



16 February 2004

## Great Britain looking strong in Olympic qualification campaign

The British Men's team have returned from the Budapest A ranked Tournament at the weekend with two medals; a silver from James Warren in the –66kg weight category and a bronze from Peter Cousins in the –90kg weight category, bringing vital Olympic qualification points.

James Warren (29) of Stoke Newington, London, beat Bektas Demirel of Turkey, Takeshi Terai of Japan and Alex Ottiano of the USA in the early rounds. His success took him into the semi finals where easily disposed of Marek Matuszek of Slovakia taking the maximum score by ippon. In the final he was beat by Bu-Kyonh Jong of Korea.

Former Junior European Champion and Junior World silver medallist, Peter Cousins (22) of Harlow, Essex, was narrowly beat by Dimitri Budolin of Estonia in his second fight. As Budolin reached the final, Cousins was brought back into the repechage round where he overwhelmed Poland's Przemyslaw Matyaszek and Finland's Samuel Maki taking both by maximum ippon score as well as Italy's Stefano Sorelli. In the fight for the bronze medal he beat a second Italian player, Francesco Lepre.

The Budapest tournament was the third of nine European ranking events - the final tournament being the European Championships in May. Great Britain qualified four Olympic places at the 2003 World Championships\*, but now need to qualify further places at the ranking events. After the European Championships, Olympic places will be allocated to the top nine men and top five women in Europe within each weight category (only one player per country).

The two Budapest medals mean that James Warren is currently ranked European 7<sup>th</sup> in the –66kg category, and Peter Cousins 6<sup>th</sup> in the –90kg category. Great Britain's Winston Gordon is also in the top nine –90kg category men sitting in 7<sup>th</sup> place.

The British Women's team were also competing at the weekend. Gemma Hutchins picked up a 5<sup>th</sup> place in the –63kg weight category at the Leonding A Tournament in Austria.

To request interviews please contact Emma Reed on 01509 631692 or 07702 882951.

### Note to Editors:

\* Great Britain qualified four automatic Olympic qualification places at the 2003 World Championships in Japan (-60kg men qualified by Craig Fallon, -52kg women qualified by Georgina Singleton, -70kg women qualified by Kate Howey MBE, and +78kg qualified by Karina Bryant)

Cont.

## MEDIA RELEASE



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### Note to Editors cont:

James Warren trains under Mark Earle at the Camberley Judo Club in Surrey and at the Budokwai Judo Club in Fulham, London.

Peter Cousins trains under John Cottis at the JSC Judo Club in Essex and at the National Judo Academy at Bisham Abbey.

More information on the players is available online at [www.britishjudo.org.uk/media/profiles.php](http://www.britishjudo.org.uk/media/profiles.php)

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