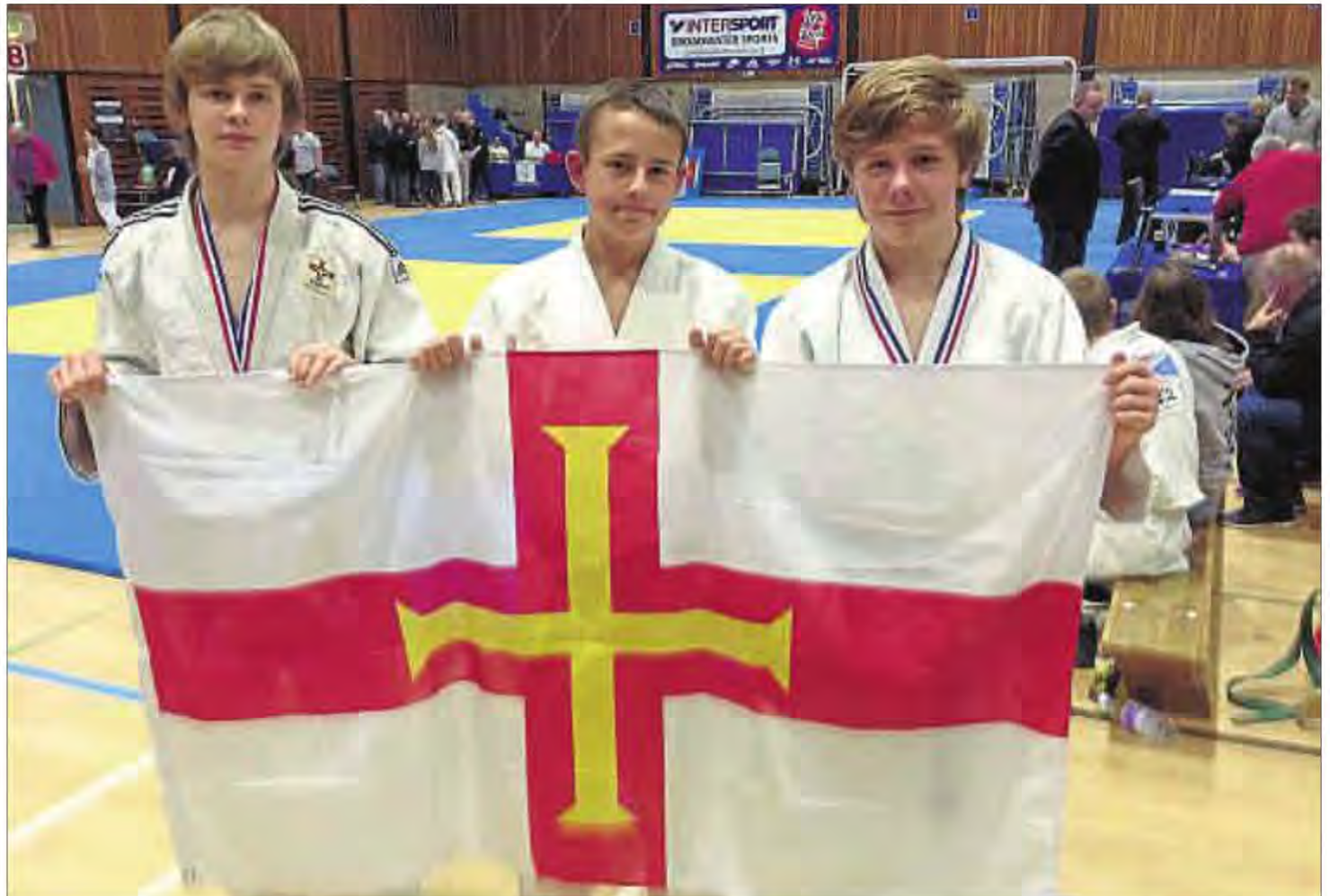


Guernsey Judo Club: Three members on the podium in England



The Guernsey Judo Club trio who competed in the South Coast U16 Open. Left to right: Howard Joyce, Lewis Bourgaize and Brandon Taylor. (12099441)

More Sarnian medal success off island

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THE Guernsey Judo Club have enjoyed more medal success on a trip to the UK.

Three of the club's juniors competed in the prestigious South Coast Under 16 Open in Worthing, an event which attracts many of the top county, area and English squad members from all over the South of England and is a tough tournament for even the most experienced competitors.

Twelve-year-old Lewis Bourgaize was competing off island for the first time and was fighting at under 55kg.

He had two very experienced county players in his group and, despite putting up a spirited display, Bourgaize just failed to get into the fight-off for the medals.

Nevertheless, the experience gained will help in his development and he has another three years to progress in this event.

Brandon Taylor, fighting at under 73kg, was also up against older and more battle-hardened opponents, but his strength and determination proved good enough to gain him a well-



Louis Plevin in action. (12069053)

earned silver medal.

Perhaps the most experienced of the squad is 15-year-old Howard Joyce, who impressed everyone with his refusal to be beaten and, in his third bout of the day,

managed an excellent throw on his county-level opponent that earned him a bronze medal and praise from eighth dan and former British international Mick Leigh.

Sensei Leigh said that the only thing preventing the Guernsey boys from winning more contests was their lack of experience and they need to travel to UK competitions more often.

While the juniors were competing in Worthing, 18-year-old Louis Plevin was enjoying more medal success at the London Universities Open Championships, winning gold in the junior (under 20) at under 90kg and then going on to win the silver medal in the senior tournament.

Plevin's next competition is the Welsh Open and following a training weekend in Holland, he will be in Sheffield competing in the British Championships in the Junior (U20) category, fighting at under 90kg.

Coach Mitch Agnelli said he is delighted that Plevin's move to Anglia Ruskin University has put him into one of the strongest judo university squads and in only a short time he has shown just how much potential he has in the sport. With South Africa holding the Commonwealth Judo Championships next April, Plevin must be considered an outside chance of a medal in the junior section and could even challenge for some of the senior medals.