



Most of you will be aware that we attended the ITF World Taekwon-do Championships in Birmingham. See their website www.itfworldchampionships.com

The Fight Club run by Mr England and Mr Fendt had six students taking part in the sparring at the World Championships: Luke Hall, Lea Fendt, Fran Lane, Ben England, Carly Jones and Darcy Hall, one taking part in the Veterans Championship: Ian Fendt and two taking part in the World Kup competition: Jason Rogers and Jack England.

This tournament was attended by countries from all over the world including: England, Southern Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France, Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Croatia, Ukraine, Russia, Japan, Korea, Australia, USA, Canada, Nepal, Argentina, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and many more a total of 47 countries were represented (see website).



It was a fantastic atmosphere especially on finals day on Sunday. The Competition was held in the NIA Birmingham and was featured on the news on BBC Midlands today, Sky channel 979.

We did not enter the patterns competition because we do not do signwave style patterns, although judging by Grand Master Choi Jung Hwa's comments signwave is still evolving and he expects them to speed it up and use some hip twist, which will make it more accessible to us! As for the sparring, each World Championship match comprised of two 2 minute rounds split by a one minute half time break. The World Kup and Veterans Competitions comprised one two minute round.

For those of you who are interested in the GTI Fight Club's students, here is a run down for you:

Wednesday was Junior sparring:

Ben England fought well and won his first round against USA. He used his ringcraft and had trained hard to improve his fitness, which clearly showed on the mats. Ben then had to face an Irish competitor, he had fought this student three years ago in Ireland at the Cork Open and had beaten him. It was clear this student wanted to make amends for their last meeting and on this occasion he just proved too strong for Ben.



Darcy Hall had a mammoth battle brining her opponent to a draw 3 times! She had fought for 4 minutes and drawn, then had to fight again and again eventually the decision went the other way, but no one can criticise her efforts and she fought longer than some people who got to the second or third rounds! Darcy did not drop her guard **at all** even when kicking, her fitness was excellent and her ringcraft brilliant. The only way they could decide the fight was to go to next point wins, it seems that Darcy's opponent hit harder and therefore her score was more easily recognised by three of the corners. Darcy is young and this is a great experience for her we hope she realises how well she has done and goes on to greater things!



Thursday was Senior sparring:

Lea Fendt faced an Irish woman in her first round and won, her second fight was against a Japanese woman and she was losing at half time, but used her brain and figured out how to score and win that round too. Lea went on to beat an English woman and then a Scottish woman. She used her guard, ringcraft and fitness to her advantage. Lea has been training very hard at club, at Cheltenham with Mr Bhadeshia and going out running. Her hard work had paid off as she was now in the finals on Sunday to face an Australian.

Fran Lane won her first round, she fought well and used her ringcraft and skills to her advantage. In the second round she again fought and moved well, but a smaller opponent had a speed advantage and despite Fran battling on to the end she was beaten.



Carly Jones is not able to attend Fight Club and therefore had to organise her own training and entry into the World Championships. She did well at her tryouts, but unfortunately was knocked out in the first round of the heats.

Luke Hall used good ringcraft and had great success, beating a competitor from Nepal in the first round. His second round was against a competitor from Korea and he won this also. He was finally beaten by a fellow competitor from Team UK and earned a Bronze medal.



Friday was the Team events including some fantastic team patterns from Team Japan and Team Argentina, it really was the team events that added to such a wonderful atmosphere.

Saturday was the World Kup event:

Jack England fought really well in his first fight, driving forwards and using his side kick, winning his first round. His second fight went to his more experienced opponent and he came home with a Silver World Kup medal.

Jason Rogers who also entered the World Kup was fortunate enough to secure a Bronze medal.

Saturday evening was the Veterans World Championship:

Ian Fendt the GTI Fight Club coach entered the Veterans World Championships. He had spent the entire day (and most of the week) Umpiring, and did not fight till 8:30pm. His first fight was against a senior Team UK competitor and he used his ringcraft to his advantage clearly beating his first opponent. Time was against us so after bowing off it was straight onto the neighbouring mat to face the Croatian coach. This was a closer fight, but Ian won out. After only a minute rest and in his third round Ian faced another English fighter this was a clear victory for Ian who got in and got his points early on and then defended and kept away. In the final after yet another one minute rest, Ian had to face the Netherlands coach, he was a tough competitor and it went right down to the wire, Ian had to use his brain to win this battle as his fitness had been pushed to the limits! He was successful and got the Gold medal.



Mr Fendt and some of the Veterans

Sunday was Finals day:

It was a long wait until four pm when Lea finally got to fight on the centre stage at the NIA. A raised stage, laser display, musical intro and spotlights didn't seem to phase her! It was a blisteringly paced fight with Lea behind in the first half. She came back after the break and got herself back to only one point behind, unfortunately it was not to be and the time ran out. Lea got a Silver medal at the World Championships, which isn't a bad achievement in anybody's books.



Forbes England paid to take the ITF Umpire's course in March and as a qualified Umpire was selected to officiate at the World Championships as an Umpire and as a centre referee in the World Kup working from 9am until 9pm each day, with barely a break for a drink of water! All the officials worked very hard to ensure that this event could run as smoothly as it did.



It was a great tournament and atmosphere, I saw the boys Team Canada beat the USA, which pleased the Canadians, and Team Argentina had to fight Team Ireland, which really got the crowd going; it was hard not to enjoy it.

The event was presided over by General Choi's son, **Grandmaster Choi Jung Hwa 9th Degree**.



Fight Club would like to thank all the Instructors and the student who donated money for the very expensive kit and equipment needed in order to compete, a total of £325 was received.

A special thank you must go to **Master Harrison** who attended every day of the Championship and dealt with all the politics so that the GTI competitors and coaches could focus on the task at hand.



Best wishes,

Mrs Fendt

GTI Swindon Taekwon-Do