

Independent Wado-Ryu Karate-Do Association United Kingdom



January 2015

This Month

Start All Over Again for 2015

They say the older you get the quicker time flies, I would concur with that view as it doesn't seem that long ago we were in the thick of 2014. Yet here we are not only planning 2015, but actively engaging in it. Tomorrow sees our first event of the year as three of our clubs travel to the Ponds Forge in Sheffield for the English Karate Federation's Kyu

Grade Championships. The competition looks like being a large affair with 8 areas in operation throughout

Start All Over Again

2014 in a Nutshell

the day. This competition is designed to offer a National Championships for those with less experience, both in competition and karate as a whole. There are no Dan grades at the event meaning the highest grade competing will be those of 1st Kyu. It is also used as a springboard to the Full National Championships, also at the ponds Forge in April.

Wado UK has around 24 students taking part, several of them for the first time. It will be interesting to see how we get on.

We will of course circulate any success stories, but in advance of the results we would just like to wish everyone the best of success. Good Luck to everyone!



2014 in a Nutshell

For those who were present at the Presentation Night in December of 2014, you will have seen and heard of the achievements of our members. For those that didn't manage to attend, here is a brief overview of what went on. Four of our clubs attended, Chikara, East Hull Woodford, Shinken and Hull Zanshin. As is customary each club presented five trophies to their members, and the Wado UK association presented a further three to the group as a whole. We will come back to those but firstly I would like to recap on the years activities and achievements. The main focus of the year was to establish training sessions for our competitors. To

this end we set up 4 squad sessions over the year, with good attendance being achieved at each of them. Those who met the required criteria for sessions and competitions attended have in fact now received their Wado UK Squad Polo's and will hopefully we sporting them tomorrow in Sheffield. We will of course be setting out dates for 2015 in a similar format, and will hopefully publish these soon. Thanks must go to Barry Meanwell, Steve Balaam-Reed and Paul Braid for running these sessions, but also to those athletes and parents who offered their support to the venture.

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We also had Kata sessions with England Internationals John Gardiner and Emma Lucraft at Shirley and Paul Braid's Shinken Dojo, and the Chikara dodo have recently been training with Sensei Sakagami and the Wado Kai squad. We visited Leconfield to see the Sea King helicopters, the Humber Lifeboat station to see the good work they do, and of course held our traditional end of year bowling day. Before the year ended we also managed to squeeze in a First Aid course too!

At the various competitions we entered our members won a very impressive 38 gold medals, 53 silver medals and 62 bronze medals. An impressive medal haul for the year and one we hope to surpass during 2015.

We also paid tribute to those of our membership who assist in our activities. Mostly willing parents who give up whole days on our behalf to ferry youngsters around the country, marshal at competitions, and sit at tables all day score-keeping. We

are extremely grateful to these volunteers and hope to be able to draw on this generosity throughout 2015 also. Thank you for whatever you do!

Below are the names of those who were chosen to have a special mention at the awards night, in that they were chosen to receive trophies. Choosing recipients is one of the most difficult challenges we face over the course of the year, basically because we can always see more than one worthy winner. It is really nice being able to congratulate the winners, but equally upsetting not to have the chance to reward everyone. Once again then congratulations to the winners, but a massive thank you from all of us to everyone who competed, helped, and donated time and who did not receive a trophy on the night.

The photos can be seen in greater detail by visiting the Wado UK website and clicking on the hamper image. You can also read more about the evening, such as our magical visit by Mark Waddington.



From the Chikara Dojo **Connor Featherstone**
From the Zanshin Dojo **Samuel Gray**
From the Shin-Ken Dojo **Ryan Chappell**
From the East Hull Woodford Dojo **Michael Drabek**

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Club Achievement

From the Chikara Dojo **William Miles**
From the Shin-Ken Dojo **Jordan Taylor**
From the East Hull Woodford Dojo **Justin Behag**
From the Zanshin Dojo **Maddison Bell**



Club Service

From the Chikara Dojo **Darren Horner**
From the Shin-Ken Dojo **Fiona Way**
From the East Hull Woodford Dojo **Chris Dearing**
From the Zanshin Dojo **Joe Rose**

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From the Shin-Ken Dojo **Ben Harrison**
From the East Hull Woodford Dojo **Charan Dhesi**
From the Zanshin Dojo **Tommaso Concass**
From the Chikara Dojo **Harry Rowland**



From the Shin-Ken Dojo **Aiden Clarke**
From the Zanshin Dojo **Josh Hartery**
From the Chikara Dojo **Yakub Lutwiejko**
From the East Hull Woodford Dojo **Oliver Dearing**

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Five candidates were awarded Dan grades during 2014. they can be seen above displaying their Dan Grade Certificates. L to R Gary Pickles 1st Dan, Ben Harrison 1st Dan, Paul Braid 3rd Dan, Brian Goff 1st Dan and Jordan Taylor 1st Dan



The first association award is the Emily Pierce Memorial Shield. For 2014 there was to be a shield share as two worthy recipients couldn't be separated. The winners were Libby Dunham and James Preston. James was unable to attend on the evening so the photograph shows Libby with Paul and Shirley Braid.

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This award is designed to reward someone who has been instrumental in the development of Wado UK through their help and assistance at such things as events. Jackie Newton was this years winner following her assistance as a table official at our competitions, fundraising for the kids bowling days, and helping to chaperone youngsters at competitions.



This award has been designed to reward the recipient for their achievements throughout the year. The winner for 2014 and for the second year running was Amrit Dhesi following his two gold and two silver medals in the British 4 Nations and British International Open Karate Championships in Glasgow during 2014.