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**MEET THE TEAM**  
Sports Development Department

Last Updated: July 2023



**Karen Roberts**  
*Development Director*

Reporting to the CEO, manages and connects the Club Support Team, Events Team, Inclusion, Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team, and the Technical and Education to the British Judo Strategic Plan. Within the judo community the key Contact point for English Area Chairs and Home Nation Development representatives. Responsible for the Sport England systemic budget and associated activities. Driving collaboration with agencies within the sporting sector and beyond.



**Chris Cooper**  
*Sport England Together Fund Administrator*

Sole point of contact within the BJA for Together Fund and Digital Transformation Fund applicants, processing applications from start to finish. Including design of process, online forms & grant paperwork, project tracking, arranging grant approval panels, ongoing contact with applicants, Due Diligence, Sport England submission, Grant payments and Reporting & Auditing. Supporting Coaching Course Administration.



**Jessica Hastings**  
*Events Manager*

Key contact for all event or competition enquiries and complaints, including queries on national competitions, international events run by British Judo, information in running events and competitions and opportunities to volunteer at local or national events. Maintains Cadet, Junior and Senior British ranking lists and helps with the maintenance of the tournament handbook and licences for competitions.



[natasha.maslen@britishjudo.org.uk](mailto:natasha.maslen@britishjudo.org.uk)

## **Natasha Maslen**

### *Event and Competition Officer*

Assists and leads national events, tournament Licences and entry Management. Delivers general administration for events and maintains the BJA Events Calendar & Planning Calendar. Assists on international events run by British Judo.



[joyce.heron@britishjudo.org.uk](mailto:joyce.heron@britishjudo.org.uk)

## **Joyce Heron**

### *Head of Technical and Education*

Key Contact for Home Nation Technical & Education Leads, Technical Judo Commission/ Area Responsibility Leads (includes BJA Staff), Head/Leads of BJA Departments, UK Coaching, CIMSPA and Sport England Coaching Leads. Manages and ensures the quality and provision of technical and educational aspects of the sport by providing opportunities for existing and potential members to excel through various technical pathways- including coaching, officiating and refereeing.



[keith.merrick@britishjudo.org.uk](mailto:keith.merrick@britishjudo.org.uk)

## **Keith Merrick**

### *Regional Support Officer*

Key contact for all aspects of Refereeing and Officiating for Area Referee and Technical official representatives and clubs/members. Responsible for the delivery of Technical programs within Refereeing, Coaching and Technical Officiating, this includes education, revalidation and upskilling the teams across the country. Delivery of coaching courses and workshops in Eastern, Western and Midlands BJA Areas. Supports British Judo Events and local/regional events as and when appropriate.



## **Dermot Heslop**

### *Regional Support Officer*

Plan and coordinate the rolling national programme of Coach Education- with agreed number of Level One and Level Two Courses each year, and Coach Development and Revalidation workshops including Mat side coaching, Technical 1, Technical 2 and Masterclass programme featuring Yoko Tanabe. Tutoring, assessing and signing off candidates' portfolios. Delivery of coaching courses and workshops in Northern, Yorkshire & Humberside, North West, Southern, London and Northern Home Counties BJA Areas. Supports British Judo Events and local/regional events as and when appropriate.



## **Andy Bowly**

### *Head of Inclusion, Safeguarding & Wellbeing*

Advisor to the Board and CEO on all matters regarding safeguarding and inclusion including legislative changes, policies and guidance from Sport England, UK Sport, NSPCC, Ann Craft Trust and the CPSU. Responsible for the application and governance of minimum acceptable standards across inclusion, safeguarding and wellbeing and advisor to the judo community on best practise within these three areas. Promote opportunities for growth and development across ISW and work with key stakeholders and partners to ensure the judo community is a safe, inclusive and supportive environment.



## **Marina Dain**

### *Deputy Safeguarding Manager*

Administration for all safeguarding cases, maintaining accurate records of cases, supporting investigations and sharing the data annually with the NSPCC. Administration of all DBS applications, issuing links, monitoring the service providers system, updating members records on the Dojo and investigating all positive disclosures presenting evidence to the Case Management Group. (CMG). Manages the recruitment of all Club Welfare Officers (CWO), including completion of the safer recruitment application process, identification and support of appropriate training for Safeguarding and Protecting Children (SPC) and Time to Listen (TTL), issuing certificates on completion of the application. Key link between performance and the safeguarding team. In 2023 will administer the application and approval process for the Sport England, Martial Arts Code (MAC).





## **Keith Eldridge**

*Safeguarding Investigations Manager*

Supports Head of ISW on safeguarding casework and is the main point of contact for the Safeguarding Management Group and Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs).



## **Nick Shepherd**

*Lead Club Support Officer*

Manages the Club Support Team- the first point of contact for clubs and providers across the 43 Active Partnerships (formerly known as CSPs or County Sports Partnerships) including Isle of Man, Jersey & Guernsey offering a sounding board and advice, to support the set up and running of Clubs (off the mat) and connecting clubs to appropriate staff, local partnerships and national programmes. Key contact for Clubs in the South and West (please see county list) and for Pro Clubs nationally (Approved & Elite Providers) Area of advice and support include: Governance, Funding, Community based engagement projects, recruitment campaigns/initiatives, customer experience and Off mat volunteering initiatives. Disseminating opportunities for Development of Clubs and individuals within those clubs through funding or activity programmes.



## **Laurence Kenyon**

*Club Support Officer*

The first point of contact for clubs and providers across the Midland and East (please see County list) offering a sounding board and advice, to support the set up and running of Clubs (off the mat) and connecting clubs to appropriate staff, local partnerships, and national programmes. Area of advice and support include: Governance, Funding, Community based engagement projects, recruitment campaigns/initiatives, customer experience and Off mat volunteering initiatives. Disseminating opportunities for Development of Clubs and individuals within those clubs through funding or activity programmes.



## Maddie Thompson

*Club Support Officer*

The first point of contact for clubs and providers across the North (please see County list) offering a sounding board and advice, to support the set up and running of Clubs (off the mat) and connecting clubs to appropriate staff, local partnerships, and national programmes. Area of advice and support include: Governance, Funding, Community based engagement projects, recruitment campaigns/initiatives, customer experience and Off mat volunteering initiatives. Disseminating opportunities for Development of Clubs and individuals within those clubs through funding or activity programmes.

### **Nick Shepherd (South & West)**

Active Devon  
Active Dorset  
Active Cornwall  
Active Oxfordshire  
Active Surrey  
Active Sussex  
Get Berkshire Active  
Leap (Bucks & MK Sport)  
Herts Sport Partnership  
London Sport  
Energise Me (Hampshire & Isle of Wight)  
Active Kent & Medway  
Wiltshire & Swindon Sport  
Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership  
Jersey  
Guernsey

### **Laurence Kenyon (Midlands & East)**

Active Essex  
Active Together (Leicestershire and Rutland)  
Active Suffolk  
Active Norfolk  
Active Herefordshire & Worcestershire  
Active Lincolnshire  
Active Black Country  
Active Notts  
Active Gloucester  
Active Derbyshire  
Living Sport  
Northampton Sport  
Think Active  
Sport Birmingham  
Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin  
Team Beds & Luton  
Wesport

### **Maddie Thompson (North)**

Active Cumbria  
We Are Rise (Northumberland and Tyne & Wear)  
County Durham Sport  
Tees Valley Sport  
North Yorkshire Sport  
Active Lancashire  
Active Humber  
Yorkshire Sports Foundation  
Active Cheshire  
Merseyside Sport  
Greater Sport (Manchester)  
Isle of Man

**Safeguarding Concern?**  
**Report It.**



safeguarding@britishjudo.org.uk