

NEWSLETTER



BRITISH JUDO



ESTABLISHED 1942



Project #fightlikeagirl Launch: Female- Judo-Bootcamp Success!

On Sunday 8th February we were excited to launch our #fightlikeagirl program to great success! We had 23 girls take part in our first session for children of all ages, taught by teenage Kanji Coaching Assistant Amber. Amber then went on to teach a session for our more competitive older children to prepare them for future competitions, introducing armlocks in a controlled and motivating environment and finally she delivered an adults only session to round off a very successful day!

Editor's Letter: Daniel Hankinson (Head Coach)

After a brilliant competitive start to the year we dialed down the competitions this month and focused on two big events; The first was the launch of our #fightlikeagirl program which has had very positive feedback and has been featured in online articles for British Judo, UK Coaching and Active Lancashire. These articles go more into depth into the genesis of #fightlikeagirl for those who wish to learn the inspirations behind the program. The recognition we it have received can only be viewed as a positive leap forward for female focused sporting initiatives. The other main event this month was our 84th Anniversary where we welcomed back Paralympian Dan Powell who last joined us at the end



of 2024! Next year 2027 will be our 85th Anniversary and plans are already underway to ensure that this major milestone will be our biggest event yet!



Keidokwai Players take part in the Annual BJA Female Fighters event!

The last weekend of February saw the return of the British Judo Female Fighters Festival which boasted an impressive turnout of around 100 players on the mat for both days! Six of our Keidokwai players attended this event and were treated to high level coaching from many inspirational female figures from British Judo including; Sally Conway, Megan Fletcher, Natalie Powell & Nekoda Smythe-Davis.



Dylan & Amber Commended at the Young Citizen Award 2026!

At our 84th Anniversary Event we presented Dylan and Amber with their Commended certificates for the High Sheriff of Lancashire Young Citizen Award 2026! Both players were nominated for this award by Club Welfare Officer Chris Kidd for their contributions to their club and team. The award recognises young people who actively attempt to make a positive difference in their community.





Keidokwai 84th Anniversary Event: Dan Powell Masterclass!

On 23rd February World & European Champion and Paralympic Silver Medalist Dan Powell joined us again for our 84th Birthday Event! Always an inspiration, Dan did randori with everyone of the 22 children in attendance and taught two fantastic masterclasses! We also saw the results of our Birthday Card Competition! Thank you to all who entered! Finally, it wouldn't be a Keidokwai Anniversary without giving our deepest birthday wishes to Honorary Club President Dennis Taylor, also turning 84 in February!

Keidokwai Player Profile - Amber Grand (2nd Kyu)

Who are you?

My name is Amber Grand and I am 15, I go to Albany Academy and live in Chorley.

Tell us about your judo journey?

I started judo when I was 5; in my primary school we had someone come in and teach us judo as part of PE and I enjoyed it. I then joined Keidokwai in 2024. Throughout the year I have competed in many competitions and have improved my judo a lot and wish to continue improving.



What is your greatest achievement in judo?

My biggest achievement is achieving bronze in the 2025 British Schools Championships.

What are your aspirations for judo?

My aspiration is to compete for Great Britain.

What is your favourite throw?

My favourite throw is Harai-Goshi.

Keidokwai's Dylan Lloyd joins the British Judo Junior Leaders Team!

"I have been elected to be part of the British Judo Junior Leaders team. The group is made up of young individuals from across the country that meet once a quarter to discuss matters which we feel are important. Some feedback from my first teams meeting is as follows:

There is an aim to help support efforts to reintroduce judo into the GCSE curriculum, strengthening youth participation and development in the sport.

A previous peer mat-side support proposal was revised and resubmitted to the National Coaching Commission (NCC) after group feedback from us, we clarified to the BJA that peer supporters are not coaches but provide emotional reassurance only, will not influence contests.

I am proud to be involved and eager to help drive positive change within the judo."

