

4/03/2017

Newsletter No 9

Dear Member

Welcome to Spring and I hope all's well with you and your group. Some positive news and one negative item, regrettably, that again I'm forced to write about in response to what I'm terming 'the spoilers,' - these are the usual suspects for whom personal agendas and doing damage is foremost in their minds. They have no concern or interest in the responsibility we all have to your student members who pay to keep the EKF alive, despite them evincing that this is their motivation. However, as usual, my belief is we simply swamp them with good news....

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1. National Governing Body (NGB) Update

Many of you will have by now seen the press release that went out on Friday confirming what, in these newsletters, and in Martial Arts Illustrated, I have been keeping you up to date about for months, and that is that a new English Karate NGB will be a reality.

On Friday we had emails and 'posts' with people saying they had seen the press release from the other 'founder' members but nothing from the EKF, but I can tell you that the reason for this was that these other Associations had gone against the embargo from the SRA, which was that no release could be made before 12 noon Friday, which we adhered to and others didn't. I've gone back into the very earliest VP Newsletters and from pretty much the very first ones, every one has had an item keeping you up to date with the NGB issue. However, what needs to happen is that

you keep your own people up to date by either circulating these or extracting the key points and issuing your own Association news. We're getting questions from students and Instructors that have been answered many times in the past, but which facts they are ignorant about.

So, the latest on the issue is that, from the last meeting at the SRA offices, committees have now been formed to work out some key issues about aims and goals and, over the next few months, the structure of the organisation will be determined leading to a point where it will be ready to apply to Sport England to be recognised as the NGB for English Karate.

As it've tried to explain previously, the EKF, alongside the four other founder members, will sit with 4/6 independent directors and an independent Chair, but NO individual identity for any Association will be lost, nor does our relationship, from a sporting perspective, change with regard to other Karate organisations and this statement from our EKF President confirms this; *"Concerning the proposed new body, we assure the EKF members that as far as the WKF recognition is concerned nothing has or will change. More importantly, the only road to Olympic recognition is via the EKF/BKF. Furthermore the WKF will never sanction sporting relations with any dissident groups or organisation, Sport England recognised or otherwise."*

This couldn't be any clearer, and it's business as usual; the EKF is not giving up its Olympic mandate via the WKF to any new body and the principles of 21.9 are still operative, whoever we sit around the NGB table with. This is all about trying to achieve common standards and best-practice governance. What should at some future time become available is potential access to funding, and all Associations within the new SE recognised body should be able to make a case for funding worthwhile projects, although we are some way away from this.

I hope this, together with the press release which is on the website keeps you up to speed with this topic and, as always, we'll update you, as and when there is something new.

2. 'The Spoilers'

I'd hoped we'd put the contentious issues of the past to bed, but unfortunately not, as this week we received a solicitor's letter enclosing the petition for an Extraordinary Board Meeting that was circulating last year. There are people on that petition who, in good faith, signed it in August, that may well be unaware that it is now being used

inappropriately to keep alive an issue that was put to bed last year. We have spoken to some of the people who are on the petition that are incensed it has been resurrected, a fact they knew nothing about, and are now writing to the solicitors to have their names removed.

As background, this petition was doing the rounds last year at the time the disciplinary process was ongoing concerning the three Directors. Some people signed the petition genuinely concerned as there was a lack of information from the Board side of the affair, which, as I explained in a Newsletter was because we were playing with a straight bat and not wanting to prejudice the fairness of the process by giving the whole sordid story, unlike the others who attempted to use the petition in the hope of stopping the disciplinary process, which failed.

To bring this out again and without reference to people on that document is simply an attempt to spoil, for everyone, the progress and good work that is being done. There has never, in the history of the EKF, been so much information provided to members whether its by means of this Newsletter, the website, Facebook and now MAI (on this subject I've attached a PDF of the first article that appeared last month). You know absolutely everything that is going on and there are no secrets, no hidden agendas, just really good work from a committed Board.

If you did sign the petition and were unaware that your name was appearing in a legal document get in touch and we'll give you the Solicitor's details. It may well be that as a participant to this you will be asked for costs...

3. MAI

As I said above attached is a copy of the first article that appeared along with the EKF advert and in a week or so the second article will be out in the latest MAI when it hits the shelves. In this issue we have reported on the successes we had in the **44th European Championships - U21, Junior and Cadet Championships** as well a big feature on our National and Regional Coaches. Get hold of a copy and, again, let your people know that the EKF have a feature in the magazine; we have three full pages in this latest issue.

4. Nationals

As many of you will know the Bulletin for our National Championships in April is on the website and on SportData which is accepting entries. On Friday last week, Dale Gamble and I paid another visit to the Leicester Arena to tie up some more of the

detail and it's interesting that there are negative posts going round about the venue and how it looks small on photographs. These come from the usual suspects and it's amusing because every time I'm there I'm amazed how big the Arena is. The arrangements for the event and how it will work over the two days should make this a totally different experience from previous events in Sheffield and silence the critics (if such a thing is ever possible).

Just a word of caution, though, to all HOAs - the closing date for entries is the 18th of this month so don't delay.

5. Bulgaria and Turkey

By now you should all be aware of the success we had at the European Championships in Bulgaria last month, with Bronze medals in both the Kata and Kumite (see photo) three 5th places and six 7th places - our most successful, 'across the board' result for years and a credit to all the athletes and coaches. The other success was that for the first time in a long time we also had both disciplines - Kata and Kumite working together, helping each other and supporting the England cause. It was remarked on by everyone who was there how different the atmosphere was and how high team morale.



Our Bulgarian Bronze medallists - Joe Kellaway and Lauren Fretwell

Last Sunday in Barnsley we held the selections for the Senior Kumite squad and team selection for the upcoming Senior Europeans in Turkey in May. This was a very well managed event with some great fights and on the website you will find the athletes selected to go the Turkey.

6. Squads and Support

For the EKF Senior European Championship, and as a reward for success, the EKF will be funding both Jordan Thomas and Joe Kellaway. This is part of the increasing financial support that we are able to give, in no small part as a consequence of the

massive response we've had in participants to the new Regional and National training/selection programmes. As an example, this weekend alone we have 125 participants in Kata and Kumite events. Today there are 27 people taking part in a Youth Kata course, 32 in a -21 Kata course on Sunday and also on Sunday there are 66 people on a National Kumite training/selection event taking place in the north of England.

This level of participation is creating a really positive budget for the competitive side of EKF activities and is increasingly self-financing. This weekend alone these events gross some £2,500.

Kind Regards

Peter Consterdine
Vice President