Chair’s Report

The Management Committee meet 3 times per year to discuss regional activities. This year there have been several items of business which has resulted in changes in the constitution and the operational protocol.

GDPR preparation ensured that everyone was ready for the introduction of the new legislation. BG offered several courses to help committee members understand requirements relating to retaining records and storing data.

Welfare: Lucy Doyle helped the post of welfare officer for the region until July. I would like to extend our thanks to her for serving the region in this capacity. Recently Annabelle Bailey and Anthony Doyle have been appointed and can now be reached at south.rwo@british-gymnastics.org. I look forward to meeting with them to welcome them to the Regional management committee.

EGA has been very proactive in helping the region in its development. Following an offer from BG to collect the annual affiliation fees for the region, the management committee voted to adopt this measure. It is necessary for the regional affiliation to be in line with BG ie renewal in October. A constitutional amendment was necessary and an EGM was called to vote on this change. In response to the members’ requests, it was decided to carry out this vote electronically. The vote was to make this change. From 2019 the regional financial year will run from October 1st to September 30th. The committee decided to levy 2/3rds of the fee in Jan 2018 to expire on September 30th 2019. Clubs represented at the AGM qualify for a reduction in fees.

The EGA Chair Martin laws and Vice Chair Paul Lipton attended the regional management committee to discuss the legal implications for the region and advice about what is needed for future support of the volunteer members. It transpires that the Technical Committees are not as autonomous as the constitution suggests. The technical committees are sub committees of the management committee who is responsible for activity in the region on behalf of BG/EGA. There are legal implications should there be anything untoward occur. The management committee agreed to collect information as to the actual structure of the region and its sub committees. Professional advice will be sought on the best way to proceed.

Grant Aid: At the AGM 2017 it was agreed to offer up to £1000 to each technical committee to assist in the development of the discipline. Few disciplines claimed this grant. It is proposed that this grant aid be available in 2019 but the committee needs to look to ascertain in what other ways the committee can assist.

Newsletter: The regional newsletter has been well received and I would like to thank Ruth Wilson for her work on collecting information and circulating each month. Clubs should ensure that more than one person in the club be on the circulation list if possible. The committee is well aware that the main way of disseminating information between the clubs and the management committee is via the minutes of the meetings and the newsletter. The committee would like to investigate ways of ensuring that all information is available to all officials of the clubs to keep everyone informed of changes and developments.
The region has been served by The Secretary, Sheryl Milburn, the Treasurer, Lynda Tee and the Vice Chair, Janet Payne who have been available between meetings to discuss and decide the best way to proceed. I extend my personal thanks to them for their patient assistance. The Management Committee attendees have been invaluable in their contributions in some difficult times this year through the GDPR preparation, the EGM and the structure of the committee’s information collection. I extend my personal thanks to all.

There are likely to be changes ahead in the structure and protocol of the management committee and attendance buy all technical committees would be welcome. I will stand for re-election for the next two years and look forward to the challenges ahead.