



Report: Team Australia - 14th Funakoshi Gichin Cup Limerick, Ireland, August 2017

Firstly, I would like to thank Mr Noel Casey from JKA Ireland, Naka and Okuma Senseis from JKA HQ and the JKA Ireland organising committee for organising a fantastic event.

The Australian contingent consisted of 76 junior and senior competitors competing in both kata and kumite. Accompanying our competitors, we had 8 coaches and 2 directors under guidance of Lutie van den Berg, and 4 judges.

We also had a large number of karateka attending the JKA World Gasshuku, presented by Ueki Shuseki Shihan, Oishi fuku Shuseki Shihan and the JKA HQ instructors. The seminar was once again of excellent quality and our karateka enjoyed and benefited greatly from the high level technical instruction.

Our junior students competed very well and in good spirit and despite not winning any medals this time, our students did their very best. We had a number of our students making it to the final 8 and final 16 in their respective divisions. Competing at an event of this quality has certainly inspired our students to train diligently in order to perform even better at the next Funakoshi Gichin Cup in 2020.

Our senior students also competed very well:

Our ladies Team Kata made it to the final 8.

One of our ladies competitors, Kim Parker, also made it to the final 8 in ladies individual kumite, losing to Shiina Mai Sensei (World Champion) in the final 8.

Overall our students had a very positive experience and are committed and inspired to continue training and competing in true budo fashion.

One of our judges, Jim Wood MBE, was also appointed as Vice Chief Judge of his court, which is an honour in itself.

We would also like to thank all the judges and referees from all the countries who performed a fantastic job over the 3 days of competition.

We look forward to the next Funakoshi Gichin Cup in Tokyo 2020!

Oss!



Lutie van den Berg
(National Coach)