

EKF NORTHERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2007 - REPORT

On a cold and wet 25th November, the Richard Dunn Sports Centre in Bradford became the hive of activity for the 1st EKF Northern Regional Championships. This was the 2nd championships in the EKF series of events and following on from the EKF Southern Championships held in September in Essex.

Over 400 competitors from 56 clubs, 30 associations took part in what was a spectacle to be held in the eyes of English Karate ka. The children and Senior divisions were all very busy, the high calibre of athlete made it a very enjoyable day. Many grassroots club fighters pitted their wits against National opposition, some already Champions within their associations and some potential champions, going off their performances in Kata and Kumite.

Kata kick started the day, in the Senior Kata current English Champion Reece Taylor from Hanko-Ryu came up against stiff opposition from Gareth Hains from the AMA, loosing his Semi final to Gareth by 3 flags. Gareth was then beaten in the Finals by John Gardiner from Ishinryu, who beat Matt Drury from the AMA on the way to his final spot. All four gave excellent performances to reach the last four, John Gardiner was a worthy winner in this division.

The Senior & Cadet Female Kata was again dominated by Ashleigh Kenny from Kenyukai beating Nicole Halsall twice from KDI in both her finals.

The Cadets Male Kata raised a few eye brows with an all AMA final pitting Cheyne Phillips fresh from his exploits in Turkey with the National squad putting his skills to good account against Jack Dixon who only just came out 2nd best.

In the Boys Black Belt Kata Alex Sell from SKDI beat Jack Dixon who was in his 2nd final to take the Gold.

Emma Lucraft from Ishinryu won the Gold against Alix Harris from EKKA in the Girls Back belt Kata.

The 10 Kata categories where well represented by all the associations and makes good for 2008.

The Children's Kumite divisions should an excellent talent under one roof which kept the spectators entertained for many hours, the ones that spring to mind where Pippa Morris winning Gold against her team mate Heidi Jay, Melissa Holmes from the AMA winning Gold against Jess Day from Shindo Kai. Stephanie Thorndick from Toyakwai winning the 55+kgs against Chloe Sheldon from Shindo Kai.

The Boys also had there fair share of entertainers in Alex Gardner from Shindo Kai beating Bradley Pederson from the AMA also in the 55+kgs, Josh Gargon from Kenyukai gave the crowd an excellent display on his abilities in executing the Gyakusuki on Ryan Lambert from Kazen Kai. The fight of the boys divisions was between Ryan Jay from EKKA who beat Jay Kirkton of WIKF to win the Gold, his skill is without doubt a joy to watch and is one for future National accolades.

In the Female Cadets Ashleigh Kenny of Kenyukai just piped Rachel Anders of the AMA by 1 ippon to take her 3rd Gold of the day. Reisha Hull in the lighter division won Gold in a well contested final against Annesha Panha from WIKF.

Loren Cook from EKKA, Ailsa Lloyd from the AMA and Siobhan Hayes from Sindo Kai all won Gold in their respected senior female categories.

Adam Hadfield from Shindo Kai won Gold showing his metal in the 80+kgs Senior kumite by beating Michael Roche in a well contested final.

Chris Rigg from Shindo Kai won the Open weight final against Vincent O'Hara from Kenyukai. Vincent did make amends by winning his -80kgs final against Mark Bradley also from Kenyukai.

The Boys and Girls Team kata was won by Kenyukai with KDI taking the 2nd spot. In the Female Team Kata KDI won the Gold against the AMA.

In the Boys team the Gold went to WIKF beating Shindo Kai, and in the Girls Toyakwai won Gold against Kenyukai.

The Female Team Kumite Gold was won by EKKA against the AMA again another well contested final.

The Male Team Kumite following 4 rounds was eventually won by the Roding of the BKA, Shindo Kai took the Silver.

During the day the 'New' Executive Board of the EKF made an appearance following their board meeting watching from the upper balcony. They were entertained by some excellent fight's, this makes good preparation for the fourth coming trials on the 9th December. Ticky Donovan, was impressed with many of the fights he saw and is looking forward to seeing all the cadets and Jnrs at the selections for the European selections at Bisham Abbey.

We would like to Thank everyone connected with this championships, from the EKF board down to the organising committee, Terry Pottage the Chief Referee his team of officials and time keepers.

- ***The Amateur Martial Association won the overall trophy with 59 points,***
- ***Second, Kenyukai with 51 points,***
- ***Third, Shindo Kai with 42 points and***
- ***Fourth, EKKA with 27 points.***