

THE EUROPEAN KENDO RENMEI

14th April 1969

KENDO TAIKAI SCHEDULED FOR 13TH SEPTEMBER, 1969 .

Gentlemen,

In a letter dated March 20th last, Senator Kimura Tokutaro has confirmed to Count Robert von Sandor that the Zen Nippon Kendo Renmei has accepted our invitation to attend and will despatch several selected Kendoka - at present not named - who, it is hoped, will not only contribute to Kendo in Europe but to establishing mutual friendships.

As you know, at the request of the ZNKR in their earlier letters concerning the possibility of such a match, this Taikai will be held in England and therefore a committee of organisation has been formed mainly from the executive of the Eikoku Kendo Renmei with the knowledge and authority of the Chairman of the European Kendo Renmei. At this moment details are broadly as follows:

1. Venue: London or Oxford. This depends on the possible attendance in an official capacity of a Japanese Imperial Prince.
2. Competitions: Two main competitions are planned.
 - i. The 2nd Japan Air Lines Yudansha Tournament, 1st to 3rd Dan.
 - ii. A Kyu Ranks tournament.
3. Demonstrations. It is expected that the visiting Kendoka will wish to show Kendo and Iai kata and time will be allotted to this accordingly.
4. Costs: It is realised that many Kendoka will wish to attend and every effort will be made by the British Kendoka to assist those coming from outside England with sleeping accommodation. The costs of this visit by the Kendo mission from Japan will be high and therefore the British Kendo Renmei cannot afford any additional drain on already slender finances. Kendoka wishing to stay in hotel accommodation should make their reservations privately. Those wishing to attend as musha-shugyōsha should let the Secretary of the British Kendo Renmei know and some arrangements will be made in the spirit of Kendo tradition. All assistance will be given gladly.
5. Further Details: The above is only an outline of the event and further details will be available as soon as possible.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS EVENT CANNOT BE TOO STRONGLY STRESSED. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME AN OFFICIAL KENDO DELEGATION FROM JAPAN HAS VISITED A KENDO GROUP OF NON-JAPANESE COMPOSITION. THE RESULTS OF THIS VISIT ARE OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN KENDO. WE MUST ALL DO OUR BEST.

WELCOME MEETING IN HONOUR OF JAPANESE SENSEI.

In addition to the Main Kendo Taikai scheduled for 13th Sept. there will be a Welcome Meeting at the Butokukan Kendo Dojo, Brighton, the day after the arrival of the Japanese Kendo delegation, and several special training sessions in this dōjō.

The Butokukan Dojo has arranged accommodation in a private home within two minutes walk of either dōjō for the whole period of this visit. Probably ten or more Kendoka can be put up completely with cooking facilities and all mod. con. The rent of this 'Kendo Hostel' will be equally divided between those staying and shouldn't be more than £2 per head but probably less. There are five beds but those taking up this offer, once dates are exactly known, should be prepared to bring sleeping bags.

The Butokukan Dōjō will be available morning, afternoon, and evening depending on the final schedules. While we have no confirmation of dates the proposed schedule sent to the Z.N.K.R. is :-

11th Sept.	Thurs.-Arrival.	Heathrow Airport. (Practice Place)
12th Sept.	Fri.	- Welcome Meeting -Butokukan Dōjō
13th Sept.	Sat.	- Taikai, <u>London</u> or <u>Oxford</u> .
14th Sept.	Sun.	- Visit to Pevensey Castle Afternoon (Weather Permitting)
???? 15th Sept.	Mon.	- Farewell Meeting, Butokukan Dōjō.

(Note: The last date above is only given as a guide as we have not set aside any clear end to the period of this visit. It is possible that the Japanese delegation will go on to other European countries.)

During the period of the mission the question of promotions to ni-dan and san-dan will certainly be discussed and it is quite possible that advancements may be recommended to the European Kendo Renmei. Therefore it is worth while reminding yūdansha that the Z.N.K.R. require candidates for ni-dan to know the first five forms of the Nippon Kendo kata well; for san-dan you must know all the Tachi-no-kata and have some knowledge of the Ko-dachi-no-kata.

All arrangements will be made through the Secretary-General and enquiries must all be sent direct to:

29 Egremont Place, Brighton, BN2 2GA, England. Tel: B'ton 682786.

Full details will be made available to all DOJO SECRETARIES later. Please ensure that ALL YOUR MEMBERS are informed and that the date of the Taikai is kept free.