

British Medallists



On Sunday Kin Ryu Judo Club fighters Gavin Archibald and David O'Doherty were celebrating after winning medals at the British Judo Masters Open held at the Wolverhampton University, Walsall. This event is Great Britain's top event for Masters (fighters over 30) and both players knew they would have to perform at the highest level in order to medal. First to fight was Gavin who has been out of the sport for over a year but had trained hard and was determined to come back in top form. Gavin was competing in the 40-45 age group, U81kg weight category and got off to a great start easily winning his first 3 fights all with perfectly executed throws. In the semi-final he was drawn against a Swedish player, Gavin fought hard but couldn't hold on until the end of the fight and was caught with a well executed throw. His last fight of the day was against a fellow British player. Gavin again dominated throughout the fight but lost narrowly to a penalty score. His first fights though had given him enough points to secure the silver medal and he retains his place in the British Masters Squad as the highest medalling British player in his group. David followed Gavin in the 40-45yrs, U66kg weight category. David fought hard despite being the lowest grade in his category by a considerable margin; he was unlucky to lose his first fight on a referee's decision and his second fight on a small score. For his third fight David had the current British and World masters champion and took the fight almost to time before being caught with a well timed foot sweep. For his last contest David turned the tables and made short work of winning the contest throwing his opponent in just 20 seconds to win. This secured him a medal and a place in the British Masters squad. This is a great achievement for both players and a fitting reward for all their hard work.

Kin Ryu Judo Club train at K2, Crawley Juniors Mon 5-6pm (Beginners under 10), 6-7.30pm (8-16yr olds) and Wed 7-8.30pm (Under 16's), Seniors Wed 8.30-9.30pm (16 yr olds +), Female only (6yr old +) Thurs 6.30-7.30 all new beginners welcome. For more information call Lisa Harrison on 01293 531549, www.kinryu.org.uk or come visit us at K2!