

Matsushima World Cup 2018 - Shanghai, China.

The first World Cup I attended was in Sydney in 2006. The first thing that impressed me back then was that this is truly an international event. Fighters from all over the world, Europe, North America, South America, Asia Pacific, South East Asia, Central Asia, Middle East, North Africa, South Africa. It is just a fantastic atmosphere with all these different peoples and cultures coming together to share their passion for Kyokushin Karate. Nothing has changed over the past 12 years, the Matsushima Kyokushin community from all over the world assembled in Shanghai to compete for the title of World Cup Champion.



Opening ceremony, fighters from all over the world assembled in Shanghai China.

Every 4 years the World Cup gives the lighter male fighter the opportunity to compete in their weight Divisions. As opposed to the World Tournament held in Japan every other 4 years which is an open weight tournament for Men. This year we took Sempai Michael Dent light weight, Sempai Gabriel Shield Middle Weight, Sempai David Weir Smith heavy weight and Sempai Leigha Adams Middle Weight women. All fantastically talented and humble young Karateka who you will find putting in 150% at advanced training sessions one day and the next day running juniors and kids training sessions. That is what our branch is all about, grass roots Kyokushin.



From Left to Right, Sempai Leigha Adams, Sempai Gabriel Shields, Sempai David Smith, Sempai Michael Dent.

Sempai Leigha Adams, fought a tough Ukraine fighter in the first round. The fight was extremely even in the first minute, with both fighters exchanging punch for punch, kick for kick. Unfortunately, Sempai Leigha injured her foot badly and was unable to fight on. After being treated by the medics Sempai Leigha has walked away from the tournament without serious injury.

Sempai Gabriel Shields fought a Chinese fighter in the first round. Fighting with a lot of confidence and commitment he dominated his opponent. Taking the victory via Ippon (Waza-ari/Waza-ari). Round 2 saw Gabriel face a more experienced fighter. Trying hard to have an impact on his opponent and again fighting with commitment. But unfortunately, was beaten by ippon.

Sempai Michael fought well but could not get the flags against a difficult Chinese fighter in the first round.

Sempai David Weir Smith battled through the 4 preliminary rounds and two extensions to make the semi-final of the heavyweight division. In the semi-final David fought a tough Canadian fighter, taking the fight to an extension, but unfortunately loosing on points. David was awarded 3rd place after his opponent from the other side of the draw was too injured to fight. Sempai David has been competing internationally for the past 5 years with this 3rd place at the World Cup being a career highlight.



Sempai David at the presentations, Russia 1st, Canada 2nd, Australia 3rd, South Africa 4th.

Congratulations Sempai David, a great victory in Shanghai. It has been a long drought for our Branch in the male divisions. Not since Sensei Eddy Sorenson came 3rd in 2002, have we had a male trophy winner at a World Cup or World Tournament event.

All, World Cup & World Tournament are high level events. The competition is tough and fierce, and pressure is always next level. Our 4 fighters all represented themselves and their branch fantastically. The experience and learning they bring back from an experience like this benefit everyone in the Branch and will make us all stronger. So, congratulations and thankyou again! We are all very appreciative of your commitment and efforts.

In addition to the fighting these events are always an opportunity for our Judges and Referee's to gain some experience on a world stage. Our branch had 8 judges and referee's in attendance, all being rostered on for different mats and divisions. Leading the way for us all was our Branch Chief. Shihancho Viccars was in demand all day. With the highlight being Shihancho refereeing the heavy weight final!



Shihancho Viccars, Centre Referee Heavy Weight Male Final.

Another great Kyokushin adventure. Traveling to China, catching up with old friends from around the world, experiencing a different culture, expanding our Karate knowledge. What more do you want? Osu David Nabulsi.