TAEKWON-DO CLUB 2016/2017

It’s been a brilliant year for Taekwon-Do. The club continues to grow and we’ve maintained our consistently high standard in gradings and competitions. In May we had the honour of welcoming First Grandmaster Rhee for a seminar and celebration dinner, 50 years after he brought Taekwon-Do to the UK. Whilst a surreal experience for many of our members, it was an extremely valuable one, as he taught us about the art of Taekwon-Do itself as well as just the physical technique.

Gradings

The club has performed brilliantly in gradings this year, with 3 gradings so far promoting a new blue belt, 2 new blue tags and 4 new green belts, along with several new yellow tags. Students also impressed Grandmaster Paul Cutler who visited us for a seminar in December and graded several of our members. This was a great experience learning from the founder of A.C.E and one of the highest ranking practitioners in the UK, and everyone learnt a great deal. We hope to continue these grading successes in the upcoming May grading and at our annual Summer Training Camp in June. This is an amazing 4 day weekend of intense training, sparring, fitness, stretching, flying techniques, breaking, patterns and self defence which attracts many of our alumni year on year. Two long-standing members of the club, Mr Matthew Dryden and Chris Marriott will be graduating this year but will continue to stay part of the TKD community when they come back for Summer Camp and seminars.
Competitions
We attended 2 competitions this year, hosting for the first time, an inter-university competition, with competitors from Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee, St Andrews, and members of the community. St Andrews continued to perform spectacularly, winning 12 of the 15 categories we entered, as well as many silvers and bronzes. We’re looking forward to seeing the other uni clubs in the dojang again next year!

Kickathon
In the third year running we ran our annual charity Kickathon in aid of the Charities Campaign, this time bigger and more challenging than ever. We spent 48 hours outside the Union breaking 10,000 boards, doing 10,000 press ups, and performing 100,000 pattern moves, raising £1400 in the process. Everyone from beginners to long-serving black belts were able to help us towards our targets and improve their technique and confidence in breaking. We’re very, very proud of everyone that took part and all the sleep they gave up, the bruises they sustained and perseverance they showed all the way through.

Crash Course in Martial Arts
This year we continued the tradition of teaming up with the University martial arts clubs to form one super conglomerate of badassery in the form of our annual Crash Course in Martial Arts. Beginners and long-time practitioners alike were able to experience a taste of the University’s 6 martial arts clubs and find the one that would work for them. We have continued this cooperation with the joint Martial Arts May Dip and hope to work closer with the other clubs in the coming year.
As well as being awesome in the Dojang, we’ve also had a fantastic year as a club and community, holding events as diverse as Destruction parties, Pub TKD, beach bonfires, murder mysteries, games nights, pub quizzes, and of course the infamous Sinners.