

# Gambaru Gazette

Official News Letter of the New Zealand Kendo Federation

Issue #4 May 2002

## **Editorial**

*Alex Bennett*

Christchurch/Kyoto

G'day from Kyoto. Firstly, I must apologise for the lateness of this edition. Without wanting to make any excuses, the last few months have been rather hectic with one thing and another, but I am happy to say that things have settled somewhat, and Gambaru Gazette is back on track.

Everybody who has subscribed to Kendo World Magazine should have received issue #2 by now. Hamish and I hope that the content was to your satisfaction. So far, the response has been very good from our subscribers around the world. Some of you may be interested in the Kendo World forums that we have running on our home page. People everywhere are chatting in our humble portion of cyberspace about anything and everything to do with kendo. In fact, Kendo World is really starting to take on a life of its own, and Hamish and I, and our many fantastic contributors are having a great time helping and watching it grow.

Moving on now, lest Gambaru Gazette turns into a advertisement for the mag, it seems apparent from way over here in Japan that New Zealand kendo is truly coming of age. Now we boast two 6<sup>th</sup> dans, and a new 5<sup>th</sup> dan to add to our battery of higher

grades. Still, we have a wee way to go before we will be able to offer dan grading tests without having to worry about IKF regulations and various other nebulous entities.

With domestic kendo in good form, it is now high time that NZ is able to perform successfully at the World Champs. To many, the world champs are not a relevant factor in their everyday training. Some will argue that shiai is only a small part of what they are aspiring to in kendo, and doubt the significance of any emphasis placed on trying to bring home medals from the worlds. Regardless of the noble intentions and efforts of these hardcore kendo 'spiritualists', the next world champs are looming on the horizon. New Zealand is going to be there again, and we owe it to ourselves to do well. For this purpose, our hard-nosed national coach, Gerard Egerton is working hard with the squad, and there are rumours that we may be receiving help in the not too distant future from one of the most successful and famous contemporary kendoka in the world. Of course nobody should take rumours to heart, but I can't wait for Christmas...

Good luck Gerard and good luck squad. Now is the hour. I hope the whole of NZ kendo gives the team the support they need.

Alex

## Message from El Presidente



*Graham Sayer*

Auckland

Greetings to all New Zealand Kendoists .

2002 has got off to an amazing start.

As most of you will be aware our delegation to the Australian National seminar held in the week prior to their National Championships (Easter) had some fantastic successes in the grading held on the last day.

We had 80% success rate based on the full NZ delegation Ken Wells successful for 6<sup>th</sup> Dan Brent Hansen successful for 5<sup>th</sup> Dan Sachiyo Lee successful for 4<sup>th</sup> Dan Ralph Maddison successful for 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan. Overall pass rates (average 58%) for the grading reflects the fact that you cannot just front up to a grading, with good intentions, and give it a go. You need to plan in advance, have a strategy and training/preparation program. Just over 2 minutes to prove to 7 grading judges that your efforts for the last 22 years are worth, in Ken's case, 6<sup>th</sup> Dan is a tuff call. Then you need to stay calm and clear to perform a faultless Kendo Kata.

The same can be said for shiai, the planning, training, strategies and work has begun for NZ's 12 WKC campaign. The Kendoist that give this commitment to do their best deserve our total support, they deserve attention from all members of your dojo. Be there to train with them and encourage them. Many things can be practiced in Kendo on an individual basis but the heat of the battle needs to be felt and controlled, this requires committed assistance for all of us. If you think that you would like to help with the squad trainings as a visiting body then please contact Gerard Egerton the National Coach and he will inform you of times and venues for the up and coming squad trainings.

Our web site is nearly completed thanks to the amazing efforts of Sam and the Waikato Dojo members. Please use the [kendo-nz@yahoo.com](mailto:kendo-nz@yahoo.com) address to stay in touch with people in the NZ Kendo world, another tool created by Sam!

In finishing please consider where you are in your Kendo life. Never stay still, if you are not focusing on the 12WKC then challenge yourself to really strive for your next grade, make every practice a practice that counts. If you feel lost or confused on what you should be concentrating on then speak to your dojo instructor(s), get it right in your mind and go for it .....our dojo and country needs you!

Kind regards  
Graham

## Club Reports



### Update from the *Auckland Kendo Club*

As you are aware we have some nice new shiny Dan grades. We have an older model with a few miles on the clock, good engine but dodgy bodywork (Ken Wells 6th dan). Slightly newer model but with slight fender damage (Brent Hansen 5th dan). And a little sporty two-seater with optional air bag (Ralph Maddison 2nd dan).

As you can imagine we have had great fun pushing these beauties to the limit and have celebrated with a good lubrication and oil change.

Talking of auctions, the Auckland Club is holding its annual auction this weekend. We expect a good turn out lots of bargains fun for all and a vasectomy door prize. In the past we have raised buckets of dosh which helps in buying beer, pizza, and other kendo stuff.

Winter is here and most of the members are wearing little comfy carpet slippers and long johns during training to help keep out the winter chills. It was all Sayer sensei's idea and we have supported him completely in this innovative approach to keep the fun and warmth in kendo.

Talking of signs of the zodiac. If you are an Aries I suggest radically changing your kamae because it just isn't working. Taurus you should invest in a stronger deodorant. Capricorn wash your gi it stinks. Cancer tape your foot up your toes are about to split. Virgo get out more. Libra your footwork is lazy. If you have a favourite star sign or want a private star thingy written (you sad puppies) let me know and I'll consult my astro charts.

Kirk



### Update from the *Christchurch Kendo Club*

The Christchurch club has in recent times gone from strength to strength thanks to a change in training facilities. We moved prior to Christmas into a building called Crichton Cobbers which houses numerous types of martial arts as well as aerobics, weights and various other activities. This in turn has allowed us to be more visible to the martial arts community and as a result our numbers have grown dramatically. This number is increasing weekly as more people discover us. Off our beginners a large percentage of them are younger people which looks good for the future of Sei Tou Ken Yu Kai kendo if they stick at it.

We currently train three times a week, Saturday 10.30am-12.30pm, Monday

5.00pm-6.00pm and Wednesday 7.45pm-8.45pm. Monday is beginner focused, Wednesday is senior only night and Saturday is a mix of both.

On a sad note, we recently lost yet another senior member to the lure of big city life (seems to be an on-going problem with Christchurch). Karl Hitchcock has been with the club since it began in the late eighties and his contribution in that time has been immense. Work has taken him to Wellington so we wish Karl all the best and hope he trains as hard up there as he did down here.

That's it for now so we'll see you all at the next camp, or sooner if you find yourself passing through the garden city.



### **Update from the *Hutt Kendo Club***

Hutt Kendo Club celebrated it's first birthday in May. Our membership has consolidated and the commitment and enthusiasm of our core club means the HKC is robust with lots of ideas about how to become stronger in the future.

Since our inception to the NZKF last August we have had a club grading, entered two teams into the Poneke Challenge and also members into the individual events and are

certainly looking forward to the upcoming Interclub Champs in Wellington, the Nationals in Hamilton and the August camp in Christchurch.

In our first year we have given demonstrations at a variety of local Hutt events, one highlight being the Race Unity day - very windy but much fun. We had a great Cut-a-thon in February which raised more than \$1300 dollars. Also in Feb we made a club excursion to the Nelson Kendo Camp, for social contact and good instruction this was a great event and one we hope to support each year. It offered a grading and once again Hutt members did very well. We were all pleased to see Marty gain his shodan at this event and help set an example for gaining this special grade. It was also nice to see Jason gain his nkyu.

Sue and I attended the Melbourne Kendo Seminar and had much great kihon and social contact with the fabulous sensei there who were mostly in their 60 - 80's and in great shape (the Saturday night meal being a highlight). Great to have seen the successful gradings already mentioned in GG, I will battle on to try for my sixth dan in due course.

Recently we have provided 'extra-curricula' training to our members by inviting a local sword enthusiast to talk to us about how swords are made and showing us a very special katana (the first time his special

blade 'Asagiri' had left his home). This was followed by a visit from Ramon Lawrence (Perth Kendo Club and President of the Australasian Martial Arts Hall of Fame) who ran an laido session for our club. It was great to see the real blades and then the practical application of their cuts with an overall impression of how Kendo relates to the two.

We also train two nights per week now, Monday 7 - 8.30 pm and Wednesday 7.30 - 9.30 pm at Naenae College gym so all are invited as we have had some guests through and enjoyed Blake, Colin and Karl and Loreena visiting us.

Liz Dutton



Hutt Kendo demo



## Update from the *Nelson Kendo Club*

### *Nelson Kendo Club's 10th Anniversary annual camp.*

By John White

This year's Nelson camp was not just a another gathering of shinai wielding enthusiasts eager for training tips, good food, drinks and the odd fight thrown in for good measure. This year the Nelson club celebrated it's 10th year in existence and it did it in style!

About 60 NZ kendoka turned out for a great weekend and we were also privileged to have a few Aussies too- Ron Bennett (6th Dan), Jamie Fennessy (7th Dan) and Ron Walker (1st Dan)- making it Nelson's biggest camp yet!

The weekend consisted of several training sessions run by Ron B and Jamie in basic footwork, cuts, and kata on Saturday. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed these as it was a real learning experience for beginner to senior. Of course the Nelson club loves gikeiko and we had lots of that too.

After all the hard work everyone went for a meal and drinks at the Turf Hotel next door. It was good to catch up with people from other clubs and swap stories and talk excessively about...you guessed it...kendo!

After a reasonably early night it was back into it on Sunday in which a grading was conducted involving 24 candidates with 21 passing their respective grades- congratulations everyone who passed! And for those that did not keep trying and never give up:)

After the grading it was straight into a teams shiai which was fought bravely by all who entered, it was especially good to see Mark's Wellington South Club and Liz and Sue's Lower Hutt club competing in the event and showed that they meant business! The final was fought between the two Sei Tou Ken Yu Kai Clubs Nelson and Christchurch with Christchurch winning the event.

All up the weekend was a great event and the club would like to thank everyone who attended- as always without you there is no camp. Also a huge thank you goes to Ron Bennett, Jamie Fennessy and Ron Walker for taking the time to visit our club and sharing your wisdom with us. And last, but certainly not least, a thank you to our Sempai Sam Hopkinson for your teaching's, patience and guidance. We hope that the Nelson Club endures for many years to come.



### **Update from the *Rembuden Kendo Club***

Greetings from the Rembuden Kendo Club.

We hope everyone has had a good start to the year, and have been training hard. Time certainly has flown this year, we have already had the Waikato club's success in Hong Kong, the National Squad training, and Ken Wells 6<sup>th</sup> dan grading success in Melbourne. We still however have many more events to come this year, and I am sure many more successes to celebrate.

### **Rembuden Committee 2002**

At the Annual General Meeting of the club held early in the year the following people were elected:

President:	Yoshioki Take
Secretary:	Martin Lee
Treasurer:	Gerard Egerton
Yudansha Rep:	Sachiyo Lee
Student Rep:	Nicola Webb

The club extends thanks to Bruce Condren and Moto Tsukamoto for their contribution to the committee last year.

### **New and Returning Members**

With the start of the new year we have had a number of new members join the club. A few of the new keen beginners include Joseph Kelly, Matt Lilley, and Yi Zhao. Welcome to the club, and Kendo.

Also a special welcome back to Loreena Bradley, who is back with the club

permanently after spending the last few years residing in Japan, and the last year training at Kokusai Budo. A warm welcome also to Mio Matsuo who is returning to the club after a break.

### **Melbourne Seminar and Grading**

Take-san, Sachiyo and Martin from the Rembuden club made the trip to Melbourne for the seminar and grading. Most of you will have already heard the good news with Sachiyo passing her yondan grading. We also extend a special congratulations to Ken Wells (6<sup>th</sup> dan), and other Auckland club members - Brent Hansen (5<sup>th</sup> dan) and Ralph Maddison (2<sup>nd</sup> dan).

At the seminar Oya sensei, one of the IKF delegation sensei, presented to us a book containing an article, in English titled "*The technical and psychological methodology of kendo*". Oya sensei wrote the article and asked us to make copies to distribute to all clubs in the NZKF. It's a valuable resource given the lack of information on kendo available in English. We will make copies and distribute.

### **Planned and Upcoming Events**

#### ***Wellington Inter-club Competition***

The three clubs in Wellington (Hutt, South Wellington and Rembuden) are exploring the establishment of a semi-regular inter-club competition meet. This event is designed to provide relative new-comers their first taste

of shiai and develop their fighting spirit, as well as give everyone an opportunity to fence with kendoists from other clubs. We see this as a great opportunity to further develop and test our kendo, and takes advantage of the proximity of three club - the Wellington kendo scene's unique advantage! We hope this environment will set the pace for other regions throughout New Zealand.

#### **Rembuden Poneke Challenge (RPC)**

This year's RPC is aiming at further demonstrating the highest quality of kendo New Zealand can produce, and we expect to see hot competition from clubs throughout New Zealand. The tentative dates are 4-6 October, and have been set with an eye on university exams and the timing of other NZ Kendo events. If other clubs have any difficulty with these dates or have suggestions or questions regarding the event please contact Gerard Egerton (04) 381 1265 or [gerard.egerton@meridianenergy.co.nz](mailto:gerard.egerton@meridianenergy.co.nz)

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the national champs and the august camp.



### **Update from the *Waikato Kendo Club***

#### **1. Our 5th 1-Dan member:**

In the February Nelson Camp, we have our



fifth 1st Dan member, Mark Kuggeleijn. It was a very nice trip there. All of us enjoy the Nelson's hospitality very much! Thanks to Nelson people and all the participants there.

## 2. 2002 Hong Kong-Asian (Regional) Invitational Kendo Tournament:

Thanks to the support from Cathay Pacific, five of our members could participate the 2002 Asian Kendo Invitational Tournament in Hong Kong with an affordable cost.

March 8 to 10, 2002 was a historic moment for Waikato Kendo Club. WKC sent a team representing New Zealand and won the third place in the 2002 Hong Kong-Asian (Regional) Invitational Kendo Tournament.

Team members are:

Marleen Charng, Sam Tsai, Michael Potroz, John Lee, Jeffrey Ke, Emily Drake (Manager)

For the tournament itself, in terms of only '3 years old' in Kendo, Michael, John and Jeffrey had wonderful performance in Hong Kong! In the preliminary stage, we fought with Hong Kong Team B and Shanghai Team B (which comprises Japanese Kendokas) and became the best 8 teams joined the semi-semi-final. We won Shanghai Team C (also comprises Japanese Kendokas) and joined the semi-final. In the semi-final, we fought with Philippine Team B (again, also comprises Japanese Kendokas!) which was our last competition and ended us at the Third position.

Given an overview the whole process, I think that there are minimum two factors contributing to this great achievement. Having a good teamwork is first one; Marleen's excellent strategy management is the second factor. Just like last year in the NZKF Championship, we know very clearly that we are not the 'strongest' team, although we won the title of Champion Team.

Of course, we are proud of ourselves showing other countries that New Zealand also has good Kendo. However, we are still very humble about our Kendo level. It is a wonderful learning opportunity for all of us of witnessing the World Class Kendo, especially Korean and Chinese Taipei had included some of their national representatives in this competition. Having a good Kendo is long journey. Winning in the competition is just a bonus of the journey but never the essential one.

For more details, please visit the website of Hong Kong Kendo Association (HKKA):

Result & Photos:  
[http://www.hongkongkendo.com/activities/020310\\_report.htm](http://www.hongkongkendo.com/activities/020310_report.htm)

Detail report (HK):  
[http://www.hongkongkendo.com/file/asian\\_cuprep%20ort.doc](http://www.hongkongkendo.com/file/asian_cuprep%20ort.doc)

## 3. Marleen Charng's Fighting Sprit Award:

Besides winning the 3rd position of the Team event, Marleen was one of the Fighting Sprit



winners. If we remember, Marleen just had our first baby in last November. Marleen has to do bread feeding and competition at the same time!!! As a male Kendo player, I cannot image how I can manage this kind of situation. Probably this is an evidence of why female Kendokas are more respectable.

Also, I would like to use opportunity to thank Jeffrey's parents who flight to Hong Kong from Taiwan to give us their support. While we were doing competition, they were the people holding baby and changing nappies for us. Emily's uncle and aunt who live in Hong Kong also gave us a lot of assistances and supports. We appreciate!

#### 4. Members update:

This year we have two overseas friends join us: Dr. Kioyoshi from Japan who is a heart surgeon working at Waikato Hospital and has 3 Dan in Kendo. And Dr. Lin from Taiwan who is a dental surgeon, possessing NZ permanent residence and has 2 Dan in Kendo.

Peter Derrick just completed his qualification in English as Second Language (ESL) teaching and works at the Waikato University Language Institute. We congratulate his achievement in his career and are very happy for him. Many of our international student members feel that it is very helpful to have an ESL teacher in our club.

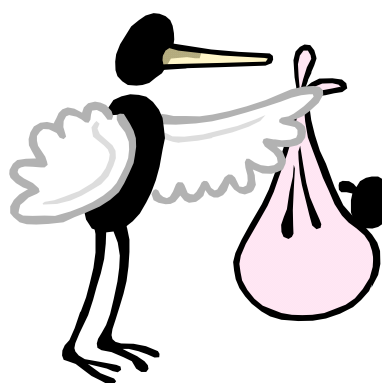
We have 20 new beginner members sign-in

this March. All of them are enthusiastic learners. They provide WKC with a new stream of energy. All the senior members appreciate their enthusiasm and commitment in Kendo training.

#### 5. NZKF Kendo Championship & Squad Training:

WKC is going to host the 2002 NZKF Kendo Championship in July. As one of the newest clubs in NZ, we will need everyone's help very much, especially the help from Auckland and Wellington who have host big events like this. We will try our best to do what ever we can and hope that every one will have an enjoyable weekend in Waikato.

And don't forget, after NZKF Championship, there will be two more days NZ squad training here. Gerard will organise the training programme.



Editor-

**CONGRATULATIONS  
SAM AND MARLENE ON THE BIRTH  
OF YOUR BABY!!!**