

## **CHAIR REPORT 2024**

We have had a fairly quiet year in the East, we ran one National event the English Junior and Senior Open, the East Anglian Fours, the Area Closed and a couple of Development events. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Eastern Area Ranking due to lack of entries however the rest of our events were well attended.

We have a small band of officials who travel outside the Area officiating in London, NHC and the South. Myself and Mark Waterhouse also officiated at the Junior European Cup in Walsall and at the end of December Mark was awarded his Continental IJF badge, a great achievement, one which he worked hard for at his own expense.

Although we have plenty of players competing at Area level, we don't have many competing at National level, Ryan King won a great Gold at the English Open and has been fighting overseas, we also had quite a few medals at the British Schools but with the players representing their schools I won't name them in case I miss someone out.

The committee have made the decision not to bid for a National event next year, with our volunteer pool shrinking and those we have are mostly in their 70's we cannot expect them to keep setting these events up. If you feel you could help the Area in running events, please let me know even it's for just one event it would be a great help.

Sadly we had to say goodbye to our President John Dearden a great loss to the judo community, we are hoping to run a John Dearden Memorial competition early next year.

Finally thank you to our small band of volunteers your efforts are greatly appreciated.