

KENDŌ forum

By MUSASHI

4th Japan Air Lines Open European Yudansha Kendo Taikai: Saturday, November 13th, 1971, Brighton Butokukan Dojo.

Without any doubt this can be said to have been an unqualified success. The entry totalled thirty-two including, significantly, two Japanese *yudansha*, both *nidan*, from London. Their participation can be noted with deep approval since this tournament is "open" and both Japan Air Lines and the Eikoku Kendo Renmei wish this match to become a focal point in the growth of Kendo in the Western Hemisphere.

Mr. Okazaki Kumao, Councillor/Director of the Japan Information Centre, and Madame Okazaki were the Guests of Honour and represented H.E. The Japanese Ambassador and Madame Yukawa who were unfortunately unable to attend at the last minute. H.E. Mr. Yukawa is the Honorary President of the Eikoku Kendo Renmei and himself a *yondan* Kendoka. Mr. Okazaki disclosed his own University experience of Kendo and his rank of *shodan*. Madame Okazaki had studied Naginata, too.

Japan Air Lines were represented by Mr. Peter Butterworth, Assistant Public Relations Manager Europe, and Miss Morimoto who added a traditionally feminine touch by wearing a beautiful kimono. She presented the trophies on behalf of the airline.

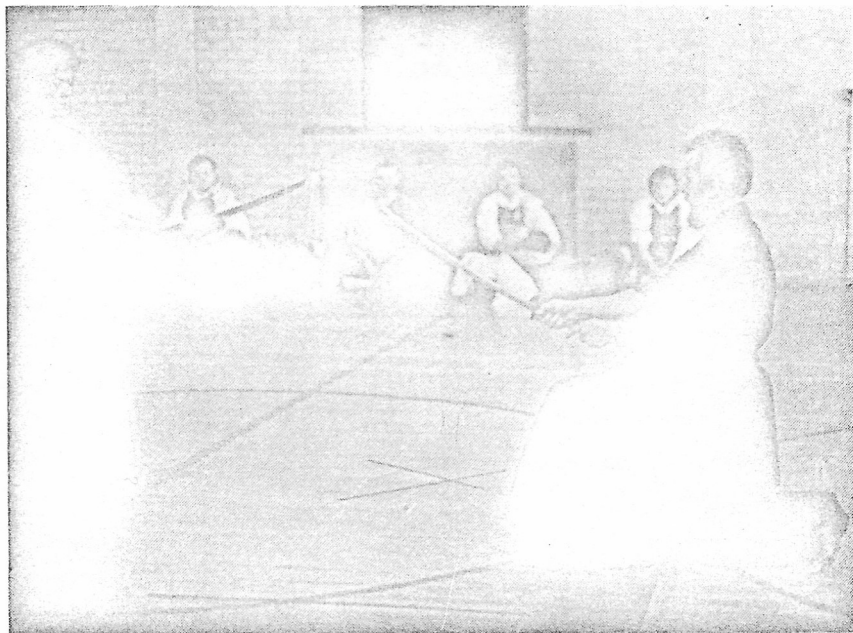
The tournament was opened by Mr. Roald Knutsen, the Secretary-General of the Eikoku Kendo Renmei, taking the place of the Chairman, Mr. Bill Prytherch, who was unable to attend. Mr. Knutsen praised the attendance which was well in excess of expectations, numbering around one hundred and thirty all told. He put emphasis on the aims of Japan Air Lines and the Renmei and hoped that everyone would fight hard and really put this Taikai "on the Kendo map". He read out a telegram of good wishes from the President, Sir Frank Bowden.

Mr. Kimura Tomoharu, *sandan*, gave a short demonstration of basic cuts and tournament fouls assisted by Mr. Stephen Smith, *sankyū*, from the Butokukan Dojo.

The tournament was drawn into two pools of sixteen and the matches were each of three minutes duration. The Chief Judge was Mr. Fujii Okimitsu assisted by Mr. Knutsen, Mr. Taneda, *yondan*, and Mr. Kimura.

Before the matches began the Nippon Kendo-gata was demonstrated by Mr. Fujii, *godan*, and Mr. Knutsen, *yondan*, using live blades. They showed the first seven forms of the *kata*.

About the actual matches the results sheet will show the details but one can comment that standards were generally high. In particular the display of fighting spirit by the contestants — Swedish, Japanese or British—was most encouraging. One must surely single out for praise Mr. Mike Davies, *shodan* (Nenrika Dojo) and Mr. Johan Appelberg, *shodan*, from Stockholm. Both men defeated their opponents in the opening round by 2—0 wins, then met in the second round with a 2 points to 1 win for Mr. Davies who then went on to the semi-finals where he met defeat at the hands of the overall winner, Mr. Vic Cook, *sandan*. However both Davies and Appelberg showed skill and promise for the future.



Nihon Kendo-gata demonstrated by Mr. Fujii Okimitsu, 5th *dan* (left) and Mr. Roald Knutsen, 4th *dan* (right). This is the conclusion of the 7th form.

Mr. Furutake, *nidan*, and Mr. John Howell, *nidan*, came through to the semi-finals with hard-fought matches but Furutake defeated Howell to go to the Final with Mr. Cook.

At this point Mr. Taneda and Mr. Kimura provided a short interlude by showing a very good *muhan-geiko*, or senior practice. Mr. Taneda was a member of the Hosei University team, and Mr. Kimura a member of the famous Mito Tobukan Dojo.

Then the Final which went to full time. In a tense match Mr. Cook was able to take the only point with a good *shomen* and so became the winner for the second year running and having had the victory in the first Taikai in 1968.

A special prize for *seishin* (fighting spirit) and technique was awarded by the judges to Mr. Johan Appelberg,

leader of the four man Swedish contingent, much to his surprise and pleasure.

After the presentations, Mr. Peter Butterworth closed the tournament with some sincere comment and endorsed Mr. Knutsen's opening remarks concerning the objects of this series. He made particular reference to the large numbers present and the obvious enthusiasm and zest that everyone had put into the Kendo.

With the Taikai completed the Kendo training began in earnest with immediate practice both that evening and again the following morning when more than thirty or even forty Kendoka were hard at it.

Several Dojo leaders expressed their gratitude to the Secretary for the general organisation but in this case particular thanks should be made to Mrs. Knutsen, the Renmei

Treasurer and the ladies and members of the Butokukan who ensured that everything ran smoothly. All

credit is due to them and to Mr. Sandy Bullock, Warden of the Brighton Boys' Club.

4th JAPAN AIR LINES OPEN EUROPEAN YUDANSHA KENDO TAIKAI

Nightingale Clarke, M.M.	Clarke		
Hill Schofield, D.	Schofield, M.M.	Schofield, M.	Davies, M.M.
Furutake Chadwick	Furutake, K.K.	Furutake, D.K.	Richards
Wilson Bean, K.K.	Bean		Eriksson
Chuji Howell, K.	Howell, K.	Howell, M.M.	Cook, M.M.
Harris, M.K. Hurtig	Harris		Dickenson, M.
Rose Humm	Humm, M.	Check	Markie
Check, M.D. Maddams	Check		

Semi-Final

Furutake, D.
Howell

Final

FURUTAKE v. COOK, M.M.

Semi-Final

Davies, M.
Cook, M.M.

THE JACKS FAMILY GO DOWN UNDER

Albert Jacks, for years an important behind-the-scenes figure in the London judo world, sailed for Australia at the end of last month with his wife Lilian and 13-year-old son Shayne.

Their emigration means the loss of a first-class coach who was generous with his time and knowledge and who expressed himself in the colourful non-technical fashion inherited and amplified by his other son, Brian.

Besides international middle-weight Brian, now training in Japan, Albert has helped numerous pupils to Dan grade; among them are British light-heavyweight Angelo Parisi and

British Junior Middleweight Champion John Hindley.

His loss will be felt particularly strongly at the Budokwai's morning class at which, in Brian's absence, Albert was instructor. However, the class will continue.

The family are going to Perth in Western Australia where daughter Barbara, 1st Kyu, and her 1st Dan husband John Cole run a B.J.C. (Barbara and John) judo club.

But 49-year-old Albert, who gained his first Dan in Tokyo seven years ago, is hoping to return to London for a while next year to coach Brian for the Olympic Games.

Best wishes to the Jacks on their venture.