

Croydon Judo Club's Arnhem Link

Croydon Judo Club Chairman Alan Rickard headed a mixed team of players and support staff who travelled to the Boroughs twin town of Arnhem recently competing in their annual Judo Championships.

The squad of junior and senior competitors were hosted by families from the Dutch Kreijtz Judo Club continuing a tradition established over past years when the bi-annual sports link ran over several sports in both towns.

Starting their trip on a Friday gave the team a chance to recover on Saturday before competing on the Sunday.

This they did with a trip to Oosterbeek first visiting the War Cemetery and then the newly opened refurbished War Museum. Both places that never fail to move and impress visitors.



Following lunch and a stroll around the sites of Arnhem the group returned to spend some time with their host families for supper and to prepare for the following day.



(Flowers for the hostesses.)

Sunday's Championship was as tough as always and classed as training to compete abroad for those in the team making their first trip away.

All players acquitted themselves well with Gold for Tomas Luckus in the under 60kg category and Silver for +63kg Meriad Jackson on their second visit to Arnhem with a Bronze

for under 63kg Laura Birks, 5th place for Tom Hancock under 73kg and Adam Barwell under 46kg all in the Junior categories.

A sterling performance came from the senior squad with +90kg Brian Weeks winning Silver only losing to the Dutch ex twice Junior World Champion. Silver also for under 90kg Ben Miller beating club mate Alfie Dixon into third place for Bronze and brother Alex Miller into 5th place. Previously competing for his university and now at the Croydon club, under 73kg Tim Kay also won Bronze.



Following the competition our friends at Kreijtz Judo club Arnhem held a farewell BBQ and party for the team and host families



Early on the Monday morning the team bid farewell to their new friends and returned home amid invites to visit Croydon, promises to keep in touch and return soon.