

2010 CTFI National Championships Report

Wow - what a weekend!

November 12 and 13, 2010 saw 380 competitors descend on Richmond, B.C. (a suburb of Greater Vancouver) to participate in the 2010 CTFI National Championships. The event was held in one small (20,000 square feet) corner of the amazing Richmond Olympic Oval – the home of the long track speed skating races during the 2010 Olympics last spring.



Everyone was very pleased with the Host Hotel – Hilton Vancouver Airport – which was within easy walking distance of the competition venue. Even the weather cooperated! It can be cool and very rainy in November, but we had 3 nearly dry days for the 10 minute stroll to and from the Oval.

Friday November 12 saw the hard working volunteers from the Host Club, Triumph Taekwon-Do, setting up the competition area at 6am. Local TV Station CITY-TV sent their morning show host to the venue to catch some of the action in the morning. He was treated to demonstrations by the Junior Pre-arranged Sparring Team and the Womens Patterns Team.

Check out this web link for TV Show...

<http://video.citytv.com/video/detail/673489635001.000000/taekwondo--greg-attempts-board-breaking/>

On Friday, 130 Black Belts battled for top honours in Junior, Senior and Super Senior divisions. For the Juniors and Seniors, this was very serious business as everyone went all out to win a spot on the National Team going to New Zealand for the World Championships in March 2011.

B division eliminations and A division round robin matches were held for all Patterns divisions, resulting in the selection of our champions for the National team. Free

Sparring eliminations were held as well, but A division round robins were held over until Saturday afternoon to give competitors a rest before their hardest work began.

In a first at a Canadian Nationals, Mr. Kurt Ottesen (VI), a member of the ITF Umpire Committee, brought along one of the ITF Electronic Scoring Systems which was used in the centre ring. The system worked well, kept the fans and competitors informed and really sped up the scoring for free sparring.

Friday activities started at 10:30am and finished at 5pm, seeing many exhausted Black Belts head off to relax at the Host Hotel, renew old friendships and trade stories from the day.

Saturday started early with Opening Ceremonies at 8:00am sharp. Host club Triumph Taekwon-Do had arranged for an exciting ceremonies that started with a procession of Masters, VIPs, Senior Umpires and Black Belts following behind their Provincial flags, all marching in to the beat of AC/DCs "Back in Black".



After the Bow-In and National Anthem, everyone was mesmerized by a local Korean Drumming group. This was followed by welcoming speeches from VIPs and presentations to Instructors.





As part of the Opening Ceremonies, the Sr. Prearranged Sparring team of Mr. Chris Law (V) and Mr. Mike Blom (IV) performed their routine, followed by the 2009 World Silver Medal Champions Womens Patterns Team performing 3 patterns. The crowd was riveted at the skill exhibited by both teams.

Competition for Coloured Belts got underway at 9am with 6 rings operating under the guidance of our senior umpires. Medals for the winners were presented on a special podium off the competition floor to allow parents and supporters to get up close for a good photo opportunity (and to speed up the action on the competition floor).



Coloured Belt competition finished by 3:00pm. Black Belt Sparring Round Robins followed. Competition was hot with everyone going all out for a spot on the team. With 5 rings running at once, the individual sparring was finished by 5:00pm.

This year saw the return of the extremely popular Team Sparring event. Senior Mens teams from BC and Saskatchewan, and Junior Mens teams from BC and Nova Scotia met on the field of battle to decide who was tops. After 4 rounds, Saskatchewan took gold in Seniors. After 5 close rounds in Juniors, Nova Scotia took top honours. As expected, this was a real crowd pleaser, having several hundred fans on their feet cheering.

The day finished with nearly 30 competitors trying their hand (and feet!) in the Power Breaking and Special Techniques events.

Full results will be published shortly on the CTFI Web site and the National Championships web site.

In another first for a CTFI Nationals, nearly 300 competitors and supporters gathered for a gala awards banquet on Saturday evening. After a fine meal, Master Clint Norman (President of CTFI) and Master Scott Downey (Eastern Canada Vice President of CTFI) awarded medals to all the Black Belt winners in the various divisions. There was a lot of cheering and very many happy Black Belts receiving their awards on a podium in front of their supporters and all the other Black Belts.

After all the individual awards were presented, Tournament Host Mr. Kevin Reinelt (VI) announced the winners of the 4 large Grand Champion trophies. This award was based on total points for participation and finish across all events.

The 2010 National Grand Champion winners were:

- *Junior Male - Sean O'Neil*
- *Junior Female - Maxine Noel*
- *Senior Male - Miro Mostovac*
- *Senior Female - Brandi Merritt*

These competitors trained for, and entered 4, 5 and even 6 events. Congratulations to all our top winners!

After the Grand Champion trophies were awarded, National Team Coaches Mr. Nicolas Tran and Mr. Phillippe Parent announced the selections for members in the Team events at the 2011 World Championships. Junior Male and Female, Senior Male and Female team event members were called up to the front and introduced to the crowd to much cheering and applause.

The ceremonies ended with Mr. Reinelt thanking the many hard working volunteers who helped to put this event together, along with all of the Black Belts who made the competition possible by officiating over the 2 days.

Feedback from participants in the 2010 Nationals was very positive. Overall, it was a very well organized experience with world class venue and accommodations that people will remember for a long time!

Photos from Banquet still to come...