

University of Melbourne Kendo Club
Annual General Meeting 16th April, 2008
Agenda

Open:

1. Welcome

- Attendance
- Apologies:

2. Minutes from 2007 AGM

- Amendments:
- Call for acceptance
 - Proposed

Seconded

3. Reports

- i. President
- ii. Treasurer
- iii. Armourer
- iv. Sensei

4. Elections

- Declare all positions vacant
- Appoint interim chairman

i. President

- Proposed

Seconded

Elected

ii. Vice President

- Proposed

Seconded

Elected

iii. Secretary

- Proposed

Seconded

Elected

iv. Treasurer

- Proposed

Seconded

Elected

v. Armourer

- Proposed

Seconded

Elected

vi. IT Administrator

- Proposed

Seconded

Elected

vii. Social Representative

- Proposed

Seconded

Elected

viii. General Representative

- Proposed

Seconded

Elected

5. Other Business

Close:

President's Report AGM, 16th April 2008

2007 was another busy and successful year for UMKC: average skill level increases while membership rates and competition results stayed at a high. Although regular trainings are central to the club, Camps and competitions have helped us improve our kendo. Social events, a strong side of the club that differentiates us from other clubs, allowed the members and the club to bond closer together and to strengthen the club spirit.

Beginners' Course 2007 and 2008

- 2008 saw approximately 75 people appear for the first day of the beginners course. 63 registered by the end of the 2nd week, and around 40 regularly attending. Although fewer people showed up to the first training than in 2007, more have registered. This can be attributed to a lack of demonstration at O-week. A smaller beginners course has proven easier to manage and conduct, without the need to lend many shinai from members or using wrapped up shinai as in previous years.
- Around 10 members from the 2007 beginners are continuing to train now. This is a similar number to the year before, and is in line with the observed 10% retention ratio.
- We have continued to not run a 2nd semester beginners' course, a trend first started in 2005. With the greater focus on the beginners that this entails, it is a trend that is likely to continue.
- One interesting observation with this year's beginners batch is that there is a significantly greater number of Melbourne University students than in 2007.

Gradings

- The level of skill at UMKC continues to increase; the number of yudansha has risen.
- Kenji has been awarded Yondan at the recent AKC in Sydney. This is the highest rank achieved by a born-and-bred UMKC member, and demonstrates that kendoka can continue to train and advance into the higher dan ranks at UMKC despite the average Kyu skill level.
- Sandan: Chris Panagopolous
- Nidan: Hiroatsu Hiwatari, Kevin Chin, Andrew Lam, Josh Orth
- Shodan: Avinash Ganesan, Thomas Mendelovits, Michael Dunn, Jon Teo
- Congratulations to all who graded in the recent grading and good luck to those who will be grading in the upcoming 1st kyu to 3rd dan gradings, especially the dan candidates.

Competitions

Australian Kendo Championships, June 07, Melbourne

- Kenji Sugimoto, Thomas Mendelovits, and Kevin Chin competed in the open individuals. Kenji progressed into the Quarter Finals.
- Russell Tran, Son Nguyen, Andy Meier and Tony Shearer competed in the Kyu individuals. Russell Tran made it into the Quarter Finals.
- Yakov Sensei, Andy Meier, and Tony Shearer competed in the Seniors individual.
- Kenji was part of the Victorian Open Team, which finished second behind NSW.
- Andrew Lam and Chris Panagopolous were the Victorian Kata Pairs, and finished second behind QLD.
- UMKC had a major part in the organization of the AKC, with Chris being a major organizer of the entire competition, Tom being a volunteers organizer, and a very large number of UMKC volunteers. Traditionally UMKC has provided a large proportion of the volunteers at any competition and this AKC was no exception. Thanks to them, the AKC ran smoothly.

Australian Kendo Championships, April 08, Sydney

- Son Nguyen, Russell Tran, Kevin Houng, Kenji Sugimoto, Andrew Lam, and Kevin Chin travelled to Sydney to represent the Victorian Squad.
- Russell was a member of the Victorian Kyu Team, which made it into the finals.
- Kenji was a member of the Victorian Open Team.
- Andrew and Alvin were the Victorian Kata Pairs, and won first place.
- A few UMKC supporters travelled with the team to cheer. This recent trend (starting with the AUG in Adelaide) really illustrates the club spirit that may differentiate us from other clubs.

Victorian Kendo Championships, November 07, Reservoir

- Traditionally a huge number of entries from UMKC, however the awkward timing meant many international students left for their home countries. This also had an effect on UMKC's end results.
- Kyu Individuals: Paul Wu equal third.
- Kyu Teams: 2nd place (Kevin Houng, Russell, Son, Kevin Wu, Paul)
- Open Teams: 2nd place (Kevin Chin, Kenji, Tom, Andrew, Josh)
- Kata Pairs: 1st (Andrew and Chris P)
- Again a large number of UMKC Volunteers.

Australian University Games, September 07, Gold Coast

- Kyu team: 1st place (Alex, Anthony, Kevin, Paul, Viet)
- Open team: 2nd place (Tom, Michael, Alex, Anthony, Kevin, Viet)
- Squad: Tom Mendelovits, Michael Dunn, Alex Lee, Anthony Goh, Kevin Wu, Paul Wu, Viet Hoang, Nicole Shen, Pei Yau, Natalie Chiang, Jaklene Vukasinovic, Christina Jong. Coaches: Hiroatsu Hiwatari, Andrew Lam.
- Poorer performance in individual competition than in previous years.
- Special mention to Christina who made it to the Quarter Finals in the Kyu individuals.
- Strong training regime, coached by Hiro and Andrew.
- Team bonding sessions: breakfasts, and a team dinner.
- Half the team were female. Many universities in the Kendo competition wanted a women's division in future AUGs; may see one in 2008.

Mumeishi 3's, October 07, Berwick

- UMKC B won the Mumeishi 3's (Josh, Kevin Wu, Son)

Otsuka Memorial, July 07, Kenshikan

- Anthony Goh's team won 2nd place.

Club Championships, October 07, UMKC

- Junior division:
 - o 1st: David Tay,
 - o 2nd: Zia Atmaja
 - o 3rd: Boon Hoe Low and Akinori Sano.
- Senior division:
 - o 1st: Alex Lee,
 - o 2nd: Son Nguyen,
 - o 3rd: Chris Cheong and Kevin Wu.
- Dan division:
 - o 1st: Kenji Sugimoto,
 - o 2nd: Kevin Chin,
 - o 3rd: Seungjin Baek and Thomas Mendelovits.
- Fighting Spirit awards:
 - o Yu Ketayama,
 - o George Yamana,
 - o Natalie Chiang,
 - o Anthony Goh.

- We are at the stage where we have enough Yudansha to hold a separate Dan competition.
- Alex is the first person to win the junior and senior divisions in a row.
- Thanks to Mike Ma and Amplus for the kendo prize donations, and to Walden Ryu for the Tshirts.

Camp

Once again, we held our annual camp in Ballarat in May, with 50 kendoka leaving Melbourne on a Friday night for two days of intensive training. We were joined by a few members from the Ballarat Kendo club. It was a major success, especially with the 'Iron Chef' dinner on the Saturday night, demonstrating the culinary skills of some of our members, and definitely should be repeated in the next camp. Beginners wore the full armour at the camp, much earlier than in previous years.

Thanks to all those who helped organized the camp, the drivers who helped transport our members to Ballarat, Chris for hiring and driving the minibus, and our team of Iron Chefs.

Fundraiser

The annual UMKC fundraising night continues to grow bigger. Held in August to raise funds to help pay for our AUG team's registration and transport to the Gold Coast, the night saw 4 in-club bands Sakura Express, Supertrain, Exuberant Fishlegs, and Eden 21. An audience of 200 people flocked to Pugg Mahones, Carlton, dancing to Jpop, indie rock, jazz, and Green Day covers, while also participating in the auctions with many of the items supplied by Amplus. The night raised \$2,400 overall.

A complaint was that the ticket price was steep, and the night short. Perhaps for this year, a different venue can be found where we are not kicked out so early, as well as decreasing the ticket price.

Social Events

- UMKC went to dine at Ito and the Afghan Gallery at the end of semesters. While Ito was superb and filling, Afghan Gallery left a lot to be desired.
- UMKC went to war in Ballan in March, with the club's biggest paintball excursion to date.
- There are always casual post-kendo dinners, parties, etc, that bond the club together.

New Armoury

Midway through 2007 UMKC switched storerooms. The move was due to the constant leakage problems and machinery from the maintenance room next door, damaging our properties and introducing a mold problem. Whilst the new storeroom is slightly smaller width-wise, the door does open outwards which slightly makes up for it. A major problem was MUSA's lack of consultation in creating the shelves. In future, the club should examine ways to install newer and more refined shelves which will relieve some wasted space and perhaps allow room for even more armours.

Other Events

- Nittaidai visited in February, and practise was held at UMKC. Nittaidai will no longer be visiting Australia on a yearly basis, but will be returning every 2 or 3 years.
- Several demonstrations held throughout the year. An interesting one was the CPI group demonstration; 15 minutes in a docklands bar, for corporate entertainment.

The Future

- Melbourne University has introduced a new education paradigm, the "Melbourne Model". This may have an effect on UMKC's average skill level, as now undergraduate courses are all 3 years or less. There are no longer any double degree courses. This means that more students will be gone after 3

years. It is unknown how many undergrads will enter grad school, but Masters courses at Melbourne have proven to be intensive and time consuming, and leave little time for kendo or any other extracurricular activities.

- The government has examined a few ways to deal with the VSU situation, including a 'HECS style union system' (whatever that means). In any case, it is unlikely we will see the return of the compulsory student union as it once was, and we must operate the club on the assumption that no support will be had from the union.
- 2007's financial statements illustrate that UMKC is more than capable of supporting itself without MUSA subsidy and support. In light of the massive profits, the 2008 committee may wish to examine ways to feed the money back into the club, perhaps by subsidizing.
- 2009 sees UMKC's 20th anniversary. The 2008 and 2009 committees will be assisting in organizing the celebration of this event, which will include a tournament, and dinner. A necessary task will be to locate and invite many past members of UMKC.
- Future committees may want to examine a block payment system.

Yakov Sensei

UMKC continues to succeed and progress because of Yakov Sensei's guidance, support and instruction over the year. UMKC is very privileged to have a Sensei who dedicates so much time to the club, especially while being the Chairman of the Australian Kendo Board and constant advisor to the AKR and VKR, not to mention his full time work. UMKC thanks Sensei greatly for all that he has contributed to the club, and indeed its very existence.

UMKC would also like to formally congratulate Sensei on his Special Commendation award, awarded by the AKR at the 32nd Australian Kendo Championships, 'in recognition and appreciation of many years of dedicated, hard work toward improving the administration of the AKR and the kendo technical skills of members.' The award is a credit to Sensei's dedication to Australian Kendo and we are extremely grateful to have him as our Sensei.

A big thanks to the committee of 2007 for the help and work in managing the club over the year. Thanks to Pei for her management of the secretarial and administrative aspects of the club, to Natalie for her hard work as the treasurer, to Andrew for his guidance and advice to the rest of the committee, to Tony for managing the IT aspects of the club (especially for reviving the website from the dead and hacked MUSA servers), to Jaklene for managing the kendo armoury, to Nicole for organizing great dinners, and to Paul for the fundraising night and helping out the rest of the committee. With UMKC being as large a club as it is, it relies more and more on the hard work of a well functioning committee. And I believe I am fortunate to have such a hard working committee with me.

The club would also not be able to function with the experience, guidance and support of the yudansha, who have helped conduct trainings and have helped our members in numerous ways, resulting in a smooth-running and skill-increasing club!

Viet Hoang
President
April 2008