



17-10-2020: 40-years of Kyudo within the Dutch kyudo Renmei (KRN)

40 years KRN, an eventful history. As in many countries outside of Japan, kyudo in The Netherlands started by one enthusiastic budojin. It was Siem van de Nieuwendijk sensei who brought Kyudo to The Netherlands in the late 1970's. In those days internet didn't exist yet and all knowledge and materials had to be "imported" physically from Japan during his sparse visits over there. Which led every now and then to changes when he returned from Japan and received training by his teacher Takeuchi sensei. In those days some people sew their own clothes, like kyudogi and hakama and fabricated their (primitive) bow or even a kind of shooting glove. Since the contact of Matsui Iwao sensei and his students with Hans de Wekker sensei around 1990, kyudo in The Netherlands stabilised more and more. Also KRN members' attendance at international seminars contributed to this stabilisation.

Many Dutchmen, like Siem van de Nieuwendijk, Kees Buurman, Henk Stelwagen, Harald Möricke, Hans de Wekker, Jimmy Fredriksz and Jaap Buitink, put their mark on Kyudo in The Netherlands. From the beginning of its existence until today the KRN participated in the European Kyudo Federation (EKF), also founded in 1980. The KRN hosted 5 international kyudo seminars, 2 European taikai and 1 IKyF taikai. The KRN also stood at the cradle of the IKyF in 2006 and hosted the 10 year anniversary of the IKyF.

Nowadays the KRN consists of 5 dojo throughout the country. In the length of its existence there have been 11 dojo in total, some still exist, some disappeared and two of the dojo separated 2 years ago from the KRN and went their own way (sad but true). The dojo are led by a kyudojin of at least sandan. In 1994 we got the first Renshi. Some but not all of the dojoleaders have a sports licence to teach from the Dutch Government. One of the present dojo is housed in a specially built dojo, the other groups make use of gym halls. In the very beginning we even trained outside on a municipal lawn with a tarpaulin on it.

The KRN has about 70 members, this has been the average amount throughout the years of our existence. Like every kyudo organisation we organise a New Year event. We also organise a, now traditional, 3 day seminar during Pentecost, where most of the members participate. This year (2020) however we had to cancel because of the Corona outbreak. In some years we organise the midsummer festival, an all-night kyudo event for many members. In honor of the turn of the millennium, a taikai was organized at the beginning of 2000: shooting 2000 arrows in one day. These are all events in which we express our kyudo bond among our members. And to strengthen this bond the KRN website also serves as a communication platform and Kyudo magazine.

In the past 40 years we have known highs and lows but always the efforts of the members was for the benefit of the organisation and the spread of kyudo in The Netherlands. All most all of the action was done for the love of kyudo and its participants. It is my wish that we, the KRN, and you, the

readers, will and can continue to practice and spread kyudo in times of prosperity and in times of trouble. And I wish us all wisdom in doing so.

Kind regards,  
Erik van Zanten, president Kyudo Renmei Netherlands  
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