

Squad Manager Report

EJC 2018

By Ally Mihaylova

The **17th European Judo Championship (EJC 2018)** was held in Budapest, Hungary on 29th and 30th September 2018. Great Britain had an almost full squad – ten competitors, covering all grades but Shodan and coming from many different dojos. The BKA also had four referees selected by the EKF (full list of the squad and referees can be found further below) and one supporter in the delegation.



This EJC was tough, we saw some surprising results throughout. Great Britain's luck was such that in almost every category our competitors had to go through an additional fight just to clear the stage to quarterfinals, which naturally diminished our chances for medals. Our squad members fought well and showed great spirit, with almost everybody passing their pools. Rob Townson secured a bronze medal for us, ultimately losing in the semi-finals to the overall winner of his category. Our team, comprised of Dan Silk, Kristina Silk and Rob Townson, narrowly missed a medal, losing to the winners of the gold medal in the quarter finals.



Due to the unusual organisation of the shiai-jos, people of the same grade would often be on different courts at the same time, which not only meant people didn't have the right tachi, but often had to run from one end of the hall to the other, rushing to 'catch' their next fight on a completely different court. I would like to use this opportunity to thank all our competitors for their discipline, their willingness to help each other with tachi and making sure people knew which court they were on at what time, and their responsiveness to my continuous nagging throughout the event! I was privileged to manage this year's squad, well done, everybody!

Special thanks go to the Squad Coach, Harry Jones Sensei, who tirelessly worked throughout another year of training and developing the skills of everyone willing to put the effort at the IT sessions! Many thanks also to our referees for their hard work, and to Andy Watson in particular for his help as always in translating at the event, helping us with ski cases and helping the Hungarian organisers.

And last but not least – congratulations to everybody who passed their grading at this year's EJC – David Parker, now Yondan; Al Colebourn, now Rokudan; Andy Watson, now Nanadan!

List of the British EJC 2018 delegation (with dan grades as at the event)

7 dan Kyoshi	Chris Mansfield Sensei	Referee
6 dan Renshi	Andy Watson Sensei	Referee
6 dan Renshi	Greg Drewe Sensei	Referee
6 dan	Fay Goodman Sensei	Referee
6 dan Renshi	Harry Jones Sensei	Coach
5 dan	Rachel Hahn-Morris	Supporter
5 dan	Daniel Silk	Competitor + Team
5 dan	Al Colebourn	Competitor
4 dan	Carolos Xilotl	Competitor
4 dan	Yuki Shima	Competitor
3 dan	David Parker	Competitor
3 dan	Edward Lief Marshall	Competitor
3 dan	Kristina Silk	Team
2 dan	Mark Snowdon	Competitor
2 dan	Rob Townson	Competitor + Team
0 dan	David Griffiths	Competitor
3 dan	Ally Mihaylova	Manager