

## Record Medals for Kin Ryu Fighters



Pictured above: Kin Ryu Gold Medallists Ertug Vanli, Josh Leonard, Connor Leonard

This summer there was no let up from competition for the athletes from Kin Ryu Judo Club.

The summer was kicked off by the Kent International.

This is the biggest and one of the toughest events in the judo calendar with 1000 players competing over 2 days at London's Crystal Palace.

The competition attracts players from across Great Britain and Europe but the players were well prepared for fighting with the best.

Kin Ryu had 18 players representing the club all sections of the competition.

Everyone fought well and the final results were gold for Josh Leonard, Connor Leonard and Ertug Vanli, silver for Kirstyn Chase and Thea Griffey and bronze for Adam Funnell and Tracy Bird.

Following this it was the start of the summer ranking events and the chance to pick up ranking points before the British Trials at the end of the year.

Kin Ryu players were present at events around the country, as were some of the best athletes in the country.

The first stop was the London Open held this year at the University of East London.

Kin Ryu was represented by 7 athletes and all fought hard resulting in bronze medals for Connor Leonard and Natalie Greenhough and 5<sup>th</sup> places for Josh Leonard, Tracy Bird, Jack Thompson and Adam Funnell.

The next event took the club west to Swindon and again the club's top athletes were out in force.

Josh, Connor, Jack and Tracy are becoming a force to be reckoned with on the national stage again putting in great performances, and they were joined by Zack Wake, Katherine Burke, William Burke, Lia Thompson.

The final results were bronze for Jack and William and 5<sup>th</sup> places for Connor, Josh, Katherine and Lia.

Despite losing for bronze Josh put in the performance of his life against the national Gold medallist beating him in the first round but losing to him in the bronze fight a great day's judo!

The final competitions split the club with the younger players heading east to the Eastern Area Open and the older players back West to Salisbury.

It was the same faces with Josh, Connor, Jack and Tracy again going for gold and they were joined in the east by Adam Funnell, Grace and Joe Beckett and Corlia Robertson.

With some superb judo it was Corlia and Josh who came out on top both taking silver medals, Connor, Adam, Tracy and Grace took bronze and Jack finished just outside the medals in 5<sup>th</sup>.

In the West David O'Doherty jnr and Kirstyn Chase both took gold in the junior section, Natalie Greenhough took bronze in the youth section before fighting in the senior section and taking Silver and David O'Doherty snr finished the summer with a silver in the masters section.

Coach Lisa Harrison said "it's been a busy summer with some fantastic wins by our young athletes.

All have shown huge improvements and as we head into the National season I am confident that all the hard work will pay off".

For more information call Lisa Harrison on 01293 531549, [www.sajudo.org.uk/kinryu](http://www.sajudo.org.uk/kinryu) or come visit us at K2!