

By Musashi

Inauguration of London Nenriki Dojo

To mark the official inauguration of the Nenriki Dojo a big Kendo tournament was arranged and representatives from four countries made it the largest gathering of Kendoka yet held in Europe. The Guest of Honour was to have been H.E. The Japanese Ambassador, Mr. Shima Shigenobu, but at the last minute he was unable to attend and was represented by Captain Yoshimura Goro, the Japanese Naval Attache in London. For the Inner London Education Authority, Mr. Francis L. Abbott, JP took the Chair, Sir Frank Bowden; the Nenriki President; Lady Lydia Bowden; Mr. W. Ifor Davies, Principal of the Chaucer Institute; and Count Robert von Sandor, Chairman of the European Kendo Renmei, were among the sixty or seventy guests. Mr. R.A. Lidstone was the Master of Ceremony.

Both Mr. Abbott and Sir Frank Bowden in their respective addresses of welcome to the Kendoka and guests laid emphasis on the progress and entrenchment of Kendo in Great Britain and Europe in recent years and hoped that everyone would go on working hard for the future in the spirit shown by the young Nenriki Kendo Dojo. Sir Frank also read out an official message from Dr. Itoh Kyoitsu, Hachidan Hanshi, and endorsed by the All Japan Kendo Federation, the text of which is as follows:

"Although I am in Japan and far from your country, my thoughts are with you and your fine ambitions for the Nenriki Dojo while you celebrate this formal opening ceremony in the presence of so many well-known guests.

Mr. Shintaro Osaki, one of my best students, has sent me numerous fine photographs of your lively Kendo activities over the past nine months.

It may be considered very difficult to put forth your full strength, both mental and physical which are contained within you, when you are faced with many adverse problems. However I would insist and emphasise that you can make it possible by practicing Kendo as intensely personal training. From this point of view we would like to express our approval and to present our best respects to Mr. Roald M. Knutsen who decided to open the Nenriki Dojo as a place for spiritual Kendo, and on your (that is, the member's) choice to practice Kendo.

When facing some problem or seeking an opportunity, one should find strength without worldly or material motivation; this strength must not only be termed 'will-power' but NENRIKI. It is thus that I selected this name 'Nenriki' for you, a name that is both meaningful and easily pronounced.

With sincere hope that you will all practice Kendo in good health for a long time and without losing sight of your first inspired ideas or flag in purpose half way through, I have sent this message to mark this happy occasion of the birthday of your Nenriki Dojo."

Dr. Itoh Kyoitsu

and

Tokyo, May 31st, 1967.

the Zen Nippon Kendo Renmei.

The sixty or more Kendoka present lined up in traditional Kendo style to listen to the opening speeches with the juniors in the front and the yudansha at the rear. The matches got off to a quick start with the Guest of Honour, Capt. Yoshimura, who is yondan Kendo, acting as chief judge supported by Mr. Morioka, sandan (Holland), and Mr. Osaki, sandan.

All the matches in all three divisions were characterised by good spirit although in some cases the draw was unfavourable to the lower ranks - this was an open tournament, of course. The children's matches were really very good indeed and everyone thoroughly enjoyed them. There were several upsets of form in the seinen-bu division but towards the final stages the Kendo became stronger and of a higher standard as the more skillful men came forward. All three finals were exciting and closely fought; each match being won by 2 points to 1. Out of a total of nine points made in the finals, no less than five were kote-uchi, three were men-uchi, and one dō-uchi.

The results of the Semi-Finals and Finals were:-

Shonen-bu (Children)

Ian Milner (Brighton)	( <u>Men</u> )	.....	<u>Maddams</u>	<u>Men</u>	
M. Maddams (Reading)	( <u>Kote</u> )			<u>Kote</u>	(Aged 13).
	<u>Kote</u>				
A. Knutsen (Brighton)	( <u>Men</u> )				
	<u>Kote</u>	.....	Knutsen	<u>Kote</u>	(Aged 10).
N. Pensoney (Bristol)	<u>Kote</u>				

Seinen-bu

Mike Tucker (Nenriki)	( <u>Dō</u> )				
	<u>Kote</u>	.....	Tucker	<u>Kote</u>	
Vic Harris (Nenriki)	-				
Phil Dawson (Blyth)	( <u>Dō</u> )				
	<u>Kote</u>	.....	Dawson	<u>Dō</u>	
Jacques Dupont (Belg.)	-			<u>Kote</u>	

Yudansha

(Full Match)

R. Knutsen, <u>sandan</u>	<u>Dō</u> <u>Kote</u>	..... Bye .....	Knutsen <u>Kote</u>
C. Chadwick, <u>shodan</u>	-		
J. Self, <u>shodan</u>	-		
V. Cook, <u>shodan</u>	<u>Kote</u> <u>Men</u>	..... Cook	-
			<u>Hokage</u> <u>Men</u> <u>Kote</u>
K. Hokage, <u>nidan</u>		..... Bye ..	Hokage <u>Men</u> <u>Kote</u>

The Red v. White Team Match after the main events was well fought and not all as one-sided as the result would indicate. The Red team won by 8 points to 1. The last match between Mr. Knutsen and Mr. Hokage was a really exciting one in which the former fenced using nito-ryu but only securing one point (Kote) with the short sword against Mr. Hokage's tremendously agile Kendo. This match went the full five minutes with action all the way.

Presentations were made by Lady Lydia Bowden, Master Morryoe Maddams receiving a £2 Book Token, Mr. Dawson, a fine Japanese ceramic bowl, and Mr. Hokage another ceramic bowl. The All Japan Kendo Renmei marked the occasion by adding a set of bokuto to the two senior winners' awards and to the runner's up! These will be given as soon as they arrive.

Count Robert von Sandor presented the Dojo with a bronze plaque showing the viking ship crest of Lidingö, Stockholm, on behalf of the Swedish Kendo Renmei, after which Mr. For-Davies made a final speech for the Chaucer Institute in which he referred to the stimulating enthusiasm of the Nenriki group and the energetic leadership of Mr. Lidstone, Mr. Knutsen, and Mr. Osaki ably assisted by the officers of the club. In thanking Capt. Yoshimura for coming as Guest of Honour, he pointed out that it was rare indeed for such a guest to work so hard for his position! The Institute and the Dojo were very grateful.