

2013 9th Australian Haidong Gumdo National Championships



Haidong Gumdo Australia, supported by the World Haidong Gumdo Federation, held the 9th Australian Haidong Gumdo National Championship on 19 and 20 October 2013 at Regent Park State School. As well as this being the National Championship for Haidong Gumdo, we were also joined by many Taekwondo players from around Australia for some Taekwondo competitions.



Saturday morning saw preliminary and final rounds for the Taekwondo competitions. This involved some very strong and competitive poomsae and the dynamic and always entertaining side kick and front kick competitions. These competitions were hotly contested and thoroughly enjoyable to watch, as the players in the poomsae division showed great strength and technical ability, whilst both the front kick and the side kick competitions showed how dynamic and explosive Taekwondo practitioners are.

The opening ceremony began at midday on Saturday, welcoming very special guests Vice President of the World Haidong Gumdo Federation Grand Master Jong Ku Lee and his son Master Byung Hyup Lee. We were treated to an amazing demonstration from Master Byung Hyup Lee involving a swordless pattern of Haidong Gumdo called HAIDONG KWONBUP____. We also saw demonstrations from Swordmen Martial arts with Bamboo cutting and paper cutting, and from Kim's Haidong Gumdo we saw a choreographed Gyukgum and candle snuffing. These demonstrations were of the highest caliber and were an inspiration to all watching to achieve the best of



their training in Haidong Gumdo.

In preparation for the 2015 Mulympics to be held in South Korea, Master Rodney Robins, Master David Adlam, Master Peter Cook, Master Luke Adlam and Master Jared Keam receive their membership into the International Mulympic Committee. Also Master John Hunt, Master Andrew Johnston and Master Sam Loiacono were appointed as AMC (Australian Mulympics Committee) and AMC Medals were presented. AMC comprises of Senior Masters of each Country for the organising role and their contributions to IMC. The Current AMC members also include Master Oh, Master John Tysoe, Master Cheri Parks and Master Jason Kim.



The newest addition to the Championship competitions was Gyukgum combat sparring. The introduction of combat sparring is new to the Haidong Gumdo syllabus, and has been included to promote good character building through the understanding of Haidong Gumdo theories and their practical application. The addition of this competition was a definite highlight of the Championship and helped all who entered actively use the techniques they have learnt through studying Haidong Gumdo in a safe competitive environment. This was also a perfect opportunity for members of the Haidong Gumdo community who had not felt comfortable entering for the first year of competition, get a greater understanding of what is required.



This was a major learning experience for competitors and spectators alike. Both had the opportunity to watch and compete against others in an attempt to further their understanding and gain a few tips and tricks against other competitors on what works against a defensive player as to what works against an aggressor.

As per Taekwondo sparring matches, there were three rounds, each consisting of a minute sparring, with thirty second intervals between rounds. Points were awarded for cutting through target areas (such as head, shoulders, waist, body and arms) with additional points being awarded for special (advanced) attacks.

Special attacks included turning, rolls and cartwheels, which earned the player two points if used in conjunction with a cut, and reverse turning, complete turning and high jumps earned the player three points if used in conjunction with a cut.

There were penalties for stepping on the opponent's feet, attacking with other parts of the body, pushing with the body, stepping out of bounds and aggression or lack of control. Understandably, aggression is the major concern with regards to combat sparring, and it was masterfully handled by all centre referees on the day.



It was excellent to see the amount of competitors enter for the first year of competition, and the 2014 competition will only be stronger. Haidong Gumdo Australia is ecstatic to help pioneer the rules and regulations for combat sparring, to ensure all Australian competitors are competing at a World standard.

Choreographed Gyukgum sparring is a popular event that saw some dynamic and creative spars. This competition is all about balance, fluidity, technique and a keen eye for the creative aspects. The spar needs to be both useful and exciting, both dynamic and practical. Competitors from all over Australia are constantly setting the bar each year to provide entertainment and show the application of Haidong Gumdo techniques in an explosive, story driven way that is always highly entertaining.



Paper cutting and bamboo cutting offers competitors a different, more deliberate way to show the skills and techniques learnt by practicing Haidong Gumdo. Both require precise technique to have the capacity to achieve the end goal, whether that is a perfectly straight horizontal cut or whether it is an accurate 45 degree cut on a bamboo pole. What was interesting to note this year was the paper cutting division for the colour belts was filled with extremely dedicated competitors that ensured the competition was hotly contested and hugely exciting to watch. It was amazing to see so many white belts competing and



succeeding in this division. It shows the unyielding dedication of the Instructors and Masters to instill correct technique in the coloured belts to ensure that they are the best specimens that Haidong Gumdo Australia has to offer.

The final two competitions, encompassing speed, power, balance, cutting style and spirit are group and single gumbup. The group divisions were magnificently synchronized, their understanding of group dynamic second to none, ensuring that judging for the competition was incredibly difficult. The group gumbup displays were a real show stopper on Sunday morning.

Individual gumbup is the majority of the entries for the Championship. It is the ultimate competition that players strive for gold and the skill level seen at this year's championship has definitely risen from last year. Having the capacity in a pressure situation to maintain stances and technique, whilst having a high level of speed and power is an integral component to the competition. It is exciting to see so many players from around

Australia be actively competitive in gumbup and it bodes well for the future of Haidong Gumdo Australia when our players are pushing their skill level to an International playing field.

The announcement was made that in 2014 the 10th Australian National Championships will be hosted by Sydney and will also be combined with an Australian Mulympics Open. This will be open to all International competitors of Haidong Gumdo as well as Taekwondo and Karate and will be an amazing opportunity to further both domestic and international collaborations of the spirit of Martial Arts.

The 2013 National Championships was a great success, and we look forward to the prospects of 2014, to further Australian Haidong Gumdo and constantly strive towards the Mulympic motto of "Stronger, Harder and More Courageous".