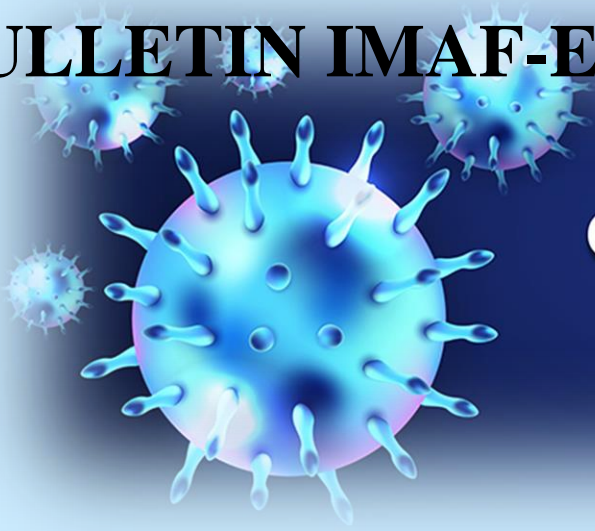


BULLETIN IMAF-EUROPE 2021-1



CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

Source: [utphysicians.com](https://www.utphysicians.com)

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT, Ir. GEOFF BENOY m.o.s.

Hoboken, 24/03/21

Dear All,

Despite the Covid 19 limitations, our club AKA-I-BARA Hoboken is still going on but legally between the lines as dictated by the Belgian Government.

We are well aware that many clubs suffer because they cannot manage their situation very well and that they are expecting help from their federations whom themselves have difficulties to manage to survive themselves!

The past taught us not to count on others, it is not their task, but to be prepared and have alternatives with immediate effect.

We, under the leadership of Patrick Vranckx Renshi and the help of his assistant teachers and myself, manage quite well with

respect to the as dictated legal changes and limitations. Our training facility allows us very well to keep our kids and juniors karate trainings outside in our garden with respect to the social distances we are obliged, as you can see on adjacent photographs.

In case the weather does not allow us to keep trainings outside, we divide our hall in two completely separate parts separated by moveable walls. Then, in each part, we have a fixed group of youngsters training to the amount of the legally allowed participants of 16 with their fixed teacher (who wears a protection mask). All precautions such as disinfection sprays and so on have been provided and the restrictions followed!

As one of the oldest clubs of Belgium we have more than

enough experience to be prepared for the epidemic we are now encountering.

We keep our Kobudo and Iaido trainings with our higher degree members, limited in quantity and on well informed dates only.

Last but not least we restarted our G+ karate for people who are restricted or handicapped, but masked, social distance and in open air only and depending on the weather.

The club goes, due to the COVID19 epidemic, slowly forward now, but we are certain that soon this shall be over and we can 100% fully restart our activities.

Ir Geoff M. Benoy m.o.s.

President IMAF-Europe

Vice President Aka-I-Bara

We do what we can!

IMAF-Belgium - AKA-I-BARA activities, kids, outside training.



A small survey about the current situation in some of our member countries (April 2021).

The situations are quite different for each country. There have been many different measures to fight the pandemic.

In the United Kingdom they are still under some of the lockdown measures, although they are being gradually lifted. At the moment, none of their clubs are training. The Kickboxing section is hopefully starting back end of April, but only for children, adults should be back around end of May. Judo, Aikido and Ju Jitsu should be back June time. As an example, a Judo club has been closed since March 2020!!

There are certain protocols in place in the UK, which, hopefully, will help to get people's confidence back.

IMAF-Romania was able to organize 4 online competitions in 2020 and the first quarter of 2021.

Some clubs can train in the Dojo and online with approval of Sport and Health Ministers.

Medio April an open-air seminar in the mountains shall be organized with 100 students.

With the pandemic now at its peak the Board of IMAF-Poland hopes that everything will gradually get better.

A large national seminar is planned for 7-9 May in Przyjezierze. Now half of the clubs in IMAF-Poland do not train. They do not have a Dojo but use the classroom at the school. Schools are closed. In Poland, those who are associated in the same type of associations and who have access to a high school gym can now train. Several clubs are now using this opportunity. IMAF-Poland has plans to organize the Polish Championships in September this year.

As for IMAF-Slovakia, all Dojo's are closed from March 2020. Only last summer they were able to train outdoors (with maximum 6 people). But from December

2020 they have a strict lockdown and everything is closed.

They hope that from May 2021 there will be a slow opening, because of the horrible situation in sport and especially Martial Arts are slowly going to die.

News from IMAF Russia Branch Moscow Region is that since Russia started the anti-Covid 19 vaccinations in December 2020 with their own developed vaccine Sputnik 5, after completely locking their borders (of which a large part with China), they are closer to normal life than we are now.

Opinions:

As for the future, it will take a long while to get fully back training. Our challenge is that we will have to try and remotivate students to come back. Some reluctance for people to return is observed, especially children, as they are still not sure about the safety aspect.

IMAF POLAND KOBUDO TRAINING 21-3-2021



Saturday 24 April four IMAF-Europe countries will come together to present lessons which are open to all members.

Keep the date free and watch out for the registration details over the coming days!

This is a great place to share and promote opportunities for teachers and students alike. This COVID pandemic means we have to look at new technologies to learn share and meet. Face to face meeting and training will be our ultimate reward when all

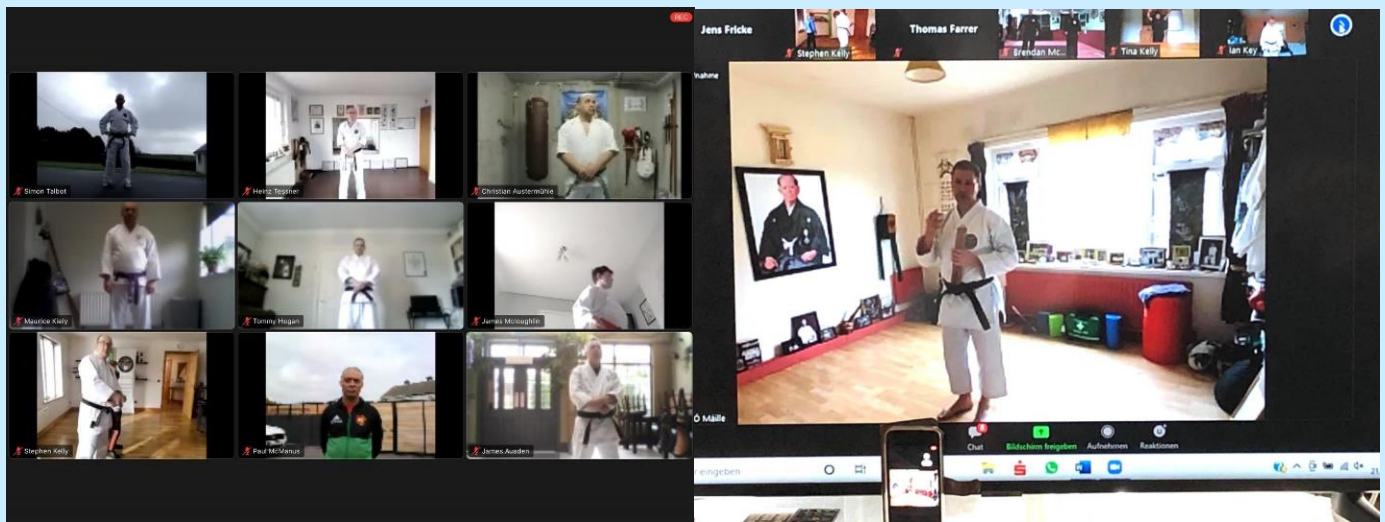
this disruption is over. In the meantime IMAF-Ireland will continue to run our online seminars in the hope of keeping the martial arts spread throughout our fantastic organisation. This brings with it some teaching difficulties, as contact training is unavailable for so many of us. For those of you interested in our online sessions please feel free to

suggest training topics or areas of interest. We have many talented IMAF instructors who would be delighted to share their knowledge. Also, to any teachers who would like to present at one of our events, we would love to hear from you. There is nothing greater than meeting in a sports hall to share knowledge, but for now we are limited to distance learning via technologies such as

Zoom. Let us get our family back training together. IMAF-Europe

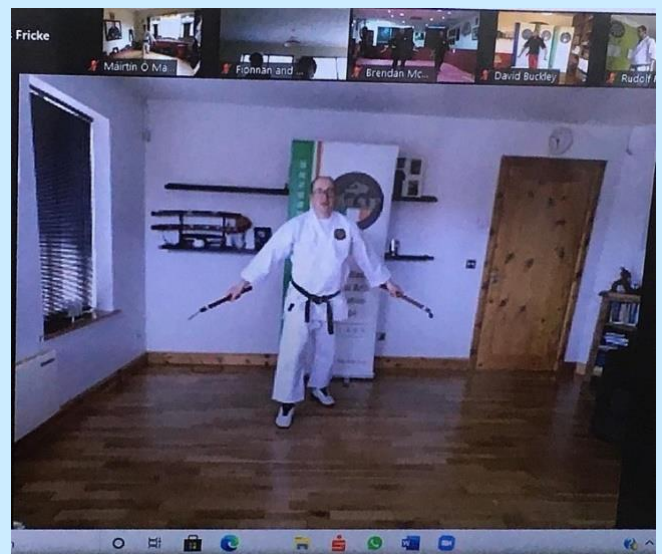
an organisation for the members by the members.

Stephen Kelly



On 21 March 2021 IMAF Ireland hosted the second online training day. The program included Kempo, Shotokan Karate, Kama-Kata and Nunchaku-Kata. Lessons were given in 30-minute time slots. Athletes from Ireland, England and Germany use the opportunity to train themselves in terms of technology and tactics in front of the screen. The online training is not a substitute for a dojo, but it is a good opportunity to stay on the ball and maintain social contacts. The offer is free and open to all members! I personally liked the offer, even if it is not suitable for me personally. Still, the Irish found a way to keep in touch with their students. There were 59 students online. The target group were Kyu graduations.

Stephen Kelly



IMAF GERMANY – TRAINING OUTSIDE 15-3-2021



FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

In Russia the sport events are open to the new normal.



One of the regions belonging to **IMAF-Russia Branch Moscow is Kirzhat.**

There the First Man in Space, Yuri Gagarin had his final flight as a test pilot together with his co-pilot. They crashed here with an experimental aircraft.

The President of IMAF Region Kirzhat, Sergey Spirin and his students attended many seminars and teaching in his club with Geoff Benoy Hanshi. As many clubs today he has a lot of juniors and youngsters.

The photographs show the results of the junior examinations.

Sergey Spirin Sensei is also on the first photograph with 2 of his junior students.



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Structure DBE 2021:

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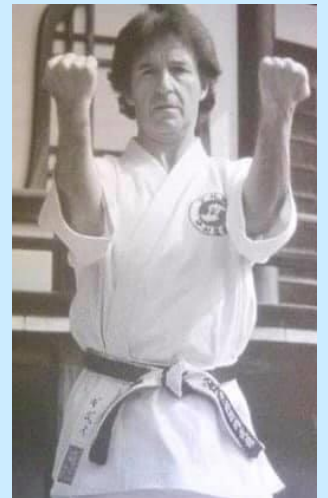
Last Congress (2018), Tuam, Ireland

Today we received the sad news from IMAF-France United that

Sensei Guy Juille

one of the leading figures of Shuri Shorin-Ryu, passed away.

Our thoughts are with his Family, Friends and Students.



COMMUNICATIONS:

Please use the general secretary's email address: generalsecretary@imaf-europe.com
for ALL communication and correspondence. No communications via Facebook!
All communications must be in English!

Let us keep working together for our visions and common goals !

