

International Championships, Cardiff 2009.



An eager contingent from Phoenix Tang Soo Do crossed the border into Wales for the International Tang Soo Do Championships in Cardiff.

With hundreds of martial artists from all corners of the UK, Europe, and the United States, the event was an impressive spectacle and truly international.

Jeanette was first to make a mark for Phoenix with a Gold in her free fighting category, with the judges remarking on her

performance as being the most technically they'd ever seen!

“Relentless” George took a trophy half his height when he made runner-up in his free-fighting; and “Sidekick” Luke did well competing at his age unaccompanied and holding his own whilst the rest of the team were competing elsewhere.

Alistair showed his competitive spirit in free-fighting, taking on a contingent of Dutch giants and controversially just missing out on the podium; he then used an unorthodox breaking technique to take the bronze in that category.

Stephanie was next and true to form, ignoring her extended break from Tang Soo Do, continued where she left off and grabbed a third place in Breaking as well as showing her mettle in the free-fighting and forms categories.



Keir took to the mats and represented the club with a full-on effort in free-fighting and forms and Peter, unable to get into the medals this time, opted for a hand-fracture from the free-fighting as his souvenir of the championships.

During the presentations that followed the Dan grade competitions, Master Woodiwiss received an award of appreciation from the organisers. Phoenix Tang Soo Do, under Master Woodiwiss, again showed the class of the club's traditional dedication to the martial art in the competitive arena.

The enormity of the championships, the variety of nationalities competing and the depth of the martial artists' commitment to Tang Soo Do combined to make a memorable experience that all participants are keen to repeat next year.

Thanks are due to the Welsh organisers and to Master Woodiwiss for the invitations.

Tang Soo!