

# NEWSLETTER



## Keidokwai Judo Club's Annual Awards Evening 2025 Celebration!

Monday 15th December saw our last session of 2025 with many surprises, presentations & awards. Our junior class was treated to a surprise visit from Santa who had gifts for all of the children. This was followed by our Annual Awards presentation. Most Improved Junior was Leah, Most Improved Teenager was Dylan, Most Improved Senior was Matt & the Spirit of Judo Award was given to Sam. Finally the inaugural presentation of The Dennis Taylor Presidents Shield was proudly awarded to Amber.

## Editor's Letter: Daniel Hankinson (Head Coach)

Thats a wrap for 2025! In a year that began with severe challenges that saw us leave our long term venue with one goal only of trying to keep Keidokwai running at all we arguably ended up having our most successful year in recent memory! From competitive results including national medalists and a new British Champion, to coaching awards success. From recognition and an in-depth positive article by Active Lancashire to newly qualified coaches offering their experience to our players. From well deserved new gradings, regular new starters and even a surprise visit from Santa, I can't remember a year in my time with Keidokwai that has had such an impact at so many different levels. So I



wish to thank all of our players, coaches, volunteers and parents who have helped make this year so very memorable! Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! 2026 is going to be even BIGGER!



## British Judo Championships 2025 Experience for Amber Grand!

After a break out year that has seen great results, including Bronze at the British Schools Championships, Silver at the Craig Fallon Cup and becoming a British Champion with the NW Team at the British Teams Championships, Amber faced her biggest challenge yet at the 2025 British Judo Cadet Championships. Amber came away with one win, a great result for a first year Cadet.



## Our In-club Development Competition Built Great Experience and Memories!

On Sunday 30th November we held our first in-club development competition at Keidokwai JC with over 30 children in attendance! Overall the event was a success with medals earned by all participants as well as awards for Throw of the Day and Spirit of Judo presented. The refereeing & officiating was performed by our teenagers to build experience and confidence who did a great job.



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## Competition Roundup: Sheffield University Kyu Grade Tournament

On Saturday 6th December our seniors traveled to Sheffield for the annual SUKT! This was a notable event for us as we took seven competitors, with half of them competing for the first time! Our players took away two gold (Amber & John) and two bronze medals (Matt & James). Brad, Chris & Andy came away with some great experience earned! Special mention also goes to Asyia who on the same day took part in the Wirral JC U8 Festival earning a trophy, experience and praise for her Judo ability.

## Callum passes his 1st Dan Grade Theory & Gary passes his 5th Dan Theory!

Congratulations to Callum Reid on passing his competitive skills exam for his 1st Dan! In 2026 he will be working towards fighting for his points for his black belt! Many thanks are given to Joe Burns at Club 62 Blackburn for conducting Callum's assessment. Congratulations also goes to Gary Burt for passing his 5th Dan technical theory exam! With about 40 years of experience in Judo and a wealth of knowledge gained in that time this grade will be a real testament to his long term dedication to judo and teaching! Gary just has to wait a little longer for it to be official due to time served in grade rules but we look forward to seeing Gary with his 5th Dan certification in hand soon. Thank you to Pat and Dawn Byrne from Lancaster University JC for conducting Gary's assessment. We are looking forward to seeing potentially at least one new Keidokwai Dan grade on the mat in 2026!



## UK Coaching Awards 2025 – An Evening with Inspirational Coaches in Leeds!

On 4th December 2025 Dan traveled to Leeds for the 2025 UK Coaching Awards! Over the course of the evening awards were presented along with a discussion panel with some of the biggest names in female coaching in the UK (including former England Roses Captain Sarah Hunter who has transitioned in her career to a coach). The panel discussed the challenges with growing female participation in grassroots sports. There were talks with many of the guests and award winners with some inspirational stories told over the course of the evening. Overall the event left everyone more inspired than they were at the start, with new ideas to take away and implement! Dan was not the winner in his category however to be recognized at an event of this magnitude is no small feat and will greatly contribute to the reputation of coaching that can be found at Keidokwai JC going forwards.

