

1st Karate Kai Scotland Championships

(Report by Sharon McCann)

On Sunday 29th November the Kugatsu Karate-Do entered a squad of 36 competitors to compete at the above competition. For most, this was their first competition and all competed brilliantly. At the end of the day, Kugatsu Karate-Do topped the medal table with an excellent **13 GOLDS, 10 SILVERS** and **16 BRONZE** – the most medals won by a club on the day.



In the Boys and Girls 5-10 years white and yellow belt event, Kugatsu Karate-Do had five entered, *Madison, Jack, Sonny, Callum, and Ciara*. After some very nice kata both *Madison* and *Sonny* found themselves with **bronze** medals, and *Jack* found himself in the final, but was unlucky to be beaten 2-1 and had to settle for a **silver** Medal but an excellent performance by all.

The Boys and Girls 11-15years white and yellow belt event was a small event. Kugatsu Karate-Do had only one entry – *Molly* performed Aoyagi to take a well deserved **gold** Medal.

In the 5-7years Open Grade Kata, we had four entries – *Louie, Pol, Ross* and *Sean*. The boys battled it out amongst themselves as they all found themselves in the Semi-final where *Sean* and *Louie* both took a **bronze** medal. *Pol* met *Ross* in the final and after some nice kata *Pol* took the **gold** medal and *Ross* the **silver**.

The 8-10years Open Grade Kata event was probably the biggest kata event of the day, and the standard was pretty high. Kugatsu Karate-Do had nine entered with *Abby, Chloe* and *Olivia* finding themselves facing the other Kugatsu Karate-Do students, *Joshua, Rowan, Jordan, Mia* and *Ewan* on their way to meet in the semi-finals. After a good display of Rohai, *Chloe* unfortunately had to settle for a **bronze** medal with *Abby* beating *Olivia* in the other semi-final to book her place in the final against Kokusai's Rachel. *Olivia*, after performing Pinan Yondan, earned a well deserved **bronze** medal. In the final *Abby* performed an excellent Rohai to beat Rachel's Pinan kata and take the **gold** Medal!

In the boys and girls 3rd kyu and above event, Kugatsu Karate-Do had both *Laura* and *Daniel* representing the club. After a good show of Unshu *Laura* took the **gold** medal, while *Daniel* settled for **silver** after an impressive display of Seienchin.



In the Adults Junior Grade Kata Event, Kugatsu Karate-Do entered five members, *Kerr, Andy, Jessica, Anne* and *Colin*. *Colin* was unlucky to be put out by *Jessica* in the first round. Both *Anne* and *Andy*, with good performances of Pinan Nidan secured **bronze** medals, while *Kerr* and *Jessica* battled it out in the final. *Kerr* secured the **gold** medal with an excellent Annanko against *Jessica's* Pinan (**silver** medal).



Both Male and Female Senior Grade Events were entered only with Kugatsu Karate-Do students. *Laura* and *Sharon* battled it out in the Ladies Event where *Sharon* won 3 flags to 0 for her Annan against *Laura's* good performance of Unshu. *Neil* had to settle for the **bronze** medal in the Men's Event while *Bryan* and *Mark* battled it out in the final. *Bryan's* Chatanrya no Kushanku bet *Mark's* Heiku 2 flags to 1 to take the **gold** medal and giving *Mark* the **silver**.

It was then time for the children's pair event, a new addition to competitions. It was a popular event and Kugatsu Karate-Do had 6 pairs entered. *Ewan* and *Ross* were unlucky to be put out in the first round by a pair from Kokusai and *Louie* and *Jack* were also unlucky to be put out by *Sean* and *Pol*. *Mia* and *Harvey* were also put out in the first round by Rachel and Jennifer from Kokusai. *Abby* and *Chloe* then put out the Kokusai pair who bet *Ewan* and *Ross*, as well as beating *Sean* and *Pol* with good performances of Rohai to make it to final - leaving *Sean* and *Pol* with a **bronze** medal. *Jordan* and *Olivia* bet Kokusai's Rachel and Jennifer to reach the final to face *Abby* and *Chloe*. In the final, *Jordan* and *Olivia* performed an excellent and well timed Pinan Yondan and bet *Chloe* and *Abby's* excellent Rohai to take the **gold** Medal and *Abby* and *Chloe* took the **silver**.

A brilliant performance by all our students in the kata events!

In the kumite events, Kugatsu Karate-Do also did well. The Girls 5-6 event entertained the crowd, with some exciting fights from *Ciara*, *Madison* and *Neive W*. As the only three competitors entered the event a round-robin format was used where all three girls having to fight each other. After some very smiley and funny fights *Ciara* took the **gold**, *Niamh* the **silver** and *Madison* the **bronze**.

The girls' 5-7 event showed some excellent fighting between Kugatsu and Kokusai. *Rowan*, *Mia* and *Abby* were entered in the event. Both *Rowan* and *Mia* were unlucky to be put out in the 1st round. *Abby* put out Jennifer from Kokusai in a good fight by both girls to meet Kokusai's Rachel in the final. *Abby* listened to everything she had been asked to do by her coach (*Sharon*) and fought a brilliant fight to take her second individual **gold** of the day!



The Girls 10-15years (under 38kg) saw *Olivia* and *Chloe* fighting for a place in the final, with *Chloe* coming out the winner and securing her place in the final after a very well fought semi. *Olivia* settled for a **bronze** medal after a good fight. In the final *Chloe* met Rachel from Kokusai who went onto win the fight; leaving *Chloe* with a well deserved **Silver** medal. *Sharon* fought in the Ladies senior grade kumite and entered straight into the final against Heather from Kokusai. After an exciting fight, which led to sai-shiai, *Sharon* and Heather both



fought brilliantly. Despite still recovering from various injuries, Sharon secured the **gold** medal in the final second of the bout.

In the boys 5 to 6 years event both *Jack* and *Sean* were entered and both fought very well to earn a **bronze** medal each – a good day for them both.

The boys 7 to 9 years event was another large section and the boys from Kugatsu Karate-Do fought very well. *Callum, Marcus, Harvey, Ross* and *Sonny* all fought extremely well during the rounds and were unlucky not to make it to a medals position. *Ewan*, however, was on top form, and fought brilliantly through 3 rounds to reach the final. He listened to everything his coach (Bryan) had said to him and won a well deserved **gold** medal along with the new nickname of “Speedy Legs” after several excellent kicks.

In the 10-15 years (under 42kg) *Jordan* was Kugatsu Karate-Do’s sole competitor in a large section. *Jordan* was probably the youngest, not to mention the smallest, competitor in the section. Undeterred, he fought superbly, winning his first few rounds very comfortably. In the semi-final, *Jordan* met a boy from Kokusai who was almost double his height!!! Despite fighting well and being a bit unlucky *Jordan* took a well deserved **bronze** medal for his efforts.

In the 16 plus events, *Neil* took a **silver** medal in the cadets section after fighting well. *Andy* took a **bronze** in the adult male (junior grade) section; a large section with other Kugatsu Karate-Do members (*Chris, Kerr* and *Colin*) being unlucky not to place after fighting well. Unfortunately, *Chris* took a strong blow to his ribs and will be out of action for a few weeks to allow the suspected broken ribs to heal. *Mark* fought in the senior grade section and like Sharon found himself fighting in a straight final. *Mark* fought very well to take the Kugatsu Karate-Do’s final **gold** medal of the day.

Nearly 500 photos were taken during the event and these will be posted (securely) online in the near future. Thanks are due to Jim, Sharon, Daniel, Anne, Neil and Bryan for taking the majority of the photos on the day. Thanks are also due to all those who supported our students in their tremendous efforts at the Karate Kai Scotland Championships.



Final Medal Table

Club	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Kugatsu	13	10	16
Kokusai	12	11	9
Edinburgh	3	2	3
Ardeer	2	2	2