

## Hutt Kendo Club Presidents Report – May 4, 2002

I have much pleasure in writing this first Presidents Report for the Hutt Kendo Club. We are two days past being exactly one year old today and although we don't have quite as many members as Day One, the commitment and enthusiasm of our core club means the Hutt has a robust club which has already made an impact nationally.

Highlights for the year include our club trip to Auckland in August last year. About 10 of us crammed ourselves into a mini van and made our way to this annual seminar and our chance to get formally recognised by the New Zealand Kendo Federation. Our technique and friendliness must have impressed as we became an official club of the Federation that weekend.

Since then we have had a club grading, entered two teams into the Poneke Challenge and also members into the individual events. We stood out having Marty win a silver in the Open Kyu event and Dan being sidelined into the Auckland B team which went on to win the gold in the teams event. Our six other team members Marty and Colin being team leaders for the two Hutt Teams, did admirably given the amount of shiai experience we didn't have!

In our first year we have given demonstrations at a variety of local Hutt events, one highlight being the Race Unity day – very windy but much fun, thanks to all who are able to make the effort to go public with our demos. We had a great Cut-a-thon in February which raised more than \$1300 dollars and this can be used for club rental, saving towards a video and also to help people get to the next winter seminar in Christchurch.

Also in Feb we made a club excursion to the Nelson Kendo Camp and for fun, social contact and good instruction this was a great event and one we hope to support each year. It offered a grading and once again Hutt members did very well. We were all pleased to see Marty gain his shodan at this event and help set an example for gaining this special grade. It was also nice to see Jason gain his nikyū.

As you will see in the Treasurers Report, Hutt Kendo Club has been fortunate to have received excellent support from the Hillary Commission, gaining a total of \$3900 in two funding rounds in 2001. This has enabled us to immediately gain some new armour and additional supplies for our burgeoning club. We also received set up money from Pub Charity (\$2000) and thank the Angus Inn for their support. Currently we await further results from ongoing funding applications.

A key support to HKC has been our Sister City of Minoh. The MAGFA group has facilitated second hand armours to our club which has resulted in growing our base of armour and also forging a relationship with Kendo clubs in our Japanese Sister City which may one day grow into something even more special, like exchanges and visits.

Other people to acknowledge is Ariana Smith, who, as a link Sister Cities person for the Hutt City Council has assisted us in many ways. We have even roped in her dad, who is mad about Katana and their history, to talk to our club soon. Even Simon Edwards, our local Hutt News reporter, has written some of the most informed stories about Kendo either Sue or I have seen in our collective 40 year history in Kendo and this has been helpful in gaining members.

Hopes for the next year include attendance at the NZ National Champs in July; before that a Hutt Team in an inter-club tournament in Wellington; taking a Hutt contingent to the winter camp, this year in Christchurch, and also putting up a good show for the next Poneke Challenge.

Lastly I would like to thank Sue for backup and support and all club members for the unique way they have contributed to this baby club.

**Liz Dutton**