

NEWSLETTER



BRITISH JUDO



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Competition Round Up: British Schools Championships 2026

The weekend of the 7th & 8th March saw three of our players take part in the prestigious British Schools Championships, held at the University of Sheffield!

Saturday saw Amber and Dylan competing in the Year's 10 & 11 categories, both placing a respectable 7th with multiple wins under their belts!

On Sunday it was Millie's turn. With medal hopes resting solely on her shoulders, Millie didn't disappoint, claiming a deserved Bronze medal!

Editor's Letter: Christopher Kidd (CWO)

This month has really highlighted the range of what Keidokwai is about; from Club President Dennis sharing over 60 years of experience, to Paralympian Jack Hodgson and British Champion Joshua Whitehouse delivering masterclasses, our players have had access to the very highest levels of the sport. Experiences like these are invaluable and help shape not just better judoka, but more confident, well rounded individuals. At the same time, we've seen Brad take his first steps into coaching, passing his Level 1 course and beginning his coaching journey, an important step for both him and the future of the club. Competitively; Dylan, Millie and Amber have tested themselves on the



national stage, while Asyia & Ralph continue to grow at the developmental level. That balance, from grassroots to elite, is what makes Keidokwai special.



Bradley Hinton joins the Keidokwai Coaching Team as a BJA Level 1 Coach!

On Saturday 14th March Bradley became the latest player to become part of the Keidokwai Coaching Team! Bradley passed his final Level 1 assessment and was the only person on his course to pass with full marks! This follows the completion of his learning portfolio, First Aid and Safeguarding. We are excited to see Bradley bring both his Judo and 2nd Dan Atemi Jujutsu experience to his coaching!



Up-and-coming! Asyia & Ralph win Gold at JE Development Competition!

On 14th March Keidokwai's Asyia and Ralph took part in the latest Judo Education Development Championships in Chorley! Asyia, coming off of an inspiring weekend at the Female Fighters last month showcased a dominant performance claiming another gold medal for her collection! Ralph, fired up from his sister Millie's win at the British Schools, also stormed to the Gold medal!





GB's Jack Hodgson PLY & Joshua Whitehouse Masterclass Evening!

On Monday 23rd March we held our latest masterclass evening, this time with two time Paralympian, World and European medalist Jack Hodgson along with current +100kg British Champion Joshua Whitehouse, who delivered sessions to both our junior and senior classes. Jack offered an inventive use of blindfolds to show our team what it is like to take part in Visually Impaired judo which was a hit with all! They then gave advice during a Q&A and both guests graciously took pictures with our players.

Dan takes on the British Veterans Open 2026 at the University of East London!

On Saturday 28th March Dan took part in the annual British Veterans Open Championships, which this year boasted an impressive turnout of 316 competitors from 31 countries! This International Open always attracts strong players and there was some exciting Judo on display from many highly experienced fighters!

After an initial clerical error saw Dan compete against an 90kg player by mistake (ultimately losing by yuko), Dan won his first match in the 81kg category by Juji Gatame against an experienced Italian player, before losing the next two contests to an Irish 4th Dan and then finally a British player from the Budokwai ending Dan's medal hopes.

After losing 3kg due to illness over the last few weeks, Dan weighed in the smallest in his category at 74kg. Keidokwai's John Goulding offered support from the sidelines much to Dan's appreciation.



Amber Claims Silver at Samurai Judo Club Blue Belt & Under Tournament!

On Sunday 29th March Amber returned to Samurai Judo Club in Kiddimister for one of their many well run coloured belt competitions. Samurai Judo Club host regular events aimed at the development of coloured belts offering a level playing field for competitors who wish to test themselves but who might not be ready for national level events.

Amber started her blue belt and under category strong, winning her first three matches by Ippon. Amber, struck down with an illness for much of the week fought through her fatigue showing grit and determination, unfortunately losing her fourth contest against a strong player. Amber regrouped, with limited energy left and managed to pull out one more Ippon win to secure herself the Silver medal! Amber showed her versatility and actively used this competition to try new techniques, which shows her commitment to continuous progression.

