



Eric Evaluates The Great One returns - for one match only



by Eric Blair

So, with 2011 upon us, best to you all and may you all prosper.

Yes, 'all' means 'all'. From the biddies who think the archipelago came up from the sea upon their arrival (sumo establishing itself soon thereafter) to the groupies that give rikishi something to laugh about, to those for whom sumo is something binary – without you all, the real fans would have nothing to laugh about. A tip of Eric's hat to you.

Of course, just to bring you up to date with what is happening over on the self-professed site of experts – Some Talk Little Action – their self-appointed censor supremo threw his teddy out of his cot earlier this annum, deleted images posted by one member and spent days and then weeks flapping about like a fish on dry land trying to justify himself. He failed, and then went into juvenile mode once more – calling the target of his overuse of moderator powers names not unlike the schoolyard bully whose classmates have seen him as the attention seeker he really is.

The SML saw the lady types sharpen their fingernails from time to time. Asashoryu is still being held up as the poster boy for all things sumo, manly, human, whatever. The NSK must of course take the blame for global warming, that volcanic eruption in Iceland and the raid that saw OBL sent to his makers. And, as ever, the person you most wanted to see on your screens was absent. I

apologise for that and intend to fully make up for it with this column.

And so to the Kintamaforum aka Sumo Forum. Without Kintamayama just how many would still be following sumo? Beyond Japanese shores... I would venture very few. Of course there are exceptions, such as several European members ever on the lookout for a new statistical angle (no lads, I and many others have no interest in comparative kensho wins measured in terms of year on year / basho this year VS basho last / cloud formations in a given season observed relative to barometer readings). Get a life binary bums! A real one – away from your screens!

Were I a rich man I would personally fly you here to see the sumo in person.

But wait, would I? Should I expose innocent newbies to the politics of all that is sumo fandom a la Nippon?

You see, in that wonderful, ever so realistic series of movies based on British spy Austin Powers, the baddie – Dr. Evil – is often seen stroking a moggy whilst plotting the downfall of the ever so shaggable Austin: English by birth, thus man of culture and shaggability.

Few are fully aware of the demographics of sumo fandom here in Nippon and of the reporting side even fewer hold

more than a few cards to their chest. Those in the know would of course see Austin Powers as modelled on yours truly, with his nemesis more of a coming together of several other less experienced individuals for whom the dohyo will forever remain off-limits. You know the type. We generally call these people 'people who can't handle the truth'.

They have of course been around since the very earliest days of the sport, when it first came into existence; the early 1970s. From their ramblings they are the types who don't realize that when all their peers have left the party it might be a good idea to follow suit. Instead they launch into tale after tale beginning with 'did I ever tell you the time.....' as the hosts nod off.

Who has not heard of the 'book in progress', or 'discussions with publishers' of many of the SMLs elderly angels? What about the handbags at dawn? The "I've been here longer than you" snipes? Do the chaps over there on the SML - those in Japan or now departed ever follow suit? I think not!

So, whilst, beyond a shadow of shaggable doubt I have once again used my great skills in observation and deduction to reveal several more golden nuggets for the next month of SML, Some Talk Little Action, and Kintamaforum thread prep, let me end my saying to all those moggy stroking Dr. Evils out there, I salute you! Bring it on!