



Welcome to the Wado-UK Newsletter for November 2008

Newsletter

As you have probably noticed this month's newsletter is a little earlier than normal. This is because of a rather busy end to the month and a desire to make sure information does get passed on.

We have our presentation night on Friday of course and hopefully in our Christmas edition of the newsletter, we will have much to talk about. We will have a full list of all the award winners and hopefully plenty of photos to share.

Early December also sees the annual BWKU Championships in Goole. The entry form for this competition will be posted on Friday 28th November, so don't delay if you need to let your instructors know you want to go. A map for the venue has been posted on the Wado-UK web site, to make things easier for those who have not been before.

On Saturday 29th November there is a referees course to be held in London. It is also incorporating an exam for those coaches who wish to obtain National accreditation. The course is followed by a short exam. Anyone not going on this occasion will have another opportunity in the New Year, when a course will be held in Manchester.

Finally there is to be a course in Doncaster for all coaches who teach. The aim of the course is to make people aware of such things as Health and safety, child protection, etc. Details of this course have been sent out by John Moreton.

Presentation Night

The presentation night looks like being a busy night, as almost 230 tickets have been sold.

The final number of tickets sold has exceeded all expectations and sets us up for a very enjoyable night. Credit must go to the club instructors who have pulled out all the stops, in an effort to get as many people there as possible. We would also like to say a special thank you to Mr Jim Dunn of the St Nicholas Dojo, for his endeavours in negotiating a price for some excellent trophies to present on the evening.

The capacity for the venue is 250 and as we are very close to this figure, I would imagine tables and chairs to be quickly filled.

The venue will be open from 7.30 and the bar will be open up to midnight, with everyone being asked to vacate the building by 12.30 am.

It is anticipated to begin the presentation around 8pm, followed by the buffet, raffle and disco. Could we please ask that very small children are escorted to the buffet initially, as some adults have voiced their concern as to the quality of the remaining food, if they follow on after them.

We will hopefully have someone in attendance taking photos for the web site and newsletter, however please feel free to bring your own cameras along. There should be plenty of opportunity for you to get your own snaps. Please just allow the official photographer to get his pictures first.

Northern Regional's

Late October saw the Northern regional event in Sheffield once again and Wado-UK had further success.

The Ponds Forge has become a regular venue for the National Karate Championships and it was good to see it being chosen for the Northern Regional's too. The competition itself was to be a one day affair, so as expected it was a fairly long day.

Wado-UK had a good turnout despite it being close to other competitions we had recently entered. It was pleasing to see good performances from our younger students, who genuinely did show great promise for the years to come.

Among the medallists this time were Thomas Balaam-Reed who took a bronze medal in the Pee Wee's boys section, followed by Ashleigh Clarkson who also took a bronze medal in the girls 14-15 yrs +45kg section. Not to be outdone, Nicole Balaam-Reed followed suit with another bronze medal in the girls 14-15 yrs -48kg section.

Gold medal success was to go once again to Jessica Newton, who in characteristic style defeated all her opponents leaving them in her wake, as she won the final. This added the Northern regional title to her English National title she won earlier in the year.

Well done to all the competitors who took part and lets hope we hang onto those titles next year.



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On the 1st and 2nd of November 2008, 3 senior members of John Moreton's Woodford Dojo represented their country, at the 36th European Wado-Kai Cup held in Romania.

There were 15 countries in total competing, with England being one of the larger ones with a total of 26 competitors. The morning started off with the junior events, followed by the opening ceremony at mid-day on the 1st day of the competition. Barry Meanwell from Wado-UK



Barry, Jamie and Chris following their Romanian success

had been selected as team captain and flag bearer for the England team, and following on were Jamie and Chris Fenton, his Woodford team-mates.

Barry, Jamie & Chris were all in separate weight classes, and Jamie was first to compete in the under 75kg division. After a close battle with one of the Russian fighters, Jamie narrowly missed his chance of moving into the semi finals.

Chris was next to compete and this was to be a big day for him, in his first European competition and on his 22nd birthday!! It was to be one of the hardest fights of the day, with points being won and lost on both sides due to excessive contact, Chris unfortunately losing out to his opponent who was to make it to the final. This put Chris in the repechage and made him even more determined to secure a medal. That is exactly what he did in convincing style, winning a bronze medal. This also gave England their first senior medal of the day.

Last out of the 3 Wado-UK members to fight was Barry, in the over 80kg section. After a tough 3 minute battle, the score was 6-6 with 2 seconds to go, Barry relaxed his guard for a second, and his Macedonian opponent saw his chance and took it. This left no time for Barry to come back, going to show at this level, you can't afford to relax for a second. Barry was to then emulate Chris's earlier achievements in the repechage rounds, winning a convincing bronze medal against a Russian competitor. He did this in style with a maximum points win, securing his second European bronze medal, in as many years.

The 3 Wado UK members then joined forces with other senior Wado-Kai Karateka selected to compete, and took the Bronze medal in the team Kumite section.

Well done Lads!!