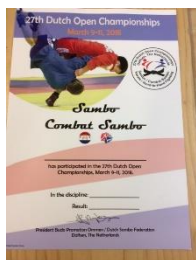


Dutch Open SAMBO Championships 2018



This year was the 27th. Dutch Open SAMBO Championships held in the newly refurbished and impressive Trefkoele sports hall, in Dalfsen, Holland. With over 18 countries, from as far afield as India, Sri Lanka, Canada, America and Russia attending, this event is fast becoming a must for Samboists who wish to compete against top class foreign opposition, with minimum financial outlay.



With five sharing a car and the expenses, the one night trip from Folkestone cost £85.00 each.

We left Folkestone at 5pm Friday, catching the six o'clock Eurotunnel train. Heightened security checks took a while to get through, but we boarded on time, with only one minor calamity. The electric windows in my ageing Seal Alhambra are not working, so, after having to keep getting out of the car at various check points, I decided to force the window down. Wrong move! Instead of creating enough opening for the Border Force inspectors to see into the car, the whole glass window disappeared into the door panel. On to the train, and as soon as it got moving, out came the tool box, off came the door panel and the window was retrieved and re-instated.

Landing in Calais at 7.45pm, local time, the four competitors from Spitfire, Danny Carrott, Nathan Johnson, Francesca Aspey and Izzie Namey, settled back for the 270 mile trip to Dalfsen.



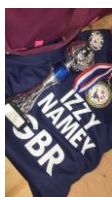
One advantage of travelling at this time, was that traffic was light. Four hours later, with one short comfort break, we were in the Moirivier (nice river) hotel carpark. Although reception was closed, the night ported could not have been more helpful, showing us to our rooms and making us welcome. He must have been prepped, as he said he was more than happy to serve us a night cap in the lounge, and if we needed him, to just ring 9, from any phone.



I would certainly recommend this hotel to any-one who wants to stay in this tranquil are of Holland.

Dutch Open SAMBO Championships 2018

16 year old Izzie was the first competitor to weigh in on Saturday, the day of the competition, at 09.45 Fighting in the under 57kg category, her hardest fight was against a Dutch girl in the semi-final. Trailing by four points to nil, she pulled a four point throw out of the bag to level the scores with seconds to go. The whistle sounded, indicating the end of the contest, and Izzie had won by the rationalisation that her four point throw was technically superior to her opponent's two one point and one two point techniques. So, into the final against the Belgian. No problems here, an emphatic 6 -0 victory for the gold medal.



Next up came one of Spitfire's coaches, 17 year old Francesca Aspey, who found the going difficult against heavier opponents. Dutch girl and although she fought, she did save her best



In her first fight, she lost on an arm lock to a local lost 6 – 0 to the French opponent in her second efforts to last and finished the contest strongly.

Last to weigh-in were the men, Danny Carrott, over 90kg and Nathan Johnson, under 90kg, from Spitfire who were joined by the only other British representative, Billy-Joe Wilshire from Fightworx, Somerset in the under 74kg. Billy flew into Amsterdam, then caught the train to Dalfts. Billy fought in a pool of nine, narrowly missing out on a bronze medal. He lost his first fight to the eventual gold medallist from Canada, 11 – 0 which placed him in the recharge. A leg lock victory over his Sri Lankan opponent saw him progress, but he was stopped in the next round by a 9 – 1 loss to a Dutch rival. Billy travels to competitions whenever he can and his technique and confidence is really improving.

Nathan Johnson, a first kyu in judo, fought in the biggest pool of 17 players. A leg lock victory over a Dutch player in the first round meant he would meet the eventual gold medallist in round two. Nathan found him too strong and struggled to an 8 – 0 loss. Now fighting for bronze, Nathan progressed with a very good 14 – 4 victory over a Frenchman, before losing on a leg lock to the Dutchman who he beat in the first round. Overall, 5th. Place in a pool of seventeen, a very good result.

Last and by no means least, was our most experienced player, Danny. Competing in the slightly heavier weight group of over 90kg, his first fight against a younger Dutch man was his hardest. Losing 1 – 0 with ten seconds to go, he emulated Izzie's earlier victory with a last gasp two point throw. With four seconds to go, his opponent was so devastated that he could not continue. The semi-final was much easier and an 11 – 0 victory over a German saw Danny into the final. The 9 – 0 final result against another German adversary does not tell the whole story. While technically superior standing, the German clearly wanted to go to the ground, where twice Danny was almost caught on arm locks, but either escaped or held off.



Well done to the whole British team, a great experience, a superb day of competition, some extremely good contests and a very proud coach!

Finally, we left Dalfts at 5pm for the return journey home. One stop later and we were in Calais by 10pm, catching an earlier than planned train at 10.20 and back in doors by 10.15, British time.

Colin Carrott
English Sombo Federation President.

Dutch Open SAMBO Championships 2018

