

Kin Ryu Judo Club Fighters win in style



Pictured above Kin Ryu's winning squad: Kirstyn Chase, Peter Neave, Jane Neave, Joseph O' Doherty, Jack Thompson, David O Doherty, Andrew Woods, Lauren Graves, Matthew Graves, William Burke, Ellie Woods, Corlia Robertson, Susannah Neave, Adam Funnell, Zack Wake, Laura Kinder, Alex Faria, Katherine Burke, Enrique Howells, Thea Griffey, Georgia Kirkman, Lia Thompson, Mark Graves, Marion Graves, Simon Williams, James Hiley, Natalie Greenhough and Sam Kavanagh

On Sunday 24 Kin Ryu judo club juniors and 6 seniors fought at the Sussex County Judo Trials held at Durrington Leisure Centre in Worthing. The trials are a chance for fighters from across Sussex to try to gain a place on the 2012 Sussex County Judo Squad and a chance to represent their County at the Intercounties team event to be hosted this year by Sussex.

Starting the day off was the girls in the U25 kgs, in this group Kin Ryu fighter Susannah Neave found herself the lightest fighter of the day but fought hard to finish in 2nd place and take silver. Fighting in the weight above, at U28 kgs, was the youngest member of the team Katherine Burke who was competing at her first trials. She fought well securing the silver medal with a great throw.

In U32kgs it was experience that won through as Corlia Robertson defended her title to become Sussex champion for the third year running. She defeated her team mate Georgia Kirkman who took a hard earned bronze at her first county trials. Following in U36kg was Lia Thompson and Laura Kinder. It was the replay of last years battle and ended with Lia taking the silver and Laura the bronze.

In the girls U40kg it was an all Kin Ryu group with fighters Samantha Miller, Thea Griffey and Jane Neave, all competing for the top spot. All girls fought well but it was Jane who came out on top, beating all her opponents to take the Gold medal and title of Sussex Champion. Thea and Sam competed well and in their first trials and finished with Thea taking silver and Sam the bronze medal. In the U48kg group Kin Ryu was represented by Lauren Graves who had three tough fights but won them all to take the gold medal and Sussex Champion title. In the U52 kgs Kin Ryu fighter Kirstyn Chase had an equally tough field as she found herself the youngest and lowest grade in a tough group, but she fought hard to take the silver medal. Rounding off the girls group was Ellie Woods in the U63 kgs group Ellie had some tough fights but stormed through to take gold and the championship title.

In the boys group the U27kgs title was won by Adam Funnell who threw all his opponents skilfully to take the title. Also fighting in U27kgs was Enrique Howells who was the lightest player at the event giving away nearly 6kgs to his opponents. Enrique fought well but was unlucky not to medal on this occasion. In the U30kgs, the title was hotly contested by Kin Ryu players William Burke and Joseph O'Doherty. Both boys got off to a great start winning their first rounds with impressive throws, but it was Joseph who pushed ahead of William in the final taking the gold medal while William settled for a respectable bronze. In the U34kg group Zack Wake and Samuel Howarth-Moore were battling for medals in a tough group. All fought well but the field was too strong for Samuel on this occasion and he finished just outside the medals, Zack fought well through the group losing only in the final to take silver.

At U42kgs Alex Faria had a tough group to medal in but he was up to the challenge losing only in the final to take silver medal.

In the U46kgs group David O'Doherty didn't put a foot wrong as he blasted through his group to take the gold and championship title. In the U50kgs Matthew Graves fought well getting into the second round, but he lost in the second round and was unable to make the finals on this occasion. In U55kgs Andrew Woods took on a tough field that included the current British no 3 but this did not phase him as he won through the first round and into the finals. In the final he was unlucky but still secured a well deserved bronze medal. The final Kin Ryu boys fought in the U60kgs and it fell to Peter Neave and Jack Thompson to finish the junior day off. Both fought hard against tough opposition and resulted bronze for Peter and 5th place for Jack just outside the medals.

In the senior ladies Natalie Greenhough fought off heavier opposition to take gold in U70kgs and Marion Graves stood up to the British Senior No 11 to take bronze in the +78kgs. Rounding off the day was the men and for Simon Williams and Sam Kavanagh it was their first Sussex Trials for over 15 years but both fought well with Simon finishing with a silver medal in the U66kgs and Sam narrowly missing out on a medal in the U90kgs. Also in the U90kgs was Mark Graves who again fought well but was unlucky on this occasion. The final Kin Ryu fighter of the day was James Hiley in the men's O100kgs. James fought well and was leading the final against last years junior champion but was thrown with just 20 seconds left on the clock to take a well deserved silver medal.

With 23 fighters making the Sussex 2012 squad and 17 being selected for the Sussex team these have been Kin Ryu's most successful championships of recent years and show how far the players are progressing. This was confirmed when the club was awarded the Meeksan Trophy for winning the most points on the days (points awarded for medals) beating the other clubs by over 20 points. Enrique Howells was also awarded the spirit of Judo award for his performance on the day. Well done to all!!

Kin Ryu Judo Club train at K2, Crawley Juniors Mon 5-6, 6-7.30, Wed 7-8.30, Thursday 6.30-8, Seniors Wed 8.30-10, all new beginners welcome. For more information call Lisa Harrison on 01293 402683, check us out at www.kinryu.org.uk or come visit us at K2!