

2023 AGM

Area Director of Examiners' Report

Jane Blunt

Originally three competitive Dan gradings were planned in the last year. One had to be cancelled by the Area and a second was cancelled by me, because we only had four entrants – 3 male and one female. If the latter grading had been running alongside a competition with adult 1st Kyu entrants we would have risked going ahead on the basis that we would pick up some extra entries on the day.

However, one Dan grading took place in October and it was highly successful, as we had 12 entrants. Most had pre-booked, but there were some additional competitors who joined us on the day, as the accompanying competition had categories for 1st Kyu competitors. The grading resulted in 6 line-ups and most of these were successful. The standard of judo was high, we had no injuries and every competitor had excellent sporting spirit. The grading sheet was run expertly by Dave Etchells-Butler.

Nationally they have been instigating a pre-booking system for Dan gradings. This has several advantages. It allows them to plan, and if there are too few entrants it allows them to inform those who are not going to be able to compete so that they do not waste time and money travelling to the venue. With a sparsely populated area in the east this is even more important.

We would welcome some new 'blood' in the examiner team – so if there are any 3rd Dans and above out there who would like to join us, please let me know.