

Club's home to GB champions!



● PRIZE FIGHTERS: Harlow's medal winners, from left, Will Murley, Chris Richardson and Sarah-Jayne Hunt (s)

NEWLY-crowned British champions Will Murley and Chris Richardson are celebrating their success.

The Harlow Jikishin Ju Jitsu Club fighters took part in the Combined Jikishin Ju Jitsu Association and British Ju Jitsu Association Governing Body championship in Southend, Essex, where they won their respective events in groundfighting.

More than 500 competitors, both junior and senior, took part in the event, with categories including groundfighting, sparring, random attacks and kata.

Murley (2nd Dan), an instructor at the Harlow club, and Richardson (Green Belt), took on opposition from all over the UK in their respective weight categories.

Murley won gold in the under 75kg category, and Richardson took silver in the under 90kg category.

MARTIAL ARTS

Sarah-Jayne Hunt, a new member at the Harlow club, won a silver medal in the junior female sparring section.

Several other club members competed with varying success, but did not achieve medal positions.

Richardson was overjoyed at his win, and said: "I can't believe it. I just took it one fight at a time and tried not to get too nervous in the final — it worked. Working with Will has improved my game."

Murley had only praise for the other competitors. "It was a hard fought tournament, and I am particularly pleased that I won the gold this year. I won silver in last year's competition, and beat last year's gold medal winner on my way through — that was particularly satisfying. I was also

delighted that Sarah-Jayne won silver — she really deserved it."

Senior club instructor Earl Walker said: "Will and Chris have been working hard on their skills and the hard work has paid dividends — both guys have won medals in Ireland in international competition this year, and Will is now international, national, and Jikishin Champion — a real feat.

"Chris won silver in Eire, and has shown great commitment since competing in the international.

"Sarah-Jayne has been training for the sparring for only a few months, so I am particularly pleased with the way she has developed, and have high hopes for the future."

The competition was organised by the BJJ (GB), the governing body for Ju Jitsu in the UK.