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KARINA BRYANT WINS FOURTH EUROPEAN TITLE

Karina Bryant has become European Champion at the 2005 European Championships, which took place in Rotterdam, Holland from 20-22 May.

It is the fourth European title for the 26 year old Camberley player who also won the Championships in 1998, 2000 and 2003. Bryant defeated Lucija Paulauder of Slovenia, Sandra Borderieux of Spain and Maryna Prokofyeva of the Ukraine in the early rounds before meeting Tea Donguashvili of Russia in the final. The Brit, who won two medals at the last World Championships in 2003, is back on top form after a disappointing Olympic Games in Athens.

The gold medal came on the third and final day of the Championships, which saw a total of four medals being won by the British team, who finished fourth overall in the medals table, behind France, Russia and host nation the Netherlands.

Sophie Cox won a silver medal on the opening day, just losing out to Olga Sonina of Russia in the final of the under 57kg category.

Edinburgh's Euan Burton won a bronze medal in the under 81kg category, a personal best for Burton, who narrowly missed out on the qualifying for the Athens Olympics when he finished 5th at last year's Championships.

Camberley's Rachel Wilding also achieved a personal best picking up a silver medal in the under 78kg category. The 28 year old won all her early round fights before losing in the final to Celine Lebrun of France.

Great Britain's women finished second overall in the women's medals table, which means they have qualified for the European Team Championships for Women, which takes place in Budapest, Hungary in October along with the Netherlands, France and hosts Hungary.

Scott McCarthy, British Judo Chief Executive said: "We are very pleased with the results from Rotterdam. This is a period of rebuilding our programme and three of our strongest players were unable to participate due to injuries. To secure four medals is a fantastic achievement and to finish 4th in the medals table is a good result.

"Karina Bryant is back to her dominant form and it was great to see Rachel Wilding and Euan Burton step up a gear – while Sophie Cox continues to get stronger with every competition."

Note to Editors

To request interviews or profiles on any of the players please contact Emma Reed.

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