



ANK: 840628

Lint, 23rd of June, 1984

Dear Friends,

Again a letter from us. But please don't panic too early: this is definitely the final one!

In fact, we only want to evaluate our efforts a little bit. But first of all we sincerely thank all visitors for having made the trip to our country, the participants for their adaptation to the 'given' (some of you may even think 'imposed') schedule, and finally for the complimentary letters and messages of which we got plenty these last weeks.

Of course, this organization has been a heavy strain on most of us, but this makes it all the more pleasant to look back on the event, especially now that life is getting back to normal again. (Also in my own office the mess and arrears have been cleared away by now, a rather comforting thought).

We can't deny that there have been some minor problems, such as the red-white colour convention in the combat arrangements. But, at least for this example, we have the argument of not having known about it: here we've always done it that way. So let's put it this way: there are still some things to be put on paper by the EKF Technical Committee.

There has also been an error appointing the referees. In the mean time I found the note again on which Mr Ducarme had listed also Mr Hamot and Mr Holt. So there's no way out of it: I have to admit that I was the culprit, even though in court it would have been called an unpremeditated crime. Anyway, please accept my most humble excuses.

After all, we think that such moments of improvization didn't show too clearly. The prevalent mood between the kendōka seemed to be one of pleasant goodwill and relationships have been visibly improved, especially during the seminar. I even had the impression that most of the participants were more or less reluctant to leave the Sports Center site: it really took quite a long time before everyone was gone that friday afternoon.

The fights during the Championships have been marked by the different national styles. The individual finals, for instance, were for me a test of technical maturity confronted with the utmost mental endurance. In general I think we may claim that the best, or at least the most effective ones have won. It appeared though that the supremacy of the traditionally dominant countries is levelling off in favour of the smaller nations. I hope that everyone agrees this is a change for the good, as it can and should stimulate both the 'small' and the 'big brothers' to improve both style and spirit of their kendô.

For us in Belgium it has been a possibility to get to know each other out of the usual kendô context. I, and others with me, have been very impressed by the unknown abilities discovered among our Organizing Committee. A step forward which will certainly lead to better interclub relations and more active involvement.

Alain Ducarme, the President of the Committee summed up our situation very clearly during the Farewell Speech to Hirakawa-Sensei on the 29th of May in Brussels:

- We have proven to all (small) countries with little financial means that even they are certainly able to organize an European Championship with reasonable results.
- Belgium has come out of the event with a centralized position in European kendô.
- Every Belgian kendôka has had a unique opportunity to practise kendô on a very high level, a chance normally reserved for the bigger countries. The result has been an increase of 11 dans in total, this on a population of about 150 kendôka ...
- Let's conclude out of all this that we aren't daydreaming when we start thinking about the organization of the World Championships in 1994!

I hope these words may set other countries on the way to take the risk of doing the same. To help them I would like to finish with some (good?) advice. The ones in charge might even make profit out of them:

- First, it can be interesting to know that we got about (we still don't know exactly) 150 foreign guests and that in total, some 50 kendôka took part in the Seminar. This may give an idea of the extent of the organization.
- Then for those who think medals would be the only justified reward for the organizers: they should see to it that the competitors are freed of any practical duties. Cumulation is rather dangerous in this matter, even when there is only a small number of candidates to select out of. Both jobs cause already enough stress!

- MW*
- Another point is that we could easily have included the price of tenugui and program booklet into the general inscription price. This might have increased the feeling of comfort and lessened the impression of commercial exploitation some may have attributed to us. At the same time it would have saved us a lot of trouble. Now we have to assess that many people didn't bother to buy one. But we are not going to sit on the rest of it. Let's profit of the occasion this letter offers and tell that these programs can still be ordered, but only in packets of 4 or 9, due to postal regulations of weight. If you transfer respectively 600.- or 900.-Bfr to our account (Crédit Communal number 068-2030563-89 of Yuhi Kendô Club mentioning Championnats d'Europe) they will be sent immediately. Remember that it's not only a matter of collecting souvenirs: these booklets can be the tool to improve our contact possibilities. An adress of someone else can be more useful to possess than your own picture, be it in print ...
 - Financially speaking we tried from the start to reach the break-even point, without overlooking the possibility to make some profit being sponsored by commercial companies. I still think it's morally unjustified to let your guest pay more than strictly necessary, even when the surplus serves to stimulate the kendô movement in general. The Championships themselves were meant to give the impulses here. Anyway, it appears that we may have succeeded to fulfill the first part of our aim. Unfortunately most of the contacted companies made their final decisions regarding the publicity budget at least one year in advance. That's exactly the time we started to work on it. Two years would have been a lot more profitable.

So, that's it. By the time you get this letter the Organizing Committee has assembled for the last time to round up the results and to make the necessary conclusions. Therefor we resign hereby formally, but of course we hope to meet you all again, if possible in the nearby future.

Respectfully Yours,

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