

## **Newsletter No. 3**

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### **Dear Member**

#### **1. Introduction**

There was an EKF Board meeting yesterday and I wanted to bring you up to date with some of the key issues that were on the agenda.

Before getting into the positive issues I'm aware that you and your Instructors may well be receiving emails and phone calls in respect of the suspension of the three directors. In my last email I explained the steps that at the present time are underway to resolve this and the process that we were following as laid down in our Articles and the Companies Act 2006. I also previously explained that as a Board we can't defend our position by going into the detail of the case due to the legal process so our hands are tied in trying to explain the legitimacy of the action taken by the Board.

From a purely objective perspective, and taking out of the picture any personalities involved, I'm certain that if members saw the evidence for the suspension they would very clearly understand the position the Board has taken and agree that the suspensions are justified. I'll keep you up to date with this, but again ask you to have

confidence that the Board is solely working in the interests of its members and its reputation.

## **2. English Karate Governing Body**

Nearly at the positive stuff, but before that I want to bring everyone up to date with negotiations that have been taking place for some months, and before the AGM, so I haven't personally been involved in the matter but can hopefully summarise the key points. For quite some time there has been an initiative by the Sports and Recreation Alliance (SRA) to endeavour to get the 'competing' English Karate organisations to try and work together to form what would be a recognised as a new English Karate Governing Body, but without the organisations like the EKF losing their identity. To cut through the detail, the original proposal was that there would be an organisation independently Chaired, with five independent Directors and comprising the EKF and what at that time consolidated our 'competing' organisations, the EKC. Both ourselves and the EKC would have one vote with the independent Directors having the other votes.

There has been a recent meeting that no Director from the EKF was able to attend for legitimate reasons and a letter was sent in good time for the meeting to be re-arranged, but the meeting went ahead. The letter also contained a very strong objection as to how the 'other side' had now arranged themselves. They had dissolved the EKC and now attended the meeting as four individual Associations, clearly with the intention of obtaining one vote each. These associations are the KUGB, AMA, FEKO, KE (Karate England). The membership of these organisations have been audited, with the EKF being the only one that the auditors had any confidence the membership figures were correct. The KUGB now has less members than some of our EKF member Associations and the AMA left the EKF with some 107 registered members.

With close to 29,000 individual members it is completely unacceptable that the EKF would only have one vote against these four and with our size, and the Olympic mandate through the WKF, I feel we can be very comfortable in our own skin and are only prepared to play this game on a level field, which isn't the case at the moment. A meeting is being scheduled to meet with the SRA and explain our stance and, again, I will keep you fully up to date on this issue.

Now the good stuff...

### **3. National Championship Venue**

We need to make a break from Ponds Forge as the venue for our National Championships. It was always intended that this would be a temporary venue but it has become a permanent fixture and for a number of reasons it is no longer suitable. Parking can be a nightmare, the atmosphere is poor and it is geographically not best placed.

The intention for next year is that we will have a Midlands venue and we may already have found a newly built sports arena in the Leicester area, close to the M1 and with more than adequate parking. From the photos and description it seems ideal, but we still have to have a 'facility' visit to determine whether it will work in practice.

However, if this doesn't fit the bill when we do the visit we will continue the search and I'll report back when we've been to Leicester over the next two weeks or so. This is part of the bigger initiative to make what we do more accessible to more members.

### **4. New Regional Structure**

On the same theme of making what the EKF offers more accessible to more members we are working to achieve a far better regional distribution of all the EKF offerings. As we know, from a European competition aspect, England is simply divided into three regions North, Midlands and South. In terms of the North and Midlands this is workable, but for the South it has been difficult to manage given the size of this area, particularly with attendance at the National Kumite Squad training sessions, which have become a bit fixed at one location and has made travel and issue for the members in the south west.

The new regional structure will serve for all delivery of training and courses, but if we first look at how the National Kumite squad sessions will work as from next year this will be the same model for all training delivery.

We intend to have four regions - North, Midlands, South West and South East. We've been working with Willie Thomas our national Kumite Coach to try and push his squad sessions out more to the regions. To do this with the new structure Willie

will still use the Enfield venue for around 8 of his core squad sessions, but for the SW we are looking to secure a venue near Bath. Barnsley is established for the North and with some discussions we'd like to find a more permanent home for the Midlands.

On the website you can see an announcement that we have appointed a new Southern, Kumite Head Coach, in Jamie Jewell, assisted by Anthoni Everitt. So, along with the new SW venue Willie will hold 'core' National Squad sessions at the Bath location, the Midlands and Barnsley and will, on four other occasions, visit the regions for grass roots development to help on what would be regional training days run by the regional coaches. By strengthening this regional set-up we should reach far more students providing both a better service to members but also giving Willie a far larger pool of people to select eventual team members.

We have agreed with Willie that the regions will be the key selection arenas for the national Squad. We will reduce the number of 'open' National Squad sessions so that we have high level competitors in attendance.

This is all happening at the moment and when we have a new venue sorted out all the dates for 2017 will be announced.

#### **4a Extending the Regional Model**

If we take the new Kumite regional model as a basic structure we can now use this to deliver a range of other training or life-long learning skills. To make this work and when Willie is looking to make the bookings for the Kumite squad events he will, for a number of these, book a weekend at the venues, so on one of the days we can hold a separate training/teaching course on any subject. This may be a Bunkai course, CQC (self defence), Coaching, Kata and Refereeing etc.

This is one of the reasons I gave for wanting to secure a place on the Board as I felt we do not do enough for the non-competitive karateka, but whatever we eventually provide we need to do this by means of sound regional centres, which are now being developed.

We have also worked closely with Dale Gamble on this new regional structure and with the weekend bookings one of the courses we're working on with Dale is an introductory course to refereeing and judging, although the main training and testing will be alongside the National Squad sessions.

We will come back on the Kata squad training but can announce that Aimee Sell has been appointed Youth Kata Squad Coach.

## **5. Inter-Regional Competition**

As we help strengthen and support the regional training we intend next year to hold an Inter-Regional Competition between our 4 revised regions. We see this as a real motivational event to kick-start the regional training and should give some good focus and aim for the regional coaches, clubs and students. Again, this is another opportunity for Willie to 'talent-scout.'

I think the regional competitions will become as popular as the Nationals and fiercely competitive.

We have the choice to either have one 'knock out' event and/or have a League Cup running over the year. There is no reason both can't happen, but some feedback would help on what people feel they'd like to see.

## **6. European (EKF) Regional Championships**

To further bolster the regional development **WE WILL** be sending the three English Regional teams to the European (EKF) Regional Championships in Kosovo in June next year, which will give everyone involved even more goals and opportunities to compete at a high level. Obviously, the SW and SE regions will have to combine for this.

These initiatives are the '**Tapping-in to Talent**' project I mentioned in my first newsletter and are the start of the root and branch re-structuring of the EKF.

## **7. English International Open**

England has been behind many other countries in terms of hosting an international open competition, but the Board is now looking in depth at how we can host an

English International Open and the Copperbox Arena in London has been identified as being a suitable venue.

The Board meeting yesterday concluded that this wasn't just a good idea but would happen and, if we can get a feasibility study completed in time, we would like to think we can hold the first one in late 2017.

**“The EKF Board is doing good things.....”**

**Regards**

**Peter Consterdine  
Vice President**