

# Constitution of the University of Cambridge Kendo Society

November 2021

## 1 Name

The name of the Society shall be “University of Cambridge Kendo Society”.

## 2 Objectives

As said by the All Japan Kendo Federation:

The concept of Kendo is to discipline the human character through the application of the principles of the *katana*.

The purpose of this Society shall be to promote the art and spirit of Kendo. To this end, the Society shall run a kendo dojo, whose name shall be “Tsurugi Bashi”, where members can practice and learn kendo and, through sincere and dedicated practice, understand its cultural roots.

The dojo shall be licensed by the relevant national body recognized by the International Kendo Federation (currently the British Kendo Association).

The Society shall promote interaction with other kendo dojo, participation in seminars and competitions, visits by other kendoka, participation in national squad training, organization of training camps, organization of open days and demonstrations and any other activities coherent with its stated main purpose.

Kendo tuition shall be given by licensed instructor(s) whose credentials are issued by a national body recognized by the International Kendo Federation.

All members shall be covered by insurance at all practice sessions in which they take part.

The Society shall run a low traffic mailing list, **kendo-current**, for the purpose of allowing the Committee to broadcast announcements to all current members.

The Society shall run a web site containing at least information about fees, training times and venues, and a copy of the Constitution.

## 3 Membership

Membership of the Society shall be open to all members of the University and any others that have an interest in kendo.

The Committee may impose further reasonable and fairly applied restrictions on membership (e.g. “over 18”), provided that they do not violate the law or the University’s anti-discrimination provisions. Any such restrictions shall be listed

on the web site. Any changes in such restrictions must be approved by majority vote at the next General Meeting and shall only take effect after that.

The fees due by members for the following academic year shall be set by the outgoing Junior Treasurer and approved by majority vote at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The Committee may expel any member whose conduct seems likely to bring the Society into disrepute. Such expulsion shall be subject to approval by majority vote at the next General Meeting, but may take effect immediately (if provisionally) under the responsibility and judgement of the Dojo Leader.

All current members of the Society *must* subscribe to **kendo-current**; no one else may.

## 4 Committee

The day-to-day management of the Society's affairs shall be in the hands of the Committee. The composition of the Committee may only be changed at a General Meeting of the Society.

The Committee shall consist of three **Core** committee members (Captain, Secretary and Junior Treasurer), two **Senior** committee members (Dojo Leader and Senior Treasurer) and from zero to five **Auxiliary** committee members (e.g. Armourer, Venue Officer, Social Secretary, Deputy Treasurer, Webmaster. . . ). At least two thirds of the Core members shall be full time students of the University of Cambridge. The Dojo Leader shall be a licensed kendo instructor. The Senior Treasurer shall be a resident member of the Senate of the University or other person approved by the Junior Proctor.

From an administrative viewpoint the Society will be run by the Core Committee, with advice from the Dojo Leader. It is expected that the Core Committee and the Dojo Leader will work in harmony and agree on all significant decisions. However, a dojo is not the same as a democracy and in case of conflict the Dojo Leader shall have the power of veto.

Core members shall be elected at a General Meeting of the Society among all the qualifying Society members who offer themselves for election. All Core members shall retire at each AGM but may offer themselves for re-election.

The Core members and the Dojo Leader acting together may, at any time during their mandate, create or eliminate any Auxiliary posts, within the constraints above, in the best interest of the effective management of the affairs of the Society. For newly created posts, they shall invite (but may not oblige) named members to serve, without election. Such changes in the composition of the Auxiliary members do not require the approval of a GM but must all be reported on **kendo-current**, on the web site and formally at the next GM.

Normally, no member shall serve in more than one role. Where necessary it is exceptionally permissible for a Core or Auxiliary member to serve in two roles, provided that they are not both Core roles. The Dojo Leader and Senior Treasurer cannot serve in any other role.

The Senior Treasurer shall be appointed at a GM by a majority of those present and entitled to vote.

The Dojo Leader shall normally continue to serve year after year without being elected, providing leadership and continuity to the dojo. In exceptional circumstances, a motion to change the Dojo Leader may be put forward at a General Meeting. Such motion must be approved by 2/3 of voters.

There will be no remuneration for serving on the Committee. In addition all members of the Committee, except the Senior Treasurer if he or she is serving without practicing kendo, shall pay membership fees like any other members for the whole academic year in which they serve.

The Society may have arbitrarily many licensed kendo instructors other than the Dojo Leader. They will deliver kendo tuition as appropriate under the general guidance of the Dojo Leader. Such instructors do not automatically become members of the Committee by virtue of being instructors, although nothing stops them from getting elected to such posts.

## 5 General Meetings

There are two types of General Meeting (GM): the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). Both have the same powers; the main difference is that the AGM takes place every year, while EGMs are called only when needed. GMs are the only occasions in which Society members can vote on the matters discussed in this Constitution.

Those entitled to attend and vote at a GM are the Society's members who have been paid up for at least the whole term immediately preceding that GM (Michaelmas, Lent or Easter, each term deemed to include the subsequent vacation), have practiced at least 3 times during that term, and are still fully paid up at the time of the GM. Notice of any GM, including full details of any issues on which members will be called to vote, shall be posted on **kendo-current** at least 14 days before the date of the meeting. No vote will be valid unless all the voting options were mentioned in the notice. Every motion at a GM shall be proposed by one member and seconded by another member. Voting shall be by show of hands. A motion will pass if voted upon favourably by at least 1/2 of those present and entitled to vote, except for special cases (mentioned explicitly elsewhere in this constitution) that require the favourable vote of at least 2/3 of those present and entitled to vote.

The Dojo Leader or, in his or her absence, the Captain shall take the Chair at any GM. In the absence of both the Dojo Leader and Captain, the meeting shall elect a Chairperson for that meeting. The quorum for a GM shall be five members and a written record of the meeting shall be kept by a meeting secretary designated by the Chair (possibly but not necessarily the Society's Secretary). Such record shall be posted on **kendo-current** within seven days of the meeting. Each GM shall open by approving the minutes of the previous GM.

The Society shall hold an AGM in Cambridge during the Lent Full Term of each academic year. The AGM shall approve the Society's Accounts for the

preceding year, set the fees for the following year, elect the Committee for the following year, and conduct such other business as is necessary.

An EGM may be held at any time during Full Term. It shall be held in Cambridge and may be called by the Committee or the written request of at least ten members. Twenty-one days written notice (on **kendo-current**) shall be given to members before an EGM is held.

## 6 Financial Matters

The Society shall maintain two banking accounts with a suitable Bank or Building Society to hold the Society's funds, a Current account and a Savings account.

The Current Account is intended to hold only a relatively modest amount, of the order of a thousand pounds (this threshold to be set annually at the AGM on the recommendation of the outgoing Junior Treasurer), suitable for day-to-day bill-paying. The signatories and cardholders on the Current account shall be the Junior Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer; they each have independent authority to spend up to the balance of the account, provided this does not take the account into overdraft. The Savings Account is intended to hold any remaining cash reserves. It does not have a card nor a chequebook nor any other facilities to pay money out: it can only transfer funds into the Current Account. The signatory on the Savings Account shall be the Dojo Leader. All incoming payments go into the Savings Account. Whenever the Junior Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer anticipate having to spend more money than is in the Current Account, they ask for a transfer from the Savings Account, which the Dojo Leader must authorise and effect. As an additional fraud deterrence and detection measure, the full bank statements for both accounts shall be audited twice per year, once by the Secretary at the AGM and another by the Senior Treasurer at the time of the annual submission to the Junior Proctor.

It shall be the responsibility of the Junior Treasurer to ensure that monies received are properly accounted for and that the Society's financial records are kept in good order. This includes both accounts. It also includes keeping track of "virtual compartments" for such conceptually separate purposes as reimbursing bogu deposits, subsidizing the gasshuku and so forth.

The Senior Treasurer shall make arrangements for the Society's Accounts to be properly audited, either by himself or herself, or by some other person approved under University Ordinances.

The Senior Treasurer shall not be liable for any financial debt or other obligation of the Society unless he or she has personally authorised such a debt in writing.

For so long as the Society shall be Registered with the Junior Proctor, it shall be the duty of the Committee to ensure that the Society complies with the requirements for Registration as a University Society.

## 7 Changes to the Constitution

The Constitution may be amended at a General Meeting with the favourable approval of 2/3 of the voters.

## 8 Dissolution

The Society may be dissolved at a General Meeting provided that at least twenty-one days written notice of the intention to dissolve the Society has been given to all members on **kendo-current**, and that both the notice and the General Meeting occur during Full Term. The notice must be prominently displayed on the front page of the Society's web site from the date of issue until the General Meeting. At least 2/3 of the voters must vote in favour for the motion of dissolution to be effective.

After all liabilities have been met, any money remaining shall be donated to other University Societies devoted to Japanese martial arts, while any equipment remaining shall be donated to some other kendo dojo or to the British Kendo Association. The motion of dissolution must precisely specify such beneficiaries for both money and equipment.

## History

This Constitution was drafted in April 2007, approved with one minor amendment at the AGM of 15 June 2007 and filed with the Junior Proctor of the University of Cambridge in July 2007, to replace the previous one dated 16th May 1990. Two minor amendments were passed in October 2014. Two more amendments were passed in May 2019. Four further amendments were passed in November 2021.