



## **Safeguarding officer report.**

A relatively quiet year in terms of presented safeguarding issues, although a few minor concerns reported of officials physically touching lifters when unnecessary.

There are also a number of incidents reported from members who have experienced inappropriate behaviour whilst training in commercial gyms mainly from appointed coaches. The difficulty in trying to deal with such complaints is a lack of evidence or whistle blowers willing to come forward. In my opinion we need to be doing more to raise the issue of what sorts of behaviour should be reported and some basic steps that can be taken by members in order to stay safe. We should also encourage members who suspect or experience safeguarding infringements to try and obtain evidence, perhaps by using phone cameras or raising their concerns with others to seek out potential witnesses.

It is still a concern from my point of view that only 25 of our officials have provided me with details of their DBS checks or safeguarding training in the past three years or so. There are an increasing number of new referees coming on board and many of our officials being promoted which is good for the sport. I would though like to suggest that we add an additional criteria to divisional referees seeking promotion to national status, that they at least provide evidence of a satisfactory DBS or equivalent (*disclosure Scotland*) checks.

At the board meeting before last I did announce that I would be prepared to step down as safeguarding officer at the next AGM. This is still my intention although if no one wishes to take on this role I will continue for the time being, or provide assistance if required to a new officer.

Kevin Jane