**Squad Manager Report**

**BKA National Jodo Championship 2018**

By Ally Mihaylova

The **BKA National Jodo Championship 2018** was held on Saturday 14th April 2018 in Birmingham. After a false start to the event (originally scheduled for 3rd March and regrettably cancelled due to unusual heavy-snow conditions), we hosted a smaller number of competitors. However, less participants did not mean lowered standards, and this was exhibited throughout the day. We saw some heated fights and highly-contested titles, particularly in the Sandan and Yondan/Godan divisions. The competitiveness was accompanied with good sportsmanship, camaraderie and good spirits, giving the event the usual friendliness and feeling of family.

A huge ‘Thank you’ for yet another successful and fun event goes to the organisers (primarily our Bucho, Stojanka Vidinic); Jenni Wilding and the event organisers at the venue, who agreed to change the dates from March to April; the judges and Sensei Jock Hopson and Chris Buxton, who gave all participants not only their time and attention, but their feedback on the following day; and of course to the participants, who gave it their all and showed us their dedication and improvement!

The Championship results were as follows:

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| **2018** | **Mudan** | **Shodan** | **Nidan** | **Sandan** | **Yondan** | **Godan** | **Team** | **Asahi** |
| **Gold** | David Griffiths | Andrew Bowen | Rob Townson | Ed Marshall | Oliver Jarvis | Daniel Silk | ElSha | Bojikan |
| **Silver** |  | Brian Ford | Mark Ralston | David Parker | Yuki Shima | Elena West | Ryoshinkan Kaze | Kuroi Inu and Co |
| **Bronze** |  | Derick Bresnen | Shakir Rahman | Kristina Silk | Carlos Xilotl |  | Ojika | Kashiwa & Co |
| **Bronze** |  | Tai- Huan Li | Ally Mihaylova | Jenni Wilding | Rob Colson |  | Kuroi Inu | Kenyukan Stevenage & Co |
| **Fighting Spirit** | David Griffiths | Tai- Huan Li | Shakir Rahman | Colin Porter | Martin Chambers | Elena West | Mark Ralston |  |

The Nationals this year were followed on the next day by our first Intensive Training (IT) session for the year. Many of the judges, and particularly Sensei Chris Buxton and Jock Hopson, had taken the time to write down detailed personal feedback for most competitors during the Nationals, which our Squad Trainer Sensei Harry Jones used to form a training plan for an Intensive Training session that truly deserved its name! It was a grilling, gruelling and immensely useful session, which helped round up the weekend as the best National Championship experience I’ve had. Thank you, Sensei and fellow jodoka!