



Going For Glory in Guildford!

Rumours of broken noses, a dislocated jaw and other wounds; this year's London Open was probably one of the more notable competitions I've been to. However Hogan's Institute of Taekwon-Do proudly came away with 20 medals, four of which were gold.

Arriving nice and early, bagging good front row seats and checking at least 8 times whether or not a certain black belt had his dobok, our 16 competitors were ready to go.

Under 13 patterns kicked off the competition with Jake Yeadon (red belt), Nicholas Stonehouse (green tag) and Ethan Yip (1st Dan black belt) all up in their categories. Ethan initially got a bye in his first round, but unfortunately lost his second round, however he did come off with a bronze medal. Sadly Nicholas and Jake both lost their rounds and didn't make the medals here.

Next up were the 13 - 17 coloured belts where Thomas Lutley, Aiden Yip, Emma Stonehouse and me (Katherine Stonehouse) were all up in our respective groups. Emma, Aiden and Tom had all just turned 13 so were in the older category for the first time. Emma performed the first of half of her pattern very well but then forgot the second half. Aiden and Thomas also performed valiantly but lost their rounds. I won three rounds to get to the final, and came away with a silver medal. Luke Yip, after waiting for half the day, finally got to compete in his Black Belt patterns and performed his patterns very well but sadly lost.

Leanne Evans competed in the adults patterns this year for the first time, performed excellently in her first round but lost in the second and came away without a patterns medal this time; James Davis was also meant to compete but missed it due to the fact that he got lost twice trying to find Guildford Spectrum. Geoff Stonehouse represented the veterans coloured belts for the team for the first time and came away with bronze medal, much to everyone's surprise, after losing to a green belt. John Vernazza also brought back a bronze medal in patterns for the team.

The sparring also kicked off with the under 13s, and Ethan was first up and produced some amazing kicks, winning his way through two exciting bouts; however he forfeited the final - having been put into a larger category - and came back with a silver medal. Jake also won his first fight, with some very impressive techniques but lost his second fight and came away with a bronze medal. Nicholas fought well in his first ever competitive fight and won and then very bravely continued through his second match and came away with a bronze medal.



Aiden and Thomas, both in 13 - 17, fought extremely well considering they were both the smallest in their group. Aiden won his first fight against a much taller boy but then lost his second and came away with a bronze, and Thomas lost his first fight but got quite a few good kicks and punches on his opponent. Emma ended up in the same weight group as me; however during her fight she got hit hard and decided to call it a day, eliminating any chance of fighting against me - much to my disappointment! I was then up to fight and lost but came away with a bronze medal.

James Davis and Leanne went up next to fight and both came away with well-deserved gold medals; James won both his fights with some amazing kicking, and Leanne managed to very successfully floor her first opponent after only 7 seconds, causing her opponent to leave with a neck brace! She also won her second fight but with much less drama.

Geoff won a bronze medal, again much to our surprise, as he lost to a blue belt; however he did get some very good punches to the head of his opponent. Bruno Malpart fought very well for his first competition, but came away without a medal this time and Paul Groome won his first fight and lost his second but won a bronze medal to add to the team's tally.

James Matthews and Luke also fought very well and took bronze and silver between them, both were fighting much taller opponents; James successfully pushing his competitor out the ring several times, and Luke winning his first round and demonstrating a very good jumping back kick. To represent the veteran black belts, we had Peter Yip and John Vernazza again bringing home bronze and silver.

In power Leanne and Jake both achieved gold medals for the team; Jake completed the jump followed by a flying sidekick and Leanne successfully broke the red board with a kick we could hear miles away.

Congratulations to all the competitors, and a huge thank you to Master Hogan, the organisers of the London Open 2009, and to all the supporters who came along. Thank You.

By Katherine Stonehouse



Medals Table 19th July 2009 Guildford

Competitor	Patterns	Sparring	Special Technique
John Vernazza	Bronze	Silver	
Ethan Yip	Bronze	Silver	
James Matthews		Bronze	
Luke Yip		Silver	
Peter Yip		Bronze	
Aiden Yip		Bronze	
Jake Yeadon		Bronze	Gold
Thomas Lutley			
Emma Stonehouse			
James Davis		Gold	
Katherine Stonehouse	Silver	Bronze	
Leanne Evans		Gold	Gold
Paul Groom		Bronze	
Bruno Malpart		Bronze	
Geoff Stonehouse	Bronze	Bronze	
Nicholas Stonehouse		Bronze	