

## **2023 AGM**

### **Area Director of Examiners' Report**

Jane Blunt

We have held two highly successful Dan gradings in the last year.

In the first the entry was nine 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu men, six 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu women and four 1<sup>st</sup> Dan men. From these three men successfully completed their lineups for 1<sup>st</sup> Dan, one woman completed her lineup and one amassed sufficient points for promotion. The 1<sup>st</sup> Dan men were given a 'round robin' to gain points.

In January 2024 we held a dan grading at Ipswich, which broke all records for the East. We had fifteen 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu Men, five 1<sup>st</sup> Dans, three 2<sup>nd</sup> Dans and one 4<sup>th</sup> Dan. We also had six 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu women and two 1<sup>st</sup> Dans. On the men's 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu sheets there were six successful lineups. We were able to run a multidan grading for the male 1<sup>st</sup> Dan and above, which enabled almost everyone to gain some points towards their next grade. We were able to integrate the 1<sup>st</sup> Dan women with the 1<sup>st</sup> Kyus to give them opportunities to gain points.

The January 2024 grading was organised and run expertly by Kevin Charlton and his club. I am grateful for his outstanding organisation of the event. The participants were appreciative of the smooth running of the event, and despite the high numbers we were able to complete by mid-afternoon.

We would like to promote the booking system, as it enables us to ensure that players do not travel to a grading only to be turned away because there is no-one suitable to pair them with.

Finally, I would like to express my personal tribute to John Dearden, my predecessor. He was a joy to work with and operated Dan gradings with the utmost fairness. His passing is a great loss to the Area.