

University of Melbourne Kendo Club
President's Report
AGM, 24th April 2006

Another busy and successful year for UMKC: memberships continue to rise and great results in many competitions. While our regular training remains the core of the club, the camp and Sensei visits have added to the opportunity to improve our Kendo. A variety of social events have also allowed our members to get to know each other when another outside the dojo.

Membership

Our Semester 1, 2006 beginners' course was one of our biggest yet again, with around 110 people attending the first free session. Around 60 of those have continued on to finish the beginners course and our membership will be is at its highest level ever. Due to the logistics of running a beginners course, we did not run a course in Semester 2, last year, but this allowed Sensei to spend more of his time focused on the senior members of the club. (This year will be the same with no beginners' course in Semester 2.)

Competition

Australian Championships, April '06, Perth:

Kenji Sugimoto competed in the Open Individuals, advancing to the Quarter Finals, and also represented the Victorian Open Team. Andrew Lam competed in Open Individuals.

Victorian Championships, August '05, State Netball Centre:

Kyu Grade Team – 1st

Avi Ganesan – 2nd

John Teo – 3rd

Andrew Lam and Sung Kim – Fighting Spirit Award

Australian University Games, October '05, Brisbane:

Kyu Team – 1st

Open Team – 2nd

Avi Ganesan – 3rd

Kevin Chin – Green and Gold Team Selection

Otsuka Memorial, July '05, Kenshikan:

Russell Tran, Tom Mendleovits, (Gary Oliver) – 1st

Mumeishi 3s Tournament, November '05, Berwick:

UMKC B (Russel Tran, Tom Mendleovits, Kev Chin) – 1st

UMKC A (Eric Tsai, Michael Dunn, Avi Ganesan) – 2nd

Club Championships, October '05, UMKC:

1st Years

1st - Viet Hoang

2nd - Berkay Ozcelik

3rd - Kai Jin Goh and Jze Chen Wong

Kyu

1st - Taiki Matsueda

2nd - Avi Ganesan

3rd - Tom Mendleovits and Kevin Chin

Fighting Spirit

Jaklene Vukasinovic

Kevin Chin

Peter Huynh

Kah Wai Hor

Jessie Jeung

Thanks to Richard Ward, Chiaki Kobayashi and Alvin Chen for Shimpan assistance.

Kevin Chin: Fighting Spirit awards at Club Championships and Mumeishi, as well as the Green and Gold award at AUG.

Grading

Many of our members successfully passed their respective grading examinations in September '05, and in February '06. We wish all candidates good luck in the upcoming grading in May and later this year. Particularly those attempting Dan grades.

Sensei and Nittaidai Visit

Chiba Sensei, Hoshina Sensei & Suzuki Sensei conducted general training seminars in August '05, as well as a women's training session.

Nihon Sports Science University joint training held at UMKC in February, '06. The visit maintains our strong relationship with Nittaidai and we encourage members to train with them in Japan if they have the opportunity.

Fundraising

Once again, the club held a 'Band and Auction Night' to raise money for the AUG team. Five bands made up of club members performed a variety of originals, covers, J-pop and jazz tunes to an audience of around 150 people at Pugg Mahones. A number of our suppliers donated equipment which was auctioned off on the night. The night raised over \$1500 overall.

Demonstrations

Members conducted a number of demonstrations at high schools in Melbourne. As well as at Manifest (Anime Festival) and Osaka Twilight Festival.

Camp

In May, our annual camp was held in Ballarat, with fifty members heading off on a Friday night for a two day intensive training weekend. Members of the Ballarat club, Monash University Kendo Club and the Nanseikan Youth Kendo Dojo, also joined us for most of the weekend.

Thanks to Ballarat Kendo Club for the use of their dojo, to all those who helped organize the weekend, and the cooking team on the Saturday night. Thanks also to Kenji for driving the mini-bus and all the other drivers for providing transport.

Yakov Sensei

I would also like to thank Yakov Sensei for his guidance and support over the year in the running of the club. As Sensei is also Chairman of the National Kendo Board and Vice President of the VKR, we are very fortunate that he is able to manage all these positions and provide a great deal of his time for our club.

The club would also like to formally congratulate Sensei on his recent award of Renshi, presented at the AKC in Perth. The awards are said to represent not only the recipient's ability and understanding of Kendo, but also his contribution to the Kendo community as a whole. The award is a credit to Sensei's dedication to Kendo and we are very grateful to have him as our Sensei.

Many thanks to the committee for their help and work throughout the year. As the club grows in size, a well functioning committee is a necessity and I have been fortunate to have hard working people along side me.

The club could also not function without all the help from yudansha during training, and the numerous ways that members help the club to run smoothly. Thank you to all!

Michael Dunn
President
April 2006