

# 28TH British Open Championships FESTIVAL OF CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS

BY KATHERINE ALLEN



The 28th British Open Championships were held at the Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford on 9th April 2017. There was a wonderful mix of events including Tai Chi Hand and Weapons Forms as well as External Forms and competitors from across the nation. There were large matted areas for Fixed and Moving Step Pushing Hands, including Junior Events, with lots of action and commitment. It was a chance to meet up with old friends and meet others from the martial arts community, who are now new friends. It was a great opportunity to watch a variety of Internal and External Forms as well as the skills of Pushing Hands. A big thanks to the Organiser, Sifu Dan Docherty, for giving the Chinese Martial Arts community this chance to come together to celebrate its great variety and impressive skills.

## LION DANCE

This year was made even more special by an exciting demonstration of traditional Lion Dances from two prestigious clubs: The Eagle Claw Kung Fu School UK based in Maidenhead, Berkshire and led by Sifu Julian Dale. The Pak Mei Athletic Association, London, led by Sifu Dave Stevens. The demonstration teams gave top class performances and we will have the chance to see them in action again 17th to 19th November at the same location where the TCFE (The Taijiquan and Qigong Federation for Europe) will be holding their Championships.

## NEW EDITOR TCUGB MAGAZINE

The new Editor of the TCUGB (Tai Chi Union for Great Britain) magazine, Dr Mark Langweiler, presented himself at the Editorial Desk, inviting everyone to come and meet him and have a chat. I took Mark up on his invitation and was impressed by his open, friendly approach and was delighted to meet him.

## YOUNG COMPETITORS

It was heartening to see so many young competitors from the Berrymede Junior School in London, enjoying themselves. Tony Ulatowski, the school team's Tai Chi teacher and Chris Burlow, a teacher at the school who gave up his time to organise their attendance, looked on proudly. The children were very excited by their medals won, and also by the Lion Dance.

