

## President's Report

### AGM, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010

2009 was another busy, eventful, and successful year for MUKC. From the increase in average skill level to competition performance and relationships with external organizations, the club has greatly advanced in the past year. As one of the largest kendo clubs in Australia, MUKC continues to promote the art of kendo with great results. This can be seen from the increase in our club's spirit and discipline through the many competitions and social events that we participate in or host. In a brief report below, I attempt to summarize the performance of MUKC over the year.

### Competitions

#### *UMKC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, May 2009, Club dojo*

- 2009 saw MUKC celebrate 20 years of running since May 1989 with a well received dinner and tournament with members from dojos around Victoria and other states
- The club presented Yakov Sensei with a brand new bogu as a symbol of thanks and recognition for his continued support for MUKC and teaching to members throughout the years
- Thanks very much to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee for planning and organizing the important event
- Club member results:
  - Hiroatsu Hiwatari came 1<sup>st</sup> in the 3 - 4 Dan division
  - Andy Meier and Thomas Mendelovits shared Equal 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 1 - 2 division
  - David Tay came Equal 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 2 - 1 Kyu division
  - Richard Loi came Equal 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 6 - 3 Kyu division

#### *Otsuka Memorial Taikai, July 2009, Kenshikan*

- Kevin chin's team reached the final and won, which was the furthest MUKC reached in the event

#### *Victorian Kendo Championships, August 2009, Footscray*

- Congratulations to Andrew Lam and Kevin Chin for winning the Kata Pairs
- Congratulations to Kevin Chin for coming Equal 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Open Individuals
- Congratulations to Jeffrey khor for getting Equal 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Kyu Individuals and winning the Fighting Spirit Award
  
- Competitors:
  - Open Individuals: Andrew Lam, Josh Orth, Michael Dunn, Thomas Mendelovits, Andry Meier, Kenji Sugimoto, Hiroatsu Hiwatari, Lit Khong Chin, Viet Hoang

- Kyu Individuals: Richard Loi, Kin-On Tham, Alvin Ng, Benjamin Tran, Jeffrey Khor, Richard Zhou
- We had a reduced number of competitors in 2009 – 15 – compared to 24 in 2008 partly due to not having any female representatives from the club. That will hopefully change this year. Overall however, a great result from MUKC

*Australian University Games, September 2009, Gold Coast*

- Open Teams: 2<sup>nd</sup> place (Viet Hoang, Kin-On Tham, Jeffrey Khor, David Tay, and Richard Loi)
- Kyu Teams: 2<sup>nd</sup> place (Jeffrey Khor, David Tay, Kin-On Tham, Alvin Ng, and Richard Loi)
- Kyu Individuals: 2<sup>nd</sup> place (Kin-On Tham)
- Team Manager: Viet Hoang
- Joint Team Coaches: Andrew Lam, Viet Hoang
- Squad: Viet Hoang, Kin-On Tham, David Tay, Jeffrey Khor, Natalie Chiang, Vi Dinh, Richard Loi, Richard Zhou, Edward Morrissey, Alvin Ng
- Usual team breakfasts and dinner were held to build team spirit
- Thanks very much to Viet and Andrew for leading the team, and also thanks to the large number of supporters who came along with the squad to the Gold Coast
- 2010's AUG will be held in Perth

*Mumeishi 3's, November 2009, Pakenham*

- Due to the competition being held later than usual – close to the second semester finals – MUKC only managed to field one team which consisted of the following members:
  - Josh Orth, Son Nguyen, and Richard Loi who came equal 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Club Championships, November 2009, Club dojo*

- Junior Kyu Division: Richard T'en came 1st, Takeshi Hartono 2nd, Daniel Huang and Francis Cuong Equal 3rd
- Women's Kyu Divisions: Vi Dinh came 1st, Nor Farhana came 2nd, Sara Hwang and Jennifer Kuo came 3rd
- Senior Kyu Division: Kin-On Tham came 1st, Alvin Ng 2nd, Edward Morrissey and Jeffrey Khor 3rd
- Dan Division: Kenji Sugimoto came 1st, Andrew Lam 2nd, Josh Orth and Kevin Chin 3rd
- Fighting Spirits Awards: Nor Farhana, Vi Dinh, and Jeffrey Khor
- As with previous years, MUKC had to balance the pros and cons in deciding whether to hold the end-of-year tournament before or after the final exams. If held before, more members would be able to compete because international students would not have returned home for summer yet and vice versa. The committee decided on the latter in the end because venue bookings with MUSA were strongly contested in

November. The club however endured to hold the competition immediately after the end of exams so as to increase the chances of international student members competing

- Also, this year saw the first female kyu category being held in a while and hopefully this will continue in the future

### **Camp**

The MUKC Annual Training Camp was again held in Ballarat from 1-3 May 2009. We had more members attend this time, 65 compared to 59 in the previous year, mainly from MUKC and Monash. As usual, we had a weekend of intensive training and beginners got to put on their armour for the first time. Also, we had our 'Kendo Chef' cookoff on Saturday night, led by Mess Sergeant David Tay and food was gone within moments after being served during dinner. Thanks to the committee and everyone who helped organize the camp, the drivers who helped out with transportation, Yakov Sensei, and all our chefs. Also, look forward to the upcoming camp in May 7-9.

### **Fundraising Night**

2009's Kote Men Rock was held on Friday, 4 September in Pugg Mahones to support the AUG team in the Goldcoast. The event was an extreme success with members from kendo clubs around Victoria convening for the annual social event which hosted music bands and a charity auction. Around \$1000 was raised and was enough to cover all of the subsidies provided to the AUG team members. This was following the sale of many handcraft made by our artistic members and also a full set of bogu. This year however saw a couple of members having to turn back to obtain their IDs as Pugg Mahones raised security over legal drinking. We will have to remind members about this issue in the future. Otherwise, it was a very enjoyable night. Thanks very much to the social representatives for their hard work in organizing the event.

### **Social Events**

- 2009's end-of-semester dinners were held in Krataron on Londale st and Mama Sichuan on Swanston
- As usual, we had our pizza night at the end of the beginners' course to enable seniors and juniors to socialize

### **Other Events**

- The Monash Gashuku was held on 30-31 May over a weekend in Monash Caulfield with around 22 of our club members participating
- In 2009, we had two visits between MUKC and Monash which was good for building inter-club relationships and hopefully this will continue in 2010
- Also in 2009, MUKC hosted Fujiwara Sensei who stayed in Melbourne for about a year and the club was very honored to receive additional kendo guidance from a very experienced Sensei and the farewell dinner was successful prior to his departure with more than 35 members attending.

## MUSA

- The week before Christmas in 2009, a notice was given out to all sports clubs in change of venue/court use. The introduction of hiring fees was implemented in the beginner of the semester March 2010.
- UMKC became a participant with other martial art clubs in Melbourne University to enquire the details of this new change. Unfortunately due to differences and approaches between clubs, the committee unanimously agreed to withdraw the club from the group (a month ago).
- Negotiations took place between MUSA managers Kirstie & Rod for change of training time slots and venue fees. The negotiation came to 3 months of training free of charge from July to September. Wednesday training session has been changed to Thursday 5-6.30pm and Friday morning training session to Wednesday morning at 7am. (Morning training has been considered free of charge throughout the year as it is prior to 9am)

## Grading

- In the midst of Melbourne's most terrible storm the past 40 years, grading still took place at Kenshikan on 6<sup>th</sup> March for 6<sup>th</sup> -1<sup>st</sup> Kyu.
- Overall everyone who participated past with 24 examinees from UMKC.
- The high number of UMKC examinees clearly showed the high retention rate of 2009's beginners. Furthermore it shows the continuous strong presence of 2008 beginners continuing kendo compared to 2007.
- Senior dan grading
- Congratulations to everyone who graded this year and last year!

## Competitions

### *Beginners Tournament, February, Kenshikan*

- UMKC introduced first regional wide beginners competition for competitors who started kendo from Jan 09.
- 14 participants with 8 from UMKC
- 1st place - Richard T'en (UMKC)  
2nd place - Nick Chan (Monash)  
3rd places - Daniel Huang (UMKC), Vincent Lai (UMKC)  
Fighting Spirit Award - Nor Farhana Mohd Fauzy (UMKC)

### *Australian Kendo Championships, Easter April, Melbourne*

- Victoria won 6/9 divisions in the AKC
- Special Congratulations goes to:
  - Andrew Lam (Kata Pair)
  - David Wright (Victorian Kyu Men's Team) \
  - Kevin Chin (Kata Pair, Victorian Open Men's Team)

- Job well done to Son Nguyen in the open individual and Alvin Ng in the kyu individual

### **Personal thanks**

First of all, the MUKC is really privileged to have Yakov Sensei as its instructor and mentor for more than 20 years. With the many events that have happened over the years, MUKC would not have existed without Yakov Sensei, I dare say that there would be a lot fewer skilled kendokas around Australia. Through Yakov Sensei's experience, hard work and commitment, MUKC continues to grow and develop as one of the largest Kendo Clubs in Australia. As such, MUKC would like to sincerely thank Yakov Sensei for his efforts. Also, as Yakov Sensei has retired recently from his full-time role with the government, we look forward even more to the many years ahead together.

Next, the club has once again delivered stellar performance in 2009 thanks to the committee's diligence and efficiency in managing the club. I regret to not being able to be with MUKC over the many interesting events that have occurred since December 2009 due to being on an exchange in the US. However, I extend my personal thanks to David Tay for doing an awesome job as Interim Club President and Social Representative. Thanks to Andrew Lam as Vice President for consistently providing the committee with advice and guidance. Thanks to Richard Zhou as Club Secretary for handling the club's administrative matters, and Viet Hoang as Treasurer for managing the accounts and assisting MUKC with his vast experience in the club. Also, thanks to Jeffrey Khor for his care and attentiveness in overseeing the club's armoury, and Tony Shearer for handling the MUKC website and all other IT aspects. Lastly, thanks to the all the General Representatives, Richard Loi, Edward Morrissey, and Peter Huynh for their important role in assisting to committee with various club management issues.

As we can all perceive, managing a club and participating in the regular activities simultaneously is very often not an easy task. Moreover, the roles that each committee member play are voluntary and only intrinsically rewarded. It has been a great pleasure of mine to have worked with such a dedicated team through 2009. Of course, this includes the senior members who continually provide the club with guidance and support through their experience. It is also because of our yudansha that our club continues to develop in strength and discipline. This is especially so when they make a commitment to help conduct training sessions despite their busy work schedules. MUKC therefore wishes to thank the senior members for their dedication and efforts.

Kin-On Tham  
President  
April 2010