

IRISH OPEN

ITF Wales at the Taekwon-Do championships - November 2006

This year saw ITF Wales (UKTA) represented at the Irish National Championships by Ely and Fairwater schools. Flying in Dublin on the Friday the party had a good day exploring the city and taking in Irish sights and cuisine. The Saturday started with a little adventure as neither taxi drivers, the receptionists at UCD or the officials following us in their cars seemed to know where the competition was actually being held but eventually pulling up at the right place in a by now small convoy of taxis we made it with plenty of time to spare.

As some of the students renewed acquaintances from the last two years all the new comers to this competition composed themselves so as not to let nerves get to them. First event up for us was the under 13 red belt patterns and this saw three Fairwater students against each other with Bethan Pezzack, Delme Pezzack and Kane Collins all performing very well to pick up gold silver and bronze respectively. Moving into the teen division first up was Ely's Sarah Jones in the yellow belt group who performed well and won herself silver in her first Irish tournament. Next up were Ely's Conah Prosser and Lanny James in the red belt patterns, last year taking gold and silver this year they seemed to perform even better but both had to settle for bronze medals. In the black belt teens Fairwaters George Crews I and Lee Burrige I both made ti to the semi final but drew each other with George pulling out a little extra to win the bout and go through to the final where he performed well but was unable to win the bout and took silver - a great achievement on his first teen competition. Finally Ely's Tom Harris I was in the adult black belt patterns, unfortunately a

momentary lapse of concentration ended his run as he blanked on his pattern.

In the sparring first up we saw Kane Collins struggle against an older heavier and taller opponent in the under 12s blue/red and although moving well he was unable to score points. In u12's girls green/red Bethan Pezzack dominated well through all her bouts and overcame some one sided disciplinary decisions including 2 yellow cards ad warnings to take gold for herself. In the 12-14 red belt boys Conah and Delme both fought well to make it to the semi final where they drew each other. Delme doing just enough to pip the decision left Conah with bronze and Delme to go into the final which he fought very well and picked up gold. In the 12-14 blue/red females Lanny emulated Bethan's performance totally dominating her bouts but once again saw all disciplinary decisions go one way receiving four yellow cards, numerous warnings and numerous low kicks, and punches with no comment made on them. Despite a good final looking like she was up on points a draw was given but in the extra time she made sure of the decision and picked up gold. In the black belt group George Crews I performed well to make it through to his final where he drew an older, taller, much heavier II dan and although moving well he was unable to overcome him but did himself proud and picked up his second silver of the day. Our last sparer was Tom Harris I in the adult -70kg sparring where he used good technical shots to pick off his shots and win his 1/4 final moving into the semi he fought well but lost some movement allowing his opponent to score enough points to win the fight but Tom was happy to pick up a bronze.

At the end of a long day the Welsh competitors were happy with their performances having won 4 gold, 4 silver and 6 bronze medals between them and from the 20 schools competing Fairwater finished 4th and Ely 12th overall. We would like to thank the Irish instructors and students who made us feel most welcome and gave us an enjoyable day and finally to Shannon and all her friends who took a real shine to our very own Conah "Gorgeous" Prosser - we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

For further details contact Mr Chris Black II secretary@itfwales.co.uk or visit the website at www.itfwales.co.uk

MEDAL WINNERS		
Tom Harris	Ely	Bronze
Lee Burrige	Fairwater	Bronze
George Crews	Fairwater	2 Silver
Conah Prosser	Ely	2 Bronze
Delme Pezzack	Fairwater	Silver
		Gold
Lanny James	Ely	Bronze
		Gold
Kane Collins	Fairwater	Bronze
Bethan Pezzack	Fairwater	2 Gold
		Runner Up
		Junior
		Overall
Sarah Jones	Ely	Silver

