

The English Karate Federation National Championships

The English Karate Federation National Championships were held at the Leicester Arena on the 8/9 April 2017. The championships were extremely well organised and ran very smoothly from start to finish. I must compliment the Organising Team and also the Events Team, who travelled down from Glasgow to host the event, under the guidance of Bobby Moreton.

Thanks must also go to Dale Gamble and the Referees department, who not only officiated extremely well but stayed behind at the end of the event to help take up and store the mats. Well done to all.

The Medical team, headed by Dev, the Paramedic, and supported by the Ambulance crew and Osteopaths, worked well together and dealt with everything in a very professional manner.

MA Action, the company that streamed the event live, must also be thanked for securing the sponsorship from EFC (Educational Funding Company) to enable this to be arranged at no cost to the EKF.

MMA Mats contributed to the sponsorship by giving us a big discount for the mats we purchased for this event. This helped tremendously as this was the first time at this venue and it meant that, on the day, everything looked good.

A lot of interviews were recorded on Saturday and thanks must go to board member Tony Utting for conducting those interviews, and to Maisie from MA Action for recording them.

Billy Brennan, who was not able to make Saturday due to a prior commitment, arrived on Sunday and carried on with the interviews. Billy then took up the commentator's position and worked tirelessly throughout the finals until the competition ended. It was also good to see one of our senior coaches, Davin Pack, assisting Billy.

I have been promised a recording of all of the interviews for us to put on our website. This will be done as soon as possible.

ENGLISH KARATE FEDERATION

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The categories in the championships had been trimmed down, which enabled the competition to run more smoothly and to keep to time. The Arena has excellent lighting and air conditioning, which made the venue much more comfortable for the spectators as well as the competitors.

I, personally, had many people coming up to me and saying what a great event and venue it was. We have also had a good response on social media. From a personal point of view it was great to see some personalities I hadn't seen for many years, in particular Leon Walters and Jason Ledgister, ex World champions. It was great to get together again, if only for a short time.

Finally, Susan Dixon spent the whole time taking photos of the event for our website. Susan does this for nothing more than a donation to the charity she supports and for this we thank you very much Susan.

Mick Billman
EKF President