



ENGLISH GYMNASTICS

Home Country Association affiliated to
British Gymnastics and representing the Regions of
East, East Midlands, London, North of England, North West, South, South East, South West, West Midlands and Yorkshire

www.englishgymnastics.org.uk

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT – July, 2009.

To: English Regions and English Schools Gymnastics Association.
(Chairs, Regional Secretaries and Clubs).

The current Management Committee consists of one member for each English Region plus a representative from the English Schools Gymnastics Association..

Members of the EGA Management Committee are:

Chair: Jim Moss. (West Midlands). Hon Secretary: Dr Mike Chappell (West Midlands) - Co-opted. Hon. Treasurer: Kevin Flynn (East Midlands). Chief Executive Officer. Mark Gannon (ceased : March, 2009) . North AGA: Dave Portas. North West AGA: Christine Simpkin. Yorkshire: Christine Bowker. East AGA: Alf Dyer. South AGA: Elizabeth Scales. London: Len Arnold. South West AGA. Joan Jackman. South East AGA: Sue James. English Schools Howard Todd. Commonwealth Games and Technical Co-ordinator– Co-opted Mike Swallow (London LGF)

The last year has been very busy for the EGA and as always, has presented many challenges. The Management Committee has met four times during the year 2008/9 and minutes of the meetings have been posted on the England web site. www.englishgymnastics.org.uk . I would like to sincerely thank the Officers and the EGA Committee Members, for their continued hard work and commitment, which is much appreciated.

Governance and Finance:

Much has changed since my 2008 report. During 2008, the EGA worked hard to become fit-for-purpose and in May, 2008, BAGA agreed at their Board meeting, to confer Governing Body status on the EGA. This, together with an employed CEO and changes agreed to create an EGA Company with English Directors from the Regions, would have meant the EGA becoming even more professional and “fit-for-purpose” in the eyes of Sport England and others. Yet with only weeks to go before the new EGA Board was to be formed, BAGA unilaterally decided to withdraw its support to the EGA for Governing Body status. In addition BAGA decided, to set up its own BG controlled, Wholly Owned Subsidiary Company (Gymnastics England), whilst at the same time, immediately withdrawing all funding from the EGA, so that this funding could be in future transferred to the new BAGA company to form a contributory amount to the new Whole Sport Plan Grant 2009-2013. Additionally, Mark Gannon and the Development Team were transferred to the new BAGA company, set up to manage the new Sport England Whole Sport Plan 2009-2013. No such device or mechanism was deemed necessary to manage the Whole Sport Plan that existed for 2005-2009, which EGA managed well and with no complaint from Sport England or BAGA.

All of this was done without any prior notice or indeed consultation with the EGA Management Committee! BAGA state that the new company (Gymnastics England) is being set up to more professionally manage the Sport England Grant 2009-2013.

Since 2005, when the EGA was reincarnated as the Home Country Association for the English Regions, we have tried very hard to be aware of the needs of the sport in England and to work with and assist the Regions as much as possible, especially financially. Commencing from NIL funds, it was the EGA that achieved a Home Country rebate from BAGA, particularly in order to assist regions and the sport in England. The EGA has therefore, generated £650k of income to meet our programmes which include: Regional web sites, printing of Regional development plans, development grants (£10k per Region), support for English representation in Commonwealth Games (no longer subsidised by BAGA), English Championships, English Squads and Internationals, Regional Administrators etc, plus funds to support Sports Acrobatics competitions and £20k offered to Men's Artistic 2 years ago, although this was never taken up by Men's. Through this EGA funding, the Regions have additionally contributed matched funding of £100k for development grants and are contributing £150k for the Regional Administrators. This equates to no less than £900k in total of new money put back into the Regions in just 4 years, through the efforts of the EGA.

The EGA are now without core funding or the arrears of rebate funding from BAGA of around £250k. However, because of careful management and prudent accounting, we shall continue to honour our commitments and for

as long as possible, to – English Championships, Commonwealth Games, Squads and Internationals and our contribution for 2 years, to the 6 appointed Regional Administrator posts. The EGA as the Home Country Association remains as the voice of the regions and this is entirely integral to their role and constitution.

There are those who feel strongly, that the EGA should have its own individual membership scheme and even perhaps, be afforded the same status and roles as Scotland and Wales. BAGA did suggest that an additional membership fee payment for EGA be created, through raising the BAGA membership fees and top-slicing that element to be paid to the EGA. The EGA felt, however, that in view of the relatively high cost of BG fees paid by members anyway, it would not be appropriate to extract a further amount as well.

However, we are where we are. Radical changes to membership and fee payments to England would have created a huge mountain to climb and resources which we did not and do not have, to bring it into effect. It may also have had an adverse effect on BAGA's own Grant Aid funding for elite performance and squads. In addition, one has to consider the possible divisive effect that such a radical change may have created as well. We felt that it was best to try and co-operate with BAGA and others on this issue and to spend whatever finance we could gain, by positively re-investing in the regions. Unfortunately, given the recent decision by BAGA to move rebate funds from the EGA to their new Gymnastics England Board, our position has been weakened, even though I understand we may be able to make bids on the new BG England Board to maintain agreed programmes in the future.

Development Team Planning and Activities:

The new Whole Sport Plan (WSP) 2009-2013 will, when published, contain details of these aspects and information as to how and where the promised Sport England Grant of £11.7m will be directed. The evidence gained from the "Your Sport, Your Say" meetings in the regions in 2008 and the recently updated Regional Development Plans will, it is assumed, both have influenced the priorities and programmes in the WSP. More details about the new WSP and new Board - Gymnastics England work - will be found on their new web site <http://www.gymnasticsengland.org>. All development team staff nationally and in the regions/counties plus the former EGA CEO Mark Gannon, have all transferred to the new BAGA England Gymnastics Board management, but I thank them for their efforts whilst working, more directly, for the EGA.

English Schools.

The successful ESGA/EGA Key Steps competition resource pack continues to be widely taken up by schools and a trampoline version has now been produced. Evidence demonstrates that the existing Key Steps resource is much used and needed in schools and education and is generally acknowledged, to have been very helpful in promoting more healthy gymnastics competition in schools.

English Annual Championships: 2008.

The Men's and Women's Championships were again very well staged at the Wiltshire School of Gymnastics.

The Women's Championships - winners were: Nina Dearman (Vernon Park GC) Senior Champion and Beth Tweddle Bars Award. Nicole Herbert (Heathrow GC) Junior Champion.

Men's Championships – winners were Luke Folwell (Huntingdon GC) Senior Champion and Sam Odham (Huntingdon GC) Junior Champion.

Sincere congratulations to the above Champions.

New Home for English Championships – 2009: has been agreed at the New College, Glenfield Road, Leicester. The championships this year 2009 which will also now include a women's Espoirs Championship, will be held between 18th - 20th September, 2009.

England Internationals:

Teams drawn from the English Women's Artistic squads took part in a number of International events during 2008/9 details of which are shown below.

Russia – Mayors Cup – Vladimir. September, 2008.

Gymnasts – Juniors: Grace Imeson (City of Newcastle), Claire Stock (Huntingdon GC), Laura Edwards (Dynamo SOG), Emily Goring (Park Wrekin GC), Chloe Leaper (OLGA) and Lara Wilson (City of Newcastle GC). Team Coaches – Keith Richardson and Karen Chapman. Seniors: Nina Dearman (Vernon Park GC), Jenna Walters (Sutton S of G), Amanda Wilkinson (Wigan GC), Emma Beales (Dynamo) and Sophie Keating (City of Newcastle GC). Team Coaches – Barry McLaughlin and Franki Gee. Several Gold and other medals were won.

Leverkusen Cup Stuttgart, Germany, October, 2008.

Gymnasts: Claire Stock (Huntingdon GC), Nina Dearman (Vernon Park GC) and Laura Edwards (Dynamo GC). Team Coach Chris Evans. . Team achieved 4th Place.

Trampoline – Home International at Hull – November, 2008.

England Team won this event.

Belgium – Lucien Mus Memorial Cup, Ypres, April, 2009.

Gymnasts: Amy Middleton (Horsham GC), Danielle Wickham (Port Regis GC) and Antonia Bates (Wiltshire SOG) – Team Coach – Corel King. The team won this event by 16 whole marks.

During 2009. Women's International Teams will go to Russia, Leverkusen and will also compete at the Rushmore Bowl International in October, 2009. A four-way Home Invitational Competition for Trampoline will be held in Birmingham on 25th October, 2009.

Summary:

I believe that since our inception in May 2005, the EGA has worked well and demonstrated its support for the Regions and especially in terms of re-investing funds back into local sport. I am personally very disappointed in the decision of BAGA to create its own new Wholly Owned Subsidiary company – Gymnastics England, since I am concerned that, in so doing, it may well dissipate support for England and risks uncertainty about roles, communications and the future. Our goal of establishing a fully independent and financially sustainable English home nation within the umbrella of BAGA, remains constant.

I would reiterate, that it is vital that a good working collaboration and understanding between the EGA and the Regions is fostered and maintained, so that we can all benefit by working together and, as a result, become even stronger as an English Gymnastics family.

With best wishes for 2009/10.

Jim Moss.
Chair – EGA.
June 2009.