

World Tang

The W.T.S.D. Goes from Strength to Strength...

The World Tang Soo Do Association held its twelfth bi-annual European Championships for which Great Britain was selected as host. This was a fitting choice as Great Britain Tang Soo Do is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and being chosen as host complements a year of reflection and celebration. The venue chosen for this championship was the historic city of Cambridge, famous for its Universities and academic history, stunning architectural scenery and beautiful surrounding countryside.

It was a great honour to welcome our Grand Master, Jae C. Shin, instructor of the famous Chuck Norris who began his martial arts training under Grand Master at Osan, Korea. The competition was preceded with a 4 day Masters and leadership seminar lead by Grand Master Jae C. Shin supported by the GB Masters; M. Khan, J. Green, C. Carter, R Zamparelli, R. Easton, D. Commins, M. Allen, T. Butcher, D. Khan, P. Wiskin and visiting Masters from: Germany: Master Trogemann, Master Kaczowski, Master Olden; Holland: Master Lamens, Master Heskes, Switzerland: Master Preiss, U.S.A: Master Mars. Country Representatives: Sweden Mr.Marcko, Italy: Mrs.Beisert, Russia: Mr.Kaytushin

This seminar covered extended training in Ki Gong, meditation,

Hyungs, and weapons training covering a range of different weapons and techniques. Grand Master Shin also focused on the teaching and learning of Tang Soo Do especially for the junior grades that he sees as the life blood and future of Tang Soo Do.

SATURDAY:

Saturday, competition day and the well oiled preparation and planning began to take effect with over 500 competitors from 12 European countries contribute to what will be an unprecedented championship where Grand Masters philosophy of brotherhood breaks down any cultural or language barriers. Competitors arrived and the gallery began to fill with spectators, the effect that raised the level of expectation and a buzz of excitement.

The opening ceremony began with the introduction of Grandmaster Jae C. Shin, and the attending Masters. There was an opportunity to see some technical demonstrations and ended with complimentary and encouraging words from Grandmaster Shin who stated that he was impressed with the growth of region 11 and was pleased to see representatives from across Europe. Celebration was also in order for those who had worked hard in developing Tang Soo Do skills, promoting and supporting the association and a level of dedication awarded to master ranks. Grand Master bestowed the honour of Master rank on Master Christian Preiss and Babak Javid from Holland. This was followed with awards for promotion to fourth Dan for Noreen Khan- G.B., Riccarda Beisert-Italy, Rosa Kaczowski- Germany.

First of the days events saw the weapons divisions with the usual high quality and demonstration of handling skill associated with hours of determined practice with some excellent dagger, bong and sword forms. The competition progressed with the introduction the junior ranks with some determined competitors all going for gold. Medals were awarded to all junior participants who did not place in the top four positions as recognition of their determination, hard work and dedication. The competition started to hot up as the senior grades began their quest for gold; some successful, some not, but the spirit of brotherhood and fair play made the day



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such an enjoyable event for all. As the final divisions were played out, the scores were being processed that would identify the successful grand champions, the highest accolade awarded to the top competitors.

This years Grand Champions 2009 were:

Adult Dan Grand Champions

Male - Les Hartt, Romford

Female - Stephanie Pratt, Huntingdon

Senior Dan Grand Champions

Male - Paul Townsley, Chipping Sodbury

Female - Rachel Woodford, Filton

Junior Dan Grand Champions

Male - Shezan Amin, Huntingdon

Female - Charlotte Tomlin, Beckton

Senior Gup Grand Champions

Male - Paul Dekker, Huntingdon

Female - Angela Jordan, Hunstanton

Adult Gup Grand Champions

Male - Gary Jarvis, Chipping Sodbury

Female - Joanne Goldhawk,

Chipping Sodbury

Junior Gup Grand Champions

Male - William Townsley, Chipping Sodbury

Female - Bo Van Denzen, Cho Wa, Holland.

A huge thank you to all our Tang Soo Do Brothers and Sisters who contributed to this years exciting and successful competition and who now begin to focus on next years World Championships in the USA. For more information please visit the Great Britain Tang Soo Do website on <http://www.gbtsda.com/index.html>

Tang Soo!

