

Record Medals for Kin Ryu Fighters

Kin Ryu Judo club are celebrating a great start to 2012 with a run of wins at events up and down the country. All players have been in action from the youngest 5 year olds to the Over 30 masters as the fighters take every opportunity to practice their skills against their opponents.

Starting off the year back in January were the junior red and yellow belts and senior kyu grades as they competed in Thetford, East Anglia. All fought well and resulted in gold for Zack Wake, silver for Corlia Robertson and Natalie Greenhough and bronze for Adam Funnell, Georgia Kirkman, Thea Griffey, William Burke, Samuel Howarth-Moore and Olivia Childs.

The following weekend was the start of the National event for this year at the Midland U20 ranking tournament. This was always going to be a tough event and David O'Doherty, Joseph O'Doherty and Kirstyn Chase were unlucky not to medal on this occasion but showed some strong performances. The final 3 Kin Ryu fighters also fought well and were able finish strongly in their categories, Corlia Robertson took bronze in U28kg, Jack Thompson won silver in O46kgs and William Burke took gold in U27kg with a huge throw in the final.

With no break, the Kin Ryu team moved on to Wales where the 2012 Commonwealth Judo tournament was being held. Kin Ryu Master Gavin Archibald fought back from injury 2 weeks before the event to give a brilliant performance and finish in 3rd place for his first Commonwealth medal. Gavin, who is the current British Champion at his weight, won 3 from his 4 fights to take the medal. Also out in force were Kin Ryu referees (and the clubs head coaches) Martin Rivers, Peter Seymour and Lisa Harrison, the trio refereed for 5 days straight in 2 different cities but with the atmosphere in the Cardiff Millennium Centre it was worth the exhaustion.



Pictured: Gavin Archibald
with his Commonwealth bronze medal

Rounding off January were the clubs youngest players, competing at the Beechwood invitation in Tunbridge Wells. The 20 youngsters who were all aged between 5-10yrs fought well in what was to be a tough competition. The first to start was the 5-6 yr olds and Kin Ryu was represented by 5 players Caitlin Gilmore, Louis Kirkham, Zac Graham, Grace Beckett and Isabelle Cook. All fought well and showed some great skill especially for their age and experience and resulted in Caitlin and Grace winning a bronze medal and Zac, Isabelle and Louis taking the first gold medals of the day.

Following these were the fighters in the 7-8 yr old groups. The club was represented by Enrique Howells, George Harman, Zac Deer, Georgia Kirkman, Fallon Tibbs, Rebecca Childs and Katherine Burke. Once again these fought well in some tough groups and resulted with bronze medals going to Fallon, Rebecca, George and Zac. Silver medals went to Katherine and Enrique took the gold in a very close fought group.

The final groups to fight were the 9-10 year olds and fighting for Kin Ryu were William Burke, Adam Funnell, Alex Young, Thea Griffey, Harrison Lynn, Jad Achagra, Joe Beckett and Ross Murphy. In this group Kin Ryu had a mixture of players both experienced and those on their first competition but all fought tough contests and truly earned their medals. The final results were bronzes for Alex, Thea, and Harrison. Silver for Joe and Ross and final gold medals for William and Adam. Jad fought in 2 groups and won silver in the first and bronze in the second giving him 6 fights throughout the day.

Kin Ryu fighters have worked hard to produce this level of results and the medals they are winning is a fitting reward for all that work, well done to all!!

Kin Ryu has a new junior session starting the 1st of March 2012 on Thursday from 6.30-8pm if you want to join our growing club or for more information please call Lisa Harrison on 01293 531549, www.kinryu.org.uk or come visit us at K2!