

The Edmonton Kendo Club

Fall/Winter 2002 Newsletter



In this edition of the EKC Newsletter: A note about our third EKC demo, a word or two about upcoming events including our planned Spring Gasshuku, an update on practices over the holidays, and another installment of “Kendo-ese” 101.

EKC at the “Rumble for the Jungle”

Mid-September saw the EKC give its third public demonstration. The demo was in support of the Valley Zoo at their annual martial arts afternoon called “Rumble for the Jungle”. We were among several local martial arts groups to give a demonstration. Many thanks to Sherry, Walter, Patrick, Troy, Gerald, Hideki and Simon for their time and exuberance! We’ve been told that we were perhaps the best dressed club present and the second loudest – we lost out on this honor (barely ☺) to the Taiko drummers who started the afternoon off. The benefit was a success, both in fundraising for the Valley Zoo, and for the exposure of Kendo to the Edmonton martial arts community. Keep up the great work!

The EKC Christmas Party

As we have been mentioning over the past few weeks, we are ending 2002 with an EKC Christmas party! Stephanie-Sensei has graciously offered her place for the event. The party will be a partial pot-luck – the club will supply the main course and everyone

should bring their own beverages and something to share. The party will likely start late afternoon/early evening, and will continue until we all decide to leave! And please remember, if you are drinking have a designated driver.

Upcoming Events

The Steveston Tournament: The annual Steveston tournament will be held on the weekend of February 8, 2003. If you are interested in attending, please let Stephanie know as soon as possible so arrangements can be made.

The Annual Saskatoon Seminar: The Saskatoon Kendo Club (SKC) will be hosting its annual seminar on the weekend of March 1 – 2, 2003. This year’s head instructor is Mr. Morito Tsumura from JCCC in Toronto. Tsumura-Sensei is the Chief Examiner for the Canadian Kendo Federation, and holds the rank of hachidan (8th degree). Assisting Tsumura-Sensei will be Mako Hayashi, Wendy Nakano, and Bob Takagaki and Hiro Okusa. Both Hayashi-Sensei and Nakano-Sensei have been Team Canada Members, and both Okusa-Sensei and Takagaki-Sensei has been to the Saskatoon seminar numerous times. The seminar will be hosted by Miyaoka-Sensei of the SKC. The seminar will include grading on the Sunday morning, and the always popular annual Prairie Taikai on the Saturday afternoon. With a full committee of instructors planning on being in S’toon,

the SKC is considering asking the CKF for persimmon to grade up to yondan. Several members of the EKC went to last year's seminar and had a great time. Please let Stephanie-Sensei or Gerald know by the end of December if you are planning on going; this will allow us time to let Neil at the SKC know how many of us to expect and let us get rooms booked.

The 1st Edmonton Kendo Club Spring Gasshuku: We have tentatively scheduled the Spring Gasshuku for the weekend of May 31 – June 1, 2003. It looks like we will be able to use the Ukrainian Hall for the weekend – all day Saturday and until 2 pm on Sunday. We hope to invite all the prairie clubs and have Okusa-Sensei as head instructor.

Team Canada Training Camp: Team Canada is holding a training camp in Banff in April in preparation for the World Championships in Glasgow next summer. As part of the weekend training camp, all “local” kendo clubs are invited to come out and practice with the team. This is a great opportunity to get out, meet, practice, and socialize with the members of Team Canada. The club is planning to go, so if you are interested talk to Gerald or Stephanie.

Upcoming EKC Demos: We have been contacted by several groups wondering if we would be interested in coming out and giving Kendo demos. One such request is from Harry Ainly High School, which is just south of Southgate Mall on 111th St. The demo would be in early to mid-February. More information to follow as the details are sorted out.

“Kendo-ese” 101

In the first installment of “Kendo-ese”, we went over the various calls that you can hear during Shiai, or tournaments. In this installment, we’ll go over some of the technical points of shiai.

Prior to a tournament, the shinai are weighed. All shinai for adult males are to be 39 inches long and at least 500 grams in weight (without the tsuba). For females, the shinai must be at least 37 inches long and 420 grams. Any shinai that is used in a tournament must be approved and stamped prior to the beginning of the tournament. Use of an unapproved shinai can lead to disciplinary action including disqualification. Also, all bogu, gi and hakama must be in good repair.

The match area of shiai is 9-11 meters on a side (generally 10m), and is outlined in white tape. At the centre of the match area is an X made of 2 pieces of white tape (each 30cm long). On two sides of the central X is a piece of tape (again ~30cm long); this tape is where contestants will start and end a match – the distance between these pieces of tape is kamae distance. One starts a match outside the match area, then takes a step into the area and bows to their opponent. One then comes to Taito and takes three steps towards the centre of the match area; then one draws their shinai and drops into sonkyo. Your feet must be at the tape line at this point. The Shinpan (referee) will then begin the match with the command “Hajime”. The match progresses until one contestant has scored 2 points or time has elapsed. If time elapses and the contestants are tied, the match goes into “Encho”, or extra time. At the end of the match, the Shinpan will stop the match with the

command "Shobu-ari". The contestants then go down to sonkyo, "sheath" their shinai, stand, take 5 steps backwards and bow to each other. One then steps backwards out of the match area and leaves the vicinity of the match area.

Practice Times & the Holiday Season

With the holiday season just around the corner, we need to remind everyone of when we end for 2002 and start up for 2003. The last practice of 2002 at Allendale School will be December 11, and the last practice at the Ukrainian Hall will be December 22. Practices will begin again on January 5, 2003 at the Ukrainian Hall and January 8, 2003 at Allendale School. Remember that we are accepting new members during January, and that club fees are due when we begin in January.

Gratuitous Self-Promotion

Just a reminder to all members that Troy has a supply of shinai, gi, hakama, bokken and a selection of bogu for purchase. Once you start striking targets, and especially once you are in bogu, you need to have at least 2 shinai. If you are thinking about getting bogu soon, or are looking to get another shinai or a bokken, talk to Troy, either at practice, or via email at tjupiter@telusplanet.net. Troy insists that a new web-site will be ready soon. We'll keep everyone posted on the development of the site.

Well, that's it for this edition of the EKC Newsletter. Your comments about the newsletters and any ideas you might have for upcoming editions are always welcome. Just let us know!

Wishing everyone a Happy and Safe Holidays!
Gerald, EKC Newsletter Editor