

**8 November 2005**

## **GREAT BRITAIN TO HOST WORLD CUP EVENT IN BIRMINGHAM**

The British Judo Association has chosen Birmingham's National Indoor Arena to host the Great Britain Judo World Cup on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2006

The event will be a highlight of the European judo calendar as one of twelve Grand Prix style events, which attract the highest-level competitors from throughout the World - most Olympic and World medallists participate in the series.

Each year the Cup will alternate between Men and Women. In the first year the Great Britain event will be for Women, which will see British Judo showcasing talent including Athens Olympians Sophie Cox, Sarah Clark, Rachel Wilding and Karina Bryant. Bryant is one of the World's top players and recently won two silver medals at the 2005 World Judo Championships.

Other cities that hold World Cup events include Paris, Moscow, Rome, and Hamburg. 2006 will be the first year that Great Britain has hosted this event and British Judo believe that Birmingham, having staged more major sports events than any other UK city, is the obvious choice as host city for this event.

Commenting British Judo's Chief Executive, Scott McCarthy said "The NIA and the City of Birmingham has everything we need to host this top international tournament, from the venue, staff, and facilities, right down to the top quality hotels and close proximity to an international airport.

"The Midlands is also a strong judo region, producing talented players throughout the years including the recently crowned World Champion, Craig Fallon and double Olympic silver medallist Neil Adams MBE. It seems fitting to hold such a prestigious tournament in the region".

British Judo Association Chairman Densign White said: "Having attended World Cup events throughout Europe in my capacity as Sport Director of the European Judo Union, I am confident that this will be one of the best in terms of location and venue.

"I look forward to building this event year on year at the NIA"

Birmingham City Council's Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Culture, Councillor John Alden said: "We are delighted to be hosting the Great Britain Judo World Cup and officers from Birmingham City Council will be working closely with British Judo to help organise an excellent event. Birmingham regularly stages major sporting championships and each one brings benefits to the city. We look forward to welcoming the international stars of judo to Birmingham in April."

Tickets go on sale from January.

Note to Editors:

- Major Judo events staged in Birmingham:
  - 1999 World Judo Championships
  - 1995 European Judo Championships
- For more information on British Judo or the GB World Cup visit [www.britishjudo.org.uk](http://www.britishjudo.org.uk)

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