

Brighton, 12th October 1971

Dear Mr Appelberg,

Many thanks for your letter and interest in the forthcoming Taikai. Here in England we shall be delighted to welcome as many Swedish kendoka as may wish to come over and take part.

Taking your two points, my replies are:

1. The 4th JAL Yudausha Taiikai is the correct title. The tournament has 'not' the 'official' status as a European Championship as no such authority has ever been issued. (Please ask Mr Sandoz about this point) However it has always been accepted as a most important tournament having much prestige to the winner within the shodan to sandan ranks. It is an open tournament for all comers - as we say - and is really a Blue Riband match in Western Kendo.

2. In previous years we have accepted entries from other countries on the recommendation of that country's national Renmei. If you wish to enter kyusha then please do so provided you are happy that they measure up to shodan standards (if you had been able to hold examinations). I suggest that to avoid any questions at all, that all your participants wear dark jackets (keikogi) and dark hakama.

You asked in your previous letter about our suppliers of Kendo equipment. We have always used the Matsukan Company in Tokyo but for some time now we have experienced considerable difficulties so I was reluctant to reply on this subject. Just now we are about to negotiate with another company in Osaka and I will inform you about this when satisfactory contact has been made.

Referring back to the JAL tournament, may I suggest all your participants stay in Brighton and if possible arrive the day before and stay over at least for the Sunday. Then we can have an opportunity for proper training and to practice without the pressures of the taikai. Maybe we could arrange a shodan shiken if you so wished? Please let me know as soon as possible.

Yours very sincerely

Roald Knutsen