



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

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT – April, 2008.

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 (wef: January, 2008). 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. CGCE Rep./Technical Mike Swallow (London LGF) Commonwealth Games and Technical Co-ordinator– Co-opted

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 2007/8 and minutes of the meetings have been sent to each Region and minutes have also 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.

Chief Executive Officer:

The Association is pleased to welcome Mark Gannon, who officially joined us on 1st January, 2008, as our first CEO. Mark, who is married with 2 young children, was previously employed at Sports Coach UK and at the Youth Sport Trust. Mark is a Men's Artistic gymnastics coach and well acquainted with our sport through his coaching. Mark's wife, Lisa Gannon (Barton), is also a gymnastics coach and will be known to many as a presenter at large gymnastics events. Mark has inherited a very full agenda for the future and we wish him every success and satisfaction in this demanding and challenging role.

Governance and Finance:

Albeit somewhat delayed, work is now in hand for the EGA to change to a Company Limited Guarantee status, with a competency Board of Directors, which will also have a strong complement of directors elected by the English Regions. EGA is also progressing well, in creating a sport-governing organisation that will enable it to become fit for purpose and recognised by Government and other Funding Agencies.

The EGA receives significant and welcome Grant Aid Funding from Government. This in the main supports development staff and the programmes aimed at increasing participation and opportunities in the sport, volunteer support, working with local agencies and with schools and education, to name a few.

However, the EGA has other value added and complementary programmes and strategies, aimed at improving and strengthening our sport. Examples of these include, financial support for our disciplines below World Class/Olympic Levels, for competition, performance, training squads, coach education support and strengthening our volunteer base. These programmes require, that the EGA has a financial sustainability, through income that enables us to meet our objectives year on year. Strategies are now being developed to enable this financial independence to become a reality. My thanks to Kevin Flynn the EGA Treasurer, for his hard work in these areas.

Development Planning and Activities:

Work has now commenced to review the policies and strategies for future development that will be contained in the new England Whole Sport Plan (WSP) for 2009-2013. This is a large and important task. Real consultation with the sport about it's future plans has been further enhanced, with the series of "Have Your Say" meetings, that Development Staff have organised in every Region during the latter part of 2007. The EGA Web Site has also been successfully used, to enable comments and suggestions to be sent direct to the EGA for consideration.

Affiliated to: The Commonwealth Gymnastics Confederation and The Commonwealth Games Council for England

Individual Regional Development Plans are also to be updated for the period 2009-2013 which, together with the England WSP, will provide a clear agenda for our sport and all with a clear aim and focus, to maintain and to provide more tangible support for the English Regions, Counties and clubs.

The Development Plans take into account their local Regional Sports board objectives for respective areas and contribute directly, to the Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) agreed with Sport England. The success obtained in meeting the KPI's is essential to ensure continued and very significant development funding from Sport England.

Gym Mark: By the time this reported is published, it is confidently expected that 352 Clubs will have achieved Gym Mark accreditation, in addition to practically using the scheme, to help further the development of clubs. Gym Mark accreditation also demonstrates that the club have addressed issues such as equity, equality and child protection, which gives greater confidence to parents and raises the profile of the club with a wider audience, including the Sports Council and local agencies. The EGA strongly support Gym Mark and encourage all clubs to become accredited. Much useful information is available about Gym Mark on the EGA web site – www.englandgymnastics.org.uk - further assistance and support is available from Regional Gymnastics Development Officers.

PESSCL: The PE School Sport and Club Links programme continues to work strongly with schools and local gymnastics clubs, to increase gymnastic opportunities. Over 363 School Club Links have been established to date. This has enabled more than 10,000 children to be able to participate in the sport either at existing BAGA clubs or new satellite clubs that have been established in schools and with many teachers now trained to deliver gymnastics.

Along with the successful ESGA/EGA Key Steps competition resource pack, now being widely taken up by schools, a trampoline version has been produced, which will shortly go on sale. 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.

EGA. Club and Coach Project: A £2.3m grant has been received from Sport England, to provide a programme of support for clubs through the appointment for 3 years, of 49 paid coaches. The programme has the flexibility to enable coaches to be employed to build capacity, improve performance or even work at Regional level, depending upon the priorities that have been agreed locally between clubs and regions.

The England Development Team:

The EGA clearly recognise the commitment and hard work of the whole England Development Team in providing development officer support on the ground within the Regions and in some counties. The continued appointment of more County Development Officers has greatly enhanced support at more local levels for clubs and other organisation in our sport. The work of all the Development Staff in England whether at national, regional or county level, is considerable and much appreciated by the Chair and the EGA Board.

Working Together:

I have noted in previous reports the importance of EGA and it's member Regions, working more closely together. This clearly happens within the EGA Management Committee whose members include representatives from all Regions and the ESGA and also occurs routinely, through the day to day involvement of the Development Officer staff working with Regions, and Clubs and in other ways.

An important meeting with Regional Secretaries, Chairs and EGA Officers was held in July 2007, to review developments within the sport and to identify areas of greater collaboration and common interest. A key issue arising from this meeting is the need to enhance support within the Regions that will improve administrative and coach education support resources, for the benefit of clubs and members. This initiative is now being finalised and, subject to available funds, is to be jointly funded by Regions and the EGA.

The EGA Board is always pleased to receive comments and suggestions about the sport and these can be easily sent, either through the EGA Web Site email: info@englandgymnastics.org.uk or to the EGA Secretary: Dr Mike Chappell E-mail Address: mjc@eng.warwick.ac.uk

Web Sites:

Regions have now received and implemented the new web site software supplied by EGA. This is a major step forward in communicating and promoting our sport. The central EGA web site is englandgymnastics.org.uk and it contains a wealth of information, help and guidance about our sport in England. Thanks to Beth Jones in the EGA offices at Lilleshall, for her hard work in maintaining this site.

English Annual Championships: 2007.

The Women's Championships, was again very well staged at the Wiltshire School of Gymnastics. The winners were: Jennifer Pinches (City of Liverpool GC) – Junior Champion. Kayleigh Cooke (Huntingdon OGC) Senior Champion.

2007 saw the introduction of 2 new annual awards – the Beth Tweddle Trophy and the Amanda Kirby Trophy. These awards recognise the immense achievement by Beth in becoming a World Asymmetric Bars Champion and to Amanda, in recognition of her many years of dedicated coaching and producing a World Champion. The awards are given for the best Bars Score Gymnast in the Senior Championship and to her coach. The winners were Kayleigh Cooke and her coach George Blas.

Sports Acrobatics Junior Competition. This event was held for the first time in October 2007 at the Wiltshire School of Gymnastics. Winners were – Men's Pairs – Lee and Keiran Baker (Horsham), Men's Group - Oliver Wright, Christopher Roger, Chester Willmott and Jake Pothercary (King Edmund), Mixed Pair – Kaman Mitchell & Tasha Lawrence (King Edmund), Women's Pair – Stacey and Sophie Aldous (Chermond) and Women's Group Joanne Wight, Abigail Collins, Amber Ballantyne-Styles (Oxford).

Men's Artistic Championships – Held in Wigan.

Rushmore International:

At rather short notice, England were invited to enter Women's Artistic Junior and Senior teams to the above event. The English Championships 2007 results were used to determine the teams who consisted of:

Junior Team: Claire Stock (Huntingdon), Grace Immeson (City of Newcastle), Nadia Hansell (Woking), Emily Goring (Park Wrekin), Laura Edwards (Dynamo), Chloe Frances (Port Regis), Leanna Clarke (Wiltshire School of Gymnastics) and Sophie Brundish (Europa).

Senior Team: Nina Dearman (Vernon Park), Jenna Walters (Sutton School of Gymnastics), Amanda Wilkinson (Wigan GC), Sophie Keating (Plymouth Swallows), Emma Allen-Beales (Dynamo GC), Leah Hickton (South Essex), Eva Nobbs (Wetherby GC) and Sarah Long (OLGA GC).

Both teams performed very well indeed and the seniors beat South Africa, to win the International Rosebowl event in their first England international under the new EGA banner. The Seniors came 2nd to CSKA Moscow and the Juniors 3rd - in the Rosebowl Main Trophy event. In the apparatus finals, Nadia Hansell achieved a silver medal on Vault. All gymnasts and their coaches were very happy and pleased to take part and especially, to be able to represent their country. It is planned that international events will be held for England Teams regularly in the future. My thanks to Mike Swallow, Len Arnold, Joan Jackman, Sarah Calvert the gymnasts and their coaches, who together, made this event such a success.

Technical Aspects:

The EGA are continuing to offer and provide financial support to Acrobatics and Tumbling and Men's and Women's Artistic disciplines at present. This support helps the disciplines to provide additional competitive and training squads opportunities. The new England National Women's Artistic Junior and Senior squads are to be launched in May 2008, offering training to gymnasts with training and support for coaches.

Funding has continued from the EGA for the WA 10-11 yrs squads under the WC Start programmes managed by the World Class Team. This will considerably assist the best young gymnasts to enter the World Class System at a younger age.

Work has started, to develop and produce a new Technical Strategy for England, which it is hoped will be published in the near future

Summary:

Progress for the EGA has at times been slow, but is now showing positive signs of improvement. 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 2008/9.

Jim Moss.
Chair – EGA.
March, 2008.

For Information
Objectives and Responsibilities of the English Gymnastics Association.

Strategic Objectives: (EGA)

- Increase NGB led participation in gymnastics by 12% by 2009
- Increase coaches and teachers qualified to deliver quality gymnastics from 31,000 to 45,000
- Increase the number of trained and active officials and volunteers to support the sport of gymnastics
- Increase the number of affiliated and accredited clubs
- Increase support to clubs to enable them to further strengthen and develop.
- Ensure equality and child protection standards are implemented in line with British Gymnastics policies
- Raise the level of performance and range of opportunities in each discipline of gymnastics.
- Improve the profile and marketing of gymnastics at home country, regional and local level.

Roles and Responsibilities: (EGA)

Whilst certain functions remain the direct responsibility of British Gymnastics, the following areas have been devolved to each of the four affiliated home country Gymnastics Associations:-

- Provide a voice for Gymnastics and campaign to ensure the needs of Gymnastics are met.
- Ensure that quality is consistent through licensing and development, monitoring and enforcement of rules.
- Deliver coach and judge education programmes up to home country level.
- Deliver home country competitions including home country Championships.
- Deliver and monitor UK policies for child protection, equity, health and safety, ethics and others.
- Manage home country information systems and central databases.
- Develop grass roots programmes.
- Deliver elite programmes outside of World Class programmes up to home country level.
- Monitor membership at home country level.
- Mediate in grievance and disciplinary issues and appeals where appropriate.
- Provide selection and preparation of Commonwealth Games teams.
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The majority of delivery takes place at regional and sub regional level. Each region has its own development plan incorporating the implementation of National Strategies, actions to address Regional and Club needs and links to the Regional Sports Boards objectives.

The Regional Development Officers are in place to support and assist in the delivery of the plan.