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KOREAN ART OF SELF DEFENCE



**2008 B.U.T.F. CUP**  
**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**  
**Hertfordshire University Sports Village**

Official's, Black Belts and Competitors arrived promptly at 9:00 to help set up the hall for only the 2<sup>nd</sup> 'BUTF Cup' competition in it's twenty years. Attending a competition for the first time as black belts our day started off briskly when after being allocated tasks, we joined in the frantic activity with Instructors and other Black Belts in pressing on with preparing the eight performance areas to ensure that everything was ready for the punctual 10:00 am start that everyone expected.

Proceedings started on schedule with Grandmaster Choy presenting Black Belt certificates and belts for those newly promoted. A first for the BUTF was the promotion of Mr. Christopher Michael to the grade of honorary 4<sup>th</sup> Dan for services rendered over the last 20 years to the BUTF. Another first was the promotion of Ms Christina Joannou to 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan thereby achieving what no other adult female had been able to achieve in the history of the BUTF's twenty years.

Grandmaster Choy then gave a briefing of the tournament rules and regulations along with what was expected from competitors, the audience and Black Belts who would be refereeing and judging. He also mentioned that the BUTF had raised commemorative 'one off' medals to mark the BUTF's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The tournament began with the red, blue, green, yellow, white belts performing their patterns with many of these divisions having over 20 competitors providing stiff competition in all categories.

There was a smooth transition, almost unnoticed, from the pattern contest to the coloured belt sparring. Coloured belt bouts of note were the blue and red belt light and middle weight division that was eventually won by Lucian Manning from Harrow School.

Many of the newly made up black belts competed for the first time in their new respective division for patterns and sparring and gave a good account of themselves. Raheem Willoughby from Chesham, newly promoted to Black Belt gained bronze in the 1<sup>st</sup> Dan patterns beating more established 1<sup>st</sup> Dans.

We experienced black belt competition sparring for the first as adults in the combined welter and light weight division and had a rude awakening by being knocked out in the first round having to deal with a level of sparring vastly different from what we had been used to as coloured belts. This relatively large division was eventually won by Rakesh Sudra from Croydon School.



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Inaugurated 1<sup>st</sup> March 1988 The Lunar Year Of The Dragon



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We were astounded by the amount of work that had gone on to ensure that the competition ran smoothly, and the experience and skill required so as to ensure fair and unbiased judging throughout the day.

It was an enjoyable day for all and our only disappointment was that we went home without a commemorative medal to remember the day by.

**Report: Courtesy of twin brothers Troy & Scott Smart 'IL' Dan**  
**Photographs: Courtesy of Mr. Alan Liu 'Yuk' Dan**



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