



Among the awardees at the International Federation of Funakoshi Shotokan Karate South Africa (IFFSK) annual banquet were, from left, Kirti Hansraj, Shivaan Ramdeen, Aveline Harilall, Yashna Sarju, Shrihara Pattundeen with head coach Malvin Govender

Picture: NINEY RUTHNAM

Banquet for high kickers

THE International Federation of Funakoshi Shotokan Karate of South Africa (IFFSKSA) held its annual awards and dinner banquet at Sol Namara Hotel, Chatsworth, on Saturday.

Karatekas who excelled at the World Championships held in Sun City in September, together with those who earned provincial and national colours, were honoured on the night.

Kirthi Hansraj, Shivaan Ramdeen, Aveline Harilall, Yashna Sarju and Shrihara Pattundeen received full Protea colours in 2009, and represented South Africa in the Commonwealth Championships in Centurion on Octo-

ber 16-17 where they all excelled and walked away with top honours.

Shrihara also represented South Africa in the junior and cadet WKF world championships in Morocco in November, where she performed with distinction.

Team coach Sensei Malvin Govender expressed his satisfaction with the achievements of the karatekas under his tutelage and added that the team hoped to reach greater heights in 2010.

The highlight of the evening was the awarding of the Sportsperson of the Year by president of the IFFSKSA, Shihan Eric Govender.

The recipient of this presti-

gious award was Aveline Harilall who had an outstanding year culminating in achieving Protea colours.

Aveline also received international recognition when she won gold at the Commonwealth Championships

Shihan Govender was full of praise for all his karatekas, senseis, officials and parents who had contributed to making 2009 a successful year for the IFFSKSA

"Their success is especially significant since we celebrate our 25th anniversary this year. The karatekas also learnt the important lesson that hard work, dedication and perseverance reaps rich rewards," said Govender.