

## Letters to the Editor

Dear editors of the Sumofanmag!

I am a sumo fan from the Netherlands and I am watching the basho mostly by Internet. Last year I had the chance to travel to Osaka with my wife, an experience which brought me much closer to sumo.

I am a reader of everything I can read about sumo and I admire all people who are close to it and really know about it, share their impressions and pics with us. But what I had to see in your latest issue really shocked me deep in my heart. It's not my fault that I'm already 64 and in your writers opinion apparently too old to be a fan.

My wife and I visited some stable during our trip and watched the morning training. We talked to some wrestlers, among them some sekitori as Asasekiyu, Tochinonada, Kotomitsuki, Kotooshu, Kasugao, Takekaze, Wakakirin.

All of them were very friendly and we didn't have the impression that we bothered them. We didn't try to take pics afterwards, they asked us if we have a camera. We said yes,

and they invited us to take pics with them and of them. They were joking all the time and they were happy as kids.

I do not know where the opinion of your writer comes from but this scoffing writing about all fans who are not like him is unbearable.

I hope you can adjust my opinion.

With my best regards  
Adrijan van Boe

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Dear Sir,

Thank you for your mails to Sumo Fan Magazine on the subject of Eric Blair's article in our latest issue.

Whilst we greatly respect your views on the attitude of the sekitori you met during your trip here to Japan in 2007, and are genuinely pleased that the men you listed were greatly appreciative and enjoyed your visit to their heya (stables), we must also respect the views covered in Eric's piece.

Many foreign fans now follow

sumo and this is wonderful for the sport, but I think the experience of meeting so many rikishi of all ranks so often, is something in Eric's background that cannot be ignored.

To that end, even though his opinions this time have raised something of a storm in a teacup with some fans, many of the factors worked into the article are, we understand sourced and based on more in-depth associations with rikishi than many have the opportunity to have from afar. Of course this is complemented by Eric's unusually dry wit - his trademark.

We will pass on your comments, however, and would again like to thank you for taking the time to contact Sumo Fan Magazine on this issue. Issue #20 is due out at the end of August, and we will feature your letter (and this response) in our 'letter to the editors' page.

Best wishes and thank you for reading Sumo Fan Magazine.

Mark Buckton  
Editor-in-Chief  
[Sumo Fan Magazine](#)