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KOREAN ART OF SELF DEFENCE



REPORT

2008 British Open Championship

At 8am on a quiet Saturday morning on 15th November 2008, preparation for the annual BUTF open Championship was well underway. Hundreds of Black belts running around, creating an arena for the monumental day of Martial Arts that was about to follow.

And who better to start the day than the newly promoted GRAND MASTER CHOY IX DAN. A full recognition of the efforts from all within the B.U.T.F. was extended to recognize such a lifetime achievement. The introduction from Grand Master Choy thanked all the efforts going into the Championship and gave a warm welcome to spectators and competitors alike.

Following the introduction, the award ceremony for newly promoted Dan grades got underway. 1st Dans were marking years of hard work in reaching a tremendous goal whilst higher promotions were recognizing further mileposts in their Taekwondo journey.

In 1988 a new federation within the ITF was born and to commemorate the 20 year anniversary of the BUTF, the demonstration team led by Mr. Keith Whitley VI degree was called to action. A fantastic display involving uniform patterns, self defense and creative step sparring along with a mass of broken boards and bricks impressed beginners and experts alike.

So onto the Championship itself, we start as always with the coloured belt patterns and some impressive displays from the word go, with only high scores reaching the medal positions. Following the patterns, the competitors got padded up and began the sparring. As always, there were some fierce face offs and the non-BUTF members began to step up to the mark, taking 7 medals from the hosts.

The final event for the coloured belts is the breaking. Each division has a foot and hand technique and the winner will have to break more boards, from further away or higher up than their fellow competitors.



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Inaugurated 1st March 1988 The Lunar Year Of The Dragon



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Once the coloured belts have completed their events the black belts put on their doboks and took the centre stage. Some of our most gifted practitioners in full flow showing their skills in full competition. A Notable Gold medal in the patterns went to Mr. Davion Cheng IV DAN in the 4th, 5th and 6th DAN patterns. The sparring saw some real battles with top spots going to Michael Smalley from Croydon in the Welter Weight and Marek Stryszak from Staines in the Heavy Weight division. Finally came the breaking, Firstly the hand and foot techniques and then the highlight of the day, the special technique a jumping reverse turning kick at 6ft 10in high. Plenty of near misses and even breaks that were denied for technique faults saw the demise of most. And then as if scripted there were two remaining, Marek Stryszak and Andrew Ngo. The bar was raised and with one permitted attempt each Andrew took the gold with an incredible break.

With the crowd and competitors truly exhausted and exhilarated, there left only 1 further formality, the presentation of the overall best performers in each division, going to those that accrued the most gold medals throughout the day. Many thank you's and friendly goodbyes brought another fantastic BUTF Open Championship to a close.

Report courtesy of:

Mr. Alistair Hewson I (iL) Dan
Clapham TKD School

Photographs courtesy of:

Mr. Nicholas Sheehan V Dan
Instructor Hatfield & St. Albans TKD School

**PLEASE REFER TO RESULTS SHEET AND
'IMAGES OF 2008 THE BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS'
&
'BLACK BELT PRESENTATIONS'**



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