

Western Area Judo Association News Report



Sportif International Tournament

Edinburgh

Saturday 15th April 2017

This year 21 Western Area Judoka attended the Sportif International tournament. This event attracted over 550 athletes from nations including Canada, Australia, Slovakia, Norway, Sweden, Portugal, Belgium, as well as the Home countries and Ireland.

Our team was a mix of an official team travelling with Simon Ward and groups who travelled independently with families and clubs. In total five clubs were represented at the tournament, Devizes, South Brent, Kingsley School, Bradley Stoke and Yate Star.

Our team travelled up to Edinburgh on Friday morning enjoying a fairly relaxed 11 hour drive starting from Bideford up to our team hotel on the outskirts of Edinburgh.

The Western Area Judoka produced some fantastic performances at the event which is also part of the National Ippon League series. Our team returned with 3 Gold, 4 Silver, 6 Bronze medals and five judoka finished in 5th place just missing out on the bronze medal. In total the team took part in 75 contests starting at 9am and our last judoka finished the day by winning Gold at 6:30pm.

The teams Gold medals were won by Josh Shipp and Cerys Callard both from South Brent and Jasmin Edwards from Devizes.

Josh Shipp was in excellent form as he dominated each of his contests in the Cadet u46kg category, He also for the first time in his career defeated Mohammed Dafallah from Ernest Bevin on route to earning his Gold Medal. Cerys Callard won Gold in the Cadet girls u40kg and then also took part in the u44kg category, putting up a good performance against the girls in the higher weight category. The last fight of the day and honour of earning her first Gold medal in two years went to Jasmin Edwards from Devizes. Young Jasmin was in amazing form producing some excellent Newaza to help her reach the final, where she faced a very difficult opponent in Ellie Gilbert from SKK. This contest was very tactical, and evenly balanced, but it was Jasmin who had the higher work rate which led to Ellie picking up a penalty. This was enough to earn Jasmin the victory and Gold medal in the Pre Cadet u48kg Category.

The four silver medal winners were, Tom Smith from South Brent who reached the final of the cadet u50kg category. Tom was in excellent form throughout the day and produced an amazing turn over to defeat his Canadian opponent in the quarter finals. Tom eventually lost to Charlie Young from Ryecroft by just Yuko in an excellent and frantic all action final. Lewis Widdicombe from South Brent lost out to his Great Britain rival at the top of the European Youth Olympics selections Aaron Millar from Hibon Kan club in Scotland. The contest, which will almost certainly be used to select the athlete for the EYO event, was won by Miller in the final of the Cadet u81kg category. It left a very disappointed Lewis who had to settle for silver and possibly selection to the Cadet European Championship. Cordelia Gregory "South Brent" unfortunately also just lost in her final contest in the Pre Cadet over 63kg. Cordelia produced some wonderful Tachiwaza and Newaza wins during her contests in her pool, but faced a very strong Christie-Rose Pretorius from Zodiac in the final. Cordelia held her own, for the first half of the bout but eventually Christie was broken through a spirited defence to overcome a brave effort from Cordeila, who was still very happy to have won the Silver medal. Bradley Stoke Judoka Tatum Keen rounded off the fourth Silver medal when she took part in the junior girl's u52kg. Tatum who is still a cadet fought up the age band to gain experience. Tatum was inspired to fight well after the disappointment of only finishing in 5th place in her own category earlier in the day. On route to the final Tatum defeat two Canadian Judoka before facing home favourite Yasmin Gordon from Sportif Club. This contest was very exciting and almost went the full 4 minutes before Yasmin managed to secure a winning armlock to win Gold and leave a battling Tatum with a well-earned Silver medal.

Bronze medals were won by Kingsley School Judoka Zach McMurray Pre Cadet u34kg. Max Major from Devizes also won a bronze in the Pre Cadet u60kg. South Brent Judoka, Adam Vosper cadet u50kg, Pierre Michelin Pre Cadet u66kg, Max Gregory Cadet u90kg. Ryan Rijksen Salman from Bradley Stoke in the Cadet u66kg and Yate Star Judoka Amy Oram in the Cadet o70kg Category.

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Also fighting incredibly well were our Judoka who just missed out on Bronze medals and had to settle to finish in 5th places, Lewis Mersini from Devizes in u34kg and James Smith from Bradley Stoke in the u42kg in the Minors Age Group, Isabel McKay from Devizes in the Pre Cadet u52kg and George Burton cadet u81kg and Tatum Keen cadet u52kg both from Bradley Stoke.

Also competing well gaining valuable experience at the event was Ben Mersini from Devizes who finished in 7th place in the Pre Cadet u42kg and Alexander Rijksen-Salman from Bradley Stoke who finished in 9th place in the Cadet u55kg category. Devizes judoka Kieran McCann who is just a transition phase from Pre Cadet to Cadet fought well in the tough u50kg category, Kieran competed well in his contest and shows lots of potential as he develops as a cadet.

Overall the entire weekend was a great success for all our Western Area Judoka, all the children conducted themselves brilliantly and were a credit to their clubs and parents.

The weekend was a great team effort, many thanks must go to our support driver and social media blogger Andy McMurray, while Lisa Oram help to support the girls and arranged all the hotel accommodation, while her husband Rich made sure all the children had meals booked in the evenings.

Finally, thanks to all the Judoka who supported our trip whether as part of the official team or independently travelling with parents. The atmosphere was wonderful every time a West Judoka took to the mat, so well done and I'm sure everyone will want to return again in 2018.

Simon Ward.