

N Z C l u b D i r e c t o r y

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P O B o x 13545
O n e h u n g a
A U C K L A N D

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107 S l a t e r S t
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C H R I S T C H U R C H

N e l s o n K e n d o C l u b
c / o S a m H o p k i n s o n
95 W h i t b y R d
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V U W R e m b u d e n K e n d o C l u b
c / o V U W S A
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W E L L I N G T O N

W a i k a t o K e n d o C l u b
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H A M I L T O N

sought after celebrity who found his niche travelling the world spreading the good word of Kendo.

Uncle Kotay has agreed to do an exclusive column for the Gambaru Gazette, and invites all Kiwi Kendoka to write in with any questions concerning both technical philosophical aspects of Kendo.

*Dear Uncle Kotay,
I'm confused. Where exactly should I stick my Kensen? Different people tell me different things, and I don't know what to believe anymore.*

*Yours,
Pointer*



Well pumpkin, despite the obvious answer to your question about where to "stick" your *kensen*, I can see how you could become confused. Some say to point the *kensen* at the right eye, others say to point it between the eyes, and some say to have it pointing at the throat! However, despite all of these variations, correct Chudan no Kamae in modern Kendo has the *kensen* pointing at the throat. If you drew a straight line extending from the *kensen* of your *shinai*, it should end up right at your opponent's throat.

But be careful pumpkins, this does not mean that the *kensen* should be at the same height as the throat. If the *kensen* is the same height, then you'll find that if you extended a line out from the end it would go over your opponent's head. This is not going to apply much pressure to them, and you'll probably find your poor old Kote will take a beating. Tragic!

They say that human beings are naturally more afraid of being stabbed than hit. This means that keeping the *kensen* pointed at the throat is going to be far more effective in applying pressure (*seme*). Also, keeping your *shinai* right on the centreline of your opponent not only allows for more effect attacking, but also effective defence.

Having said this, it is also important to remember that the height of the *kensen* can vary depending on the movements of your opponent, and can be lifted or lowered depending on the circumstances. Basically pumpkins, it should never be stuck in the same place, but should be relatively fluid. Just think of pointing the *kensen* at the throat as standard but not stationary.



was rapped viciously around the knuckles until he could take no more. Sensing that there must be more to life than getting the stuffing knocked out of him, Uncle Kotay made a fateful resolution to escape the clutches of the man with hairy palms.

After a particularly nasty session of unbridled discipline, Uncle Kotay in fit of desperation, leapt from the brown canvas bag, which had always been his haven after a hard days graft down in the dojos. He landed in the snow and lay there shivering, wet, and at the mercy of the elements. As fortune would have it, a young man by the name of Takahashi just happened to be in the area, and saw poor Uncle Kotay in his decrepit state. Taking pity on the wretched but very handsome gauntlet, Takahashi picked up the almost lifeless Uncle Kotay and put him in the boot of his car. Uncle Kotay was grateful for the kindness shown to him by the stranger, but little did he know that this man was destined to become the Kendo world champion.

The kindly Takahashi put Uncle Kotay in front of the open fire to dry him out, and then took him into a room decorated with all manner of grand looking trophies and cups. There he met his new family

members. First, there was Mother Men, the family matriarch. He also became acquainted with Shutter the Do, Jock the Tare, Rod Skewit the Shinai, and Lefty Handupme, who in the years to come was to provide Uncle Kotay with much support as his right hand man. The Bogu family was a friendly bunch, if not a tad smelly, and they immediately made Uncle Kotay feel very welcome. After relaying his tragic sob story to everyone, they reassured him that Takahashi was a benevolent master who took great care of his Bogu. Moreover, Takahashi was considered a rising star in the world of Kendo, and each of the family members boasted how they had gone through hundreds of shiai without so much as a scratch. In fact, Takahashi had been selected as a Japanese representative, and was just packing his things to fly off to Paris for the World Championships.

Indeed it was fortuitous timing for Uncle Kotay, as through some inexplicable twist of fate, he was thrust into the international limelight, as his new master proceeded to annihilate all who were brave enough to cross shinai with him. As his new master became a Kendo superstar, so too did the very handsome and charming uncle Kotay. Almost overnight he became a

can be improved. Right? Therefore, I have been teaching them only kihon, no techniques.

Finally, I would like to thank Alex for giving me an opportunity to be a part of News Letter and I also would like to thank all of you for giving me a wonderful time in New Zealand and letting me realise that kendo is actually a fun. Without having met you, I would not have thought to go overseas again and would have known how wonderful it is to get to know people from other countries. And congratulations to Graham, Sam, Karl, and Colin for your new grade! If possible I would like to go over there with Guatemalan kendoists to do some shiai with kiwis. One day I would like to see New Zealand vs. Guatemala in the world championship. I have got one more thing to say to girls in Nelson. I have not met any girls like you yet. You girls are THE dragons!



Love from Central America,
Guatemala.

Hiro

A Helping Hand From Uncle Kotay

*First there was Bruce Lee.
Then there was David Tua. But
is the world ready for Uncle
Kotay?*

Our very handsome hero Uncle Kotay had humble beginnings, as do most heroes. He was stitched in a small Bogu shop in the back streets of Kyoto. It was a long, hard, painful delivery, and tragedy struck as the craftsman missed a stitch. This particular craftsman, Gepeto Nakamura, was renowned for being a perfectionist, and exasperated with his mistake he separated Uncle Kotay from his twin, and unceremoniously threw him into the bargain bin.

After a few excruciating weeks of rejection and humiliation, a man with very hairy palms purchased the estranged Uncle Kotay for an extremely small sum. Uncle Kotay was immediately put to work, and at the hands of his merciless new master he suffered brutal beatings every day. Rain, hail, or snow, Uncle Kotay was sent to work down in the sweatshops. For every harebrained slip-up that his clumsy master made, Uncle Kotay paid the penalty, and

complains about it, they can have their federation. A person explained it to me in Spanish so maybe I misunderstood his explanation. If I am wrong please forgive me. In addition, the country is not yet a member of International Kendo Federation. Thus, people have to trip over to Mexico for their grading. It is not affordable for many people here to fly over there. It costs nearly US \$400. The average salary of a public official per month is from US \$130 to US \$200.

As I wrote, there are only two dojos. It seems that one is for riches and another is for average people. The dojo for riches is located in a sports gym and the members have to pay about US \$35 per month to the gym including the club fee. The other dojo is located in a university and pay only US \$1.3 as the club fee. This dojo has some holes in the ceiling so when it rains it turns into a swimming pool! When the floor gets wet, the floor gets very slippery and some guys actually fell over. Besides, the floor is shocking. It is made of concrete and has some cracks. The other day, during training, a guy cut the right big toe with the cracks. Because of this, it is hard to require the proper suri-ashi (sliding, a part of footwork) and I cannot tell them to do the right footwork. On the other

hand, in the sports gym, they use a dancing floor as the dojo. As a dojo, it is very ideal.



All the members are very eager to learn kendo, so it is very fun to teach them. Nevertheless, I have only 19 months left in this country and cannot ask for a successor after me, so I have to make some teachers at least to be able to teach beginners even though the most of them are almost beginners. There are only two members with dan, shodan and ni dan. These beginners have practiced kendo at most for two years and the most of them took up kendo when they were over 40 years old. Usually, older people learn more slowly compared to youth. (Only usually.) Moreover, after they put armour on when they are not really ready for it, it is very easy to obtain bad habits. Without kihon, there is nothing that

Kendo in Guatemala

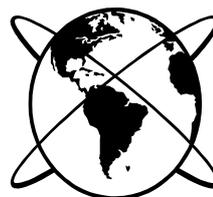
Masahiro Imafuji known as Hiro (a former member of Chch kendo club)

Good day everyone. Long time no see. For those who do not know me, I used to train with the boys and girls of Chch kendo club for nearly 7 years. When I went back to Japan, I did some part-time job and mucking-around. During doing so, I found an ad hanging off the ceiling of a train. It said, "Recruiting new members of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers!" Then I thought, "This is it!" I applied it and passed the first and second exams for it. Now here I am, a country called Guatemala.



*Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) belongs to Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which is a governmental agency to support developing

countries. These volunteers basically have only 2 years to work in these countries.



Guatemala is located in Central America. It is underneath of Mexico. The official language is Spanish. The population is over 11 million and about 10% of the population lives in the capital city. My job here is to teach kendo in the capital. There are two dojos of the same club in the capital. Well, these are only dojos in Guatemala. The number of the members is around 20 in total. There are approximately 10 members in each club. I teach them 6 days a week. Only Sundays are my day-offs!! Well, anyway, the kendo population is very small.

There is not a kendo federation here and they are dying to make one. However, unfortunately there are many hurdles to jump over. I heard a very interesting story about setting up a federation. Apparently, they have to put an article in the newspaper and they have to be approved to found a federation by the readers of the papers. If none

communicate in Japanese. Japanese ability, while not necessary, gave me more opportunities than I would otherwise have enjoyed. I was able to audit some of the Sports Science classes, and take part in the sports trainer club program as well.

I also attended Naginata and Iaido practices and classes, so I found my time to be at a premium, especially when I had to start teaching English to make ends meet. However, having excellent dormitory facilities on campus made life a lot easier.

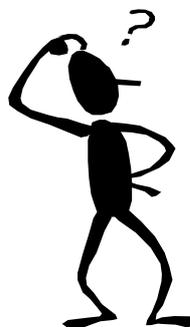
The one thing that made the year worthwhile for myself and the other Kendoists was the presence of Michael Komoto and his irrepressible wife, Sanae. Former US team member, Kendo mad Michael was working in the International Office of the university, attached to the dormitory. A graduate of the program, Michael knew well the problems and pitfalls of the program, and what it was like to go through the experience. As such he was a fountain of experience and advice for us all.

After club practice, on a near daily basis Michael would load our bogu and us into the back of his Pajero, and take us to one of the many town dojo scattered about the area. This

gave us an invaluable chance to fight someone other than university students and our teachers (and to get pissed on a regular basis, but that's another story) Afterwards we would quite often end up back at Michael's place where his wife would ply us with delicious food and he would ply us with alcohol.

Some students found it a hard year, in more ways than one, but those who made an effort to participate in school activities and to make Japanese friends came out of the year much the better for it. The chance to train with top-level teachers and young, fast students, all within a stone's throw from your bedroom. If you have a year to devote to your Kendo, the IBU program is worth considering.

大武国



A Year in the Life
of an IBU
Exchange
Student- 1999

Hamish Robison

As with most things in life, it's a case of getting out what you put in, and my experience at the International Budo University was no exception. Nowhere else in the world can you train daily with 300~400 top level university Kendo students and their teachers, all within 100 metres of your door.

The facilities were impeccable, but if you really wanted to progress, it was up to your own effort. No one would kick you out of bed for morning training at 6:00am when it was snowing. No one was there to make you line up for the last *kakari geiko* of the training. Certainly no one made you study Japanese, one of the weaker aspects of the program.

However, if you made the effort, the rewards were waiting.

We had a wide range of nationalities and ages taking part in the program for the '99 year. This made for an interesting, if at times volatile atmosphere. The majority were Judoka, while the Kendo

representation was a small gang of four.

A typical day for me would start with a 6:15 wake up for Kendo morning practice which ran from 7:00 to 8:00, then back to my room for a shower and breakfast before lectures started just after 9:00. Classes were always finished in time for afternoon club practice from 4:30 to 6~6:30. This was the daily routine from Monday to Friday, with Saturday consisting of one club practice from 9:00 for 1~1 1/2 hours.

There was a range of lectures, from the Japanese language and culture classes to the Budo specific classes. In the classes we went over basic techniques and principles, which we could put into practice during the club practices. Even by half-way through the year the differences between those who put a lot of effort into the club practices, such as Kirby Smith, from Sydney, and those who didn't, were noticeable.

One complaint from a lot of the foreign students was that they didn't get enough interaction with the Japanese students. This was certainly a problem that took a lot of hard work to overcome, but not insurmountable if you made an effort to participate in activities and to

junior grade fighting a high dan.

The women's individual open attracted 10 competitors and was won by Sachiyo Lee who has recently returned from several years living in Japan with her husband Martin Lee. Sue Lytollis took the silver medal and Haruko Tsuzuki and Marianna Leung took third equal.

It was a good day for Haruko, as she was also presented with the first Fighting Spirit award of the competition, a hand carved bokuto provided by Max Biggs from Nelson.

Day two of Poneke Challenge saw Auckland Club member Ralph Maddison take out the Kyu cup in a tight final with Andy Lee, also from Auckland. Ross Allen and Brant Hennessy, both from Rembuden club, took third equal in a line up of 16 competitors.

As mentioned, Daisuke Fujii won the Poneke Cup against IPC member Mitsutaka Nishimura. Hiro Okamiya (Rembuden) and Allan Stevenson (Auckland) taking third equal. Twenty-two senior grades entered this event.

The first official kata competition had 10 pairs competing and gave Hideki Uchinami (IPC) and

Marianna Leung (Rembuden) gold in this event. This pair had tough opposition from silver medalists Miki Sato and Blake Bennett from Christchurch. Third equal were Steve Ingham and Sam Hopkinson (Nelson) and Frank Schatz and Moto Tsukamoto from Rembuden.

The Fighting Spirit award for the kyu grade went to Yohei Shimizu (IPC) and for the senior event, recently graded shodan, Frank Schatz (Rembuden).

The President of the New Zealand Kendo Federation, Graham Sayer, talking at the closing ceremony of Poneke Challenge, described shiai and kihon kendo as two wheels on a cart that balances out our Kendo. He said it was important to have both aspects of these things in our Kendo training, the Poneke Challenge being one step on this path. He also announced the first New Zealand national championships will be held in Auckland in April 2001.

Rembuden club members who organised this event were pleased with the good will generated by this event and a party on the Sunday night reinforced that. Once they recover from this year's event, watch out for announcements for Poneke Challenge II in 2001!



Poneke Challenge a great success

In a closely fought final for Poneke Challenge, Daisuke Fujii, from Rembuden, had an exciting win against Mitsutaka Nishimura from Palmerston North to take the coveted Poneke Cup.

Heralded as a great success, this International annual competition, staged in Wellington Nov 11/12, attracted approximately 60 competitors from throughout New Zealand, which included expat Japanese, Malaysian and Chinese kendoka as well as one Korean 5th dan living in Australia (Mr Young Choi).

The Mayor of Wellington, Mark Blumsky, was the first VIP to award the cups in day one of Poneke Challenge and talked about how delighted he was that Wellington had attracted an annual competition of this nature. Later, Mr Blumsky promised to provide a 'cup' for the

next Poneke Challenge.

Referees were organised by 5th dan Liz Dutton. Three Australian referees were present to assist New Zealand to provide a pool of dedicated referees, they were the President of the Australian Kendo Renmei Mr Ron Bennett, 5th dan Yakov Macak and 4th dan Joe Semmler. However reserve referees 6th dan Graham Sayer, 5th dan Ken Wells and Alan Stevenson and 4th dan Sue Lytollis and Gerard Egerton also provided valuable referee back-up throughout the shiai.

Fifteen teams battled out for the Team cup and in a narrow final the Nelson club (Sam Hopkinson, Steve Ingham and John White) were defeated by a team from the International Pacific College (IPC – Nobuhiko Yoshimura, Hiroyuki Ose and Mitsutaka Nishimura). A mixed team which included Mr Choi, Akihisa Miki and Saga Kotaro from IPC gained third equal with Christchurch B team Tim Phillips, Miki Sato and Chiemi Nakagawa.

The teams event was unique in New Zealand for following the style set by the London club Mumeishi 3's – having at least one junior grade in a team of three. This provided a line up which saw the possibility of a

A L I O N o f a G I f t!

Thank you very much for your kind donation, thank you very much, thank you very very very much...



My humble abode in Kyoto now looks like a Bogu shop with Hakama, Keiko-gi, and Judo gear stacked to the ceiling and still taking up 2 rooms. My good Aussie Kendo buddy recently came back to Japan with Fumi, his wife, and little Mika to take up a position as a JET English teacher. The owner of his apartment building is a Lions club member, and when Fumi went to pay the rent, knowing that Lockie did kendo, and told her that there was a storage unit full of gear, which the Lions club wanted to get rid of. Apparently, it all came from a Bogu shop that folded. They got rid of all the Bogu, but were left with more Keiko-gi and Hakama than they could shake a pointed stick at. They were unable to dump it cheaply on the market because they would be stepping on too many toes.

The owner of the Bogu shop that went bust has connections with the Lions club in Daito city (Osaka) and they decided to donate it all to one of the local schools. The school wasn't too keen for some ridiculous bureaucratic reason, so Lockie came up in the conversation, and they decided that it would be good for the gear to go overseas to help popularise Japanese Budo.

Of course Lockie was keen, and he also selflessly recommended that his mate Alex (me) from NZ should also get half the gear to send back to the NZ Kendo Federation. We went to check it out expecting to find a couple of boxes of crinkled hakama and gi. Well, we were blown away! I have done a quick count, and the NZKF share amounts to some 200 keiko-gi and 100 hakama of various sizes. All they want in return is a certificate or plaque from the NZKF and AKF to put up in their Lions Den. A small price to pay told them!!!! The next step is to get it all back!!



**Thank you Daito City Lions Club,
and thank you Lachlan Jackson
from the Fudoshin Kendo Club in
Melbourne Australia.**

like to welcome all Kendoists come to train and to share their Kendo experiences with us. If you are planning to visit us, please send e-mail to Sam (kt16@waikato.ac.nz) to get the updated timetable. Thanks and welcome!

GRADING Results

The following people passed grading examinations at the August camp in Wellington. CONGRATULATIONS

KYUU GRADES

6th kyu
Victoria Watts
Teri Watts
5th K yu
Seung Ho Choi
Darren Kim
Christine Gan
Ping Hsin Yang
4th K yu
Stephen Mackey
3 kyu
Robert Ramsey
Aria Jacob
2 K yu
Andrew Wong
David Wong
John White

DAN GRADES

1st D an
Frank Schatz
Colin Luxton
Clinton Watts
Peter Rees
Steven Ungham

2nd D an
Julia White

3rd D an
Daisuke Fujii
Karl Hitchcock



limitation in physical and mind. Through team works and various activities to develop and form his or her character.

Most of WKC members are university students and Kendo beginners. The WKC is proud of her members can manage study, Kendo training and friendship very well.

Club History

- 12 Aug. 1999, the third place team in the 8th, 9th and 10th Kendo World Cup came to visit the WKC. The vice president of All New Zealand Kendo Federation (NZKF) Ken Wells and members of the Auckland Kendo club also visited the WKC at the same day.
- 30 Aug. 1999, the WKC became the fifth club member of All New Zealand Kendo Federation.

Institution of the WKC

President: Marleen Y. Charng
Treasurer/Secretary:
Wei (John) Lee

Coaches: Sam K. Tsai (4th Dan);
Marleen Y. Charng (4th Dan)

Team Captain: Michael Potroz

New Grade Members

On 23 July, 2000

1st Kyu	Kuan-Yu (Jeffrey) KE
1st Kyu	Wei (John) LEE
2nd Kyu	Sam WHITLEY
2nd Kyu	Kenji SAKIMOTO
2nd Kyu	Shao-Lin (Joseph) CHUNG
2nd Kyu	Michael POTROZ
3rd Kyu	Mark KUGGELEIJN

Training Timetable

Tuesdays, 6.00pm to 9.00pm @ Gym,
The School of Education

Saturdays, 3.00pm to 5.00pm @
Mirror Room, The School of
Education

Annual Training Camp

Since most members are university students and they are busy in the semester time, we have two training camps a year. The first training camp runs in the end of B semester. The second training camp runs before the beginning of A semester. Namely, the date of camp depends on the calendar of the University of Waikato. We welcome people from the world to join in our camp.

For 2000, the first training will go from 17th to 19th Nov. As for the second camp, it is not decided yet.

Policy of visiting

WKC is proud of her friendly and enthusiastic atmosphere and would

include a Shiai camp as well, which will hopefully become a yearly event.



UPDATE FROM THE *Christchurch Kendo Club*

Back in August of this year I attended the Wellington camp joined by a few of my fellow club members. And we were all very surprised to see the increasing number of children joining clubs all over New Zealand. I started Kendo when I was 9 years old. And at the time I was one of the youngest additions to New Zealand Kendo. But over time it seems that more and more youth are becoming attracted to Kendo.

The Christchurch club has recently seen a boost in the

number of young people gaining an interest in Kendo. Ranging in age from 8 to 17 years old, the level of ability at the moment is very good and continues to improve with each training. At the moment nearly half of our members are 20 years of age or younger. The number of Korean and Japanese young people is surprisingly high. Their input to the club is very beneficial. Different styles of Kendo that develop by training with different cultures among members are a good learning curve for the kids.



UPDATE FROM THE Waikato Kendo Club

Waikato Kendo Club (WKC) has been established by Sam K. Tsai & Marleen Y. Charng in March 1999 and now is the fifth club member of All New Zealand Kendo Federation (NZKF). "Friendship through Kendo" is WKC's basic philosophy.

Sam and Marleen started their Kendo training from 1983. Both of them are experienced athletes and coaches. Their coaching philosophy is through Kendo to help youth exploring their

acknowledge his devotion to the art and his desire to continually improve our Kendo in all its facets – discipline, skill, technique, and courtesy.

Brent Hansen continues to train and encourage Club members in Iaido and Jodo. It is great to be able to develop these skills alongside Kendo. Sometimes, when I'm getting badly sliced and diced at Kendo, it does my soul good to think how long my opponent would last against a jo.

And of course, there's the Kids' Kendo too. The kids are keen Kendoist and have been practicing for 18 months. They're all in full bogu and Graham reports that their uchikome keiko is wonderful to behold, although the strange noises at mokuzo time are a little hard to control. The ethnic breakdown of the kids is a reflection of the cosmopolitan nature of Auckland:

100% Japanese x 2

50% Kiwi 50% Japanese x 1

100% Korean x 1

50% Kiwi 50% Pom x 2

50% Kiwi 50% Greek x 1

100% Kiwi x 1

We are pleased on any occasion to strengthen our relationship with the Waikato Kendo Club, under the very

able leadership of Sam and Marleen, and are looking forward to meeting up with them again at our end of year seminar on 25 November. If any other NZKF members are up here on that day, you'd be most welcome to join us.

The AKC has been asked to participate in various demos – Auckland University; a Telecom thing; various schools; and, perhaps the most interesting of all, the Labour Weekend seminar for the New Zealand Medieval Society (Sword Fighters). This amazing bunch of people dress up in armour (chain mail [including chain mail bras!! Paul was most impressed.], full armour and helmets) wield swords and brandish shields and fight each other, some full contact, some limited contact. Both men and women participate in combat, but I did spot a few “damsels” on the side. As I explained to Alex, their weapons are impressive, which Alex found important, however I was more interested in their technique. Size isn't everything.

AKC is looking forward to ~~notting~~ everyone participating in the Poneke Challenge on 11 & 12 November. Goodwill and ganbatte to all! It's great to see that we're progressing from one camp per year to now

Iaido and Kendo grading (all 3 grading up to and including shodan)

Early 2001... Nelson camp . dates and details to be confirmed.

April 2001 the first official NZKF championships, to be held in AK-format and events to be confirmed at meeting of club reps and executive council in Wellington in Nov 2000.... Depending on panel available this weekend will also include a short kata seminar followed by a NZKF grading August 2001 : the Wellington camp in Auckland, this will include seminar time for Jodo and Iaido interested people as well as the Kendo. Pending visit from 10 people New Caledonian group plus we hope a quality group of sensei such as we saw in Camp 2000 in Wellington That's really about it at this time, you will get more detail from the dojo reports to you.

Graham



UPDATE FROM THE
A u c k l a n d K e n d o C l u b

2000 has been an interesting year for the Club, as are all years.

We welcomed Sophia (5lb6oz) and

Maiya (5lb3oz, first born) Wells (via Audrey and Ken), born 8 July. It is too early yet to tell if they'll follow in their august father's footsteps, but we'll keep an eye out for the signs. Maiya the Magnificent takes after Ken (according to Ken), Sophia the Sophisticated (labelled Snotrag) (hey, I've only written what I've been told!) takes after Audrey. Having two at once is hard and demanding, says Audrey, but they're really enjoyable now at 16 weeks and becoming much more responsive (moving away from the eating, sleeping, pooing stage).

We also congratulated Eddie Sides' on the birth of his little boy, Andrew, a few months ago. Andrew has even rolled up to some Jodo practices. It's hard to tell whether or not he's impressed with our technique, but at least we didn't make him cry!

Of course, we were very proud of Graham Sayer's achievement in attaining Roku dan. The Auckland Kendo Club is very fortunate to have New Zealand's first born and bred Sensei. We hope that the whole of NZ will benefit from having a Sensei, and make the most of his training. Graham has put a lot into NZ Kendo from the beginning, and we

N Z K F
P r e s i d e n t ' s
M e s s a g e

Graham Sayer

It is with great pleasure that we welcome back onto the New Zealand Kendo scene a quality newsletter. This edition of the Gambaru Gazette being a very well worthwhile read, will I'm sure reflect the quality of editions to come. There is something to be said about hard copy newsletter to enjoy vs. squinting into a monitor.

Many thanks to all contributors to the Gambaru Gazette and of course a special thanks to Editor Alex for getting the whole thing rolling.

Newsletters such as Gambaru Gazette instantly become tools to recruit new members; they let people know that this is not just a small group of samurai dancers but a nationwide Federation with dojo in six centers and members living and training in Australia, UK and Japan. It will also help to give them an insight into the Kendo scene worldwide.

Even though we do not have a World Kendo Champs to go too in the next 12 months we will see some exciting

events. The invitation Poneke (this is Maori for the Wellington area) Nov 2000 challenge shiai with a chance to battle the Aussies. The Nelson Feb 2001 camp, the first NZKF titles up for grabs national shiai, Auckland April 2001 and the Wellington Camp in Auckland, August 2001. All sounds fantastic so train hard and keep up with developments by reading your very own copy of the Gambaru Gazette newsletter.

Alex has also promised some translated articles to help us non-Japanese readers the opportunity to learn and understand more about the origins of Kendo. Please help support this newsletter to make it a success.

Graham



Upcoming NZ Events

11th/12th November 2000 Poneke challenge invitation shiai organized by the Wellington club.

25th November, one day -AKC end of year seminar and grading . details to be confirmed. will have Jodo,

Not Quite an
EDITORIAL

Alex Bennett

Seasons Greetings my Kendo mates! Well, after a number of years in suspended animation, the Gambaru Gazette is back. Hopefully it will be better than ever before, but that really relies a lot on you. Yes you, the reader! At the last AGM it was brought up that communication between clubs, and the federation and clubs is a major weakness of New Zealand Kendo. A number of proposals to better the situation were brought forward, including my suggestion of getting the NZKF newsletter off the ground again. My suggestion = my job, and so 4 months later here it is.

I have sent numerous e-mails to representatives of each club, and for the most part got a great response. I am more than prepared to collate and edit articles, news, and information for this newsletter, but to make it work requires everybody's commitment and assistance.

At the moment, I am trying to muster all my Kendo powers of concentration and stamina to survive PhD thesis hell...常識の世界観においての、日常生活は、何世代にも渡って代々伝えられてきた「頑固な事実」に関する様々な象徴的概念の見地から

...(sorry, I'm having flashbacks).

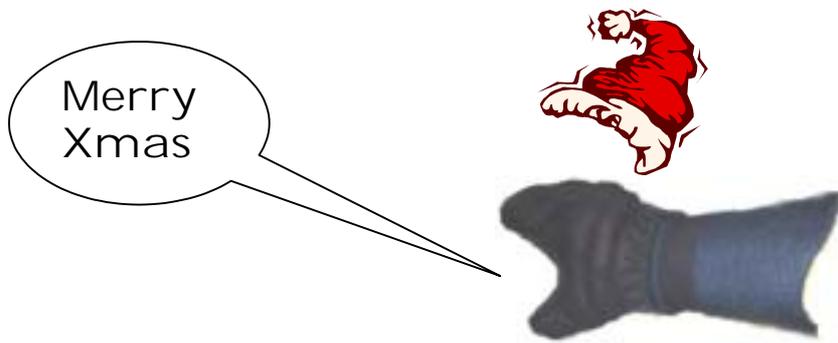
It's hard work trying to concentrate on a career-deciding thesis as well as produce a quality publication for the benefit of NZ Kendo. In this issue, I have tried to keep the content varied and interesting, but would like to have included a few more articles translated from Japanese, and also thoughts on the last World Kendo Championships in the USA. Unfortunately my current situation 忠孝をはげまし、礼法をただし、常に文道武芸を心がけ (ah... there I go again) did not permit the time needed to do everything I had intended.

Any way, I hope you enjoy this edition of the Gambaru Gazette. After reading through it, I am sure that you will realise how important club and individual participation can make or break the future of the publication. Thanks to all who contributed. Let's keep it going.

I plan to have the next edition out in April, so all clubs and NZKF officers please keep this in mind. I will be asking you for contributions. Please send any thoughts, requests, or contributions to me. 自分の恐怖心を制御することができない兵士にとって agghhh!!

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