organization lacks qualified examiners to meet the required number given below, other Organization(s) may provide qualified examiners with the approval of the President(s) of that Organization(s).”

This is precisely what the ZNKR does for the moment. It requires, for the participation of a ZNKR member to a Jury out of Japan:

- a demand expressed by the organising country (towards the ZNKR);
- a demand expressed by the member himself (towards the ZNKR);

As stated in my report of last year, except an explicit contrary decision by a country:

«The inclusion in the EKF list may be considered as a permanent authorization to Referee or Judge abroad »

Concerning exception demands related to the composition of a Jury, these must be carried out within the given time (2 months) and they must be clearly justified. For the reduction of the number of Judges (from 6 to 5), there is no problem in general. For the participation of a Judge with a lower rank than the requirements, the only exception is for a Judge that is ranked 4th dan and takes part to an examination Jury of 2nd dan, if the reasons are really justified.

08.3 Outlook

Our season ends with the current Championship in GDYNIA, for which our Polish friends have worked very hard.

Next year will be an outstanding year for European Kendo, since the World Championship takes place in NOVARRA – Italy. Meet us there!

Concerning the EJC and the EIC 2011, Great Britain welcomes the former in September, and Andorra the latter in October. **I would like to ask these two countries please confirm the final dates of “Pre / Final Entry”.**

Finally, the European referee seminar will take place during the first weekend of February 2012 in Brussels, as usual. The most common question is whether we have enough fighters of a **superior** level in order to allow the referees to



experience international situations as much as possible. We call on your understanding. EKF is thinking about a system of financial contribution. To be continued...

TD thanks you for the attention and concludes his report by showing the ZNKR how grateful the EKF is for the steady support and in particular for the high-quality delegations they have been sending for the following events:

23° EKC - DEBRECEN - HUNGARY, 2010:

NAGAO Eikoh,	Hanshi 8° Dan
HAYASHI Tatsuo,	Kyoshi 8° Dan
KOKUBO Shoji,	Kyoshi 8° Dan

9° EJC – BRUSSELS – BELGIUM, 2010

FURAKAWA Shunya,	Hanshi 8° Dan
KUROGO Gengi,	Kyoshi 8° Dan
HAYASHI Eiko,	Kyoshi 8° Dan

17° EIC – PARIS – FRANCE, 2010

KISHIMOTO Chihiro,	Hanshi 8° Dan
KUSAMA Junichi,	Hanshi 8° Dan
AOKI,	Hanshi 8° Dan

08.4 Questions and discussions

D requires a transparent feedback on the evaluation of shinpan candidates by the ZNKR delegation during the Shinpan seminar in order that the countries can better judge if the candidates they send are the best qualified available. However, the classification done by the ZNKR delegation is given on a strictly confidential basis. TD points out that the final selection should be a clear and sufficient feedback to countries, as is the division in a “red” and “black” group during the seminar. In any case Member Countries should aim at sending the best qualified shinpan candidates and fighters to the seminar, and shall further national shinpan education.

GB requests a separate Shinpan Seminar for laido / Jodo in spring similar to the Kendo Seminar. This shall be provided for in the budget of the EKF. TD points out the different needs for Kendo shinpan on the one hand and laido/Jodo shinpan on the other hand. Respective seminars have been held prior to the last EIC and EJC. Further, TD points out the advice of ZNKR delega-



tions, that laido / Jodo shinpan need to upgrade their own level before separate and extended specialized shinpan seminars for those disciplines are considered by ZNKR.

Before the coffee break PR points out the issue with the possible candidature of Raf Benares. The BO believes firmly that the acceptance of such candidature would be contrary to the EKF Statutes and would require a change of EKF Statutes. This is, because the letter by Raf Bernaers was sent only a few days prior to the GA, it was not sent by a Member Country and it was not a candidature by a BO Member in office. If an *ad hoc* change of EKF Statutes would be even possible, is still another difficult question.

09. Coffee Break 17:00 – 17:20

10. Elections of the Board of Officers (Art. 06 EKF-Statutes

10.1 Procedure

The BO steps down presiding the GA and EKF Auditor and SC John Howell (GB) takes with the agreement of the GA the chair of the Assembly for the voting procedure. SC Wolfgang Demski and Errol Baboolal-Blake (GB) assist him in the procedure.

10.2 Candidates

Persons to take the following offices shall be elected for the next term of three years:

- **EKF President;**
- **EKF Vice-President**
- **EKF Secretary-General;**
- **EKF Treasurer;**
- **EKF Technical Director;**
- **EKF Auditor;**



➤ **3 EKF Directors to FIK;**

10.3 The following candidatures and related declarations have been received:

- **Mr. Alain Ducarme**, Belgium, longstanding EKF President, is available as a candidate for the office of EKF President;
- **Mr. Hein Odinot**, The Netherlands, longstanding EKF Treasurer and thereafter Vice-President, is due to health reasons no longer available as a candidate for an office on the EKF Board of Officers;
- **Mr. Raf Bernaers**, Belgium, longstanding EKF Secretary-General, re-signed from his office on November 5th, 2010 with immediate effect; a few days prior to the GA, he sent an email to the Member Countries and the BO, requesting, i.a., to be accepted as candidate for the office of President.
- **Mr. Jean-Pierre Raick**, France, longstanding EKF Technical Director, is available as a candidate for the office of EKF Technical Director, serving with Alain Ducarme as President;
- **Mr. Dieter Hauck**, Austria, since 2005 EKF Treasurer, is available as a candidate for the office of EKF Vice-President, serving with Alain Ducarme as President;
- **Mr. Pekka Nurminen**, Finland, is available as a candidate for the office of EKF Secretary-General;
- **Mr. Zsolt Vadadi**, Hungary, is available as a candidate for the office of EKF Treasurer;
- **Mr. Jean-Pierre Soulas**, France, President of CNK, is available as a candidate for the office of FIK-Director;
- **Mr. Gianfranco Moretti**, Italy, President of CIK, is available as a candidate for the office of FIK-Director;
- **Mr. Detlef Viebranz**, Germany, President of DKenB, is available as a candidate for the office of FIK-Director;



10.4 Elections

The Chairman invites for a discussion on the matter of the Candidature of Raf Bernaers and the eventual need to change the EKF Statutes for accepting the candidature. MT points out that any change of Statutes need to be announced to all Member Countries – several are not represented! - in the Agenda sent out before the GA. This has not been the case. Raf Bernaers argues that the GA is the highest body in the EKF. Then the Chairman invites for a vote, if the GA shall modify the Statutes and consider the candidature of Raf Bernaers for President. No Country votes in favor. So the candidature of Raf Bernaers will NOT be considered further in the elections.

Then a vote is taken on Alain Ducarme as President. D requires a secret ballot in writing. After the respective preparations are made, such ballot is taken with the following result: 24 in favor, one NO, two abstentions. Alain Ducarme is elected for EKF President with majority; he accepts the election and resumes the chair of the Assembly. He thanks for the trust placed in him and accepts those votes not in favor as additional motivation to improve his conduct of office.

The votes for the further candidates are individually taken by open vote, i.e. raising of hands. All candidates are elected unanimously. i.e. Dieter Hauck (A) for Vice-President, Jean-Pierre Raick (F) for Technical Director, Pekka Nurminen (FIN) for Secretary General and Zsolt Vadadi (HUN) for Treasurer.

D requires a clarification in the EKF Statutes on the term of office of persons elected to be proposed as FIK Directors.

John Howell, GB, is reelected as Auditor. All elected candidates accept their election. Pekka Nurminen, FIN, who for reasons explained earlier could not be present, is informed by phone and accepts as well. Best wished of the GA are extended to him. The newly elected Board of Officers takes office and continues the Agenda.

11. Further issues raised by Member Countries

11.1 German Proposal on Financial Matters and others

➤ **Payment of Inscription-fee for Kendo Dan Grading**

D comments that EKF asked to do the payment for Kendo Dan Grading after



the EKF referee seminar in Brussels as follow: Payment (seminar and examination) shall be made exclusively to the EKF account in advance by the same date, grouped by country. Otherwise the registration cannot be accepted. However, if EKF organize Kendo Dan Grading the payment of Inscription-fee has to be done by the candidates themselves. Only if the Member Country agrees, the fee will be collected by them and transferred to EKF account. Also D proposes to request the candidates to send their yellow cards or / and menjo to EKF prior to the examination.

VPR (former TR) comments that payment by individual candidates is no problem and has been and will be accepted. However, for countries outside the EURO-Zone, joint payment can reduce bank fees considerably. The payments concerned shall be free of charge inside the EURO zone. For countries outside the EURO zone upon explicit request cash payment will be available on an exceptional basis.

The mailing of Yellow cards and/or Menjo is not necessary and will not reduce administrative efforts, as primarily online registration by authorized Member Country administrators shall take place in the future, as has been used for the examinations after this EKC. Thereby earlier grades are automatically checked by the system. Exceptional cases (candidates from non-EKF countries, etc.) will be handled on a case by case basis, if necessary with paper documents. Except that, the handling of paper shall be minimized.

The earlier request to all candidates that the registration shall be confirmed the day before the examination (e.g. at the shinpan seminar in Brussels 2011) will be reviewed and amended.

➤ EKF Rules for Dan Grading Examinations

D comments refers to the Standard Guideline for Dan/Kyu Examination of IKF, saying *"other Organization(s) may provide qualified examiners with the APPROVAL of the PRESIDENT(S) of that Organization(s)."* D proposes to add a respective provision to the EKF Rules for Dan Grading Examinations.

TD replies and refers to his report on this issue and that every country is free to adopt such rule. The EKF shall not limit that possibility for countries. TD also points at the jury list to be made by countries, containing a basically general permission to sit on juries abroad. VPR points out the possibility to select eligibility for exam jury with each person in the EKF online system with each person registered.



A vote is taken on the proposal by D. NO majority in favor of the proposal.

➤ **3. Financial situation of the EKF**

D explains that nearly 25 to 35 % of income in the EKF budget derives from inscription- and registration-fee in Dan gradings in Kendo, Jodo and Iaido. D is of the opinion that this position in the budget cannot be calculated with sufficient certainty, because the numbers of candidates changes every year and in WKC years one Kendo Dan Grading is not held by EKF. Therefore D deems the calculation of the EKF budget to be unrealistic and unreliable. D proposes on the one hand to find other ways to stabilize the income for EKF, e.g. by higher membership-fees. On the other hand, D wants to find a way that those members who support the organization of a Dan Grading held by EKF will receive a share from the Dan Grading fee.

D therefore proposes that the GA shall install a Committee (composed of three or five members) to investigate a new system of income. The proposals of the committee shall be presented to the EKF GA in 2012 for discussion and vote.

VPR (former TR) comments that the statistics of the past years show a relatively stable development of income from gradings, which is very important for EKF financing. D proposal also includes a proposed withdrawal of funds from EKF, if sharing of income from EKF exams is requested by the organizing Member Country. In any case the EKF needs to be financed by the Member Countries. At the moment the present operations can be financed. If, however, additional activities and/or services from EKF are demanded (e.g. financial support for fighters and/or shinpan for the shinpan seminar), then additional financing for the EKF will be necessary. The financial problems/interest of smaller Member Countries shall be duly regarded in the discussion. TR proposes the Committee to have an uneven number of members.

The creation of the special financial committee is agreed by the GA by vote.

The committee will consist of TR, VPR, the EKF Auditor SC John Howell, Jean-Pierre Soulas (F) and one Person to be nominated by D³. TR will coordinate the Committees working.

➤ **Charge of costs for EKF assistance**

D points out that an EKF hosting country has to take in charge of so-called EKF assistance (see Financial Matters Concerning the organizing of an EKF,

³ Later SC Wolfgang Demski was nominated by D.



EIC & EJC) for the duration of the stay, including the sayonara party (traveling expenses not included). This includes one assistance to the EKF Technical Director, the EKF official announcer and the EKF webmaster (3 persons in total). D observes that it is not specified how long the stay of this people needs to be covered by the hosting country; but assumes, it will be the same period as the members of EKF board.

D proposes: All costs for accommodation, catering and sayonara party of the so-called EKF assistance has to be taken in charge by EKF. Because many of hosting countries have well prepared persons who are able to do what the EKF call assistance, specially the duty and job of the official announcer. This assistance belonging to the staff of EKF board (or staff of Technical director) and therefore it is logical that EKF has to bear the expenses for them. Otherwise it will raise the championship fee, all participants have to pay.

TD explains that the assistance, announcer and webmaster is not only a matter of language but relates to a team well tested and well trained that have cooperated for a long time to run championships most effectively. The communication inside the team is most important for the success of such exercise.

TR and VPR explain that the financing is basically a matter of allocation of funds; it is not the idea that the hosting country shall bear the expenses by themselves. It should rather be financed by the event by being distributed to the participants. If the burden is placed on the EKF, it has to be financed from general EKF funds, finally going back to Member Countries as well. As these people work exclusively for the event, it seems logically that the expenses are financed by the event.

The GA decides by majority to refer the issue to the special financial committee as created under the item just before.

11.2 UK Proposal on laido / Jodo Championships: suggested new entry regulation to the European laido and Jodo Championships - Summary

➤ **What is it?**

UK proposes a rule that only allows participation in the European laido and Jodo Championships in a specific Dan-Category for the duration equal to their dan grade. Members can participate after this duration provided they have at least attempted their next grading once in the year leading up to a championships.



➤ **Why have this?**

To allow a much fairer base for the European Championships. This is our most prestigious event for Iaido and Jodo and in the last few years there has been clear gaps in experience and ability in the dan categories especially the lower grades. There have been instances where people with 9 years of Iaido experience have been pitted against people with no more than one year's experience in the Mudan category. This is clearly unfair from a sports perspective and does not engage with the martial arts notion of self-challenge and ongoing development for the individual or the national organization as a whole.

➤ **How will this be implemented?**

By ensuring that each participating nation's squad manager signs an agreement promising that every one of their participating members has a grading history which complies with this regulation.

➤ **How will this be monitored?**

The system will be self-monitoring via the participants, organizers and referees at these events. The organizing nation will be responsible for upholding and enforcing this regulation,

➤ **How will a non-compliance be challenged?**

For the majority of participants, their grading records should be on the EKF online database and thereby be visible to anyone. For those participants who are in their "extra" years, the squad manager should bring with them to the event the grading applications list of participants where that team member attempted to grade. It would be hoped that as a best practice activity, each squad manager would bring a list of each team member's previous grading details including date, place, head of panel etc.

➤ **What would happen at an event if a participant were found to be non-compliant?**

A challenge should be raised with the organizing country's officials. If the challenge is found to be valid then that participating member would be disqualified from the event for that year. Participation in the 3-person team event would also be forbidden if they happen to be in that selected team regardless of the team's total dan counts.

➤ **What would happen if we don't do this?**

There will continue to be a disproportionate gap between participants in the same dan category in these events. The notion of holding back people's grad-



ings in order to strengthen a country's chances of winning may spread with the effect of stagnation in the development of laido and Jodo in Europe.

➤ **Who else is doing this?**

Italy has already implemented a system very similar to this for their National Championships and Britain will be commencing this very system detailed here from 2011. In conversation with many high grades and squad leaders in previous years, the majority are in favor of this principle.

A vote is taken and the GA accepts this proposal with majority over four votes against and four abstentions.

12. Senior Councillor Group (SCG), other Honorary Functions

12.1 New Candidates

13. Affiliations

13.1 Iceland – proposal for Expulsion according Art. 10 EKF-Statutes

➤ **Presentation by the S.G. / TR**

VPR (former TR) explains that for about three years there have been no payments and/or contact from and with Iceland, although repeated reminders have been sent. Still fees are being paid by EKF to FIK for Iceland. There have been recent contacts with Iceland. They are aware of the motion for expulsion and have explained the situation with reference to personal situations, the economic impact of the global financial crisis and a lack of practitioners.

➤ **Presentation by the Member Country's representative**

No representative of Iceland was present.

➤ **Discussion & vote**

The question is raised whether a temporary suspension of the membership was more appropriate. PR explains that the expulsion is meant to be a chance for Iceland, i.e. the same group or a different one, to join the EKF without the financial burden of the past getting bigger every year and the position being blocked by an inactive federation. There is no problem to file a new application



for membership at any time in the future. TR points out that on such application the issue of old unpaid fees may need to be discussed.

The GA decides unanimously to expulse Iceland from the EKF.

13.2 Georgia

➤ **Presentation by the S.G. / TR ;(see attached Documents)**

The application documents have been found by EKF in order and have been distributed together with the invitation to the GA. There have been recommendations letters presented from Denmark and Malta. Since no representative of Georgia is present, MT makes a short presentation on the relations with Georgia, which has been supported by Malta for a few years in the development of Kendo.

➤ **Presentation by the representative**

No representative of Georgia is present.

➤ **Discussion & vote**

The GA votes by majority in favour of the accession of Georgia to the EKF, with RUS voting against and GB, IRL abstaining.

13.3 Belorussia

➤ **Presentation by the VPR**

VPR reports on the information received from Belorussia, there seem to be rivalling federations, the situation is quite unclear. No complete membership application has been received.

➤ **Presentation by the representative,**

No representative of Belorussia was present.

➤ **Discussion.**

No vote is taken; the matter will be kept under further consideration.



13.4 Ukraine, other Provisional Members

- **Discussion and vote to accept the Provisional Member Ukraine as a full member according to Art. 03.04. EKF Statutes.**

The permanent status of the Ukrainian Kendo Federation is accepted unanimous with two abstentions, after UA has explained about the situation in UA involving the confrontation of rivalling organisations and the attempts to resolve the situation.

- **Discussion and vote to accept all other Provisional Members⁴, who have held this status for at least two years, as full members according to Art. 03.04. EKF Statutes.**

The permanent status of Montenegro, Serbia, Macedonia, Malta and Lithuania is confirmed unanimously with one abstention. This does not affect the status of affiliated members.

13.5 Norway

- **The Norwegian Kendo Federation has been reorganising to become a part of the general Norwegian Sport Association and the Martial Arts Association within it. As part of this it is planned to transfer the membership in EKF to the Norwegian Fight Sport Association**

- **Presentation by the representative of Norway**

N explains that the Norwegian Kendo Federation is in the process of becoming a part of the Norwegian Martial Arts Federation, and thereafter will form the Kendo Committee inside this federation. The acting people will be virtually the same. The Kendo Committee will be free to act in Kendo/laido/Jodo matters.

- **Discussion & vote.**

It is pointed out that this is a similar situation like in F. It is important that the Kendo/laido/Jodo Committee is free to act in respective matters. N is requested to present detailed documentation after the change is completed. The change is accepted by the GA.

⁴ See e.g. Minutes 2007 General Assembly Lisbon.



14. **EKF Relations with FIK.**

The countries of which the Presidents will become FIK Directors are France (Jean-Pierre Soulas), Germany (Detlev Viebranz) and Italy (Franco Moretti).

Then the PR gives an overview on the recent developments. The next WKC 2012 will be held in Novara, Italy. PR points out that a membership in EKF does not automatically lead to a membership in FIK, a separate application needs to be done with FIK. Only countries members of FIK will be allowed to participate in the 15th WKC in Novara 2012. Those members of EKF who are not yet members of FIK but want to become such, should make their applications directly with FIK (kendo-fik@kendo.or.jp) as soon as possible.

14. **Future Championships**

14.1 Confirmation of Andorra candidature for the 18th EIC 2011;

The candidature is confirmed by Andorra, the preparations are under way. AND points at the official website already operating for details: <http://www.kendo-andorra.org/eic2011/> .

VPR points out the registration for competition and examinations over the EKF – website.

D comments on the unpaid EKF fees of AND.

14.2 Confirmation of candidature of Great Britain for the 10th EJC 2011;

GB confirms the candidature.

14.3 State of affairs on the Italian candidature for the 15th WKC in 2012;

Preparations are well under way, to date according to plan. I refers to the official homepage (www.15wkc-italy.org) and the contact email (info@15wkc-italy.org) for details. It is recommended to fly to Malpensa-Airport 30km from Novara and I informs that accommodation of different price levels will be offered. As Novara as well as the Hotels are not very big, the delegations will be accommodated in various places. Ticket-sales will be announced on the website. Novara and the country-side around are very pleasant to visit.



14.4 Confirmation of German candidature for the 25th EKC 2013;

The candidature is confirmed by Germany. The EKC is planned to be held 12.4. – 14.4.2013 in Berlin in the Max-Schmeling Halle.

14.5 Announcement of candidatures for the 19th EIC 2012;

No candidature so far.

14.6 Announcement of candidatures for the 11th EJC 2012;

Belgium announces a candidature.

14.7 Announcement of candidature for the 26th EKC 2014;

Macedonia announces a candidature.

14.8 16. WKC Asian Zone

There are two candidates, Japan and Korea. Certainly, a Championship in Tokyo in the Nippon Budokan May or October 2015 would be most fascinating. However, concerns are raised for the safety of delegations with regard to the sad events in the northeast of Japan that included damages to a nuclear power plant and possible negative effects even in the area of Tokyo. Even if such is not clear from the information available, the subjective concerns of people supposed to go to Tokyo need to be duly addressed. The FIK Directors will make respective comments in the upcoming FIK-BODM in Novara, May 28. Proposals should be made to move the WKC to the south of Japan.

14.9 Other candidatures

None.



15. Date of the next General Assembly

The date and venue of the next EKF GA will be at the occasion of the 15th WKC in Novara, 2012. The date will be most likely the Wednesday, May 23, 2012. The details will be confirmed in an invitation well in advance of the event.

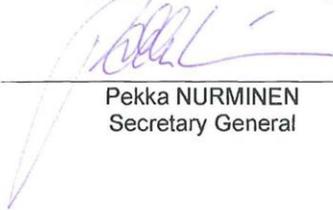
16. Closing by the President

The president closes the meeting and thanks all those who have attended for their contribution.

17. Invitation to the EKF Dinner later that evening

Persons as registered in advance by the answer form are invited to the EKF Dinner to follow immediately.

The EKF Board of Officers:

		
Alain DUCARME President	Dieter HAUCK Vice-President	Jean-Pierre RAICK Technical Director
		
Pekka NURMINEN Secretary General		Zsolt VADADI Treasurer

