

30/12/16

## Newsletter No.7

Dear Member

I hope you've had a great Christmas and from myself and the rest of the Board members we wish you and all your people all the very best for 2017.

### Contents

1. Introduction
2. National & Regional Kumite Structure and Programme
3. Kata Programme
4. EKF Championships - update
5. Non-Competition Services
6. English Karate National Governing Body - update
7. Membership Returns
8. Standards of Behaviour
9. WKF World Karate Day
10. Board Projects

### 1. Introduction

This newsletter should serve as an update about the various plans and projects that we've had underway, many of which are really taking shape. On the personnel front, Willie Thomas, who has been the the National Kumite Coach for the past 5 years, has resigned and we thank him for all his hard work over this time and wish him well with his future endeavours.

On the Kata side of the competition arena we welcome two National Kata Coaches - **Jonathan Mottram** who will coach the EKF Senior Kata Squad (+21) and **Aimee Sell** who is the NC for the under 21's, Juniors and Cadets. Jonathan will arrange an assistant coach in the new year and Aimee assisted by **James Scanlon**.

At Board level we have to sadly report that due to ill health, Les Carr has had to step down but his not inconsiderable shoes will be filled by **Brian Seabright** 7th Dan, head of the British Karate Association (BKA). The BKA is one of the oldest Karate Associations in the UK and one of the largest Associations within the EKF and Brian

will be a very welcome addition to the Board with his many years of involvement in the martial arts.

## **2. National & Regional Development - Kumite Structure**

Later in this newsletter I want to talk about the wider services that we'll be delivering through the new regional structure, but first I want to outline where we are with the Regional and National Kumite development.

We see the whole competitive arena for club to National team as a pyramid, starting with inter-club, inter-Association and Inter-Regional competition. Where the EKF Board believe we should start our involvement is with the regional training, selection and competition and this we see as the base of the pyramid. This should be the breeding ground for tapping into talent and the filter for selecting people for National level.

As I've outlined in earlier Newsletters, there are two principal goals in restructuring and strengthening the regional framework - one being to ensure we can deliver the EKF's services to as wide an audience as possible and secondly, from the competitive aspect, ensure we identify as many talented competitors as possible and have a system to move them up the pyramid.

For some time, we have not competed with the best at World level and, whilst we have nothing but praise for Jordon Thomas's Gold at the World's as well as Katie Hurry's success, we need this replicating in-depth. With nearly 30,000 Karateka in the EKF and a track record over many years of being one of the World's best, we have to aim again for this level and that plan starts today.

We are working to three cycles;

**Cycle 1 – Senior World Championships 2018**

Cycle 2 – U21 World Championships 2017

Cycle 3 – 2020 Olympic Games (Enabling EKF athletes to be eligible to make the Qualifying Criteria)

These are events that we will use as key milestones, to both aim for in terms of success and also as indicators as to where we are in the programme. For me, we are in a two year cycle with the **2018 Senior Worlds** as our principal target. The new, in-depth framework will now leave no stone unturned in creating the conditions that we need for our coaches to produce winners. This is effectively, a clean start.

As a consequence, we are not starting 2017 with a Senior A Squad in place. We do, of course, have our under 21 team of 15 that are going to Bulgaria, but as the

attached calendar indicates we start the National Kumite programme for 2017 with an open training day on Jan 22nd. This is open in the sense that the Regional coaches will select people they would like to introduce to the National scene, with the senior national coaches selecting previous senior squad members to attend.

We then embark on the Regional programmes leading to selection for the European Senior Championships in Turkey in May. Again, those people who are put through the selection process will have come through the Regional programmes and will now face a very transparent 'selection panel.'

There will not, for the foreseeable future, and certainly this year, be a National Kumite Coach. Instead we will have four Regional coaches for the North, Midlands, South West and South East - respectively - **Paul Newby, Paul Harris, Rory Daniels and Davin Pack.**

At National level there are two senior coaches - **Davin Pack** and **Paul Newby** who will deliver the National Squad level training, supported by the Regional Coaches when the National delivery days are taking place in the regions, but selection of teams and competitors will now be by panel.

The panel for 2017 will comprise the senior National Coaches together with myself and Paul Simmons (Performance Director). We intend that selection will be transparent, without any favour, or influenced by personal associations, so that HOAs can be confident that, to the best of our ability, and in as fair a manner as possible, the very best fighters will have been chosen to represent their country.

We are investing in this structure, supporting the coaches at every level, and creating a professional framework that will allow delivery of any EKF service as well as the competitive Kumite and Kata programmes. This is what the personnel 'Orbat' looks like;

### **EKF Full Coaching Set-Up and Support Staff**

**Performance Directors** : Peter Consterdine (Vice President) and Paul Simmons

**Senior Kumite Coaches:** Davin Pack (DP) and Paul Newby (PN)

**Head Regional Coaches:** DP (Southern, SE) , PN (Northern) , Paul Harris (PH) (Midlands) , Rory Daniels (RD) (SW)

**Regional Coaches:** Frank Pullano (FP) (Northern), Matt Price (MP) (Northern), Ben Campbell (BC) (Midland), Jory Chather (Midland), Anthoni Everitt (AE) (SE and SW), Jamie Jewell (SE, SW)

**Regional Coach Admin Officers:** FP (Northern), PH (Midlands), AE (SW and SE)

**Support Staff:** Head Medical Provision/Committee Dave Inman (DI), Medical Officer: Dr. Akan Eka

There is a comprehensive structure document completed that in time we will circulate, but which at the moment is being reviewed by the two senior coaches for further circulation, when finally approved, to the wider coaching cadre. This document puts the detail on the original National/Regional Restructuring 'blueprint.'

### **3. Kata**

The new Regional framework will be the model through which the competition Kata programme of training and selection will also be delivered and already we are seeing the two National coaches working as a team in the planning and delivery of this programme. Attached is the Kata calendar, although we still have to confirm venues which will be posted on the website when finalised.

We have 6 Kata competitors going to the U21/Junior/Cadet Europeans in February and as with the Kumite team we wish them well. This new regime places no distinction in importance between our Kumite and Kata regimes.

### **4. EKF Championships**

The upcoming Kyu Grade event will be the last competition to be held at Ponds Forge and we have finalised both the **Nationals** and **Inter-Regional Cup** competitions to be held at the Leicester Sports Arena. The categories for both the National and the Regional event are being finalised and will be announced shortly and posted on the website. The addition of the Regional event has enabled us to reduce the categories at the Nationals allowing the re-introduction of finals at this event. The National Championships will become once again a prestigious event and we are looking at broadcast opportunities to reach a wider, external audience.

As you can see from the attached very comprehensive calendar, the Nationals will be held on the 8th and 9th April and the Inter-Regional Cup on Sunday 23rd July. The Cup will be the opportunity for the Regions to test their training delivery and selection and will be a 'proving ground' and further opportunity for people who are not already there to progress to national level. This event should develop into one of the highlights of the annual calendar and is very much an integral part of the regional restructuring initiative.

## 5. Non-Competition Services (Away from Competition)

As you know, I joined the Board to help develop a wider range of services for EKF members than simply focus on the competition side of Karate, but, having seen what needed doing to make the Kumite/Kata National programmes fit for purpose, this aspect couldn't be ignored, especially with the approaching new year and the three key cycles we have to work towards and it has been one of my main focuses.

With that now pretty much in place, we can concentrate on delivering the wider range of services and, shortly, we will announce the launch of our new EKF Coaching programme. With the external focus the Olympics, development of a National Governing Body and new governance requirements for sports associations, places on us it is important that we have a robust coaching programme amongst all the other issues we are addressing.

This and the other, non-competitive elements of the 2017 EKF programme will be announced shortly and this calendar will sit alongside the two we have for Kumite and Kata.

## 6. Membership Returns

The first thing to announce is that we have a new appointment which is that **Tony Utting**, one of our new Board members, has taken on-board the role of Compliance Officer. So that Tony got a good feel of the task ahead he embarked on a very detailed analysis of the membership structure of the EKF which, produced some disturbing statistics.

To summarise the findings it is clear that some 20 per cent of the Associations in membership constitute 80 percent of the membership, but that these actually only number some 30 Associations. Out of 30,000 members there are only 26 Associations with over 250 members. The disturbing aspect is that we have Association applications declaring at the time of joining, for example, that they have 1,500 members, but have, since joining only ever registered 175 in any one year.

We have 42 Associations in membership with less than 50 members (the size of an average club), some of whom we know have a very substantial membership across a good number of clubs yet have only registered a fraction of their members.

This is not acceptable. The contract, when joining as a club or Association, is on the basis that all members will be licensed with the Federation and there should be no misunderstanding that this is the requirement.

The Board are working hard in the background to build stronger relationships with the WKF, be the largest Karate organisation in England, and have the financial resources which will benefit all members through the comprehensive range of services we want to deliver. To this end, the Board are appealing to all HOA's in particular, to review their membership numbers and ascertain if this is a true reflection of their group.

The monthly registration system submitted in the correct format plays a vital part in core business and it is imperative that all members are entered into the system. This is a no cost option to HOA's as the cost is borne by each member if factored in when paying club/Association fees.

It is accepted that those with current Association status have been with the EKF for several years in most cases however it appears, as stated above, that initial numbers declared in applications have not been substantiated with monthly returns. For 2017, we appeal to all HOA's to concentrate on maximising numbers to justify their Association status or consider the implications of reverting to a Club membership thereafter from 2018 onwards.

## **7. English Karate National Governing Body - update**

The talks about the establishment of a Sport England recognised English Karate National Governing Body (NGB) continue and Mick Billman and I attended a meeting at the SRA offices on the 22nd November. This was the first time all parties who would have a role in the inception organisation were present and, once again, we expressed our concerns about the issues I outlined in early Newsletters.

One of the key concerns is the unbalanced voting structure with the break up of the EKC into four separate Associations with individual voting rights. Proportional representation (PR) had been mooted as a solution, but it was suggested at the meeting that, given its size, that the EKF should have 3 votes and each of the other four founder members, one vote apiece; in other words, what would have been the result if we had agreed PR on the basis of supplied membership numbers.

On that point, however, we still have concerns about the efficacy of those returns and we now have one of the four reducing their reported karate membership from 14,000 to 10,000, having convinced the consultant auditors of the original figure; this may well have something to do with having to pay a fee per head!

The next stage of the process, should all parties be in broad agreement, will be to move to working groups to establish what the new body will actually do and how the governance will work and each of the five founder members will submit the names of their representatives who will participate in these working projects.

The EKF is, in principal, in favour of the establishment of a Sport England recognised NGB, but we still have concerns which we have again expressed in writing to the SRA Chief Executive, who has written back promptly in answer to them. Our stance has always been that we want to have a role in the new body, but not if participating will be prejudicial to the EKF. We now have all the facts and at the next Board meeting to be held in January we will discuss in detail all the implications and vote on the issue. I will let everyone know after the meeting where we are with the project.

## **8. Standards of Behaviour**

It is with regret that we have to remind all members of the EKF's Social Media Policy noted below. Misuse of Social Media may be misconstrued and damaging to the reputation of all members of the EKF. I would appeal to all members, especially those in positions of responsibility and role models, to consider the content of open source messaging and the potential impact this may have over the broader membership. There are lots of people attempting to do good things in the background for the good of all members. We all have a duty to raise the image and reputation of the EKF and work together to lead us into the highest level of sports recognition i.e. that of the International Olympic Committee and the 2020 Olympics.

### **Sect. 4 Principles - be Professional, Responsible and Respectful**

4.1. EKF members must not engage in activities involving social media which might bring the EKF into disrepute.

4.2. EKF members must not represent their personal views as being those of EKF on any social medium.

4.3 EKF members must not use social media and/or the internet in any way to attack, insult, and abuse or defame the EKF, its' members, their family members, or colleagues.

### **Sect. 5. Breaches of the Policy**

5.1. Any breach of this policy may lead to disciplinary action being taken against the Members involved in line with the EKF Disciplinary Policy and Procedures.

One reason to remind everyone about this policy is that we have had a serious breach of these standards which will, unfortunately, lead to a disciplinary hearing.

### **9. WKF World Karate Day**

I've attached a letter from the WKF President about the World Karate Day so everyone is aware of this event. This should be a great opportunity, if we seize the moment, to promote Karate and the EKF through club and Association activities.

We are discussing what the EKF can do in its own right as well as support any Association activity. As you will read below we now have a 'partnership' arrangement with Martial Arts Illustrated (MAI) who will now be the official EKF magazine and they are very keen to work with us on promoting this day.

With the WKF Olympic achievement and all the EKF have on the boil we will have a lot to promote, but we are looking for suggestions from yourselves as to what you think would be of value, so please come back to me with any thoughts.

### **10. Board Projects - Working Groups**

The EKF Board has always worked for the benefit of the members, it just hasn't told anyone what it's been doing. This has changed, and so you know what's on the stocks and who's doing what from the Board, the following gives a summary:

**1. Strategy:** As outlined in other Newsletters, determining the reason for the EKF being in existence and what it delivers to its members should be enshrined in a comprehensive strategy. This has been an ongoing project with the working group consisting of Mick Billman, Billy Brennan, Tony Utting and myself. We hope to have the strategy document completed and published in the next three months, but we have not waited until this has been completed to get to grips with the issues that have needed attention.

**2. Compliance:** Tony Utting has taken on this role as mentioned above and he will be in contact with Associations and clubs to introduce himself.

**3. Tournament Planning:** The change of venue has meant a fresh start to the planning and organisation of the two national tournaments we will have in 2017, and alongside our event contractor, Paul Simmons will be working with our Chief Referee, Dale Gamble and Mike O'Brien to bring these projects home. We hope to really transform these events into something we can all be proud of.

**4. National/Regional Kumite & Kata Development:** This newsletter has gone into some detail about this framework development and it has taken months of work to get the structure ready for the start of the new year and all credit to Paul Simmons who is both the line manager for Kumite and Kata delivery and Kumite Performance Director. I have an oversight role and will sit on the selection panel.

**5. CPO:** We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Annette Turpin as EKF CPO. Annette has been working in this role in a professional capacity, particularly with her local police force and her contact details can be found on the website.

**6. Public Relations and Marketing:** The Board has been conscious that although we are back on track with internal communications we have not addressed the need to have good external relations and publicity. One of the issues the Strategy project work is exposing is the range of external pressures we need to manage, be it from the new Sports Governance Code, the formation of a NGB, the Olympics, attracting new members or simply telling the tale about what we do and how well we do it.

There has been an identified need, therefore, for a Publicity Officer and I'm very pleased to announce that Billy Brennan has agreed to fill the post, especially given his professional experience in this work during his years of senior management in local authority. There is a need to properly coordinate our web presence, social media, magazine exposure and sponsorship so they are all 'jigsaw pieces' of an agreed picture.

On the subject of our presence in the MAI magazine we have been in discussion for some time with the magazine over developing a partnership for EKF promotion and alongside a new monthly advert we will have in the magazine there will be three pages of editorial availability for us to tell the EKF story, whether this is about tournaments in the calendar, competition successes, reports from around the regions, Association and club focuses etc.

I will let everyone know when we are first going to appear, but we are hoping for the March edition, on the shelves in February, and our Board member Anthony Kirby has taken on the editorial role for this project.

**7. Sponsorship:** It's no exaggeration to say we have played at this so far and missed opportunities to get real commitment to sponsorship from organisations. We have undersold ourselves, but with our link to the WKF Olympics and our sheer size in terms of numbers we must make more of the impact and image we have in the marketplace. With our better coordinated PR we will have a very strong tale to tell to

potential sponsors and this will be in the hands of someone well known to all of you, Mike O'Brien. Mike has been very successful in fund raising for his charity that works to get disabled children into sport.

**8. Registrations:** To help Mike with his time management the Board recognise, however, that we have a somewhat archaic member registration system, which may very well contribute to the inadequate licensing from some Associations and we are looking at an online software system that is used internationally and in the UK by a number of major sports organisations that should make registering students easier from your end. I'll report further as this progresses.

So, that's it for this newsletter and apologies for the length, but we have a great deal on the boil and much change. As always the Board's commitment is to provide value for money for your students and we are working hard on your behalf to make this happen.

**Kind Regards**

**Peter Consterdine**  
**Vice President**

**Attachments**

1. Kumite Calendar 2017
2. Kata Calendar 2107
3. WKF President's Letter - World Karate Day