



Karate Union of Australia

2008 National Championships (Adelaide) Report

By Sensei Andrew Mac Niel

Hi all K.U.A. States,

Sorry it's taken so long to get something down on paper regarding the 2008 nationals.

Again, a big thanks to all those that made the effort to come over and compete. Also to those people from interstate who ended up as table officials and helpers who probably just came over to watch their kids or friends compete, we cannot thank you enough, you were lifesavers.

All those from S.A. that put in, some all day, both days, some just a couple of hours, a big thanks.

And of course, the judges & referees for their very valuable input.

Most arrived Wed & Thurs with the N.S.W. crew arriving early Friday. Thursday also saw the arrival of Shihan Norman Robinson, Luke Palmer & his mother from South Africa. From all reports the accommodation venue was a winner, especially when there is a heated swimming pool involved.

Those states that were early gave themselves a chance to do some sightseeing and I hear some wineries got a look in, but everyone was here in time for the seminars on Friday. The seminars were split into 2 groups. 10th to 5th went with Shihan Robinson and 4th to black belt went with Shihan Marriott before lunch, then they switched after lunch. The day was more about information than intensity, which suited everyone seeing they had a competition to get through over the next 2 days.

Friday night saw an open seminar with Shihan Robinson which had a very good turn out of non KUA people and was given good positive feedback by those that attended.

The next 2 days was all about the tournament. Initially it was to be held on 3 areas but things don't always go to plan and it was cut to 2 matted areas, which threw all our agenda out the window. This is when the going gets tough, but the tough get going, supposedly. Anyway after the initial panic things began to take shape, and with a little help from friends it all went well finishing Sat about 3pm. This covered all the Kata & Kihon kumite events, leaving Sunday for the kumite.

Sunday was fast & furious, but held in good spirit. All competitors performed in the spirit of the comp and a good standard was maintained. The final bouts of the men's open and the team events had some great highlights with some hard fought bouts and some exceptional points scored.

Sunday we were under the pump to finish on time and it was looking dodgy for a while but it came together in the end finishing at 3pm. Some events did get cut but they were non-scheduled events from outside entry form cut off time.

There was probably 2 negatives from the comp, 1 was the low number of competitors for a national event, which meant a lot of events had 1 or 2, even no competitors. The other was the low number of referees/judges. So the ones there had no one to rotate with, meaning they to officiate on the mat for the whole day without a break.

These points were raised at the AGM Saturday afternoon and things should be put in place by the next Nats.

Sunday night was the trophy presentation at the Marion Bowls club with pizza's for all and a bar on hand for those ready to kick off with a celebratory drink or 2. There were a lot of trophy's to hand out, but everyone was very patient and it was a good note to finish the weekend off on, especially the speech by Shihan Marriott regarding 'bringing it on for 2010'.

Later, most of the states went their separate ways to celebrate their achievements. Monday while many headed home, I had the chance to spend a few hours with Shihan Robinson and show the S. Africans around Adelaide before they left to head over to Perth. He has some amazing stories of his life from his early days in England to S. Africa, and his movie career. His personality easily matches his martial arts ability, and at 72 he is someone to look to for inspiration.

Well, that's it for another 2 years. A last thanks to my event organizer. Lutz Jaeger who put a lot of hours in to get it up and running.

Yours in karate, Andrew Mac Neil.