

World Tang Soo Do European Cham



Some young champions celebrate!



The sparring was explosive!

Great Britain Tang Soo Do, once again, was chosen to host the 2001 European Championships. This prestigious event is held every two years and no other European country has ever been chosen to host this event over consecutive periods.

The 1999 Championships were held in Inverness, Scotland and the 2001 Championships were held in Wales. Wales is the headquarters of

Do Association Championships 2001

one of Great Britain's Senior Master's, Master J. Green.

To be considered to host such an event would be an honour but to be chosen to host the event back to back shows the true respect and trust that Grand Master J. C. Shin has in Master M. Khan (Chief Instructor), all the Masters and Great Britain Tang Soo Do in general.

The event started months previously for the host Master Green in all the preparations arrangements and planning that needs to take place to allow an event of this magnitude to run smoothly on the day.

On the Friday evening before the Championships all Masters and Black Belts were invited to dine with Grand Master Shin. Once again, all the arranging was done by Master Green. This allowed all Masters and Black Belts to once again meet and greet old friends and discuss previous championships, seminars, gradings etc. The night was truly a memorable evening with all 3rd dans' having attended a training clinic earlier in the week, receiving their certificates from Grand Master Shin and Master Khan. The night finished with the local Welsh Choir giving a performance to the party for almost an hour.

The Championships were held over one long, punishing and rewarding day, with 400 students and 7 countries taking part. We were honoured to have Master Washington from Australia, Master Matt Ochs from Michigan USA, Mr. Alex Goule from Mozambique, representatives outside of the European Region and their students present. These ranged from White Belt through to 3rd dan

Grandmaster Shin presents two students with their winning trophies...



Grandmaster Shin congratulates a winning student



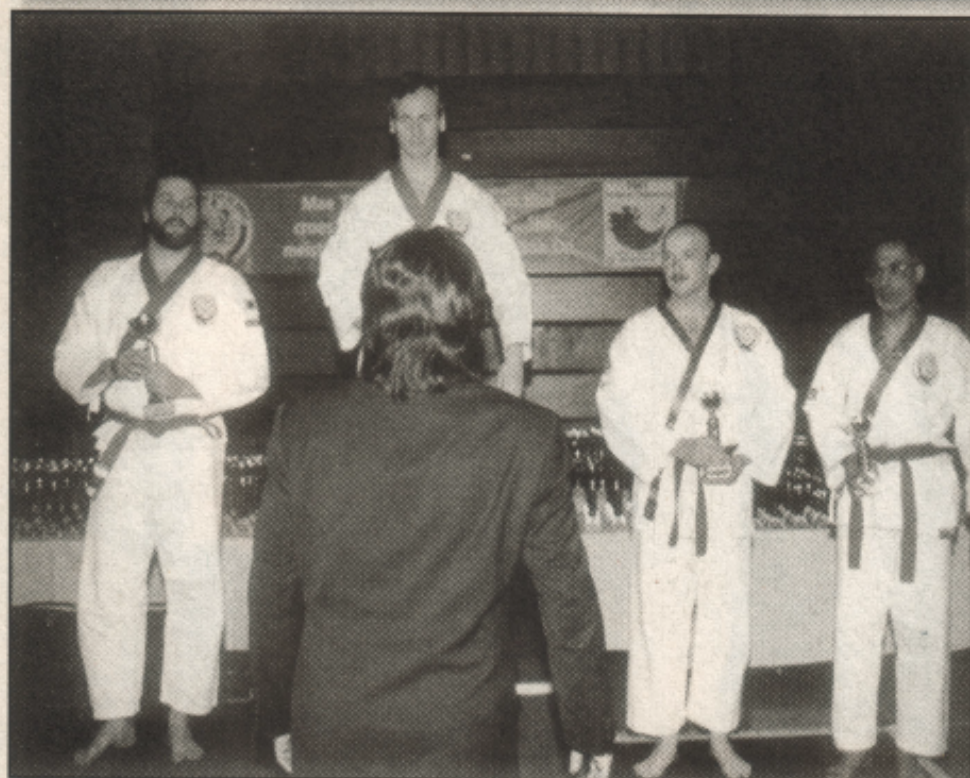
Black Belt and were aged between 6 and 50 plus years. All students had but one goal to become European Champion. However, just being picked to represent your country is more than an honour and this could be seen with both a sense of pride and nervousness on all students.

The competition was split into three categories the first was the weapons division which ranged from long staff, knife and sword. This allowed all spectators and lower ranking students to watch a truly remarkable display from the elite divisions. This was followed by the forms category which allowed each student, whatever grade, to choose between either their highest form or the one below. Once again the determination and concentration between all students was something special and allowed all spectators to see the progression of difficulty in the forms as they watched lower grade belts through to 3rd dan Black Belt all showing true Tang Soo Do spirit.

During these events was the Creativity Division which allowed each country to enter a team. This Division had to show creative Martial Arts and this could be anything from a display to a complete storyline involving any aspect. The professional manner in which the teams performed showed with a considerable time spent in the practising months leading up to the Championships. This was clearly visible with costumes, timing and storylines. However, at the end there could only be one winner and this went to Great Britain under the guidance of Mr. M. Allen (Bedford) and Mr. D. Comins (Derbyshire).

The last event of the day and probably the most eagerly awaited was the free sparring. The rules for this event are within a two minute duration with the winner either achieving the highest amount of points within the time or the first to receive three points. As always a remarkable display allowing all students, spectators and families to cheer on their favourite to win.

At the end of the day the comradeship between all students was once again there to be seen, with joy and laughter which will only ever be found in Tang Soo Do.



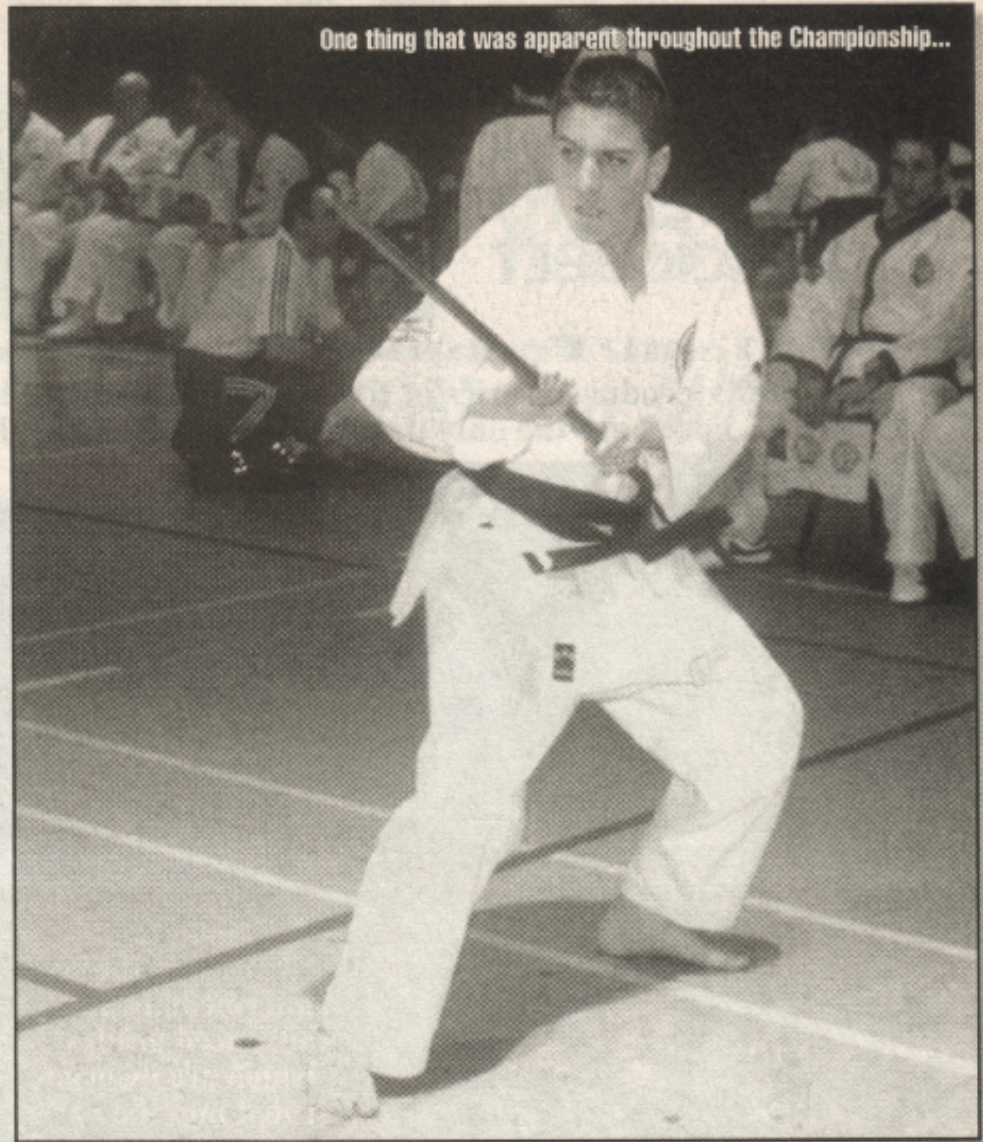
Finally, the Grand Champions were introduced. To win this most prestigious trophy you must achieve the highest number of points throughout the day. Both male and female divisions were awarded to Great Britain (what an end to the day)! Male Division Mr. M. Allen (Bradford), Female Division Miss Paula Adrian-Rhodes (London). The look of pride on Master Khan's face said it all.

Once again, Grand Master Shin spent most of the day greeting and meeting students both new and old, spending time signing trophies and photographs, for all students to remember this remarkable day.

§This was a truly memorable day for Great Britain Tang Soo Do and Master Khan but most importantly for all students who entered. The friendship and comradeship shown throughout the day can only be found in Tang Soo Do, once again this is all due to our Grand Master JC Shin and all Masters throughout the world.

Thanks must go out to Master J. Green for hosting and all the preparation that went into the event along with Master Khan.

For any enquiries regarding Tang Soo Do telephone Master M. Khan on 01480 451 621



...was that the spirit of Tang Soo Do shone through every event!

