

### Secretaries report

I have to start with the sad news of the death of John Dearden. John was a stalwart of the area; he will be sorely missed. He was a Nat B referee, table official, senior examiner and Director of examiners. He also wrote 4 area development plans enabling the area to get grants for both players and the area, the area would not be where it is today without him.

The area was able to get Kevin Charlton his honorary life membership congratulations to him

Dave Martin and Mike Bygate have been working hard on their Katas gaining Kata medals and qualifications in the process well done

Also, congratulations to Mark Waterhouse on achieving his IJF refereeing award after a lot of hard work.

Congratulations to all those who got their Dan Grade in 2023

As far as I am aware there have been 11- 1<sup>st</sup> Dans, 6 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Dans, 1- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan and 2 – 4<sup>th</sup> Dans

As you may be aware the area is looking to move the area Dan Gradings round the Area. January was in Suffolk (this was a great success thanks in no small part to Kevin Charlton).

April will be in Thetford Norfolk.

Then we are looking to put one in Cambridge later in the year date to be confirmed

As you all might be aware Howard Oates had a heart attack, therefore he is now on light duties (under orders) so therefore we are looking for people to help set up and take down at our events if you think you could help, please let Denise or myself know.

If any clubs would like to help the area by either standing for the committee or

becoming an area official (table official [denisemargaretoates@gmail.com](mailto:denisemargaretoates@gmail.com)

or referee [ref@markwaterhouse.com](mailto:ref@markwaterhouse.com))

or help with the setup at events please let us know [stewartcollings@live.co.uk](mailto:stewartcollings@live.co.uk)

Also, I would like to thank Ros for her help again this year help