

TISKA National Black Belt Championship

Sunday 23rd April 2023



University of Hertfordshire, De Havilland Campus, Hatfield, AL10 9EU

With the last Black Belt Championship being held in 2019 this was a much-anticipated event that our Students, Spectators and Sensei were attending. An early start was needed with a 300-mile round trip in front of most.

On arrival the students set up their own little area to prepare themselves for the events to come, and over the last few weeks the camaraderie that had grown through the Championship Training was firm as the nervous excitement grew leading up to the first event.



Our supporters' words of encouragement and thumbs up from the stand helped keep the nerves under control along with the calming words from Sensei.



As the time approached 09:00 and the arena filled, the time had arrived, and students were being called into the 'Sorting Room'. Sensei taking up his position on Mat 4 as an adjudicator as the competition began.

The 2023 Championship had begun!

Individual Kata

On Mat 6, Miss Cain was our first student to compete and after having to watch all other karateka in her group, gave a perfect performance and a well-deserved 1st position with Ji'in.



On Mat 5, Miss Tyers competing for the first time in over 13 years performed Meikyo showing her group and the judges that she continues to be a force to be reckoned with finishing in 3rd.



Mat 2 saw Mr Noseley also take 3rd position with his cool and collected performance of Sochin.



Mr Jordan on Mat 3 with Jitte, Mr Ashby on Mat 4 with Enpi and Mrs Jordan on Mat 5 with Meikyo were all in higher graded groups competing against Yondan's (4 Degree Black Belts) but should be very pleased with their performances, especially, Mr Ashby who narrowly missed out on a placing.



Team Kata

After a brilliant start to the day, and a catch up with 3CSKC / Worksop 'Cheering Team' students were called back into the 'Sorting Room'. Trying to remember their elation from the Individual Kata and not letting the nerves takeover again, they took solace in their mutual understanding of being on the Mat together this time.

Both teams ready to showcase Ji'in the Ladies were led to Mat 4 and the Men to Mat 6. Miss Tyers, Mrs Jordan and Miss Cain watched as their competitors competed, and having scored with the same highest score as a previous team, both teams had to anxiously repeat their kata, the Ladies then taking 1st.



Sensei is always watching!

Mr Ashby, Mr Noseley and Mr Jordan were up against a very strong group and unfortunately didn't place but enjoyed their group experience.



Individual Kumite

Now the Team events had been completed our students were once again on their own. Strangely though there was a different atmosphere in the 'Sorting Room' this time. Whether this was down to the unknown anticipation of kumite or just seeing what were now becoming familiar faces from the other TISKA Clubs, there was a more of a feeling of belonging to the wider TISKA Community.

Miss Cain was led out to Mat 4 and Mr Ashby to Mat 3, both sparring against experienced opponents but holding their own extremely well.

Mat 5 and Mat 3 saw Mrs Jordan and Mr Jordan respectively. Both winning their first kumite bout and watching to see who they'd be paired against next. Mrs Jordan was up first going one point down but did gain a point back before finishing in 3rd. Mr Jordan's final kumite bout showed him in a great defensive position losing to the eventual winner.



It's days like Sunday when the true TISKA spirit is realised and when the 3 Counties Shotokan Karate Club and Worksop Shotokan Karate Club are shown as the family clubs they are.

Thank you to all Students who represented our Clubs and the invaluable support of our Spectators who made the long journey down to Hatfield.

Oss Sensei