



EAST MIDLANDS GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES**

THURSDAY 20th May 2021 - 19:45

Present: Paul Lipton, Alisa Saunders, Tony Ford, Jenni Harris, Nev Burr, Richard Neely, Hannah Vickers, Vicki Pearson, Kevin Flynn, Billings RGC, Alex Shaw, Susannah Watts, K Dornan

Agreeing minutes of 2019 AGM

No objections cited to the minutes from 2019, minutes agreed.

Reports

- Chairman's Report – delivered by Paul Lipton
- Treasurer's Report – delivered by Alisa Saunders, no objections raised.
- Appointment of Auditors – Chris McGlasham proposed and agreed
- TC Chair reports:
 - Nev Burr – MAG TC Report delivered
 - Clive Morgan – TRA TC Report delivered by Katie Foster on behalf of Clive Morgan
 - Jenni Harris – WAG TC Report delivered
 - Hannah Vickers – RHY TC Report delivered
 - Susannah Watts – GFA TC Report Delivered
 - Ian Davis – TUM TC Report Delivered by Katie Foster on behalf of Ian Davies
- Welfare Report
 - Report Delivered by Jenni Harris
- Setting of Annual Affiliation for Clubs & Counties 2022
 - 2021 affiliation fee is £0 due to what has happened with the pandemic.
 - The previous rate was £45 per club / county.
 - Looking towards 2022, we need feedback from British Gymnastics regarding the cost agreed as affiliation moves to their online system.
 - PL proposed to postpone the setting of the affiliation cost until further information is available from British Gymnastics.
 - Proposal agreed unanimously.

Matters Arising:

Election of Executive Members. (All positions due for re-election)

- Chair Person – Paul Lipton - unanimously elected (2-year term)
- Vice Chair – Clive Morgan – unanimously elected. (2-year term)
- Secretary – Katie Foster – unanimously elected. (3-year term)
- Treasurer – Alisa Saunders, unanimously elected. (3-year term)



Confirmation of TC Chairs to be represented on the Executive Committee:

- Acrobatics – Kathryn Lacey – Unanimously ratified
- Tumbling – Ian Davis - Unanimously ratified
- Gymnastics For All – Susannah Watts - Unanimously ratified
- Men’s Artistic – Neville Burr - Unanimously ratified
- Trampoline – Clive Morgan - Unanimously ratified
- Women’s Artistic – Jenni Harris - Unanimously ratified
- Rhythmic – Kim Dornan - - Unanimously ratified

PL Thanked Hannah Vickers for her service as Rhythmic TC chair as she stepped down from the position.

Confirmation of County Representatives on the Executive Committee:

- Derbyshire - TBC
- Leicestershire – Jenni Harris
- Lincolnshire – Nev Burr
- Nottinghamshire – Katie Foster
- Northamptonshire – Phil Purcell

Confirmation of regional Welfare and Ethics Officer on Executive Committee:

EMGA Welfare & Ethics Officer

Tony Ford, Jenni Harris & Linda Thompson all confirmed to be continuing in positions.
Possibility of County Welfare Officers being explored going forward.

Date of 2022 AGM

- Thursday 5th May 2022



Chairperson (Paul Lipton):

Normally, this is where I say that we have had another amazing year yet again. Hopefully, 2021 is the start of something great. In the past 18 months we have seen an unprecedented set of circumstances that none of us have ever seen and hopefully will never again see in our lifetimes.

The constraints that this has placed on our sport and on our members has also been immense and to be honest I am amazed that so many of our clubs and facilities have come through this period. Whilst we are definitely not out of the woods yet there is some hope on the horizon.

Thankfully, both our facilities are also holding up and we have also been able to offer financial support to our clubs as part of our restart programme.

Financially, we are still in a very healthy position even with the reality of a second year with no real income.

Our TC's are still in the main in a very positive position although there are some significant challenges around the corner so we need to galvanise our volunteers and ensure that we try and remove as much complexity and challenges from our operations as possible.

I cannot thank our exec enough for their commitment, understanding and focus on helping our clubs and TC's through these really difficult times. You have all been absolutely brilliant and I am extremely proud to work with you all.

Finances:

Our numbers are holding up well and we are in a very fortunate position. We have been able to set aside £50K for our bounce back fund. There hasn't been anything significant to report financially although our auditor has still maintained a watching brief and is happy to sign off the accounts.

Alisa has settled in extremely well and we have a good system in place for authorising payments and monitoring transactions

Ethics and Welfare:

Well done to Jenni, Linda and Tony for their continued hard work. In 2019 I did say this area in our sport is becoming massive. That has proved to be the understatement of the decade. Whilst it's not appropriate to comment on the ongoing cases I do feel that we do need to acknowledge that there are some serious and significant issues that need to be addressed. Hopefully, we will come out of this with as a better more rounded sport.

My final thoughts on the past 18 months are that we have worked extremely hard over the years to establish and maintain our position as a well balanced and funded association. This has stood us in good stead to deal with everything that was thrown at us and we are in a strong position coming out of this current situation.

Thank you all for your hard work and commitment. You are all a real credit to our sport

Paul



EMGA MTC REPORT for AGM 2021

Last year financially was a non-year but the MTC did manage to hold a floor and vault competition in February 2020 before lockdown struck.

Since then as with everyone else nothing has happened on the competition front.

Overview of Regional activities

Only the coaches and boys at Notts have really been allowed to train as elite gymnasts on the national/international competition pathway.

Sam Oldham and Euan Cox have been involved in Olympic trials and Alex, Zakaine and Luke have been involved in trials for future international events.

And we must mention Sergey turning 60 this year

Courses coaching judging etc

No courses have taken part

Areas of Achievement

The main area of achievement is we have not gone under and our clubs are back open and getting gymnast's back in the gym, we will have to see you will be able to compete when we have our grades trials in September.



East Midlands Gymnastics Association AGM – May 2021 Trampoline Chair's Report

It is hard to remember the time before the coronavirus pandemic changed life as we knew it. But, unlike the darkest days in 2020, there is light at the end of the tunnel. With it, the return of what we used to call normal.

Despite the lack of competitions and training opportunities in 2020, it has been encouraging to see how the clubs and gymnasts rose to the challenge and worked in innovative ways to keep the trampoline community moving, even when we could not be together in person.

In 2019, participation increased, as did the quality of the performances that the gymnasts delivered at every level. This is a testament to the hard work that goes on within the region.

As we begin to emerge from the pandemic, it's hard to say how things will pan out in the coming months, but I am sure that things will continue to come on in leaps and bounds (no pun intended). In the meantime, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to every coach, gymnast, club, parent, judge, official, volunteer and the East Midlands trampoline technical committee. You have been outstanding over the past year, and it is a real privilege to be the chairperson of these disciplines in the East Midlands.

Competitions

There was the usual mix of competitions held in the East Midlands: two NDP pre-qualifiers and a regional NDP qualifying event (2019 and 2020) and regional championships (2019 only).

The regional NDP competitions were qualifiers to the Regional Team Finals, held at the Arena Birmingham.

Regrettably, due to the coronavirus restrictions, the Regional Team Finals was cancelled in 2020, so the gymnasts who qualified were unable to represent the East Midlands at the event.

But in 2019, the East Midlands was represented by 65 competitors in trampoline and DMT. The teams finished in 6th (trampoline), 9th (DMT) and 4th (disabilities), with seven gold medals, five silver and four bronze.

In 2019, the region also had gymnasts compete at the National NDP Finals, the English Championships and the British Championships, held at the International Centre in Telford, the English Institute of Sport, Sheffield and Arena Birmingham.

There were medallists too.

Gymnasts from the region returned home from the NDP Finals with five gold medals, eight silver and three bronze. The East Midlands came away from the English Championships with five gold medals, eight silver and six bronze.

A clutch of medals of all colours returned to the East Midlands from the British Championships. We have five British Champions, eight silver medallists and three bronze medallists.

Sadly, these competitions were cancelled in 2020.

Other news

In 2019 and 2020, gymnasts, coaches and judges from the East Midlands were selected to represent Great Britain at several international events, including World Championships, World Age Group Competition, World Cups and the European Championships.

A special mention goes to Andrew Stamp who, at the age of 17, made his debut as a GB senior in 2019. He finished in the top 15 at a World Cup and made the semi-final at the World Championships in Tokyo, Japan.

Tyler Cole-Dyer was also in Tokyo. He returned home with two silver medals – in the individual 13-14 Boys event and the synchro competition with his partner Ryan Brown.

They were joined at the Ariake Arena by Brodie Hove-Coleman and Lois Moseley.

These gymnasts, and Ellie Vassel, were selected for the 2020 European Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden. But due to the global pandemic, the event was postponed until 2021 and relocated to Sochi, Russia. Unfortunately, Great Britain did not attend the rescheduled event, so those selected did not get the chance to represent the country on this occasion.

I must say congratulations to all of our competitors. You have done everyone proud – from yourselves and your parents to your clubs, coaches and the region.



Meanwhile, Tracy Whittaker-Smith continues to be the head national coach, Harvey Smith remains a Great Britain junior squad coach and Clive Morgan was selected to be a judge/superior jury at many international events.

All of this shows that we continue to develop promising and able gymnasts, coaches and judges. As we rebuild in 2021, we should continue to find ways to support and nurture the talent to fulfil their potential.

I would like to thank the EMTTC committee for everything that they have done for the region and beyond over the past year.

In particular, Chris Edwards for his continued and tireless work on the scoring system.

And, finally, I would also like to thank everyone in the region - from the gymnasts, coaches, clubs and volunteers, who have continued to make things happen – we are nothing without you.

Clive Morgan

Chair – East Midlands Trampoline Technical Committee



East Midlands WTC report 2021 AGM

As for all of us it has been a strange year. We as yet have not been able to run any competitions, since March 2020, but are hoping in the Autumn term to be able to hold 2 weekends of competitions and have an opportunity for all regional level gymnasts to be able to compete.

We successfully ran a zoom regional squad with guest host Nick Ruddock and also input from Annabel Clifton delivering a ballet session, with around 75 girls taking part. We are hopeful to use our prebooked July date at New College to run a squad session. We will use this as an opportunity to risk assess pinch points and issues, without vast numbers or an audience.

I have had regular updates and zoom meetings with Maria McLoughlin and the national WTC and have been sharing information as I receive it, on the complete new competition structure that is coming into play to give more opportunities to more levels of gymnast and attempting to remove the “elite” pressure and leave pathways more open for gymnasts to achieve to their full potential, without feeling devalued.

I would like to give my thanks to Lisa Freeman who has stepped down as Judging convenor and welcome James Chalkley into this role. My thanks also go to Alisa and Alison for their continued willingness to be the main stay of organising events and continued support they have given me along with Katie in forming plans for moving forward. Also my thanks to Veronica for helping with communications to clubs for me.

I hope as we move forward now we will in 2022 achieve a new normal and we can all adapt to inevitable changes due to COVID and embrace the new rules which hopefully will improve every gymnasts experience in the sport.



Rhythmic Regional Report:

During the past year all clubs have been conducting online training and I think it is fair to say that all have had the same challenges. Focus has been very much about keeping gymnasts motivated in the sport and providing sessions to keep them focused and to aide their own wellbeing. All clubs have seen a drop in numbers during the lockdowns but since being back in the club's there has been an increase in gymnasts wanting to return back to training.

Following the closure of Weavers Sports Centre Wellingborough, Nene Valley have lost their training venue. They have been in there for the past 20 plus years and this also means we have lost our competition venue. It is pleasing to hear that Nene Valley have been able to find an alternative training venue, however, we still do not have an affirmed competition venue at present. Vicki Pearson has been active in looking at venues and we will continue to do so when we are in more 'normal' times. Billing's gymnastics club lost one of their training venues over the lockdowns but luckily their second venue managed to find space for them to train an extra day. Robin Hood's venue (Mellish Sports centre) was shut due to the covid restrictions meaning they had to change their timetable and find space in the main club venue for the Rhythmic Squad to train. Erewash Valley have been very lucky to still have their training venue and introduced a phased return to training hours once the clubs were allowed to open.

2 county gymnasts (Armani- Nene Valley and Miley – Billings) were accepted into the Performance Pathway Foundation Squad, and managed to attend 1 camp before all others were cancelled. They have also attended an online training session last Sunday (14th of March 2021). This was good experience for them both, and I hope they found it of benefit. It was also fantastic to connect again with the wider Rhythmic Community.

Clubs are now focusing on getting back into the gym and getting ready for when competitions return.



Regional GfA Report for AGM 2021
Susannah Watts
GFA TC Chair

Overview of East Midlands GFA Activities:

2020 was a quiet year for the GFA TC due to Covid 19. Sadly, we were unable to run any competitions in 2020.

We hope to be able to return to running our usual 5 competitions a year from 2022, 3 floor and vault covering all levels and ages, and 2 four piece competitions covering over 8s and Primary 2 upwards .

This year we are concentrating on getting floor and vault competitions back up and running in some form at the later end of the year.

As a lot of our clubs are based in schools and leisure centres, many have found it hard to return to training following lockdowns due to lack of access to these shared venues.

Education & Courses

No courses have taken place this year

Additional News

One positive from this year is that we have been able to add two new members to the GFA TC:

Hannah Gibbs

Jo Shaw

We look forward to a better year ahead!



Acro & Tumbling AGM Report 20th May 2021

Main developments Acro & Tumbling

It has been agreed that Acro & Tumbling are to split and go their separate ways. Tumbling is to come under the Trampoline and Acro is to be a stand-alone discipline. This was agreed at a committee meeting held on Sunday 16th May. The official split date has to be agreed with EMGA and the funds split accordingly. Tumbling is to have a sub-committee under trampolining and all committee members are to stay in post with the addition of a welfare committee member. Acro is to form its own committee to report to EMGA with Kathryn Ford taking the lead.

Finance: No Change but plans are in place to resolve and remove any previous deficits, through regional training camps, more competitions and possible tumbling leagues.

Acro Competitions: No competitions are reported at the moment due to Acro clubs and squads across the region still being unable to train together. Some clubs, as you will be aware, are still unable to locate or gain access to a venue to facilitate training. This has led to a drop in participation and could lead to a rebuild programme taking 2+ years. Tumble will still have to opportunity, venue willing, to attend competitions in the future and bring in much needed revenue.

Tumble Competitions: none held but as above plans are being discussed for the future. We have sorted dates for competitions this year, bringing forward our regional prelims from Feb 2022 to Oct 21. This will enable tumbling to bring all qualifying gymnasts together more often and prepare for National Final. This will also give us the opportunity to select gymnasts to represent the East Midlands at team competitions. The currently agreed are 12th sept 21- Open training camp/control comp& judge CPD training. The 24th October 21- Competition EMGA Tumbling Championships for all tumbling level. The 7th NOVEMBER 21 Training camp for medal prospects for 2022 and top 5 of all levels & Coach/Judge planning for 2022. There will be further training camps in place for 2022. Tumbling expectations are to Work closer to tramp regarding regional kits requirements and squads at all levels.

Tumbling Sub-Committee Members and their positions are as follows;

Chair – Ian Davis

Vice chair – Kate Turner

Secretary – Richard Smith

Competition Secretary – Tad Skubala

Regional Lead Judge – Alex Shaw

Welfare – Alison Buddle

Acro are to form their committee and report members back to EMGA.

CPD for coaches & judges; we will be formulating plans and requesting, previously mentioned support from the region in the near future. Alex taking the judging lead and she is pushing BG for courses at regional level and a date to be announced asap.

Club contacts; Tumbling are looking to market the discipline to all clubs in the region and will be looking to obtain contact details for the secretaries of all Clubs affiliated to EMGA. This is will be part of a bigger plan to grow the discipline within region and on the National/International stage!

National Squad training has recommenced with Amber Valley and Derby City having a good quantity of gymnasts representing the East Midlands at National training camps/national squad at FIG levels.

In overall the split between Acro & Tumbling has been taken as a positive step for both disciplines. We are all looking forward to a greater future.

Ian Davis
Acro & Tumbling Chair



East Midlands Safeguarding report 2021 AGM

In the past year you will be aware of the high profile issues raised in the press following the Gymnast A film and the influx of complaints. This continues to be a pressure at head office and the team now, still headed by Mike Harrison; has 12 staff members, a massive increase. As RWO's we have since lockdown had regular virtual meetings with Mike to update us. There are in excess of 200 cases still under investigation and as clubs re open and staff numbers are increased it is hoped that faster progress can be made on these investigations. Within the region there are still 3 high profile cases under investigation and we continue to support Head office when asked and are available to support the clubs while these are ongoing.

Time to Listen courses are currently being held virtually and the backlog of welfare officers needing these is getting under control again.

As a team we have continued to offer support where we can to the club welfare officers and over the past year have offered advice and support to at least 15 clubs in the region, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the many brilliant club welfare officers we do have in the region. We continue to work as a strong team and are the only region with 3 regional welfare officers, all available to support clubs with concerns. Linda heading the team and as she doesn't work is available at most times to take calls, Jenni and Tony both work full time, but are also available with Tony heading up the education side and delivering courses and Jenni administrating the team and attending regional Exec meetings. Since the last AGM it is worth recording how proud we were that Claire Saporita, club welfare officer for Robin Hood was awarded the National safeguarding award at the National Awards held in January 2020, for the great work she is doing at the club.

Linda, Tony & Jenni