



GLOUCESTERSHIRE

COUNTY JUDO

2-2-2011

The County held its 2nd Gloucestershire Open on October 30th 2010. The event which is currently a Junior only event, was again held at the Newent Leisure Centre, which is the home of the Newent Judo Club, was extremely well supported by both local Clubs, and from various parts of the Country, and the event seems well set in the calendar. The medals were well spread with the local Clubs winning their fair share, and Gloucestershire used the event as a form of selection for the West of England Junior event scheduled for a month later.

The West team event, both Junior & Senior, took place at the Thornbury Leisure Centre on the 5th December. Although the County were not officially asked to host the Championship, the fact that we identified a venue within the County for an event which was under threat of not happening at all, effectively gave us the responsibility of organising and laying the mats etc. Nevertheless, with Bradley Stoke supplying the bulk of the mats and labour, we created a super venue for an event, which again Gloucestershire could be proud off.

This also applied to the actual competing, with Gloucestershire winning the team event for the Boys 8-12 years, and Silver for the Boys 12-16. Other Junior teams from the County both Boys and Girls, and at Youth level, were all in the medals showing the Counties current strength, particularly from the Bradley Stoke and Stroud Clubs. There was also success for the County with the Senior Men's team. The County has a proud history with this event, having won the title on a number of occasions in the past, and were effectively one unfortunate decision away from winning it again this year, but eventually had to settle for the runners-up spot, with Cornwall coming from nowhere to take the title, and well done to them.

Coming right up to date, a Squad of the Counties vets travelled to Lille in France for the Eurometropole Masters event. Pete Douglas from Bradley Stoke, and Chris Andrews from Dowty, both took Golds in their categories, and although I was not present myself, I know they both put up superb performances. There was also a 5th place for Nick Brace from the Bradley Stoke Club.

Pete Salter
County Chair