



Eric Evaluates STLC – not the way forward for the Fukuoka bosses

by Eric Blair

Anyone with more than 10 minutes in Japan on Christmas Day knows full well that it is a regular business day. Nothing special going on, no quiet streets here! Off to work as usual for the masses.

Time spent in the UK, US, much of mainland Europe and elsewhere is a whole different kettle of fish. In many areas the streets are deserted, as quiet and silent as a Sumo Talk thread on actual sumo - even during a basho. Admittedly the same cannot be said about joke threads on Some Talk Little Content as I now call the junior of the WWWs sumo sites out there on the Internet. Body part threads do draw in the hits – presumably from behind the bikesheds of Estonia / Eastern Europe and Macc. Yet the serious posts – as might be expected given the lack of knowledge the same said self-professed experts display when they do post – so often fail to attract comments and opinions, facts and experiences during any given 15 days of action.

Many of the threads have, over the last six months been little more than copy/paste efforts at generating interest by a member fortunate enough to spend time over on Sumo Forum where, funny enough, sumo is actually discussed – form, bouts, techniques etc. (I do of course ignore reference to those with the tendency to hijack almost everything penned with

unrequired info on who did what / who / when, in what colour of mawashi / for how many consecutive basho / compared to another of similar ranks / on average / earliest in his career / at the youngest age / oldest age / with the most injuries and so on.....oh, and then they link to it with a 'HERE' and silly nodding face. Said individual on walkabout from Some Talk Little Content (not to be mistaken with the SF bore in his bedroom for whom mawashi colors on certain days means something) then, presumably – and successfully – slaps 'copy' tickles 'paste' and Bob's your Uncle. The STLC boys thus have another intelligent thread to ignore as they giggle at basketball puns.

Anyway, I veer off course as I hope, in vain perhaps(?) for the ticker machine to again show signs of life over there at SML. There were once intelligent threads in that neck of the woods even if they did often end up with comments on being busy at a certain event / party / social gathering or simply wagging the chin in the local hairdresser. Not sure on the validity of NASA having found more life on Mars than on the SML in the past month but will report back with info in that regard when it becomes available.

So, what was it I was trying to say as I first put finger to keyboard at the top of this page? Ah, that's

right! I was going to write about the upcoming Fukuoka Basho / Kyushu Basho – call it what you will – and their abysmal attendances in recent years. ('Abysmal' is a synonym for 'not very good' to help out my legion of STLC readers. Thanks Si for bringing them aboard. Your dedication in following my missives truly moves me. As Elvis once passed his scarves to his fans, so too will I one day present you with a tissue used to dry my own eyes! Note to self: do not mix up with other-use tissues)

Of course, down in Fukuoka (a city on the Japanese island of Kyushu STLCers) a few head out to see local boy Kaio (an ozeki in sumo) again laugh (make noises from mouth after funny thing happens) in the face of a nationally ingrained culture of shame by plugging on year after year (not stopping when he should have). But to those in charge – one single comment of advice that will reap dividends and may even bring in a few more fans; please please please look for folk with a tad more experience in life, in Japan, in sumo than the 'experts' whose example of how to kill (interest in) a sport you seem to be imitating so well. STLC is not the way forward!

My number is 090-1234-5678. Look forward to hearing from you soon!