

GTI English Open Championships 2008

3rd February 2008, Perdiswell Leisure Centre, Worcester



The GTI English Open started for some at 8:30am with the hall set up; after a brief mess around with a football. Other officials started to arrive at 8:45am and after a briefly worrying time, we finally had enough officials to get the event underway. If our success continues we will definitely need more help next time. As always the height test was the most difficult task to complete efficiently and hopefully this will be improved by our changes at the next event. The weight test will be much better with a set of scales at the next competition too! The UK Open is on the 6th April so please put this date in your diaries.

With almost 50% more GTI students attending the English in 2008, compared to the English in 2007, we were very pleased to get the event to run as efficiently as it did. 21 of the 28 GTI Instructors brought or sent students along to compete and officiate. Without this kind of support competitions just could not happen. Some students genuinely enjoy competing, but some just want to represent their club and support the GTI, you don't need a gold medal to do that, just the willingness to devote some free time to the event. The seating area at Perdiswell was tiered, which meant that the spectators had a brilliant view of the events and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. There is even some footage on YouTube for those of you who were unfortunate enough to miss out.



We had a lot of interest in the revamped destruction categories, which was fantastic. Each competitor attempted 5 different breaking techniques, this made it more challenging for the students who entered and more entertaining for the people watching. Far more students entered than would normally so this was fantastic. The black belts had to break one black board with 2 hand and 3 leg techniques. Sounds easy? not with Mr Fendt's new black board, which had to be hammered back together in between breaks! The next destruction competition will be held at the British championships on the 9th November in Worcester. The coloured belts had to break one white board with 2 hand and 3 leg techniques, which were palm, knife hand/ reverse knife hand, left leg side kick, right leg side kick and back kick/ reverse side kick.

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The newly introduced Highest jumping front kick competition was a great success, both challenging and fun. With no mats at this event, we couldn't allow a run up, but the heights people managed to achieve with just one step and a jump were amazing. There will be mats down for this event at the next competition, as it was a first time for this competition, we have kept a note of the records achieved for both the adult and the junior categories, which were mixed belts.

In the junior competition the winning competitor managed to kick the target when it was 55cms above his own head height.

This was the exact height that the winning adult had set! The only requirement for this event was a head guard, so get practising and maybe we can have a new record at the next competition in April.

The target is set above the students own head height, so don't worry if you're shorter than some of the other students, you still have a chance of winning.

Because we now have a set entry fee at all GTI competitions, you can enter on the day for this event as you can for the patterns, as long as you have already paid your Instructor to enter the competition.



The venue at Perdiswell was chosen in part because of its great seating area for spectators, but also because it has café facilities, for all those hungry competitors and spectators, who didn't have time to pack their own lunch.

As you would expect there were some great quality patterns at the English Open.

Pictured to the left are the winners of the boys black belt patterns competition:

1st J Cockburn, Telford GTI 2nd R Goddard, Swindon GTI and 3rd M Hollow Evolution decided after a nail biting play off.



The sparring categories were equally entertaining, and if you do come along to watch or compete be sure to stay for the black belt divisions, where you will see some very impressive sparring indeed.

We will be introducing a Veterans category at the British, so all you Instructors who retired from sparring had better get your kit out and get fit for November. Pictured right are boys black belt point sparring winners:

1st S Kalcutt WMST 2nd M Sansom Cheltenham GTI and 3rd R Richards Derby GTI



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With 47% more students attending this years English Open this was a very successful event for our association. More Instructors brought along students than last year, with Mr Slater's Essex Taekwondo bringing the most at 21 competitors. The Cornish students had a long journey so it was nice to see so many make the effort this time Mr Slater had very kindly offered to put on a demonstration and it was very impressive. Clearly a lot of time and effort went into making this an entertaining and educational display.

If you missed out visit YouTube and search for GTI Truro or Mr Slater Choong-Jang where Mr Liam Broderick has very kindly uploaded his video of the performance. Thanks to everyone who helped out.

Pictured above and right Tim and Jasper Chow from Cheltenham GTI in action above and right with their Instructor, GTI Chairman, Mr Paresh Bhadeshia V Degree who looks very pleased with their performances.

With special no contact rules to the face for PeeWee and Light weight junior yellow and green belts, we felt that the competition was a good introduction the world of Taekwondo competitions.

This rule was not in place in other categories, but a strict light contact rule was used by all referees in the coloured belt categories.

Black belts seem to have an unwritten rule about their contact levels!



Pictured left the boys heavy weight, yellow and green points stop category. Not sure exactly who made it into the photo, but results were 1st Dan Steele Swindon GTI, 2nd M Westwood Bridgnorth GTI and 3rd J Vaughan Great Barr GTI.

If you want to experience the fun of a Taekwondo competition why not come along to the GTI UK Open on 6th April, Oasis Leisure Centre, Swindon. Where else can you get to watch a fun packed day for £5 or take part for £15? The Oasis leisure centre has a fun pool, so bring the family and you could send them off to swim while you put in all the hard work. For more details about the Oasis facilities or prices please visit:

www.swindon.gov.uk/leisuresport/oasis.htm

Many thanks to all who helped and congratulations to all who competed
GTI Events Management Team Mr I Fendt, Mrs Z Fendt and Mr F England