

**University of Melbourne Kendo Club
Annual General Meeting 2007
President's Report
Thomas Bjorn Mendelovits**

Beginner's Courses 2006 and 2007:

2006 was the first year trialling only one beginner's course, to be held in first semester. Retention rates were at the usual 10% or so, with around 100 at the first training, 50 of those becoming members and then 10 continuing training until now, one year on.

In 2007, numbers were a bit lower this year due to website problems, but overall still quite high and the course was successful as usual.

UMKC is still the largest club in Australia. Probably in Southern Hemisphere except for Brasil.

Gradings:

6th Dan Renshi – Yakov Sensei, announced at AKC 2006 in recognition of teaching efforts.

Nidan – Hiro Hiwatari, Andrew Lam (2006), Kevin Chin (2007)

Shodan – Kevin Chin (2006), Avinash Ganesan, Thomas Mendelovits, Michael Dunn (2007)

Ikkyu – Andy Meier

Nikkyu – Russell Tran, Kevin Houg, Viet Hoang, Melva Utama

Competition Results:

VKC 2006

Kyu Individual:

Second: Kevin Wu

Equal Third: Ivan Chen

Kyu Teams:

First: UMKC (Ivan Chen, Kevin Wu, Thomas Mendelovits, Avi Ganesan, Kevin Houg)

Second: MBK (Kenshikan)

Open Teams:

First: Fudoshin

Second: UMKC (Hiro, Kevin Chin, Josh, Kenji, Andrew (Reserve: Chris P))

Kata Pairs

First: UMKC (Chris Panagopoulos/ Andrew Lam)

Second: MBK

Fighting Spirit (from UMKC):

Andrew Lam

Janice Tong

AUG 2006 (Adelaide)

Kyu Individual:

1st – Thomas Mendelovits

2nd – Ivan Chen

4th – Michael Dunn

5th – Viet Hoang

6th – Kevin Wu

It is worthy to note that UMKC won five out of the top eight positions, which are counted towards overall university results at the AUG.

Kyu Team:

First – UMKC (Viet, Michael Dunn, Kevin Wu, Ivan, Tom. Reserve: Paul Wu)

Second - Monash

Open Team:

First - USYD

Second – UMKC (same team as above)

- **Green and Gold team:** Tom, also received a Half-Blue from Melbourne Uni for this.

Squad: Viet Hoang, Michael Dunn, Kevin Wu, Ivan Chen, Tom Mendelovits, Paul Wu, Vincci Law, Roxy Tsui, Janice Tong, Jaklene Vukasinovic

Groupies: Special mention to Hiro, Anthony, Pe Yang, Alex, Natalie, Lisa, Lin Wei, Li Jun, who all came in a van as a support squad. Also, thanks to further big gun support and shimpan duties from Yakov Sensei, Kenji and Andrew.

UMKC Championship:

1st Year Competition:

First - Alex Lee

Second - JC Leong

Equal Third - Sam Li and Kai Lim

Kyu Competition:

First - Thomas Mendelovits

Second - Jon Teo

Equal Third - Russell Tran and Walden Ryu

Fighting Spirit:

Natalie Chiang, Kah Horng Chia, Pe Yang Teng, Li Jun Tan.

Thanks to Amplus for prize donations.

Special Mention:

In 2006 Chiaki Kobayashi was the first born and bred UMKC member to make it to the World Kendo Championships, held in Glasgow, competing individually and as a member of the national women's team.

2006 Camp:

As usual, the camp was a great success and is becoming more of a tradition each year. Held in Ballarat over the weekend of the 12th-14th May, with 60 people attending, quite a large number. Lots of seniors came, which is always helpful.

Positives:

- lots of people
- cheaper dojo-stay option.

Negatives:

- rather expensive and poor quality catered dinner at the Sovereign Hill Lodge
- a number of people left after one day, disappointing for others and breaks camp continuity and spirit.

For 2007, the committee decided to reintroduce cooking for ourselves (Iron Chef style) and after a change in arrangement with the karate club, no dojo stay option was to be available.

Fundraiser and view on VSU:

Organised by Vincci, 2006 was the second year the annual fundraiser was held at Pugg Mahones in Carlton. Overall improvement from 2005, and was successful in reaching a sufficient level of profit allowing for a significant subsidy for AUG.

Same format: musical acts featured prominently. As well as the all-kendo band, also playing were Fatsu Yoroshiku (made up of Anthony, JC, Alex, Viktor and Kenji), Tom's band Supertrain, and Sakura Express. Viet did stand-up and Tony Shearer and Kevin Chin did some acoustic stuff.

Again, lots of donations from our friends at Amplus for the raffle and human-raffle also was again quite successful.

Hopefully, this year in 2007 we can organise an even better fundraiser, or maybe have two of different types. 2007 is the first year of Voluntary Student Unionism, and University clubs are thus expected to receive less MUS funding for AUG. Being a relatively big and financially stable club, however, UMKC is well-placed to ride smoothly over any VSU-raised problems.

Highlights of the 2006/07 Social Calender:

- End of year dinner at the Kimchi Grandma/Korean BBQ in the City. Good turnout.
- The biggest paintball extravaganza yet, in early March at Ballan. About 35 people went, including Sensei, many seniors, one Kenshikan member and some extra-kendo friends.
- Also, there are always little events going on for birthdays, etc, which keeps the club spirit up and which probably translates to a more successful training environment.

Other Events:

- Visitors from Japan always a highlight. Last year we had the annual hachidan sensei visit. Sumi Sensei, a renowned pedagog, was highly memorable.
- Beginning of 2007 around 30 Uni students from the Kanto Gakuren (Kanto Area Students Kendo Renmei) came.
- Nittaidai visit, Feb 2007, possibly the last but was great again, with them coming to Melbourne Uni for a training session.
- Demonstrations throughout the year. Highlight the one at Templestowe Park Primary when we were presented with a veritable treasure trove of charming Art Brut chronicling the visit from the students.

Ideas for New President:

- Institutionalise system for bogu lending.
- Block payments of training fees? A more robust system for payment.

Thank you to everyone who has made my job as easy as possible. Without you we'd have had a pretty bumpy year. Thanks especially to Yakov Sensei for his brilliant logical and logistical mind, to Viet (Secretary) for his letterheads and collusion on decision-making, and to Pei (Treasurer) for doing something so well that I have no idea about. Thanks also to the rest of the committee; Pe Yang (Public Yellow Transport), Vincci, Tony and Roxy, for being a great support crew. Also, thanks to all the seniors who have stuck around and made training at UMKC increasingly valuable and for making the club, more and more, a force to be reckoned with.