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Chairman's SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT – August 2010.

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). North AGA: Dave Portas (ceased January, 2010) - Brian Everett (wef. January 2010), North West AGA: Christine Simpkin. Yorkshire: Christine Bowker. East AGA: Alf Dyer. South AGA: Elizabeth Scales. London: Len Arnold. South West AGA: Joan Jackman (ceased wef January 2010) – Neil Guy (wef January, 2010), South East AGA: Sue James. English Schools Howard Todd. Commonwealth Games and Technical Co-ordinator– Co-opted Mike Swallow (London LGF) (Ceased July, 2010).

I would like to especially thank Joan Jackman (South West) for her considerable support to the EGA since it's inception. Also, thanks to Mike Swallow and Dave Portas who have now left the committee.

The last year has presented many challenges. The Management Committee has met four times during the year 2009/10 and approved minutes of the meetings have been posted on the EGA web site.

www.englishgymnastics.org.uk. I would like to sincerely thank the Officers and the EGA Committee Members, for their work and commitment. Also, to Mike Weinstock (CG England Team Manager) for his extensive work in the preparation leading to the Commonwealth Games 2010 in India, which is much appreciated.

Governance and Finance:

I commented in my 2009 annual report about the significant changes affecting the EGA, as a consequence of the BAGA decision to remove support and funding in September 2008 and to set up a new organisation within BG, called Gymnastics England (GE) to manage the England Whole Sport Plan (2009 – 2013). Little has occurred since that affects the changes made by BG except for a degree of uncertainty and perception about the prevailing roles of the EGA and the GE.

The EGA continues to provide investment and support to the Regions. This support includes the funding of Women's Artistic England Squad, English Championships, Commonwealth Games, some financial support to Trampoline and Sports Acrobatics for international events and partnership funding of some Regional Administrator posts. The EGA remains as the official England Home Country Association and the voice of the regions.

GE provide support through Sport England Grant Aid funding (£11.7m over 4 years) and the (ever-increasing) large Development Team managed by BG, for the England Whole Sport Plan 2009-2013 and agreed assistance with Regional Development Plans, for the same period.

The EGA do not now receive annual core funding from BG and it is existing upon small annual regional fees and the diminishing reserves that we had cautiously built up previously, through sensible policies and sound financial management. There has been talk about some annual funding from GE, but as yet this has not materialised. I regret to say, that it is difficult to say with any degree of certainty, just how long the EGA can continue financially, given the current situation, which is entirely attributable to the decision of BG to withdraw funding to the England Home Country Association, made in September, 2008.

Development Team Planning and Activities:

More details about the England Whole Sport Plan (2009-2013) can be found on the GE 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 BG.

English Annual Championships: 2009 and 2010.

The Men's and Women's Championships was very well staged at New College Leicester, in September 2009 and March 2010. The 2010 event was staged early, since it was the first selection event, held in collaboration with BG, for gymnasts wishing to take part in the World Championships (BG) and Commonwealth Games 2010 (EGA). Both events featured men and women competing at the same event and new competitions were introduced into the Championships for Women's Espoirs and Men's Junior Boys. I am grateful to the many volunteers who came together to make these events so successful and especially to Len Arnold and Trevor Low for the championships' organisation and control. I would also like to thank Percussion Plus, Multi Vision and Milano for their sponsorship of the 2010 event.

2009 Women's Championships winners were: Emily Goring (Park Wrekin) Senior Champion Jennifer Pinches (City of Liverpool) Junior Champion. Rebecca Tunney (City of Liverpool) Espoirs Champion.

2010 Women's Championships: Danusia Francis (Heathrow GC) Senior Champion. Laura Mitchell (Heathrow GC) Junior Champion. Charlie Fellows (Sandbach Gymnastics) Espoirs Champion.

2009 Men's Championships – winners were Kristian Thomas (Earls GC) Senior Champion and Sam Odham (Huntingdon GC) Junior Champion.

2010 Men's Championships: Sam Hunter (unattached) Senior Champion. Frank Baines (Southport YMCA) Junior Champion. Tommy Nicolaou (Pipers Vale GC) Boys Champion.

Sincere congratulations to the above Champions.

English Championships – 2011: New College, Glenfield Road, Leicester. The championships will be held from 25th to 27 February, 2011,

England Internationals:

In addition to running Training Camps during the past 12 months, teams drawn from the English Women's Artistic squads took part in International events during 2009, details of which are shown below.

Russia – Mayors Cup – Vladimir. September, 2009.

Gymnasts – Seniors: : Grace Imeson (City of Newcastle), Claire Stock (Huntingdon GC), Rebecca Purcell (Kettering) and Kerri Upton (Dynamo, Juniors: Francesca Vincent and Amy Middleton (Horsham HC), Ruby Harold and Jasmine Reed- Yang (The Academy). Coaches Nia Edwards, Adam Folwell and Karen Chapman. Several medals including Gold and Silver where won.

Leverkusen Cup Stuttgart, Germany, October, 2009.

Gymnasts: Kerri Upton (Dynamo GC), Nina Dearman (Vernon Park GC) and Emily Goring (Park Wrekin). Team Coach Barry McLaughlin. The team achieved 4th Place. Nina won God Medal for Vault Individual Apparatus.

Rushmoor Rosebowl International. 2009.

England entered 2 teams. Gymnasts England 1 Emily Goring (Park Wrekin), Claire Stock (Huntingdon), Nina Dearman (Vernon Park), Grace Imeson (Newcastle). England 2. Ruby Harold (Academy), Sophie Brundish (Europa), Natasha Nolan (Dynamo), Lara Wilson (Newcastle) and Danielle Wickham (Port Regis). Reserves' who also competed in the All Stars Team – Rebecca Hall and Kelly Simm. England took 3rd Place behind Australia and Canada and Nina Dearman and Lara Wilson won individual medals.

The establishment of the Women's Artistic squad system has been welcomed by many clubs and coaches in England, providing as it does, opportunities for talented gymnasts and their coaches to further develop their skills and to be able to represent their country, which the gymnasts do with a clear sense of pride.

England Squad gymnasts have also graduated to the GB squads and have taken part in GB International events Gymnasts to GB Squad – Amy Middleton (Horsham GC), Laura Edwards (Dynamo), Ruby Harold (The Academy), Francesca Vincent (Horsham GC)

Summary:

I believe that since its inception in May 2005, the EGA has worked well and demonstrated its support for the Regions, especially in terms of re-investing funds back into local sport. I am personally very disappointed in the decision of BG to create its own subsidiary – Gymnastics England, since I am concerned that in so doing, it may well dissipate support for England and risks causing uncertainty about roles, communications and the future. Our goal of establishing a fully independent and financially sustainable English Home Nation association within the umbrella of BG, 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 2010/11.



Jim Moss.
Chairman
English Gymnastics Association
August 2010.