

England

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2nd July 1972

Dear Robert,

Glad to hear from you again. I haven't written as I have been waiting for our committee meeting discussion and possible entrants for the forthcoming E.K.R. matches in Sweden. First let me tell you that we are all very well here but not enjoying our English summer - it is terrible weather! We shall take a week's holiday at the end of this month and after this Alexander and I will take few days studying geology in the Welsh Border country. We cannot take more time due to my business commitments.

Now, first the World Kendo Matches next April. At the time of writing I cannot see that I have any possibility to attend. My reasons are several, of course, and most of them are the same that may prevent any British entrants. Primarily we lack finances. However, Robert, we have applied to a government body here for financial aid but I do not have their reply just at present. As it stands it looks as if Britain and this Renshi will not be represented in April 1973.

We also are alive to the heavy expense that will be required if several Japanese Kodansha choose to come on to Europe after the matches!?

The final decision about our representation will depend on efforts here to raise money to support a team of representatives in Los Angeles. This cannot be decided until the 5th J.A.L. Yudansha Taikai on 14th October next.

The Renshi here have decided we cannot send a team to Stockholm in September for similar financial reasons. I have circulated our members about this Taikai and requesting responses.

than anyone intending to travel or who would like to participate. One of our better ni-dan said he would like to go but he cannot afford the travel costs. He will let me know in a week or so one way or the other.

The Renmei here cannot help in any way as we still have not recovered from outlay of cash in the past three years. As you know we have no government aid at all and our small membership does little to swell our central funds.

Turning to other matters, the youngest son of Mr Arai Shige 7th dan, has just arrived here to spend some months with us in Brighton. His name is Makoto and he is sandan. He is a graduate of Kobe University, aged 24.

We expect two ranking visitors from Japan late this month; one is go-dan and the other one I believe is sotendai a student of one of my Yai master will also visit here either this month or in August. Really quite a busy period.

At the recent 5th Sir Frank Bowden Team Taikai the winners were the Nenshiki Dōjō who defeated us by one point in our pool. I regret to say that we from the Bontsukan failed to reach the final for the first time in the five years of this event. My personal match record was terrible! Never mind - we can't win them all...!!!

Best regards to Anita and the children from both of us.

Ronald.