

Walderslade Judo Club honoured twice at Medway Sports Awards

At the prestigious Medway Sports Awards, members of Walderslade Judo Club took to the stage twice in order to receive honours.

In the category of Junior Club of the Year, Walderslade was one of six short-listed clubs, which included a wide range of sports from gymnastics to basketball.

As one of Medway's largest judo clubs, Walderslade has had an excellent year with juniors being very active competitively, even taking 2 gold's and a silver at an international event in Holland and 3 medals at the British Championships for 10-11 Years in October. The club has worked closely with the Greenacre School Sports Partnership to offer taster days throughout the year and has opened a new satellite club for children with special needs at a nearby special needs school. The club also hosts its own annual international training event where local youngsters are able to train with judoka from France and Holland and at which top instructors such as Andrew Moshanov have taken a number of the sessions.

As well as Junior Club of the Year, Walderslade stalwart Frances Orgee, mother of the club's founding coach Eddie, was presented with the Unsung Hero Award. Eighty-one year old Frances had been helping at the club for 14 years, hardly missing a week at the club's twice weekly sessions before she moved to Devon in September to live with her daughter. Frances was a well-loved figure at the club and when she moved away the club held a presentation and surprise party for her with many club members past and present attending to show their appreciation for all her efforts over the years.

Frances had been back for a long weekend visit and was really shocked when she found out she had been nominated and then short-listed for the award.

With both the Unsung Hero and Junior Club of the Year Awards in the bag it was an excellent night for the club, which has gone from strength to strength over the last couple of years, increasing membership, the number of coaches and its training opportunities.