

Mushindo British Open & Wado Champs - June 2011

Mushindo British Open & Wado Championships



Tobi Ishi Kai Karate schools attended the Mushindo British open Competition at Cheslyn Hey on Sunday 12th June 2011. We had a squad of thirteen competitors aged 7 to 16 years, from 9th kyu red belt to 1st Dan black belt.

The competition was itself divided into two kata groups, an open section with competitors allowed to perform kata from any style and a closed section for Wado kata only, some of our older students were entered into both.

It was going to be an interesting day. We were going up against old adversaries who have boasted on many occasions that they were the best in Wado. There were new competitors in the Wado categories who we had not had the advantage of competing against, only to find that they were members of the exalted Wado Kai England group. They had many competitors taking part who had already been selected for their upcoming European championships and without doubt on this occasion our main competition would come from this group.

The competition started with the younger competitors. I could rave on about the quality of their kata and litigate long and hard as to the quality of the instruction they have received so that they could take part but that would take several pages and give you a long drawn out boring report - all you want to know is how well they did in representing Tobi Ishi Kai. Mr Kipling could not put it any better, they did exceedingly good kata!

Imogen Jammal in a category of 22 competitors reached the final, this is the first competition that she has entered that has not been organised by Tobi Ishi kai and she worked extremely hard to win the silver medal.

This was the first of a haul of medals that we were to win and her efforts seemed to set the mood of the Tobi camp for the rest of the day. Bryony Danks followed up with silver in the open section and gold in the Wado. Tara Wilson, with good performances in the open section, was the first of our group to perform Gojushiho sho, watched by many of our rivals who were no doubt surprised that we could actually perform this kata at all, let alone to competition standard. Tara forced her opponent to pull out all the stops in the final in order to beat her. Tara also took the gold medal in her Wado category, beating two of Hon Yoso Kai's best students (who have been selected for Europeans) along the way.

Callum Whatmore did excellent kata in the open section. His biggest threat was Nathan Jay who was favourite to win the category. It would have been nice to see them both in the final but due to the draw they would meet up in the semi's . Callum had drawn red and would go up first, performing Gojushiho Sho to a good standard he had left Nathan a big hill to climb. Nathan pulled out his best kata, Chatan Yara Kushanku, a tremendous kata for any one to perform. Nathan did a good solid kata but with a few errors in stance here and there and we were left with a fifty-fifty situation. Everything really did depend on the three referee's - up went the flags, 2-1 to Callum. Onto the final, which Callum won three flags to nil and another gold medal for Tobi Ishi Kai in open competition.

Emily Davies gave terrific performances to take the gold in her individual kata, again beating the best of Wado Kai England.

On we went, more medals in other categories, the point scores were building up. We had taken the lead for best club of the day. Becky Pink won gold in both Wado and the open sections. Sian Morgan and Cerys Danks took Silver. Kyle won round after round taking two bronze medals as did our other squad members; Hannah Reid, Jess Bishop and Samantha North. Good performances from each and every one of them, gaining confidence and performance with every round. All their efforts in training were paying off. They were a joy to watch and this was turning into a memorable day.

More bronze, silver and gold in the pairs and teams, and points were adding up. We had now passed the post and we could not be caught. Tobi Ishi kai had won the trophy for best team of the day.

I would like to mention Adam Lee. This young lad put his name down for this competition having never entered before in his life. He did not get past the first round, but I admire his courage in taking part. If he continues to learn and progresses as he should, he will make a formidable competitor - well done Adam.

With only thirteen competitors taking part and a points tally of 275, almost double our nearest rival, you will understand how proud we are of this squad. This is a team effort and we have an excellent team. Well done to you all.

Our main rivals, Hon Yoso Kai, had been blown into the wind - not even in the top three, with a points tally below 50. I'm not even sure if EWF (our former Association) got onto the board with any points. When we were members they would have won the competition outright. The biggest and best delight for both myself and Justine was not the winning of this competition, which can turn on a sixpence, it was

the support that we had from the parents of our students. The team spirit was very evident (and loud), lead by cheerleaders Dawn Jammal and Jane Morgan.

Some of our students ask us why they can't go to European championships. The answer is simple but two fold. Firstly we are no longer members of the groups that hold these competitions. We left them due to political differences and have no urgent desire to re join. Secondly we are now concentrating our efforts on open competitions and having our members work towards selections for EKF National Squads. This is a much harder goal to achieve but we are not afraid of the hard work required. When students of Hon Yoso Kai tell you they are going to the Europeans and will be champions just remember this competition, they can't beat Tobi Ishi Kai at club level. How poor is the competition if they win the European Championship. Believe me, it's not worth going.

Next competition is in three weeks, it will be a toughie so let's not sit back - the more training we do, the better the results.

Thank you for reading my meandering report - almost turned into a rant but not quite.

Regards Sensei Mark

Results Mushindo British Open and Wado Champions

		Individual Wado	Individual Open	Pairs Wado	Pairs Open	Team
Callum	Whatmore	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold	Silver
Tara	Wilson	Gold	Silver	Gold	Gold	Silver
Becky	Pink	Gold	Gold			Bronze
Sian	Morgan	Silver				Bronze
Bryony	Danks	Gold	Silver			Bronze
Cerys	Danks	Silver				Bronze
Jessica	Bishop	Bronze				Bronze
Kyle	Harding	Bronze	Bronze			
Hannah	Reid	Bronze				Bronze
Samantha	North		Bronze			
Emily	Davies	Gold	Bronze			Silver
Imogen	Jammal	Silver				