



ITF World Championships Korea July 2010

FULL VERSION

Competitors: Mr Sam Brown, Mr Peter Yip, Mr Luke Yip, Miss Leanne Evans, Miss Jessica Ransley, Mr Connor McCormack, Miss Katherine Stonehouse & Miss Emma Stonehouse.

Supporters: Paul Ransley, Lesley, Geoff & Nicholas Stonehouse

Video and photos will be posted shortly. This is the long report. Peter has already posted short snippets on Facebook, so that you could all share events as they happened.

Hogan's baker's dozen, led by Master Hogan, arrived as part of the first segment of the England team on Tuesday night. They settled into the accommodation and ate locally that first night.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday followed a similar pattern training for a couple of hours - in the heat and rain - and then amusing ourselves - either in town which is a short cab ride away or in the hotel gym/swimming pool. Dinner together as a group became the norm, with everyone trying the Korean cuisine... some with more enthusiasm than others! Finding something we would all eat and keeping track of young Nicholas became something of a bonding exercise.

Saturday broke the pattern and kicked us all into a higher gear when we had to be up early ready in doboks for registration and signing in. Everyone in our group made their weight categories just fine - thanks to some last minute extra training. I did hear one person in the hotel lift discussing how he even had to take his boxers off to get in his desired category - but he wasn't one of ours!

We had a couple of hours free and were then bussed off to the University gym, where the events are being held, for the opening ceremony. There were three awesome demonstrations by several martial arts groups some Korean music, singing (with some scary video of the accidents, tears and triumphs of the last few days of the WTF event - including shots of people being stretchered off!), dancing and several, mercifully short, speeches. Meeting up for dinner after that the kids were fired up and ready to get going.



Sunday - Day 1 of the competition and it is patterns.

That's Sam, Leanne and Luke. Or that was the organisers' plan. It didn't quite work out that way with only one of the three rings available.

There seemed to be an endless number of Junior Male Patterns 1st & 2nd Degree - over 40 anyway, but sadly although excellent, **Luke** went out on the tie break third pattern to an opponent from Japan in the first round. But there's more to come from him...

England did get a Silver in that competition eventually. In fact, we got quite a few medals and so did the noisy USA team; but we only got through the junior men, junior girls and senior women categories (where we got loads of medals - obviously we breed tough old birds.) An 8.30 finish and then a quick meal at...wait for it... *Tesco's*. Then bed. So Leanne and Sam will join Jess, Kas, Em & Connor on Tues.

MONDAY - Sparring & Patterns

Well the competition was way behind but we caught up a bit by adding a 4th ring. **Sam** was first up but was really disappointed when he went on autopilot in the easy designated pattern Do San and turned the wrong way. So he went out to a Scot.

We thought we had a while to wait but they called the junior female sparring and soon got to **Emma**. She got a bye in the first round and then went out to a tall blonde Irish lass Shannon, who'd already taken out one of the three England contestants - the third took *her* to the cleaners and went on to win gold.

So **Katherine** was up next in the junior welterweight group which was huge and went on for about 2 hours. Unfortunately, a tall red-head from Sweden wasn't about to let Katherine get past the winning post. So that was that. The Stonehouses were all now spectators and enthusiastic supporters.

Leanne meanwhile got through three rounds of patterns (adult female), but was stopped by some evil opponent just before making the medals.

The junior females sparring continued slowly but was stopped before the hyperweights much to Jess's frustration as she now really wanted to kick someone around a ring.

Connor's category started but his half of the pool didn't see any action before 7pm when the medal ceremony started.

So in theory Jess, Connor, Leanne, Pete and Sam should be on tomorrow. Hmm...



Tuesday - Sparring

An exciting day. England appeared to be doing really well in the junior male sparring.

Connor fought valiantly in the Welterweight division but had one of those annoying fast and talented Argentinians in opposition, so he joined the supporters.

Jess was in the smaller, junior female hyperweight category and got a bye into the second round, where she abandoned her usual style and exchanged close up punches with a larger girl from Canada. So she became the fourth teenager to lose their fights. Still Jess takes away a bronze medal and they've all gained valuable experience.

At the end of the day, **Leanne's** adult female hyperweights came on and from the draw Leanne got a *huge*, older Aussie who just didn't move. This was easy for Leanne and she scored all the points.

We saw all the first round of that group, but Leanne didn't come up again until the next morning. We could see only the Argentinian and the other English girl would be any kind of challenge...

Buffet at hotel then bed, exhausted.

Wednesday - Sparring - Female & Male

Coaches leaving at 8. Leanne was first up to fight, but at breakfast she said her knee was giving her some gip.

The Spaniard just wasn't good enough to halt Leanne's indomitable spirit. But in her next fight, her knee went about 20 seconds in and she just had to concede to the other English girl - who went on to take Gold, beating the Argentinian in the final.

Pete then came into contact with a Senior Male Hyperweight from Scotland who was, as they always are, so much taller. It was a good fight, which Peter led right up until the last 30 seconds of the 2nd round.

Individual Special Technique was going on off to one side and **Leanne** got a Bronze for hitting a board even with only one fully functioning leg.

But the absolute highlight of the week was seeing **Mr Sam Brown** move through 4 fights against serious competitors from Japan, Russia, Ireland and Germany to become the **Senior Male Heavyweight World Champion**. It's worth watching the videos once they go up, the tension was amazing. Every match we were shouting ourselves hoarse as



he left it until the last half of the second round to clinch victory. I'd never seen Sam fight and was fascinated to see how fast he was at dodging. There were times I know Sam was giving Master H. palpitations by leaving his sprint finish so late but his fitness made a difference. By the last fight, Master H. was up with the other masters, quite calm and in control... there are some photos that Katherine took which show his mood change.

We did visit the bar that night!

Thursday - Team events & Finals

Jess got her second bronze today - team power and **Luke** got a bronze in team patterns and a stunning Silver in team sparring (again, I think the video indicates why this was stunning). Luke was on fire. He saved the team once and we all thought he'd won again...

He was being fast and spinny to great effect and this was definitely the best performance I've ever seen from him in all the competitions we've attended. Well done Luke! Pete was very proud.

Friday - Home

England did very well in the final medal tally but so did Argentina & the USA. We were fiercely competitive and very noisy.

Memories

- The sheer noise - horns, shouting & singing
- Long days
- Chillies in everything
- Tension and tears
- Wed - lots of injuries and stretchers
- Tactical team sparring - very exciting
- On television on the final day



Medal Table

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Competitor	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Jessica Ransley	-	-	2 - Sparring & Team Power
Leanne Evans	-	-	2 - Sparring & Special Technique
Luke Yip	-	1 (Team Sparring)	2 - Sparring & Team Patterns
Sam Brown	1 - Sparring	-	-

Thanks to all involved. We saw a lot of people working very hard to pull this together
Thank you all. We'll remember this for many years.

Lesley

