



8th April 2004

BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS & BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

This year's British Open Championships will be the last chance to see Britain's Olympic and Paralympic judo medal hopes compete in Great Britain before they head out to the Olympic Games this summer. Over 600 senior competitors from all over the world have entered the tournament, which will take place on the 17th and 18th of April at The Triangle, in Burgess Hill, West Sussex.

British talent competing over two days will include, World and European silver medallist **Craig Fallon** (-60kg), two times Olympic medallist **Kate Howey MBE** (-70kg), former European Champion **Georgina Singleton** (-52kg), World bronze medallist **John Buchanan** (-60kg), Commonwealth Champions **Karen Roberts** (-63kg) and **James Warren** (-66kg), Commonwealth and European bronze medallist **Sophie Cox**, (-57kg) as well as former Junior European Champions **Peter Cousins** and **Thomas Cousins**.

They will be competing against players from 23 countries, including Japan, Russia, Georgia, Argentina, Canada, the USA, Germany, France, Italy and Spain.

The Visually Impaired British Open will also run on Saturday 17 April where four times Paralympic medallist **Simon Jackson MBE** will compete to retain his -73kg title. Simon will be heading off to Athens for his fifth Paralympic Games this September. Other Visually Impaired players include **Maxine Ingram**, another British medal hope for Athens, the first Paralympics to include a Visually Impaired judo event for Women.

The categories are split over two days. The Men's -60kg, -66kg & -73kg, the Women's -63kg, -70kg & +78kg, plus all the Visually Impaired categories taking place on Saturday 17 April. On Sunday 18th April, the Women's -48kg, -52kg, & -57kg and the Men's -81kg, -90kg, -100kg & +100kg will take place.

Scott McCarthy, Chief Executive of British Judo said: "The British Open is the highlight of the domestic judo calendar with the best of British as well as international talent on display. The British squad have been busy competing in the European Olympic qualifying events since January, so I look forward to seeing them compete in front of a home crowd before they fly out to the European Championships in May and then the Olympic Games in August.

"The Visually Impaired British Open also promises to be better than ever with a record number of entries from all over the world taking part".

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