

Hampshire Judo Annual Report 2025–2026

It has been another positive and successful year for Hampshire Judo, with clubs across the county continuing to provide excellent opportunities for people of all ages to enjoy and progress in our sport. From beginners stepping onto the mat for the first time to athletes competing on the international stage, Hampshire continues to demonstrate the strength, depth and community spirit that makes our county such a thriving part of Southern Area.

Representation at National and International Level

Hampshire judoka have continued to represent the county with distinction throughout the year. Our athletes have competed across the domestic competition circuit, at British Championships and National Ranking events, while others have gone on to compete across Europe and at World-level competitions.

What makes Hampshire particularly special is the breadth of talent across every age group and discipline. From 8-year-old Alby Jahovic, competing internationally at the Venray International Tournament in the Netherlands, to experienced competitors such as Glen Judd, competing at the Veterans World Championships, Hampshire continues to produce judoka capable of performing on the international stage.

These achievements are a reflection of the dedication shown by our clubs, coaches, volunteers and families, who provide the support and opportunities needed for athletes to progress from grassroots judo to international competition.



Club Achievements

Congratulations to The Judo Company, who have enjoyed another exceptional year.

Head Coach Tim Byrne was deservedly recognised as British Judo Coach of the Year, an award

that reflects not only his own dedication but also the quality of coaching taking place within the club.

The club also retained the Hampshire Cup for the third consecutive year, a remarkable achievement that highlights the strength and consistency of their competitors.

This year also saw The Judo Company begin hosting kata development courses at Micheldever. These sessions have been well received and provide another valuable opportunity for judoka within Hampshire and the wider Southern Area to develop their technical knowledge. Looking ahead, there is real potential for Micheldever to become a regular venue for coach education, technical workshops and other development opportunities.



Winchester Judo Club celebrated an incredible 70 years of judo this year. Reaching such a milestone is testament to generations of volunteers, coaches and members who have kept the club flourishing and serving the local community.



Holbrook Judo Club also celebrated an impressive milestone, marking 40 years of providing judo within Hampshire. Congratulations to everyone involved, past and present, who has helped the club become an important part of the Hampshire judo family.

Competitions

This year's Hampshire Closed Championships once again showcased the quality of judo being produced throughout the county. The event attracted competitors from clubs across Hampshire and provided an excellent opportunity for judoka of all ages and grades to compete in a friendly but competitive environment.

A particularly heart-warming story came from Matsumachi Judo Club, where four junior siblings all won medals at the same competition. It was a fantastic example of the family atmosphere that exists within our clubs and the positive impact judo continues to have on young people across Hampshire.



Development Across the County

Development opportunities have continued to grow throughout the county over the past year.

County training sessions have become a regular feature of the Hampshire calendar, attracting consistently strong attendance from judoka of all ages, grades and clubs. It has been

encouraging to see so many members training together, sharing knowledge and raising standards across the county.

AWE Judo Club has continued to host regular gradings, with attendance steadily increasing throughout the year. These sessions have provided valuable opportunities for judoka to progress through the grades while ensuring consistent, high-quality grading opportunities within Hampshire.

High Grade Promotions

One of the greatest indicators of the strength of Hampshire Judo is the continued progression of our senior grades. Over the past year, a number of judoka from clubs across the county have achieved high-grade promotions, reflecting the breadth of technical knowledge, commitment and experience that exists within Hampshire.

A particularly noteworthy achievement was Peter Powell's promotion to 6th Dan. Reaching this level is recognition of many years of dedication to judo, both on and off the mat, and is a significant milestone worthy of celebration. Congratulations also go to all those who achieved Dan grade promotions this year.

Volunteers – The Heart of Hampshire Judo

Behind every successful competition, grading, training session and club night is a team of volunteers who freely give their time to support our sport. Hampshire continues to benefit from an incredible network of coaches, referees, technical officials, examiners, welfare officers and club volunteers whose commitment allows judo to flourish across the county.

It has been particularly encouraging to see the continued growth in the number of junior referees and technical officials. Their enthusiasm to learn and support competitions provides a strong foundation for the future and helps ensure Hampshire has the officials needed to deliver safe, fair and enjoyable events for years to come.

Whether organising competitions, officiating on the mat, running grading events, supporting county training or helping behind the scenes at clubs every week, every volunteer plays an important role in the success of Hampshire Judo.

Thank you to every volunteer for your time, dedication and passion. Your commitment is the foundation upon which Hampshire Judo continues to grow, and your contribution is appreciated by everyone involved in our sport.

Looking Ahead

The strength of Hampshire Judo has always been its people. Our coaches, volunteers, referees, officials, examiners, parents and supporters continue to give countless hours to ensure opportunities exist for everyone, from those taking their first fall to those competing on the

international stage.

This year has seen clubs celebrate significant anniversaries, coaches receive national recognition, county training and gradings continue to grow, and Hampshire judoka achieving success at every level of the sport. Together, these achievements demonstrate a healthy, ambitious and supportive judo community that continues to go from strength to strength.

On behalf of everyone involved in Hampshire Judo, thank you to all our clubs, coaches, volunteers, officials, parents and supporters for everything you have contributed over the past twelve months.

We look forward to building on this momentum in the coming year, continuing to grow participation, develop coaches and officials, and support judoka of all ages and abilities as Hampshire Judo goes from strength to strength.