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KOREAN ART OF SELF DEFENCE



2007 British Open Championship

The 2007 British Open Championship began on a crisp winter morning on Saturday the 17th November at the Latchmere Leisure Centre in Battersea, London. Following some creative troubleshooting in response to some standing metal bars that could not be removed from near the edge of the competition area, the proceedings moved on very efficiently to make for an enjoyable and exciting day for competitors and audience alike.

The day began with Master Choy VIII Degree welcoming the competitors and audience, and thanking the people who had contributed to making the day a great success by providing their assistance. Forty competitors from abroad took part in the championship, including a strong contingent from Malaga in Spain that added to the vibrant atmosphere of the day, who had friends and family present to cheer on their team and who, by the end of the day, had won a number of medals between them.

After Master Choy's words to prepare the competitors for the day's activities, 1st Dans recently promoted to Black Belts were presented with their new belts, certificates, ties and lapel badges and were given the opportunity to thank and be congratulated by Master Choy VIII, Master Au VIII and Master Sangha VII and Master Manning VII, their Instructors and other senior Black Belts personally. Nine Black Belts who had qualified earlier this year as BUTF Instructors, showing the fruits of their thorough preparation with their knowledge and performance in Patterns, Step Sparring, Destruction and verbal commands, were then presented with ornate certificates and BUTF ties that acknowledged their newly gained Instructor status within the Federation.

The competition started with the colour belt patterns in six rings, with juniors and adults alike displaying their grasp of Taekwon-do techniques by giving their best performance. This was followed by sparring, to much excitement amongst competitors and audience alike. Recently qualified 1st Dans had the opportunity to put into practice what they had learnt at the Umpire's Course earlier in the year by assisting in the judging of the patterns and sparring. Competitors from many BUTF clubs won medals for their efforts, with competitors from Spain and Ireland also being congratulated on the podium for their achievements.

As the colour belt events wound down the Black Belts took the role of competitors and demonstrated the possibilities of Taekwon-do with their patterns. The senior Black Belts, including Mr. Keith Whitley VI and Mr. Alan S. Liu V, demonstrated their great knowledge and outstanding abilities.

The Black Belt sparring stirred up the atmosphere, with closely fought matches seen in both male and female divisions. The competitors from abroad contributed to the level of skill in



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Taekwon-do demonstrated in the matches. Although there were a few minor injuries sustained in the sparring, an atmosphere of good sportsmanship and courtesy prevailed.

During the male Black Belt Destruction event, the special technique of flying high side kick caused considerable excitement amongst all spectators, with Mr. Harold Tackie III and Mr. Luke Spear I vying to break the board without touching the floor with their hands on landing with the latter finally succeeding to much applause at a final height of 1.92cm., a no mean feat.

Following the final presentations, that of the six suitably impressive trophies to well deserved recipients, the closure of proceedings witnessed, on leaving the competition venue, friendly goodbyes exchanged between members of BUTF clubs and the Spanish club before each headed home with thoughts of the successful, enjoyable day and plenty of inspiration to work towards future goals.

Report courtesy of:

Ms. Asako Yokoya I Dan
Clapham TKD School

Photographs courtesy of:

Mr. Nicholas Sheehan V Dan
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**PLEASE REFER TO RESULTS SHEET AND
'IMAGES OF 2007 THE BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS'**



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