

ENGLISH KARATE FEDERATION

THE WORLD KARATE FEDERATION NGB FOR KARATE IN ENGLAND

www.englishkaratefederation.com



31/8/16

Dear Member

I just wanted to drop everyone a quick line to say hello from the new EKF Board and to assure everyone that, over the next months we will be working tirelessly to ensure the EKF is 'fit for purpose' as the WKF English Karate National Governing Body.

As expected with any new Board we have issues to resolve that, in the short term, will occupy the Board members but, once these are behind us we will be working hard to ensure that the interests of our members come first. Whilst there will be considerable focus on the Olympic issue over the coming months and years we will not lose sight of the fact that the majority of our members are probably not competitively focussed and have more fundamental requirements that in the past we have not properly addressed.

If there is a criticism to be levelled at the Board from the past it would have to be that we have not been at our best when it comes to communication, but moving forward this is now at the forefront of our thinking. One way we intend to tackle this will be with a regular monthly newsletter; one that will have a range of articles, the ability for our members to contribute and also utilise to advertise events, or competitions that they may be hosting. In the meantime, until we have the newsletter up and running both myself and the President, Mike Billman will keep you up to date with announcements like this one.

In the past, so as to better understand what our members actually want, rather than Board members assuming they knew, there have been attempts at conducting surveys which, for one reason or another, have not proved successful. However, not to be put off by this, we will prepare a survey that hopefully will not be an imposition to complete, and may come with some ideas that members can consider as well as express their own thoughts and needs.

Suggestions are already coming in and Debbie Sell, who as you know manages the Administration for us, has suggested 'open Dojo days' to create Karate awareness, as was happening with other sports at an "*I am Team GB Event*" she attended. Already there are a number of Instructors I've talked to who would have said they would be pleased to host such open days and we can broadcast this via the website.

As I stated at the beginning, we have some internal management issues that need addressing and which, like any company, or family even, are problematic and to the uninformed may seem unnecessary, but unless we have a professionally focussed team of directors, then shaping the future of the EKF to meet a range of challenges and opportunities ahead of us will not be possible. Both the President Mike Billman and I are committed to acting solely in the best interests of Karate in general and the EKF specifically, however difficult some decisions we have to make may be.

On the issue of taking decisions, unfortunately, we are dogged with social media through which means uninformed and inaccurate assumptions can be broadcast, find traction and amplified, but the point I want to make on this is that there is never simply one side to a situation. There will always be times when the Board will need to take action on issues, for which the opportunity to criticise will be presented, but I would ask that you view this criticism in the light of ignorance of all the facts. The Board, for legal reasons, is often unable to present the real facts leaving it powerless to properly explain the reasoning behind its actions, and making it a sitting target. It may be a truism in social media that the people 'shouting' the loudest are the least informed.

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As to more positive issues, the future role of the EKF needs better defining than previously as in the coming months it is likely that a strong light will be shone on it's role in English Karate give the focus from Olympic issue, the ongoing English Karate political divisions, but also the EKF's internal governance. To be fit for purpose the board will, over the coming months, develop and execute a strategic plan to manage the challenges and opportunities, the scope of which we will obviously share with members. That process has started with a 'situation analysis' to determine the areas that need attention and how, not losing sight of the day to day issues, we can do more for members and provide true value for money.

My hope is that as the weeks progress you will see positive changes and a Board focussed on both the long-term mission of the EKF, whilst at the same time not ignoring the close relationship it needs with its members.

Peter Consterdine
Vice President