PRESIDENTS REPORT TO NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATES and MEMBERS, FOR ACTIVITIES IN 2025

.

To be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Kendo Renmei Incorporated



President's Report – 2025

Dear Delegates and Members,

It is my privilege to present the President's Report for 2025 — a year of significant progress, growth, and renewed focus on transparency, communication, and member engagement.

1. Transition to a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG)

This year we will complete the important process of transitioning our organisation to a **Company Limited by Guarantee**.

- This modern governance model brings us into alignment with best practice for not-for-profit sport and cultural organisations.
- It provides a stronger legal framework, clearer accountability, and long-term organisational stability.
- I want to thank the National Council, advisors, and members who supported this process and engaged in constructive discussions to ensure a smooth transition over the last 4 years.

2. Creation of a Member Newsletter

In 2025, we launched our **Member Newsletter** to keep everyone updated with important issues, events, and opportunities.

- It has become a key tool for ensuring all members, regardless of location, have access to timely and relevant information.
- The newsletter includes policy updates, event announcements, training opportunities, and features on member achievements.
- Feedback has been positive, and we look forward to further developing it into a platform for member contributions and open dialogue.

3. UniSport Nationals Kendo – Growth in Size and Funding

The **UniSport Nationals** program has seen strong growth in both participation and funding this year.

- More universities are now involved, and the quality of competition continues to rise.

- We have secured increased financial support, allowing us to improve facilities, equipment, and travel assistance.
- This event is becoming a valuable pathway for younger participants and an excellent opportunity to showcase our art to a broader audience.

4. Transparency in Member Funding

We recognise the need for greater clarity around **how and why funds are allocated** to members.

- This year we began developing a clear framework that outlines criteria for funding decisions, expected outcomes, and reporting requirements.
- This will ensure that support is distributed fairly, effectively, and in a way that benefits the wider membership.

5. Expanding Seminars by Local Members

In 2025/ 2026 we will set a goal to **increase seminars led by local members in more states**, making high-quality training more accessible.

- These initiatives allow members to share expertise, reduce travel costs, and encourage local community growth.
- We have already seen positive results, with increased participation and greater collaboration between clubs.

6. Looking Ahead to 2026

Our priorities for next year include:

- Consolidating operations under the new CLG structure.
- Expanding the newsletter with more interactive content and direct feedback channels.
- Continuing to grow UniSport Nationals participation and profile.
- Implementing our funding transparency framework.
- Rolling out an annual national seminar calendar to ensure equal access to training opportunities.

7. AKR Learning Centre

We now have the established the AKR Llearning Centre which members can log in and keep updated with Instructors, Officiators and learning for all sport and skill courses all supported by the Australian Sports Commission.

In closing, I thank our members, volunteers, and Board for their commitment and energy in making 2025 a success.
We have built strong foundations this year, and I am confident that 2026 will see even greater growth, unity, and opportunity for all.

Andrew van Hamond
President
02/10/2025