JUDO CLUB 2016/2017

The year started off with pre-season which saw a number of returning students training everyday which helped us get back into the swing of things after the summer break. We had a successful give-it-a-go session in fresher’s week which saw over 40 people on the mat. This resulted in 28 paid members with the numbers dying down in the following weeks and settling with an average of 16 people at each session. These sessions included both experienced returning students and keen beginners. We have three training sessions a week with two of those being taken by our very experienced coach, Connie Ramsay and the other session being led by one of the more experienced members of the club. Training sessions are a mix of learning new techniques and practice fighting. This resulted in a couple of gradings being held this year with most of the club moving up a belt each time. We have also had a lot of members attending socials. We have regular pub nights after training as well as bigger socials for sinners and end of semester meals.

Our members have attended a number of competitions this year including two team competitions as well as the usual individual competitions. The first competition we attended was the Scottish Student Judo Kyu Grade Championships which was a development competition for lower belts.
This saw four of our members compete with three of them coming away with medals. The next competition was the BUCS Championships where we had 9 people competing which was our highest attendance rate. The individual competition was on the Saturday followed by the team competition on the Sunday. This was a very tough competition with everyone giving it their absolute best. There were some brilliant performances but only two of us managed to medal. For the first time we managed to have both a female and male team competing at the team tournament. Both teams were drawn in tough pools which resulted in a few very good fights but this wasn’t enough to progress through to the next round. BUCS was swiftly followed by the Scottish Student Judo Championships a couple of weeks later. We had 8 people competing at this event with 6 people winning medals after some very good fights. We also fought in the team tournament the next day. The men’s team won gold, while the women’s team won bronze.

It has been a successful year for saints judo which saw a high attendance rate at both training and competitions. This resulted in lots of medals and people progressing through the grades which is a big achievement. We look forward to the next year where we hope to improve the club even more.

Official competition results are:

**SSS Kyu Grades:**
- Andrew Meek – Gold -90kg
- Alec Williamson – Bronze -73kg
- Jonathon Fogarty – Bronze -73kg

**BUCS Individual Championships:**
- Kate Saunders – Gold +78kg
- Francis Millward – Bronze -60kg

**SSS Judo Championships:**
- Kate Saunders – Gold +78kg (Dan grades)
- Tomasz Plaskocinski – Bronze – 81kg (Dan grades)
- Faye Brennan – Bronze -63kg (Dan grades)
- Jessica Yin – Silver -63kg (Kyu grades)
- Alec Williamson – Silver -81kg (Kyu grades)
- Finn Smith – Gold -73kg (Kyu grades)

SSS team tournament: Men’s team gold, Women’s team bronze.