



KyokuSHIN Karate

Australian Newsletter – shihantaylor@ozemail.com.au

May 2018 IKO-Matsushima Organisation from Hanshi Taylor's Branch



2018 AKKA National camp (Heathcote):

Once again it was a "Packed to the Rafters" camp with what us now fast becoming the norm for the twice a year event, held in the Heathcote Scout camp (Sydney). This year had a special attraction with *Senpai* Lisa Hodder attempting to become only the second female in the World to achieve the *Kyokushin* fifty fight test. Everything started at 5am on the Saturday morning with the first training of the day and due to the it being still dark, there was no choice but to have the training in the hall, however cramming in 110 students was a challenge in itself. Nevertheless, get them in we did, but then it quickly became hot and, with so many sweating bodies, the floor became wet with perspiration. No doubt they were all happy for the session to end and get outside into the fresh air. However, the black belt was yet to finish and remained in the hall perfecting the *Kyokushin Bo kata "Kihon Ichi & Ni"*. The overnight rain had made the ground very wet, but the day quickly become hot and to the great relief of every one, the rest of the days training were outside. With the days training consisting of five hours, it was a happy but tired bunch the prepared to see an event that would make another legend in *Kyokushin* with *Senpai* Lisa Hodder attempting the 50 fight test. With such greats as *Sensei* Naomi Ali among the black belts who were selected to take the challenge to Lisa, was *Sensei* Ali is the only female in the world to have completed *Kyokushin* 50 fight test and the 100 Fight Test. It all started with *Shihan* Sklavos, who made it clear to *Senpai* Hodder that she was not going to get an easy ride. As expected, Lisa went through many highs and lows as she slowly progressed through, at twenty five she was tiring and looking like she would not make it, but managed to hang together until she reached the 30 mark, she seemed to realise that she was past halfway and the worse of it (or so she thought) and from deep down she summoned up enough *Kyokushin* spirit to once again pick up her pace in spite of having had some really tough fights, one that stands out was with *Senpai* O'Niel (from the *Shihan* Tyson Branch) when they stood toe to toe a slugged it out, suddenly Lisa was at 40 fights, but all of the hits were starting to take their toll, but, she was never going to quit now that the end was in sight end and actually started to take the fight to her

opponents, no doubt the last ten were the most grueling, "1", because of fatigue and "2" here opponents also picked up the pace, suddenly she looked up to see *Kyokushin* legend *Sensei* Naomi Ali standing in front of here and realised it was the 50th fight, and to make sure it finished on a strong note, both ladies took it to the other in a fight that had the exited audience on their feet. In the end it was a bruised and happy *Senpai* Hodder that heard the final bell. Next morning at 5am, it was the reality check and into the hall for the one hour of hard training, then on to breakfast, and what seemed like a blink of an eye the 10am training session arrived, being the final; session before the Green belt and over grading it mostly consisted of reviewing their techniques and *kata*, and with the arrival of the afternoon it was grading time. As expected in a AKKA grading, it was four hours of nonstop action ending up some with strong but outstanding fighting and it was a very happy and relieved bunch when after eight hours of hard camp training, four hours in the grading, it all finally came to an end.

2018 NSW AKKA Open Championships:

It was all hands to the wheel with the 2018 NSW championship and with 221 fighters listed on the draw it was going to be a full day. As usual it all started with the Five Years and Under Non Contact event with their tiny hands and feet going everywhere except towards the target. It was a "who did what", rather than quality of technique. Nevertheless, they certainly were in the cute points contest. The action got more determined as the morning went as then age of the contestants increased all the way through to the Colts (16-17 years. From that point on it all switched to the Children's Padded division, with the kids decked out in chest guards, helmets, gloves and shin guards. It seemed they were more likely to die on exhaustion than any impacts they received. Receive them they did though, safe from injury the kids just love to battle it out, to the great amusement of the audience and the patiently waiting adult fighters. It was through the kids and into the Adults Non contact which was fought with equally vigor and determination resulting in some great contests. All too soon it was into the Colts and Full Contact Division and with only slightly less protection than

A black belt is a white belt who never gave up – Just enjoy the journey

the Kids Padded Division it was once again full of hard fought action with an outstanding battle in the Male 16 -17 Years Lightweight Colts Division Final between Jesse James from the *Jai dojo* under *Shihan* Joe Ingrati in Maroubra Junction and Daniel Braithwaite from *Kancho* Mylons's *Kempo Ryu*. This fight was worth the entry fee with Jesse pulling out all stops in a spectacular range of techniques and Daniel coming back just as strong, but it was Jesse that came out on top. The same division in the Middleweight Class had an equally exciting final, between Denial Watford *Kyokushin* Albury and Bondi Junction's Michael Gotta, Michael was having his first crack at Full contact and no doubt he is a future champion, if he continues in the Full Contact event. In saying that, Daniel Watford got the better of Michael in what was a very tough encounter. Some of the best fights are in the lower grade events as they are often better matched and this was the case with the final of the Male 5th Kyu & Under Division Lightweights Division with Wilson Leoung (another *Kempo Ryu* fighter) and Jackson Mansutti another spectacular fighter from the *Jai dojo* under *Shihan* Joe Ingrati with both putting up one heck of the battle which no doubt had the judges scratching their heads. In the end they went for Jackson. Another close encounter followed in the Male Middleweight 5th Kyu & Under Division with Craig Drever and Dain Walles deciding a toe to toe slugging match was the way to go which ended in Dian getting the nod. It was a giant of the man in Jon Papasenos that made the final of the Male Heavyweight 5th Kyu & Under, against Lachlan Shanahan from Leopold in Victoria, Jon was coming off winning the 2018 Victorian in the same division, so seemed to be reasonable confident going into the bout. However, even though Lachlan was taking on such a big hitting opponent, he toughed it out to win the 2018 AKKA 5th Kyu Championships. The final of the Green Belt Middleweight Division had every one on their feet when Ben Ciampa, another interstate fighter who hails from Tasmania, had to take on Stephen Belekas who trains at *Kancho* Peter Mylonas' *Kempo Ryu* school. And a great final it was with another head scratching decision for the judges, but it was Ben that saw the flags go up in his favour to get the 2018 title. The Male Green Belt Heavyweight had it all, a real "walk-up tough slugger" Nathan Bartlett, who trains with *Shihan* Tyson in Tamworth against Tony Liu from the *Kyokushin* Bondi Junction dojo, and no doubt at different times each fighter would have been ahead on points, but in the end it was the technique that won the day for Tony. The Female Heavyweight

Green Belt Division final was another cracker, with both fighters not wanting to be outdone by the hard fighting males and put up a great show with between Rebecca Antonio and Victoria Campbell both out of the *Shihan* Tyson's Tamworth dojo in another close bout that went to Rebecca. It was two fighters that had many previous battles in the past and knew each others styles very well in the Female Lightweight Open Final between Bondi Junction's Ai Ikeda and Griffith's Leticia Franchi. After huge bout it was Leticia that saw the flags go up in her favour. It was Bondi Junction's Kengo Takahashi that lined up against *Senpai* Rohan Smith's Hawkesbury dojo fighter in Thomas Shaw. By now the audience expected every final to be a herculean battle and on this they did not disappoint. Both executing some great techniques and demonstrating determination that would certainly have made Hercules proud. In all such bouts, sadly there has to be only one winner, and in this case it was Kengo who became the NSW champion. Two very talented fighters stepped on the mat in the Female Middleweight Open Final when Melisa Sergi from Griffith took on Ameer Morris from Albury. Both these fighters had battled it out on a number of occasions, so, another close encounter ensued with Melisa getting the win. The Male Open Middleweight certainly kept up the standard when David Taylor who hails from the AKKA dojo in Kangaroo Island took on the Victorian Champion, Gabriel Shields. It was certainly a torrid battle, worthy of the final. And, in the end, it was David that became the 2018 NSW Open Middleweight Champion. The Final of the Open Female Heavyweight division was well worth the wait with Melanie Barclay from the Corio dojo in Victoria taking on a very strong fighter in Natalie Caruana from *Senpai* Michelle Kable's dojo in Parkes. As expected with two such strong fighters it was a hard fought bout with Melanie getting the win and the title. The Final between David Weir-Smith and Samuel Shields, both from Victoria put in the best fight of the event and a bout that was worthy of the World Championship final. It was so close that it had to be taken to two extensions to get a winner. The most popular decision of the day was when the referee (*Shihan* Tyson) called it a draw after the first extension, such was the hype that this fight created. After another hard fought contest in the 2nd extension, it was David that took home the title.

Full list of New South Wales results next issue.

Australian Open Kyokushin Championships:
Non Contact & Kids Padded Divisions: 18th August
Adults Full Contact Divisions: 19th August
Applications: hanshi@akka.com.au or akka@spin.net.au

A black belt is a white belt who never gave up – Just enjoy the journey