

# Manifesto for Election for Chair of Southern Area July 2019

## Marion Woodard



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I believe that Southern Area clubs and members should have options. They should be able to choose who leads and manages the current and future direction of the Area across the wide range of services and activities it provides as well as in issues of important national interest.

Judo is facing many challenges in attracting and keeping players. I am passionate about judo activities being enjoyable and 'family friendly'. I believe these are essential factors for attendance at clubs, gradings and competitions as well as for the recruitment and retention of volunteers needed to support judo activities at club, county and area levels.

If elected, I would work with the Southern Area Committee, county committees and Southern Area members. Our aim would be to facilitate the best use of the skills and experience of our coaches, technical officials and referees, creating a collaborative culture. I propose implementing improvements in communication and marketing, business planning and practices and engagement with coaches, members and volunteers. It is vital that we create opportunities for succession planning - developing skills for those who will be the future volunteer workforce and leaders in the Southern Area. I believe it is also important to continue the joint working that Southern Area officials have developed with the London, Northern Home Counties and Eastern areas.

### **As Chair, I would propose the following immediate actions:**

- Review our constitution, ensure it is fit for purpose and will enable future developments. (Formal consideration and approval would be required at the 2020 Southern Area AGM.)
- Implement best practices to improve the efficiency and quality of Southern Area committee business and communication. This would include timely information posted on the Southern Area website about committee business, joint Area working and English Area business and decisions (within limits of confidentiality).
- Appoint a voluntary Communications Lead to the committee whose role would include developing our website, introducing efficient IT tools such as Dropbox for committee members, creating a 'Coaches & Committee Members' Facebook group offering opportunities for discussion, sharing ideas and information as well as the promotion of county and area events.
- Produce a comprehensive calendar with dates of Southern Area events plus those in other areas, key national events, competitions, training sessions and officials' courses.

### **As Chair, I would propose the following future actions:**

- Implement the support network for coaches and coach development (on the assumption that the Kin Ryu proposals are approved at the AGM).
- Review how we engage with young players and their parents. Make events more enjoyable for all participants and volunteers. For example, I support an expansion of the online events entry system, with changes that have shown to be popular with coaches and parents.

