

TISKA National KYU Grade Championship



Sunday 5th November 2023

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

This was the second Kyu Grade Championships since the Covid lockdown, and it turned out to be a very busy one. The day was broken into two with White to Green belts in the morning and Purple to Brown and Black Stripe belts in the afternoon.

As the time approached 09:00 the first half of the day was about to commence and with our students having found a small area to base themselves to practice, they were ready and raring to go.

Students from both 3 Counties Shotokan Katate Club and Worksop Shotokan Katate Club were ready and prepared thank you to Sensei Tyers and Sensei Jordan who had put on additional training over the last fews weeks, focusing on the events that would make up the Kyu Grade Championships 2023.

Before the doors opened all helpers were allocated there roles for the day with Sensei Tyers taking up position as Judge on Mat 7 for Kata and moving to Mat 4 for Kumite and Sensei Jordan supporting on Mat 3.



The 2023 Championship had begun!

Morning Session – White to Green Belts

Individual Kata

Green Belts were up first to show the way forward. They were called into the sorting area to be put into the relevant categories before being marched out to their respective Mats.

Mr Mander (junior) was on Mat 8 with a large group of Karateka. He showed a high level of concentration, with long strong stances throughout, seeing him win three times in a row before competing in the final. During the final he maintained his focus and all three judge's flags showed him the winner; him achieving first place overall.



On Mat 6 Mrs Cook showed a great performance with her Kata achieving 3rd place on the podium.



Mat 4 saw Miss Busby and Miss Horrobin. Both put in great Katas but in a large and strong group of Karateka were unfortunately not placed.



Next called to the sorting room were all belts up to Yellow where again our students were sorted into their relevant categories.

Miss Yates was on Mat 5 and put in a clean and strong performance to achieve 2nd place.



Mr Donohoe was on Mat 4 showed strong spirit also achieving 2nd place.



Mr Goldsmith was in a strong competitive group and unfortunately did not place despite putting in a strong performance that split the Judges.



Team Kata

After a brilliant start to the day and a catch up with the supporters next came the mornings Team Kata events.

Two teams were taking part in the Team Kata for the Green Belts and below.

Miss Busby, Miss Horrobin and Mr Mander (junior) were led to Mat 3 where they showcased Heian Shodan. Despite scoring high they finished in 4th place just below third position which would have seen them on the podium. An amazing performance which they should all be proud of.



Mr Donohoe, Mr Goldsmith and Miss Yates waited for their turn to present their kata 'Taikyoku Shodan' on Mat 5. Another inspiring performance and scoring enough to also put them in 4th place. They were up against a very strong group and unfortunately didn't place but enjoyed their group experience.

Mrs Cook took the opportunity to support another clubs team who were missing a member on Mat 1, they were not placed despite a good performance and without ever having practiced together!

Kumite

The time had now come for the Green belts to prepare and be sorted for Kumite.

Miss Horrobin and Mr Mander (junior) both made their way to the sorting room with a focused calm in readiness for the sparring to come. They should both be very proud of their performances.

Miss Horrobin was led out to Mat 8 and was first up to spa against a strong opponent. Miss Horrobin took the first point putting her in the lead. Her opponent though managed to come back and take the bout however thanks to Miss Horrobin's determination she achieved 3rd place which was a great achievement in a strong group.



Mat 5 saw Mr Mander (junior) take his first bout with a calm and focused performance. He quickly went up a point on his second bout, however his opponent came back with a couple of fortunate points.

Afternoon Session – Purple to Brown-Black Stripe Belts

It was evident from the beginning that the standard across the board was high with the additional challenge of all Mats having large groups in this busy 2023 Championship.

Individual Kata

All Purple Belts were called to the sorting room to be put into their category before being led out to the Mats to present their individual Katas to the judges.

Up first was Mr Milkhu on Mat 2 who was in a huge group. He was asked to perform Taikyoku Shodan and Heian Shodan 4 times winning all of them before being placed in the final. He put in a consistently solid performance with great stances and showing strong spirit throughout which led him to 1st place.



Next up was Miss Waddington on Mat 4 and Mr Waddington on Mat 6. Both performed extremely well with both just missing out on 3rd place. They should be very proud of their achievements.



Miss Tyers was led to Mat 1 in yet another large group of Karateka where she was asked to perform Heian Shodan. She remained focused before and during her performance, delivering a strong and spirited Kata against a strong opponent who went on to win the group. Miss Tyers just missing out on being placed and should be very proud of her achievement.



Mr Mander (senior) was led to Mat 6 putting in a consistently clean Heian Shodan again showing strong stances and great spirit. He had to compete 4 times, winning each round before eventually taking 1st place.



Next up our Brown belts were called to the sorting room to prepare for their individual Katas.

Miss D Milkhu and Miss T Milkhu were both led out in the same category to Mat 4. They both performed Heian Shodan against strong competitors, however remaining focused and showing great determination, they both secured their first win in the group. In their next round they were unfortunately up against each other with little to separate them, but with the judges having to make a decision, Miss T Milkhu achieved 2nd place and Miss D Milkhu achieved 3rd place.



Team Kata

The next event was Team Kata for which we had three teams entries.

Purple belts were up first with Miss Tyers, Miss Waddington and Mr Waddington competing on Mat 5 with Heian Shodan and Mr Busby, Mrs Cook (stepping in to support the purple belt team) and Mr Mander also showcasing Heian Shodan on Mat 7. Both teams performed very well and should be proud of narrowly missing out on being placed. A great effort.

Brown belts were next called to the sorting room with our last team being led to Mat 3 where they were to perform Heian Nidan. Miss D Milkhu, Miss T Milkhu and Mr Milkhu (having to step up from a purple belt to compete in the brown belt category) sat patiently next to the mat in anticipation of performing their practiced Kata. When eventually called they performed a fantastic Kata which was strong and amazingly synchronised seeing them easily into 2nd place and narrowly missing out on 1st.



Kumite

With the day drawing and the final event fast approaching, all Karateka undertaking Kumite were called to the sorting room. Positive nerves and an air of excitement could be felt across the hall as the competitors were led to their respective mats.

First up was Miss Waddington on Mat 1 against a very strong and fast opponent. Miss Waddington held her own being placed 3rd in a very strong group.



Next on Mat 8 was Miss Tyers in a large and experienced group. Miss Tyers moved well and countered on multiple occasions, just missing out on scoring, and being placed.

Back to Mat 1 Mr Waddington was in a large group. He was focused taking the first point and pushing hard to score again. Despite a determined performance he was not placed but should be proud of his achievement.

Next up were the seniors with Mr Busby and Mr Mander both competing on Mat 3. Yet again a strong group with both of them securing a win in their first bout and both securing joint 3rd position.



“Hitotsu! Doryoku No Seishin O Yashinau Koto!”

(One! To Foster The Spirit Of Effort!)

Today truly showed the ‘3 Counties Shotokan Karate Club’ and ‘Worksop Shotokan Karate Club’ Student’s spirit and effort!

All Students who competed should be very proud, as we are, of their amazing achievements whether they were placed or not. Taking part alone takes true spirit and strength. Supporting your clubs and each other shows the camaraderie that is fundamental to our family focused clubs.

Thank you to all Students who represented our Clubs and the invaluable support of our Spectators who made the long journey down to Hatfield. A long, exhausting but ultimately satisfying day.

Well done to all!

Oss Sensei