

EKF Southern Regional Championships 2008

Sunday 25th May 2008 saw the English Karate Federation host the 2nd Southern Regional Championships at Goresbrook Leisure Centre, Dagenham, Essex. The turnout for these championships were down on last year but the miserable weather, the looming bank holiday and it being half term week all contributed to this. Many associations and clubs were away on their annual summer camps and another large competition was taking place elsewhere which divided both the remaining available athletes and referees. Nonetheless this championship still provided a stern test to many national level athletes and with large associations such as the AMA making the long trip from up north to to attended the competitive spirit was keen as ever.

The Kata events commence first at the championships with 10 individual categories being contested. The Mixed Novice to 7th Kyu event was won by Grays-Gojo's young and talented Nathan Booty with Grays-Gojo collecting a second Kata gold thanks to Jack Lloyd in the Boys 3-1st Kyu event. Ishinryu picked up four individual Kata golds with Rebecca Birch, Emma Lucraft, John Gardiner and Samantha Cannon triumphing in the Girls 3-1st Kyu, Female Cadets 3rd Kyu+, Male Senior 3rd Kyu+ and Female Senior 3rd Kyu+ events respectively. Other medal winners were Hanko-Ryu's Jack Perry in the Boys Dan Grade event, AMA's H.Patel in the Girls Dan Grade event, Toyakwai's J.Bolter in the Mixed Senior 6-4th Kyu event and Shuhari-Kai's Alex Sell securing gold in the Male Cadets 3rd Kyu+ category.

Kumite events commenced with the children's categories which saw Toyakwai scoop eight golds out of the 14 categories being contested with George Anderson, Damien Gow, A.Morely and S.Santillo all securing gold with C.Wastell and Hannah Baker both securing double golds. WIKF - J.Brown and J.Kurton and Ishinryu – K.Mansfield and G.Gambleton, both collected two golds with Grays-Gojo – E.Sharland and the AMA – N.Patel completing the set.

The remaining individual Cadet and Senior Kumite categories were keenly contested with Toyakwai taking the lions share. Adam Francis, A.White and M.Bags each secured gold with both Stephanie Thorndick and Alton Brown securing a double gold each bringing Toyakwai's title count in the Cadet and Senior section to seven from 16 events. Amy Thomasom and Carla Burkitt from Kazen Central both secured a double gold themselves to help their association secure four golds here. Other winners in this section were Shuhari-Kai's Alex Sell, Kaizen-Kai's Ryan Lambert, Ishinryu's Raphael Veras, Higashi's Collin Heath and M.Jones from Kofukan.

The four Team Kumite events were dominated by Toyakwai who secured all titles in the Boys U15yrs, Girls U15yrs, Male 16yrs+ and Female16yrs+ events.

Overall Toyakwai secured 19 Golds, 17 Silvers and 21 Bronzes. Ishinryu secured 8 Golds, 7 Silvers and 9 Bronzes. Kaizen Central came out third in the Association medal table with 4 Golds, 4 Silvers and 5 Bronzes.

Please see EKF Southern Regional Championships 2008 Results for a full and complete list of medal winners.

The EKF would like to take this opportunity to thank all Athletes and Associations and all Referees and Officials for taking the time to support this event. With your continued support the Regional Championships will continue to flourish. A final mention for Joe Anderson for organising the championships once again.