

2012 British Medallists



British Medallists Jack Thompson and Kirstyn Chase

On Sunday Kin Ryu Judo Club juniors were out in force in Sheffield for the 2012 British Schools Championships. This event is a National competition open to all youngsters from year 6 and above and it attracts some of Great Britain's top young fighters. The first to compete was Joseph O'Doherty representing St Wilfred's School in the yr 6/7, u30kg category. Joseph started well winning his first contest in just 4 seconds and his second in style, both with blistering throws. In the semi-final Joseph was unlucky to get caught at the end of the contest, which left him fighting for bronze. The bronze medal contest unfortunately went in a similar way and Joseph had to settle for 5th place but this is a good achievement for this level of the sport.

Following Joseph in the yr 6/7 age group was Jack Thompson in the U55kg category representing Forest School. 2011/12 has been a good year for Jack with silver at the British trials and silver at the Midlands U20 but he was in a tough group and required his best to medal. Jack was unlucky to lose his first to the eventual gold medallist but he won the next 2 in style. In his fourth fight he was unlucky to again get caught with a good throw from his opponent, but he won 3rd place and took the bronze medal.

Following him was the start of the boy's yrs 8/9 and also from St Wilfred's School; David O'Doherty was competing in the U46kg category. For David this was his 3rd time competing at the British schools event, but having never medalled he was determined to improve on last year's performance. David's campaign did not start as planned, with a tough first contest which he narrowly lost, but determined to still medal he fought on through the repechage and won the next 3 with great throws. In the bronze medal fight David came up against the boy he had lost to in the first contest and an epic battle between the two boys followed. It was a close match but a different result this time and David won the contest with a score in extra time to secure a bronze medal.

The final contestant for Kin Ryu was Kirstyn Chase from Holy Trinity School in the yr 8/9 U52kg group. After a bye in the first round, Kirstyn started impressively winning her first contest in just 12 seconds to gain a place in the semi-final. This was also a good contest and Kirstyn fought hard but was unfortunately caught with a good throw by her opponent with just 30 seconds to go. In the bronze medal fight however Kirstyn was not waiting about and won in just 7 seconds to secure her bronze medal.

Coach Richard Williams said "It was great to see these youngsters performing on the national stage. Their results just prove that hard work does pay off and let's hope this is the start of a great competitive 2012".

Kin Ryu Judo Club train at K2, Crawley Juniors Mon 5-6pm, 6-7.30pm, Wed 7-8.30pm (advanced class), Thurs 6.30-8.00, Seniors Wed 8.30-10.00pm, all new beginners welcome. For more information call Lisa Harrison on 01293 531549, www.kinryu.org.uk or come visit us at K2!