

Independent Wado-Ryu Karate-Do Association United Kingdom



May 2014

This Month

Northern Open Karate Championships

12 Wado UK competitors visited the Birchwood Tennis Centre in Warrington on 11th May, for the Northern open Classic Karate Championships. This is a regular event on our calendar, and one of our selected Wado UK Squad competitions. Many of those in attendance are now well on the way to achieving our squad status, and all but one of those competing won medals.

The medal tally by the end of the day stood at 2 Gold, 8 Silver and 7 Bronze. An excellent result for those representing their East Hull Woodford, Chikara and Hull Zanshin Clubs.

Kata as always delivered the first medals success, the best of which were a brace of gold's for the individual efforts of Amrit Dhesi and the Chikara team of Thomas Balaam-Reed, Calum Longmuir and Lauren Horner. Not far behind collecting an excellent 5 silver medals in their individual categories were brother and sister Teerth and Charan Dhesi, Thomas Balaam-Reed, Briane Goff and Paul Foster.

There were Bronze medals too, with Ellis Miller and Lauren Horner gaining individual honours, and the pairings of Oliver Dearing and Teerth Dhesi, and Thomas Balaam-Reed and Lauren Horner following suit. A final kata medal went to the team of

Amrit Dhesi, Ellis Miller and Ben Mitchell.

Kumite medals though not as plentiful were still pleasingly numerous. The best individual performance came from Lauren Horner who took a silver in her category, with Charan Dhesi and Briane Goff achieving Bronze medal positions. There were two final silver medals which would complete the day for our competitors, and they would be in 2 team categories. Both teams would have an element of drama, as the girls team of Lauren Horner and Charan Dhesi was just that, a team of two. However this didn't prevent them from winning their first match 2-0, and narrowly missing out on a further win and a place in the final.

The boys team of Oliver Dearing Teerth Dhesi and Ellis Miller al-

- Northern Open**
- British 4 Nations**
- Wado UK Junior Championships**
- Wado UK Squad Training**
- New Medal Designs**
- Lord Mayors Parade**
- Date Section**

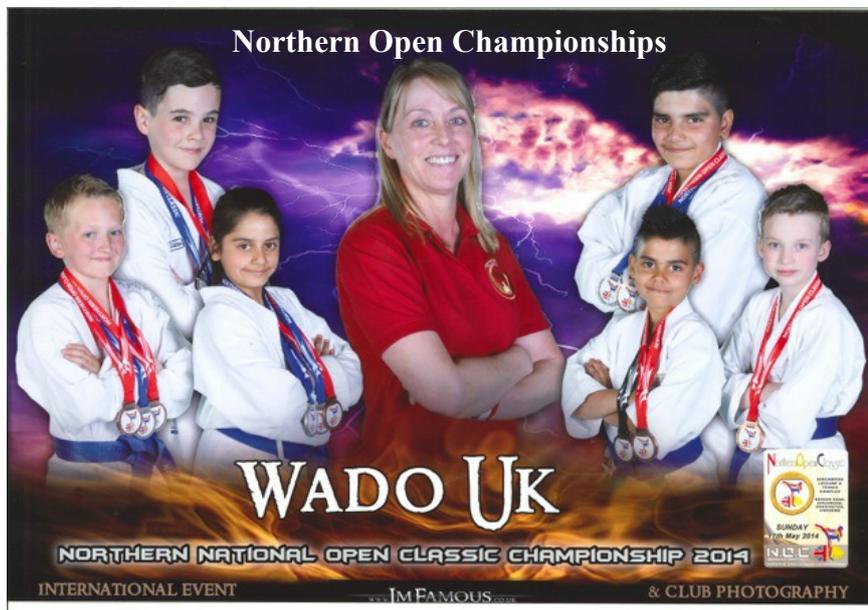
ways provides high drama, and this occasion would be no exception. Competing over three rounds by the time they reached the final, the semi and final were also contested with just two competitors like the girls matches.

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The reason for this was that in the first round, Teerth was judged to have attacked without control and was disqualified. This followed Oliver's drawn bout against a young man who matched the height of the officials, however the draw set up the team with a

good opportunity to progress, but the disqualification however the draw set up the team with a good opportunity to progress, but the disqualification meant Ellis had to win by maximum points just to force a re-match. With grit and determination Ellis did just this, and went

on to contest the extra match too, gaining a win through disqualification and putting the team in the semi final. By now Ellis was withdrawn on the orders of the referee and the ten second rule, and Oliver and Teerth were now like the girls, down to two. A calculated risk saw our team fight in position 2 and 3, sacrificing the first match to maximum points. This meant that Oliver and Teerth had to win, and they did. Oliver winning in the dying seconds with a head kick which saw him score the three points needed. The same gamble was employed in the final but this time we came unstuck. Facing the formidable CEK group you always need a full team, not one depleted through injury. However the boys both fought well and should be proud of what they achieved, as should all of our youngsters taking part on the day.

British 4 Nations Championships

The East Hull Woodford and Shinken Dojo's both sent competitors to the British 4 Nations on the 17th May. Representing the East Hull Dojo were The Dhesi siblings of Teerth, Charan and Amrit, and representing the Shinken Dojo were Jordan Taylor, Ben Harrison, Joel Edgar and Amie Newton. Both clubs were to win gold thanks to the outstanding efforts of Amrit Dhesi and Ben Harrison.

Ben was to take the first gold of the day as he contested the Male Cadet Kata section. Working his way through the rounds looking confident and composed, he

managed to nudge nearer the medal positions with each round. Of course once in a medal position it's a case of how far can he go. Well on this occasion Ben did himself and coach Paul Braid proud by booking himself a place in the final itself. Here he would have to wait the agonising delay until the centre area which had been set up for the finals was ready for him. Once ready though and streamed live on the British Karate Federation You Tube channel, Ben came up with a performance which saw the panel of five judges vote in his favour. An excellent result and one which

rewarded the hard work and tenacity shown by not just Ben, but all of our competitors.

The second gold medal of the day was won by Amrit Dhesi. Amrit would win his in the Boys 9 years and under kumite section. Amrit followed in Ben's footsteps as far as the procedure for getting into the final went. That is, gradually but methodically working his way through the rounds up to the point he was one of only two competitors left.

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British 4 Nations Karate Championships

Once at this stage Amrit was able to get straight on with his final, as these younger age groups, non WKF, were held on the areas where they had been conducted. However this still left a job to be done, and for the Third time in 9 months Amrit was to win a kumite gold at this impressive Emirates Arena in Glasgow.

Of course our other competitors had their glory too. Amrit for instance, uncontent with one medal battled his

way into the kata final for his age group too. Once there his opponents performance was considered to be the better of the two, but this never the less left Amrit with a gold/silver brace of medals around his neck.

Bronze medals were the order of the day also. Thanks to excellent performances from Charan, Amie and Jordan. Charan and Amie were in the same categories for both kata and kumite because of their ages, and yet bizarrely they were to match each other medal for medal thanks to a pleasing yet understandable draw where they were in different halves. This meant that they avoided meeting each other through the rounds, making

Jordan Taylor, Ben Harrison and Amie Newton of the Shinken Dojo



sure they wouldn't reduce our chances of medals by 50%. This system should be used all the time but quite often we suffer the indignity of meeting each other because of an inadequate draw. however this draw was favourable, and the girls both managed to win bronze medals in the same kata and kumite events and share the honours. A very pleasing result.

Jordan was to win our final medal of the day in his Junior kata section. again with the confidence and composure shown by his team-mates, Jordan worked his way through the rounds up to the point where he was in the repechage final. This match he was to win, giving himself his

first but hopefully not last British medal in a WKF category. Again this is reward for the extra sessions working on kata with his club, and also the ones traveling to train with the National squad coach.

Overall it was an impressive set of performances from our small squad, not least of which from our two British Champions Ben and Amrit. Well done to all those who competed and represented their clubs and Wado UK admirably. Thank you also to Paul Braid for managing to single handedly balance so many plates by attending to 7 competitors, in 21 categories, over 9 tatami's. Not a bad achievement from him either.

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5th Wado UK Junior Championships

Our 5th Wado UK Junior Championships take place on the 28th June. Each year we get around 75 youngsters taking part, and we would love to see an equally impressive response this year. The competition covers kata, kick-master Kumite, and Kumite. This is without doubt the best opportunity for your youngsters to get involved without the cost of travel, and the late nights returning home. Youngsters can enter any or all of the events their

age permits, with the cost being £10 for one event or £15 for two or more. If your youngsters are interested in getting involved in competition, this is their best introduction. Of course we do have our regular competitors here too, but the categories are constructed so that those with more experience are segregated from those with less. Please see your club instructor for details, or download them from the Wado UK website.

2nd Wado UK Squad Training Session

Our next Wado UK Squad session takes place on Sunday 1st June at the Woodford Leisure Centre. This will be our second session of the year, and ties in nicely with our Wado UK Junior Championships on the 28th of June. The training will once again be from 10am - 2pm, covering kata in the morning and Kumite in the afternoon. While the Kumite session is going on, those interested in helping at our Junior competition, and or our Open event in September will have the chance to go through the table officials and judging officials roles. This session will once again be up in the classroom at Woodford.

Session costs will be £5 for one session, i.e. kata or Kumite, or £8 for both. There will be no charge for the classroom based training.

Those who do wish to help at either of our competitions will be fed and watered on the day, and their children will attend the competition free of charge. If you would like to assist please let us know as soon as possible, as we need certain people in certain roles.

One point to make at this stage is that for those wishing to become a part of our Wado UK Competition Squad, their logbooks must be complete, up to date, and signed off. We have had several competitions post the last squad session and we haven't had that many logbooks to sign off! Remember that inclusion in the squad requires targets to be met for both squad attendances, and competition attendances. Medal wins are also recorded but do not form part of the selection criteria.

New Junior Medal Design Competition

This year will be the last year we use our existing Wado UK competition medals, in fact the Junior Championships will actually be the last time we see them. In September at our 6th East Yorkshire Open Karate Championships, we will be launching our new colourful enamelled design. We also intend to design a medal specifically for our Junior Championships, ready for 2015.

We have decided to hold a competition for all of our youngsters who want to get involved, to come

up with a new concept. Their skill with a pencil and paper, if they know what they are, or more likely with Microsoft Paint isn't crucial, more their imagination. All they need to do is come up with a concept, and the one we decide to send to the design studio for further work and ultimately manufacture will receive a prize. Watch this space for further details, and get those crayons ready, I mean computers!

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Hull Lord Mayors Parade

Once again this year we will be attending the Hull Lord Mayors Parade, which is on Saturday 28th June. This event does clash with our Junior Championships mentioned on the previous page, but for those not wishing to compete, or those too old to do so, It would be a good opportunity. I would like to ask for the support of 2 or 3 members from each club, which would leave us well covered. We will hopefully be attempting to get around ten people to the event. There will be no ambulance pull for us this year, and in keeping with the green ethos for the event all participants will be completing the course under their own steam. Steve Bell will once again be looking after the proceedings on our behalf, and anyone who would like to

join in should see their club instructors. This event helps us raise our profile within the community, and at the same time give something back to the community. We will send out more details soon, but please consider this worthwhile cause.

Our Ambulance Crew at the Lord Mayors Parade in 2013



1st June

Wado UK Squad Session (All athletes welcome)
Wado UK Referee & Table Official Course
(All volunteer table officials & prospective officials welcome)

8th June

Simon Coope Karate Championships

22nd June

Chojinkai Open Championships
Penrith Cumbria

Leicester Wado Kai Championships
Leicester

28th June

Wado UK Junior Championships
Woodford Leisure Centre

28th June

Hull Lord Mayors Parade
See club instructors for this event

6th July

CEWKA Championships
Worcester (Details)

25th/6th/7th July Date to be determined

Wado UK Kyu Gradings

17th August

South Yorkshire Open
Metrodome Barnsley