

# BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION



## Area, Home Country Reports and Affiliates 2006-2007

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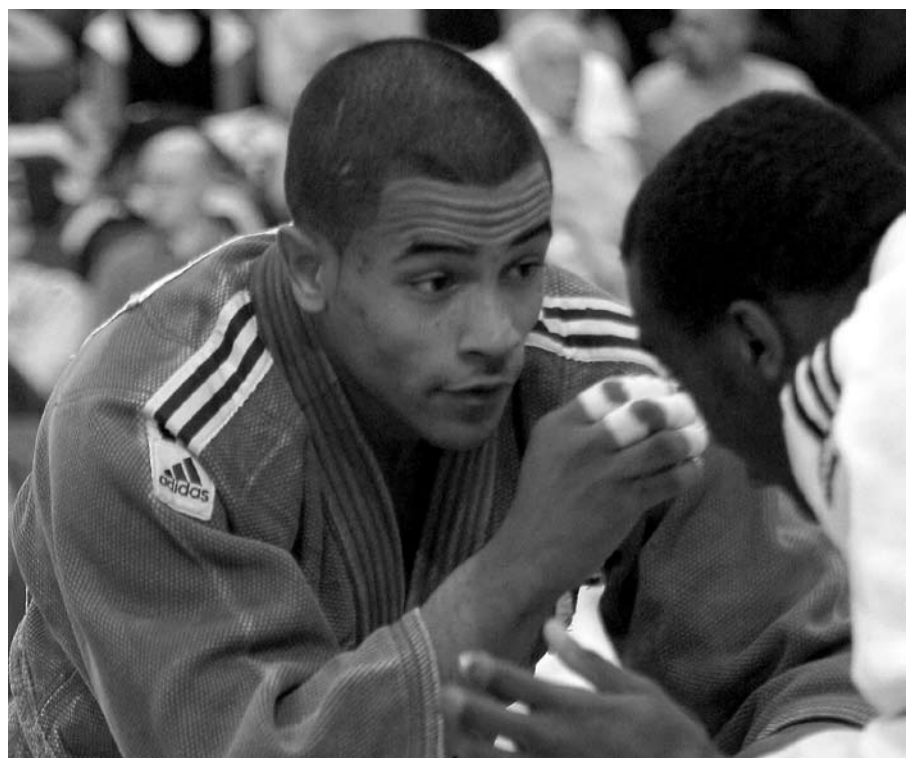
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## AREA REPORTS

### EASTERN AREA



This has been another busy year for the Eastern Area and I am pleased that we have been able to concentrate on promoting judo within the Area. At the time of writing I can say that the Eastern Area Committee is united in its vision to work together and support our players and clubs with a number of initiatives. With this in mind we have increased our financial investment in our top players, both junior and senior. In addition, during the year, we decided to create a new kind of competition, which would be based on County representation. As a result of our planning during 2006-7, teams from our main counties will take part in a competition towards the end of 2007. We hope to organise further competitions in the future where individuals will have the opportunity to represent their County.

At this point I should like to record a short tribute to Betty Cohen, formerly of the Sakura Bana Kwai Judo club in Cambridge, who died during the year, aged 86. I first met Betty in 1972 when I was a student and knew her for the following decades. She took up judo in her 40s and reached the grade of 1st Dan. Betty became the backbone of the Cambridge Judo club and had a sense of humour, which was legend. At her funeral in Cambridge, many of her judo friends turned up to see her off and many stories were recalled. She epitomised the spirit of Judo and she will be greatly missed by her friends and family.

We have organised a number of courses during the year and I would like to thank Dave Southby, our Technical Director for his leadership in this area. These culminated in our hosting a pilot, five day, UKCC Level 2 Coach Award Course, held at Royston Leisure Centre. A particular highlight of the year was the visit of Densign White to Thetford in March 2007. Densign contributed to this coaching course, which was for both seniors and juniors and then presented a Long Service award to Keith Watts, formerly of Norwich Judo Club. Keith had served the club and the Eastern Area for decades in all sorts of capacities. It is always a pleasure to see our Chairman in the Eastern Area and even more so, as he said himself, 'it was not even an

election year'. Scott McCarthy, who gave a very interesting exposition about future developments within the BJA, assisted Densign.

Three promotion examinations were held during the year and these were very successful. Our numbers attending these events have remained consistent or better and our examiners continue to grow in number. New examiners are constantly being trained up, along with Senior examiners. We have taken on board the new restrictions for young players and have had little difficulty in operating the new rules. It is envisaged that as promotions become less competitive, the number and style of promotion examinations will inevitably change. I should like to thank all the examiners, table officials and referees for their support at these events.

Refereeing courses have continued to be organised by Dave Martin, Roger Brown and Peter Bent. I should like to thank them for their continued hard work. I should like to formerly congratulate Dave Martin on his promotion to 6th Dan and his selection during the year as a referee for the World Championships, which was richly deserved. Dave has now stepped down as the Area Refereeing Representative and has been succeeded by Roger Brown. I have been particularly pleased with the number of junior referees trained up during the year and this is encouraging for the future.

Many Area competitions have taken place during the year and these would not take place if it were not for the very hard work of Denise Oates and her assistant, Lynne Heaney. In addition, many of our clubs have organised competitions during the year; in particular, Littleport, Ipswich and Peterborough. In addition to these competitions, the Area has organised several Training Together sessions open to both juniors and seniors. These training sessions have been held at Thetford and organised by Howard Oates. Numbers attending have increased at a steady rate and this is due to the excellent coaching which the players receive and the drive and enthusiasm of Howard. I should like to thank him in particular for his work in this venture.

For me, part of the success of the year is centred on how well our players have done at events. Although we are a small Area, we have produced some really excellent players over the years. At present, our top player has to be Colin Oates, former Senior British Open Champion. Recent successes have included Commonwealth Gold, 5th in the World Cup in Portugal, a Bronze in the British Closed and he represented Great Britain at the Senior Europeans in Finland. Other players who have gained success during the year are David Oates, Emma Paflin, Robin Smith, Thomas Turner, Alex Heaney, Sophie Daniels, Charlotte Wraith, Gemma Moore, Emma Reed and Andrew Pickerill. Not to be outdone, our more mature players also did well, with Dave Southby gaining a Commonwealth Master's Gold and Dave Horton-Jones doing equally as well.

There were also successes for individual clubs within the Area, notably Ipswich gaining their Silver Clubmark Award, Renkeido gaining Bronze Award, Littleport gaining Bronze Award and Thomas Deacon gaining Bronze Award. Many other clubs are working towards Clubmark recognition.

Finally, I should like to thank all the people in the Eastern Area who have contributed so much to ensure that the sport of judo continues. Without such support we could not possibly continue to operate and players would not enjoy participating in such a wonderful sport. I should also like to thank my fellow Area Committee members for their continued support during the year. In particular, Richard Allbury our Treasurer, who has done a brilliant job to put our finances in a very strong position. Sadly, Richard has had to resign as Treasurer because of a very serious illness. We wish him well for the future and thank him for his valuable contribution to the Area.

**David Etchells-Butler.**  
**3rd Dan.**

## AREA REPORTS

### LONDON AREA

As usual the London Area hosted a busy calendar of events during the year including coaching courses, junior, senior and veterans gradings and competitions.

Competitively the Area has continued to be successful at all levels. At the National Team Championships the London Area Boys took the crown for the fifth successive year. The Area's Womens, Girls and Mens teams all won bronze medals. London is well known for outstanding levels of achievement at the Junior National Championships and this year was no exception with the Area topping the medal table for the eighth consecutive year!

Area players have represented Great Britain at all levels throughout the year and it is great to see the span and depth of talent stretching right through from Cadet to Masters. These competitive performances would not be possible without the fantastic determination and persistence of the Club and Personal coaches who all deserve huge thanks for their efforts.

Committee members continue to work hard to make the Area the success that it is and my thanks and appreciation go to all members for their contributions.

The London Area remains one of the most stable and successful parts of the BJA and this is due to the untiring enthusiasm and dedication of all the volunteers, officials, individual members, parents and clubs who give generously of their time and expertise for the love of our sport. I would like to conclude by saying a huge thank-you to everyone associated with the Area – without you we would not be what we are.

**Ricky Haynes**  
**London Area Vice-Chair.**

## AREA REPORTS

### MIDLAND AREA

The Midlands Area has increased its number of clubs from 78 to 82 registered clubs. These figures are from the Area's AGM May 06 to May 07. Having lost five clubs along the way, lets hope we can keep encouraging coaches to open up more venues throughout the year.

The Heart of England, the Area's top tournament, also continues to grow with again an entry of over 900 competitors from top clubs from around the BJA UK and other countries.

The Tournament Director for the 2007 Heart of England will be Mrs Anne Bayley from the North West. I thank her for stepping in to help the Area Committee run the event.

If you have any enquiries relating to the competition please contact Mrs Pat Hill (Midland Area Secretary and Events Manager).

The Midlands could only manage to enter a mens team in this year's annual senior teams event taking the silver medal. Thanks to Mr Bill Webb from 3K'S for getting the players together and making all the arrangements.

I think, like most of the BJA Areas, it was difficult, to say the least, to find out at the start of the year that the BJA had drawn up and implemented technical restrictions for players of certain ages and/or grade. The first I knew about this when I read the January issue of Matside magazine. Our Area has found it very frustrating, and at first, very difficult to administer at both competitions and gradings. Coaches and clubs were not given enough notice of the changes, and information to referees seemed to be nil.

I think now if the restricted techniques /age restriction / grade restriction had been introduced to the junior grading scheme, first working with the lower yellow belts into the higher orange belts it would have helped the transition somewhat.



The Area's annual Coach-to-Coach course was extremely well supported. On behalf of Eddie Awford, I would like to thank everyone for their dedication and participation, and the presenters, guests, and helpers for their enthusiasm, support and energy that makes the event run so well.

The Junior Officials scheme that we operate in the Midlands is going very well. We have gained four new level three junior officials, the highest award and the most in one year for a long time. This is down to the work of Mrs Carol Leverton and her team, for training them.

The Midland Area Committee are a hard working group of volunteers who I thank for all their work and time. You can find most of them at the area competitions and courses.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report.

***As always in the spirit of judo***  
**Roger Houston 6th Dan BJA**



## AREA REPORTS

### NORTH WEST AREA



The North West area has continued to thrive throughout the year and we have enjoyed a level of success in all of our activities. The committee members responsible will be reporting in detail and we are fortunate in having volunteers of the highest quality in all of these sections.

It is a great sadness that during this year we lost one of our most committed members. Glenis Bamber was held in great affection by everyone who knew and worked with her. She will be sorely missed not only for her efforts as secretary for this area but as an exceptional individual.

We are one of the most financially stable of all of the British Judo Association areas and although our reserves are considerable the treasurer has an excellent record of providing funds in order to support the many worthwhile efforts of our members, whether it be assisting clubs, individual or more general projects.

An area of concern is the increasing cost of running competitions and although we still manage to run most events on a cost effective basis it only takes a relatively minor problem such as a clash of dates to cause a loss. We need to work hard to utilise the facilities within our area clubs where appropriate so avoiding the massive costs of hiring leisure centres; similarly we must endeavour to recruit, train, qualify and then involve our own area referees eliminating the need to bring in visiting officials at sometimes great expense. The review of the 'Tournament Handbook', which is taking place may help by allowing more flexibility whilst maintaining acceptable standards.

The planned introduction of the UK sports coaching certificate has meant a disruption in our area's coaching programme with countless rumours and much speculation about future happenings. The Government's aim is to standardise coaching qualifications across the range of sports and in my opinion provided that national Governing bodies retain control of sports specific aspects and existing coaches retain their status with minimum interference and cost, there may be a positive conclusion. Our newly approved area technical director has certainly taken on the responsibility at a turbulent time but he

has experience, undoubted ability, enthusiasm, our united support and a very very broad back to assist him.

At a time when it is becoming usual for administrators to be employed and paid – the British Judo Association now has thirty seven such people – it is gratifying to be able to write that the North West area functions effectively, at quite a high level with a team of volunteers at the helm. I would like to thank everyone

who has contributed to the operation of the area over the last year. Of course we have our differences of opinion, sometimes very marked and expressed with vigour but from my experience everyone that devotes time and effort into running this part of the BJA deserve a say in how we operate and would certainly wish for a successful outcome.

**R W Barraclough**  
**North West Area Chairman**



## AREA REPORTS

### NORTHERN AREA



#### General

**Annual Report.** The Northern Area Chairman, Mr Matt Snowball wishes to thank all members of the Area Management Committee, Area Coaches and Assistant Coaches, Table Officials, Coaches who run their own clubs and all judokas that represent our Area or participate albeit for fitness or enjoyment. All the above mentioned should be proud of their hard work and dedication to judo. Judo volunteers are very hard to come by but when we have them, they seem to be so competent and efficient – what would we do without them.

**BJA Clubmark Awards.** Three Judo Clubs in our Area now hold the prestigious Clubmark Bronze Award with Redcar being the first in the Northern Area to gain the award followed closely by the most recent judo clubs Newburn and Ashington. The Area Management Committee through our Chairman Matt Snowball applauds all three Judo Clubs on their hard work and fine achievement. Other judo clubs in the Area may wish to aspire to achieve this prestigious Clubmark Bronze award in the not too distant future! Remember the Award does mainly demonstrate the Child Safety element of judo in Clubs, something that should be dear to our hearts. This must be an excellent Kite Mark for the quality and excellence of BJA judo.

#### Coaching/Training/Refereeing

**Coaching Awards.** The current coaching strength of the Northern Area is 88 qualified coaches and these coaches represent the 32 judo clubs we have registered in our large geographical Area. We also have a steady influx of new coaches and we have up until now organised our coaching courses over a number of weekends in the way of modules. However we now wait with anticipation for the new UKCC awards so that we can continue to promote the coaching of judo in our Area. We do have slight reservations about the new UKCC qualification i.e. how long will the new Coach Awards take to deliver, how long will it take to qualify and how much are the new awards going to cost - these are but a few of questions we have in

our minds. However, we in the Northern Area are positive that all our uncertainties about the new coaching awards will become clear when the new awards are finalised by the BJA Coaching Commission and the UKCC.

**Area Coaches.** The Area has not had a Ladies & Girls Coach since our Olympian Chloe Cowen moved out of our Area in 2006. We now have a full compliment of Squad Coaches in the way of John Tierney (Senior Men's), Eric Grundy (Junior Boys) with Duncan & Margaret Stewart looking after the Ladies and Girls Judo Squads. Northern Area Squad training is back to its old form again with training sessions being organised in our Area for all level of Judokas. There is also a regular monthly Senior Randori session conducted by John Tierney and the venue is the Crowtree Leisure Centre, Sunderland. Anybody interested in attending the Randori sessions please do not hesitate to contact John Tierney through the Area Secretary Jim MacKenzie on 01642 271632. The Northern Area's future Judo triumph(s) now lie in the hands of our appointed Area Squad Coaches.

**Area Schools Judo.** Coaching in our Area's Schools is going very well with some added bonuses for the Area i.e. school members are attending judo classes outside normal School hours. This is excellent news for local clubs as their numbers increase on a regular basis. Barry Gibson the Schools Development Officer and Mr Alan Cawthorne (Redcar Judo Club) are to be congratulated on all their fine efforts to improve judo in the Northern Area.

**Area Competitions** The Area have had two extra Competitions during the reporting period i.e. the Cumbria Inter-Club Team Championships organised by Stephen Giles and the rejuvenated Northern Area Closed Competition called the Spring Cup Eston & Ayton Judo Club through Karen Byers and Alan Heron. These two new competitions were a great success and congratulations go to all those who organised them. A big thank you goes out to Kath Waddington and her valued Competition Officials for all their hard work and dedication to judo in the Area. Keep up the good work and let us have more clubs take the initiative and arrange extra

Competitions through Kath Waddington who may be contacted through the Area Secretary.

#### Refereeing

**Senior & Junior Refereeing.** The Area has managed to develop a number of newly qualified Junior referees through our Area Senior Referee representative Dave Francis. Dave is looking at developing their skills even further by encouraging them to travel to other areas to gain further refereeing experience. Any offers please contact Dave through the Area Secretary.

**Junior Refereeing.** This is going well with three more qualifying with their Level 2 Junior Officials Award. The Area strongly supports Mrs Jane Nunn our Area Junior Refereeing representative in her endeavours to promote Junior Refereeing within the Northern Area Judo Association.

#### Other Judo Activities

**Seminars.** Forty Eight coaches supported the Northern Area's Annual Coaches Seminar held in May 2006. Some of the coaches that attended the seminar came from outside the Northern Area. Dr. Andrew Moshanov tutored the event and it was a very successful and enjoyable day.

**Promotion Exam Dates.** The Northern Area holds four Promotion Exams per year normally at the Crowtree Leisure Centre in March, June, September and November of each year (subject to change). The two dates 22 September and the 24 November are still open for attendance - visitors from other Areas are welcome as long as the dates do not clash with your Area's own Promotion Exams. The Area still have problems with the attendance of women at our Area Gradings so maybe it would be worthwhile for the Director of Examinations to communicate with each other on a regular basis to ensure that our Area selected dates do not clash with one another's Promotion Exams. This way we can all have successful promotion Exams.



**First Aid Courses.** The Area's First Aid Trainer & Examiner Jim MacKenzie conducted a H&SE authorised First Aid Appointed Persons Course at Redcar Leisure Centre, organised by Alan Cawthorne. Twenty-two attended and they all passed the course. The Northern Areas First Aid Courses are open to all judo players albeit they are from another Area – so for further information about first Aid courses please telephone Alan Cawthorne through the Area Secretary.

#### **National Scene**

**National representation Men.** Colin Francis, Marcelo Angolano, and John Curry are all players from the Northern Area who enter National events. John Curry and Colin Francis also entered the British Open Championships with John Curry sustaining a bad hip injury, which in turn secured his exit on this occasion. However, he did achieve a medal place at this very important event with Colin Francis managing to achieve a medal place in the English Areas Championships.

**British Schools.** We also had Area representation in the British Schools Championships by way of Andrew Scott, Lee Storey, Gary Stewart and Andrew Hall. As far as the Girls are concerned, I have had no input from them to say whether they have had any successes. The Area has only just appointed new coaches for the Ladies and Girls Squads so we will have to wait out for information about their successes.

**World Class Start Programme (WCSP).** A WCSP Training session took place at Redcar on Tuesday 13 February 2007. There was approximately 20 players plus their coaches in attendance. The Redcar venue will now be included on a regular basis for the Regional WCSP. The Regional WCSP Training takes place monthly rotating around three clubs – Newburn JC, The Parks JC and now the Redcar JC. Please ensure you look at the WCSP Session Planner (produced by Trevor Sitlington) so that you know exactly what night the training is on, where the venue is and at what time you require to be there.

**BJA Personal Safety Advisors (PSA).** Area members who hold the PSA award are becoming very concerned that they cannot revalidate their present award and those presently waiting to attend a course are slowly becoming disinterested. The PSA Award was a BJA initiative and it was a very well received Award. We hope that the BJA will address our concerns about the award and take the necessary action to rectify our unease.

#### **Achievements/Awards/Memorial Trophy (Rod Strong)**

**Achievements.** John Devlin successfully qualified as a National 'A' Referee, John Simpson was appointed as a BJA Kata Examiner and Wayne Broderick; Colin Wright; Alan Heron and Michael Smith all qualified as Area Referees – congratulations to you all.

**Awards.** Eileen Simpson was awarded "The Rod Strong Memorial Trophy" in recognition of her continued hard work put into the Area by a volunteer in the field of Judo within the Northern Area.

#### **The Rod Strong Memorial Trophy.**

The Northern Area Management Committee purchased a Crystal Memorial Trophy in memory of Mr Rod Strong's dedication to judo both in and out of the Area. The Rod Strong Memorial Trophy will now be presented every year in "Recognition of continued hard work put into the Area by a volunteer". The first recipient of the Rod Strong Memorial Trophy is Eileen Simpson. The innovative idea was to have Mrs Strong present at the inaugural presentation of the Trophy. Sadly, she passed away before she could present her husband's Memorial Trophy for the first time. Rod Strong's brother, John presented the Trophy to Eileen.

Members of the BJA and the Northern Area will sorely miss both Rod and his wife.

#### **Conclusion to the Area Report**

The Northern Area has had an excellent year what with two additional judo competitions in the Area, Clubs receiving bronze status in the Club Mark Award and Area Squads players have had successes at National level with some even being selected for National Squad Training. All Area members should be proud of being in the Northern Area Judo Association just as we the Management Committee are proud of its players and officials. We will continue to support all our members in the best possible way to help them achieve their ambitions albeit to become Judo Stars, top class Referees, Officials, or finally yet importantly top class Coaches. We must all strive to continue to raise the standard of Judo in our Area. Finally, I will close this report by thanking everyone on behalf of the Chairman and all Management Committee members of the Northern Area Judo Association for all the hard work and support they have given to the Area during the reporting period. We as an Area look forward in anticipation to another excellent year in the world of Judo.

**Jim MacKenzie**  
**Secretary**



## AREA REPORTS

### NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES



#### NHC ANNUAL REPORT 2005/06

First I would like to start by congratulating the NHC Team Managers, John Cottis, Sharon Cottis and Kerry Sandy and of course not forgetting the all important NHC Players on yet another successful National Team Championships. The results were:

- Girls - Gold
- Women - Gold
- Boys - Bronze
- Men - Silver

I would also like to congratulate the numerous NHC players who competed in National and International events with great success. Unfortunately there are too many events and names to list individually. Well done also to all your club coaches for teaching you so well!

#### NHC COMMITTEE:

Roy Inman OBE – Chair/Director of Coaching

Vicky Davis – Treasurer/Secretary

Elaine Down – Director of Refereeing

Dave Clark – Director of Development

Kim Tilley – Director of Examiners

John O'Brien – General duties

Rod White – Director of PSA

#### NHC COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE:

Sharon Cottis – National Competition Controller

Jean Cleere - National Competition Controller

Ruth White - National Competition Controller

#### NHC REFEREEING COMMITTEE:

Elaine Down – IJF 'B' Referee

Ron Cleere – Senior National Referee

Ronnie Tucker – Senior National Referee.

#### NEWS ON THE COACHING FRONT:

As usual during the year I have been extremely active on the coaching front having run courses and the Review of the Year, all of which were very well supported.

#### GENERAL AREA NEWS:

The Area successfully ran their usual events: NHC Senior Open; NHC Mini Mon; NHC National Team Trials and the NHC Junior Open. We also ran a very successful fund raising event in support of Mandy Costello, which was great fun and managed to raise a fair amount of money to enable Mandy to start a course, which will help her in the future. We ran two Red Belt Rumbles and following on from the success of these we will continue to keep them in the calendar.

We have in the past year ran courses for Table Officials and Referees and are delighted to announce that we have many new Referees and Officials plus of course those existing officials who have moved up to the next level. Well done to all and we look forward to your continued success.

#### COACHING:

Anyone interested in becoming a Coach or any existing Coaches, who would like any assistance, please contact Roy Inman at: [coaching@nhcjudo.co.uk](mailto:coaching@nhcjudo.co.uk)

#### EXAMINERS/KATA:

Anyone interested in obtaining further information on courses should contact Kim Tilley on: [examiners@nhcjudo.co.uk](mailto:examiners@nhcjudo.co.uk)

Examiners with any questions or who require assistance should contact Kim as above.

#### REFEREEING:

Anyone who is interested in becoming a referee should contact Elaine Down who will be only too happy to assist. Elaine can be contacted on: [refereeing@nhcjudo.co.uk](mailto:refereeing@nhcjudo.co.uk)

#### DEVELOPMENT:

NHC clubs who would like any assistance or advice should contact Dave at: [development@nhcjudo.co.uk](mailto:development@nhcjudo.co.uk)

#### WEBSITE:

The Area Websites are at – [www.nhcjudo.co.uk](http://www.nhcjudo.co.uk) and [www.nhcjudo-events.co.uk](http://www.nhcjudo-events.co.uk). You will find useful information on these websites, which are regularly updated with event information, and of course any other information as and when it is received. There is a special section for Refereeing with links to other useful sites.

If any club wishes to have any information put on the website, please send your information to: [webmaster@nhcjudo.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@nhcjudo.co.uk)

Sadly this year John O'Brien from High Wycombe Judo Centre has decided to retire and take a back seat and we wish him a long and happy retirement.

I would like to finish by thanking all NHC Committee and Sub-Committee Members and Table Officials and Referees for their continued dedication and assistance throughout the year.

**Roy Inman OBE**  
**Chairman Northern Home Counties**

## AREA REPORTS

### YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE



For the last 2 years I have noted the Area Committee's concern over competitions, both in players entering and Officials taking part. Again our main concern is exactly the same; competitions. We are having to cancel long standing Area competitions through lack of players, but even if we did not through lack of players we soon will have to through lack of Officials. I cannot emphasise too much the Area Committee's concern over this problem for without competitions in our Area our players are going to have to travel further and further away for their events.

The Area Committee has racked their brains to find out why we have this problem in the Area. It is not through lack of players in the Area, according to the latest figures from the BJA Head Office our numbers have dramatically increased (28.8%) over the last year. It is not venues, we know that the Richard Dunne Centre is not ideal for some of our Members, but it is the most economical for our purpose. We have also now got an agreement with the RDSC to replace all the Competition Mats over the next 2 years.

So why are our Members not heeding our warning? All our Committee Members would like your comments on this point.

In a report from Alan Medley, our Referees Organiser, he informs us that we are also not recruiting Referees. We are down to 10 Senior Referees in the Area. He has, however, reported that there was a successful Junior Referees Course in November which produced 8 level 1 Referees, lets hope that this is a good sign for the future as the average age of our existing Referees is 56 years old.

The World Class Start Programme was launched this year at York RI. This ran into a small problem with travel for our South Yorkshire players, but with the agreement of Trevor Sitlington we arranged for sessions to be held at our squad training centre in Goole. We also sent 12 of our World Class Squad to an event in Holland.

Our own Squad training sessions continue to be successful thanks to the efforts of Seth Birch and John Burkill. The Squad sessions also act as a revalidation course for our coaches and can be used for the creation of new coaches. If anyone

is interested in these revalidation courses or want to qualify as a coach then they should contact Seth or John.

At the National Annual General Meeting in September the Association notified Members of major changes to the grading schemes, both Senior and Junior. There was also noted a change to the type of training for Juniors. The intention is to bring in a non-competitive side to our Senior and Junior grading. No doubt we will be hearing more of this from our Association in the near future.

It was also agreed at the Annual General Meeting that Densign White is to be the National Chairman until 2012 so that there will be a continuation to the Olympic Games in 2012.

The Area ran a successful first aid course this year at Sheffield and it is the intention of the Area to run at least one every year. If you are interested in joining a course please contact Eric Theaker whose number is in the newsletter.

The Squad Coaches ran a well attended visit to the international event in Rouen, which we intend to attend again next year.

We have now appointed our three Education Officers, but we need to train them as Senior Coaches before they take on their duties.

Congratulations must go to Elaine Parkinson the only lady on our Area Committee who has been nominated to serve on the National Competition Committee.

Thanks must also go to John Bunyan our Treasurer who is still managing to balance our books and keep the Members of our Committee in check when they forget that we have to keep a 'balance'.

Finally I would end my report as always by thanking the members of our Area Committee; Peter Simpson and Elaine Parkinson for their very difficult job, earlier mentioned, running our events; Eric Theaker for his work on the Newsletter and a stabilising influence on the Committee; and finally our Chairman, Colin Cleavin, for holding things together through some difficult times.

**Alan Stanbra**  
**Area Secretary**

## AREA REPORTS

### WESTERN AREA



At the Area AGM this year we had another very good turnout, which enforces my comments on the previous year that there is a genuine interest in the Area and its workings. I was due to leave my position as Chairman as my term of office had ended. However I was once again given my Area's support and asked to serve a further term as their Chairman, I accepted, and am the proud representative of the Western Area as their Chairman for a further four years. Thank you all for your support.

We as an Area did have a sad side to our AGM and that was to announce to those present of the sad loss to the Area and judo in general the passing of Simon Hicks, who had bravely fought a hard fight with his illness. The funeral service was held on Friday 16th March at Bristol Cathedral. It was a moving experience, as Simon was a Western Area lad born and bred. I was particularly pleased to see so many of the Area attending and paying their last respects. Thank you to all of you who managed to be there.

The Area has had another good year for all the members both in our representation as competitors and officials. We have as ever held many events and they have been successful in their staging and the results. Following on from last year we have again tried to encourage more members to take up the various duties as officials with some good results. However our efforts must remain on the up, as we need more of you Area members to become officials and help the existing staff.

Major events in the Area have been held again i.e. Seminar, Area Senior Open, Junior Closed and the Senior Teams once again revived. It was a good event and I hope next year it will be even better.

I would like to thank all our "backroom staff" often unseen and rarely thanked as they rarely noticed, but are vitally important to the running of any event, mat layers/collectors, tea/food ladies/gents, organisers, and the audiences without whom it would be a dull event. Thank you for your continued support.

This year again Somerset has laid on more Child Protection courses with an excellent venue at Taunton Trident Club. The two day course was conducted by Julie Moores and for a difficult subject to portray it was delivered in excellent fashion and made to be really interesting. A great deal was learned by the members taking part. My Area would like to give thanks to Julie for her presentation.

We have had a change of officers in the Area. The Secretary is now John Davies, with John Lucas looking after our Constitution affairs. Two Chairmen of the Counties have altered with John Bath taking office for Bristol County and John Lucas taking the office in Cornwall. I have a very fortunate set up in the Western Area with seven large Counties spread over a large Area, each county has its County Chairman who form a part of the Area Executive. This runs very smoothly and democratically and has done over many years. Thank you to all of the members for your input and support. Finally to all the hard working Coaches throughout the Area - keep up the good work and the Area will go from strength to strength. You are the people at the forefront who make the difference.

**Dave Allen**  
**Chairman Western Area**



## AREA REPORTS

### SOUTHERN AREA

For sometime we have been successfully consolidating our team of elected officials and the supporting groups of Referees, Coaches, Examiners and Competition Officials.

We hold technical conferences and revalidation opportunities for all the varied skills, usually annually but this varies with perceived demand.

However it is still evident that the age profile of our active officials is skewed to the 'later years' and we are trying to involve younger people to find the satisfaction of these activities.

**Refereeing** has continued to develop young (junior) qualifiers but also National 'A' and 'C' awards. Area awards have also had a pleasing increase. Martin Rivers still has time to work through the IJF training programme while leading all these other success – best wishes.

**Female and Male Squads** have had success in many International and National events with Simone Callender and Sophie Johnstone going to the Senior European Championships.

The Area players are working well in all the National Squads and the Masters successes include Golds for Lyn Tilley and Sarah Hopkins plus a silver for Mandy Humphrey in the Europeans.

Alan Roberts and Mandy Humphrey continue to lead and inspire a wide range of players.

**The President;** Mick Leigh has seen a lifetime of work, particularly in Kata coming to fruition with more Area Kata activity and success than ever. Our Area Kata Open Championship is reactivated and should grow and the SA monopoly in UK of EJU Kata Judges helps keep standards high. Extra thanks to Tina and Dennis Penfold.

**The Examiners** have had an especially busy year while trailing the new Mon and Kyu technical syllabi with Andrew Moshanov. High participation in the four launch events by coaches and examiners should lead to a higher standard in examinees from now on.

Our discussion with Roy Inman has produced a healthy exchange of views about the Dan Grade Technical Syllabus.

**The Registrar** Peter Powell wrote a longer than average report to point out how much paper his job generates but thank goodness he keeps it working. The data to input is enormous.

**Finance** has been supporting significant SA moves to invest in mats at K2 following our installation at Dartford and Croydon.

A healthy balance remains after supporting every kind of Area Event and our officials in training etc.

Richard Anderson remains calm (and efficient) despite the varied demands and work required to keep the funds under close control.

**Coaching**, led by Alan Roberts but strongly supported by Derek Pears and Terry Malkinson, has made a good variety of inputs.

Club coach exams, Personal Safety, Kata, Child Protection and First Aid have all worked well and the coaches have strongly supported the development of the new technical Mon/Kyu pilot.

Development is very well served by our officer Karen French. The variety of activities in schools, clubs and outside is enormous.

The Gold Club award to Dartford (a BJA first) reflects their effort but also the encouragement they receive.

Coach education has been very demanding but with much success.



**Competitions** have gone through the complete cycle of the standard events. John Bushnell and his team have made a success but we have had some smaller entries making last minute arrangements more complicated. Good to see a re-emergence of the Channel Islands.

The ruling on under 10 and 12 players is causing many difficulties making many extra groups to deal with the weight restrictions and medal problems.

Overall a very successful year so thank you to all our supporters and for so much work particularly to our secretary Graeme Skelly for holding us all together.

**Barry James**  
**Southern Area Chairman**



## HOME COUNTRY REPORT: WELSH JUDO ASSOCIATION



This report covers the work of the Association from 1st January 2006 until 31st March 2007. The period is fifteen months rather than twelve because this year the Association moved the end of its financial year from December to March to align with that of the Sports Council for Wales.

During 2004, at the behest of the Sports Council for Wales, the Association underwent a management audit, carried out by external consultants. The report produced made far reaching recommendations, the implementation of which continued into 2006 and 2007.

At the Annual General Meeting in 2006, the Articles of Association of the Board were amended so as to reduce the size of the Board from 12 to 8 members and to remove reference to geographic representation. The Association seeks people of talent who are prepared to work for the Association from all over Wales.

There are currently six Directors and the Board continues to seek people with suitable skills.

The Association has produced a Strategic Plan, which integrates with the Development Plan produced annually for the Sports Council for Wales. The Strategic Plan appears on the Association's web site, [welshjudo.com](http://welshjudo.com) and is brought up to date with progress against targets and with new areas for development on a regular basis.

A major plank of the Association's strategy over this period has been to take judo into schools and thereby to feed players into clubs. Three Community Development Coaches have been working in schools and with clubs to bring young players into the sport and to work with our Coach Education Co-ordinator to develop clubs and coaches to take the increased numbers forward. The result has been a steady increase in the number of qualified and validated coaches, an increase in membership, the formation of new clubs and an increase in the number of schools in which Judo is taught.

There has been considerable effort put into attracting new referees and competition officials and to improving the qualifications of current officials. This effort is starting to bear fruit with some enthusiastic volunteers coming forward.

2006/7 saw a major review of many of the Association's policies. Drafts were issued to interested parties for consultation before new policies, amended as necessary were adopted by the Board. Through this process, the Association has developed new Standing Orders, Financial Procedures, Employment Policies and Complaints and Grievance Procedures.

The major organs of communication within the WJA are the monthly newsletter and the website: [welshjudo.com](http://welshjudo.com). The newsletter is circulated to all Clubs and gives details of major policy matters, forthcoming events and results of previous competitions. The website contains sections setting out policies, calendar of events, newsletters, contact details and links to affiliated organisations. The website enables the downloading of documents including entry forms to all licensed competitions in Wales.

Club Secretaries/Coaches are encouraged to communicate relevant matters circulated in the newsletter to club members.

In the autumn of 2006, the Association introduced a non-competitive grading scheme for junior players up to the grade of 6th mon. The objective of the scheme is to build confidence and an understanding of the spirit as well as the basic techniques of the sport of judo. The introduction was overseen by the Technical Commission and the response has been generally positive.

The Association organises competitions within Wales, some for its own members and some open to all comers. In Junior competition, the Association has embraced the principle of age banding and the under 20 age banded open competition in January 2007 attracted a large entry covering a wide range of age and experience.

In April 2006, the Association was pleased to confirm Neil Adams as its National Coach. Neil has supported the development of Welsh Judo and, in particular, the Welsh national squad. Wales had a successful Commonwealth Championships, bringing back 33 medals. That success has led on to further success in British and European competition. The period of this ends with Welsh players qualifying for selection for Great Britain at the European Cadet Championships.

I would like to end this report by thanking all those whose hard work has led to a positive year for Welsh Judo on all fronts. I would also like to thank the Sports Council for Wales, who continue to support us both with advice and practical assistance.

**Ray Harrington**  
**Chairman Welsh Judo Association**





## HOME COUNTRY REPORT: JUDO SCOTLAND

JudoScotland's many successes could not be achieved without the essential support of its partner agencies and the many members and volunteers across Scotland who have made and continue to make such a significant contribution to the development of our sport.

We are again grateful to **sportscotland** for their continued financial investment, particularly into the priority areas of: coaching; staffing; facility development and our performance athletes. We also appreciate the support of the Scottish Institute of Sport for our world class performance athletes.

By the time you read this report, JudoScotland will have relocated back into the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena – Ratho, in a newly up-graded office suite directly adjacent to our National Judo Academy (NJA). The NJA is a base for our performance athletes and we continue to work closely with the Scottish Institute of Sport, Graeme Randall our High Performance, and Darcel Yandzi our Technical Coach through this developing facility.

Last year was a year of significant change within the JudoScotland performance programme. The inclusion of Judo within the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games bid brought with it the opportunity for emerging talent to develop alongside our current team of elite athletes. In light of this exciting opportunity, the strategic decision was taken to focus the efforts of the Scottish Institute of Sport Judo Programme on current Olympic qualification and invest more in the Area Institute of Sport Judo Programme for long-term returns. The highlight of 2006 was the European Championship title won by Sarah Clark in the -63kg category. This was the first senior European title won by a Scottish judo player and combined with two World Cup medals; the opportunity for Olympic success in 2008 is a real prospect. Euan Burton continued his steady progress in the -81kg category by securing gold at the German Open.

The development and growth of judo as a whole throughout Scotland will depend on many factors. One of the key factors will be the quality of our coaches at every level from grassroots to performance. In most cases it is the club coach who promotes and develops judo in their own area, attracting new members and raising awareness of judo at grassroots. The UK Coaching Certificate (UKCC) will replace the current set of BJA coaching awards. The existing Prelim Club Coach award will be replaced by UKCC level 1, the Club Coach award becomes UKCC level 2 and Senior Club Coach becomes UKCC level 3. The new awards provide a more in depth qualification giving coaches an excellent starting point from which to further develop and improve their coaching skills. It is fair to say that the development of the UKCC qualification has been challenging and perhaps more time consuming than was first anticipated, but due to the efforts and support of the JudoScotland UKCC Development Team, judo has taken a giant leap forward in the development and qualification of judo coaches in Scotland and across the UK.

JudoScotland's Supercoach programme attempts to provide practical knowledge and information for coaches at all levels utilising the experiences of the best Scottish coaches and when necessary tapping into specialist coaches from around UK and abroad. In 2006 coaches have benefited from courses led by Kata expert Bob Thomas, World and Olympic medallist Neil Adams and Olympians John Buchanan and David Somerville to name a few. In total 150 coaches attended these workshops. Included in the programme was a weekend residential course held at Inverclyde National Sports Centre. The weekend explored various aspects of coaching including, Long Term Player Development, Nutrition for judo players, coaching children and modern contest judo techniques. The weekend proved to be a success and will become a regular feature on the JudoScotland coach education calendar.

During 2006, the post of National Development Officer changed from Joyce Heron to the current post holder, Mark Mateer. Having come to JudoScotland from a background of rugby development there has been a focus on consultation with judo clubs and members to determine the best approach for the future of the sport. As a result a club forum has been held and a pilot Regional Development Group established in the East of Scotland (Edinburgh and Lothians) with representation from clubs in the area. Substantial research and investigation has occurred in the area of a JudoScotland schools programme. Extensive consultation with the local authorities, clubs and coaches in two areas has occurred with a view to piloting a schools programme in 2007. As an organisation JudoScotland have revised their current Equity policy and reviewed their current position in terms of equity. These changes have been a result of JudoScotland's involvement with foundation level Equity standard for Sport.

Finally, our sincerest thanks must go once again to all JudoScotland's volunteers, coaches, officials, referees and examiners who give so generously of their time, enthusiasm and energy to run clubs, courses, competitions and the other various activities which are so essential in keeping judo a vibrant and growing sport.

**Bill Berry, MBE, 7th Dan  
Chairman of the Board  
JudoScotland**

## HOME COUNTRY REPORT: NORTHERN IRELAND JUDO FEDERATION



The Northern Ireland Judo Federation has had one of its most successful years to date in 2006 and took a significant step forward in meeting many of the goals set out in its Performance Plan "Fit for Purpose – Fit to Compete towards 2012".

### Commonwealth Tournament 2006

The NIJF hosted a very successful Commonwealth Tournament in which 21 countries were represented. For the first time sections were introduced for both Youth and Masters, these categories proved to be well received and it is hoped that they will be included in the future.

VIPs who attended the event and presented medals included Former World Champions Neil Adams and Graeme Randall, BJA Chairman Densign White and 1964 Olympian Alan Peterbridge (9th Dan).

### Northern Ireland Squads

Not only were Northern Ireland the host country for the 2006 Commonwealth Tournament but we also finished second in the medal table. Northern Ireland is getting closer to realizing their goal of becoming one of the top five Commonwealth Judo Nations.

Achievements for squad members include Commonwealth Golds for Conor Meenan, Joseph McCloskey, Jim Toland, Lisa Bradley, Mark Montgomery, Joyce Malley and Gavin Abel.

Other results highlights are Gold medals for Terry Watt, Lisa Bradley and Joyce Malley at the World Masters Championships in France and the most successful junior level results to date at the BJA National Age Band Championships with Silver Medals for Ciaran Coyle and Jodie Kee and Bronze Medals for Conor Bradley, Sarah McDaid and Conor Meenan.

### NIJF Posts

The NIJF have also successfully implemented the posts of Business Development Manager and one Grass Roots Development Officer as part of the Performance Plan. It is intended that within each role the positions will help to develop and promote judo within Northern Ireland and drive forward the NIJF as a leading Governing Body.

### Future

The NIJF continues to develop into one of the biggest and strongest Sporting Bodies in Northern Ireland and has the potential for even greater things. As such we will strive to create an environment of excellence for the sport of Judo.

I would like to thank everyone for their assistance and support throughout the period of my office. Particular thanks must go to Robin Newett (Honorary Treasurer), Lisa Bradley (Honorary Secretary), Richard Briggs (Director of Examiners), Jim Toland (Director of Coaching), Ailsa Miller (Director of Competitions), Russell Brown (Child Protection Officer), Colleen Barr (Business Development Manager) and Ciaran Ward (Development Officer). Well done and keep up the good work.

On behalf of the Federation I would like to pay a special thanks to Ann Long for her dedication and good work in the NIJF Head Office.

**Robert Irwin**  
**NIJF Chairman**





## AFFILIATES

### BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION BRITISH SCHOOLS JUDO



This is to bring to your notice the change that has taken place within the British Schools Judo Association with regards to its future.

The National Council for Schools' Sports, which is the educational advisory body for all schools sport, recommended that "all schools sport's associations" should link up with the individual National Governing body for their particular sport, in order for schoolchildren to have a pathway for the "Long Term Athlete Development Programme".

With this in mind and after a number of meetings which have taken place to discuss this possibility with officials of the British Judo Association (BJA). The BSJA National Management Committee thought it was significant to follow this sound advice from the National Council for Schools' Sports and forge a closer link with the BJA. There have been on-going meetings, which have taken place between various members of the BSJA commissions and their BJA counterparts, which have been very productive, interesting, helpful and worthwhile, and it was felt that this is the best way forward for schools judo.

The BSJA have discussed the present situation with the senior representative of Sport England and Physical Education representatives and have also taken lawful advice on this issue to ensure that what we are doing is legal and moving in the right direction and following the correct procedures.

After an Extraordinary General Meeting was convened it was agreed to follow legal guidance and also the recommendations given by the National Council for Schools Sports and we have now become an integrated member of the British Judo Association and as from the 25th March 2007, the British Schools Judo Association will now be the called **BRITISH SCHOOLS JUDO**, and will operate under the rules and regulations of the National Governing Body i.e.

The British Judo Association. It must be noted that the name of the British Schools Judo Association has been officially registered with a solicitor and no one else will be able to operate under the auspices of either the British Schools Judo Association or the BSJA.

The British Schools Judo Association and British Judo Association have for many months been engaged in high level discussions revolving around the future of schools judo and indeed the future of the BSJA itself as a stand-alone organisation. Over the years the BSJA has provided tremendous service in promoting judo programme and competitions in schools throughout the United Kingdom and the contribution of the organisation has been monumental. That said, it was decided in the last 24 months to take a hard look at the organisation and to determine the best way forward, working closely with the National Governing body for the sport of judo within the UK. It was agreed at the outset that it would be preferable for both sides to have a vibrant schools body working directly within the BJA, and that the best practice and technical programme from both bodies should be combined and refined into the future package to improve the number of schools members, and also greatly strengthen the links between the schools and local BJA and other affiliated associations (BJC & AJA) to ultimately boost the number of judoka at all levels and provide more opportunities for young people to take part in judo at school and college levels.

Current thinking within the UK and indeed in most countries is that a strong central NGB will be empowered to deliver the sport at a higher level. The historical level of separation between the BJA and BSJA was seen as an inhibiting factor in the long term, specifically in view of the financial and paid personnel resources that the BJA would have to complement and enhance the BSJA programme. Therefore, it was unanimously agreed by both Executive Boards, and at the recent AGM's of both organisations that the BSJA should merge into the BJA and become a component part of the Association – maintaining some individual identity.

This is a new era for schools' judo and hopefully we can continue to progress in the same vein as the founder and founder members of the British Schools Judo Association intended. It has to be accepted that there will always be the need for change and as I have always stated that 'no body likes change', I think it is sometimes called the comfort zone, however if we don't move forward, we will just stand still and perhaps that is what has happened to the BSJA. Like everything else the BSJA needed revitalising as well, and the BJA has all the resources to help us to take that step forward. It is a sad time for us all, however, we have to move with the times and as one of our loyal and devoted members from Devon (the surfing County) stated 'we need to catch the wave', and if we miss it, we might have to wait a long time to catch another wave.

From hereon we will be carrying on as stated above in close unity as part of the National Governing Body, the British Judo Association.

We will continue to conduct the British Schools Judo business in accordance within the BJA constitution. I would like to point out that the format of the BSJ will carry on as normal for the following twelve months however; there may be changes to the administration purposes, as all schools memberships will now be conducted from BJA HQ.

I would like to thank the BSJ Management Committee for their hard work and commitment to schools judo over the past years together with their involvement in the negotiations with the BJA and their agreement to continue with their support.

**Malcolm Collins**  
**British Schools Judo**

## AFFILIATES

### POLICE SPORT UK JUDO

A busy year for police judo, we started the year with a coaching and technical weekend in March at the Greater Manchester Police training school, this was well attended with in excess of eighty players attending including a high proportion of coaches using this licensed event to revalidate their coach awards. Neil Adams took the lead for the technical session once again showing how high his understanding of technique is. A very well attended PSUK national grading also took place over the weekend supported by members of the North West area, our particular thanks to Graham Bayley for facilitating the refereeing.

May saw us at Bath University for the first Team Bath versus British Police team match, this was an exciting exchange with a high level of judo being displayed resulting in a win for Team Bath. This match was the first event to commence our link with Team Bath and is intended to be an annual fixture. The squad selected for this match were all up for selection to represent Great Britain in the European Judo Championships set for March 07 in Russia; Bath saw them given selection criteria from which the eventual team would be chosen.

Our National Championships were hosted in September by Greater Manchester Police and staged at Manchester University; this was well attended and saw some new faces such as Samantha Kelly (Metropolitan Police) and Lauren Slater (West Yorkshire). This was a particular exciting championship with players seeking not only to win a national title but selection for the European championships. It was nice to see some of the old faces competing in the masters and veteran categories as well as new players in the kyu grade event, showing that this championship has something for all our members.

Lancashire Constabulary stepped in at a late stage and hosted the November Technical weekend and National Grading. Norito Katabuchi was our guest coach; there must be few that have not had the opportunity to study technique under Norito one of Team Bath's coaches, Norito's technical ability is superb and was extremely well received.

February brought us once again to Team Bath for our four-day pre European Championship training camp, basing ourselves in Bath. The squad trained twice a day with the Team Bath full time players plus high quality randori practises at Team Bath, the Budokwai and Welsh Institute of Sport in Cardiff. Our particular thanks to Mike Callan and Norito Katabuchi at Bath, Tony Sweeney, and Pete Blewett at the Budokwai and Ray Harrington Chairman of the Welsh Judo Association and Neil Adam National Coach for Wales for all their support in arranging these sessions and encouraging the British Police squad in their preparations for the European Championships.

European Championships Moscow March 2007, the pinnacle of a tremendous amount of preparation, particularly during the previous twelve months.

The Great Britain Police team selected was:

Andy Moss Head of Delegation

Chris Hunt National Coach  
 Matt Clempner National Coach  
 Darren Dean National Support Coach  
 Lloyd Nicolson Team Physiotherapist

#### Men's Team:

- Under 66k Gary Liddle Surrey Police
- Under 73k David Hawkins Nottinghamshire Police,
- Under 81k Jason Moore Grampian Police
- Under 90k Lee Holley Devon and Cornwall Constabulary
- Under 100k Gavin McNeil Lothian and Borders Police
- Over 100k John Ellis West Midlands Police



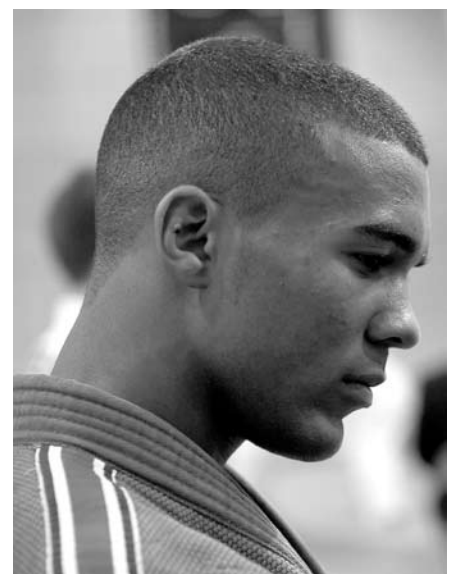
#### Woman's Team:

- Under 52k Alison Warner Metropolitan Police
- Under 57k Samantha Kelly Metropolitan Police
- Under 63k Debbie Read West Midlands Police
- Under 70k Lauren Slater West Yorkshire Police
- Under 78k Rachel Wilding Surrey Police.

This was the most successful British Police Team, with Rachel Wilding winning our first gold medal to become European Champion with Lauren Slater and Alison Warner winning well deserved bronze medals. The standard of judo was extremely high with many of the players competing particularly from Eastern Europe engaged in full time training. With several fifth and seventh places the Great Britain team finished fifth out of twenty five countries with the woman's team finishing third overall. A fantastic result brought about by the hard work and commitment of the team who for much of the year has had to be self-supportive due to duty and geographical reasons.

#### Chris Hunt

**PSUK Director of Coaching**







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