

British Gymnastics Southern Region - Reports

July 3rd 2011 - Andover

Chair's Report

BG Strategic Planning

Recent months have seen changes, which will affect the region in many ways. I attended the Regional Chairs' meeting in Loughborough where Mark Gannon fielded a question regarding the strategic plans for the future of BG regions. There was considerable dissent regarding the withdrawal of the refund to regions. It was a unanimous decision that this would seriously hamper the regions in working independently. Mark agreed to do further investigation regarding the refunds and earlier this week it was announced that regions would receive their refund this year but that would be the last time this would occur. Southern region need to decide how we can accommodate this loss of funds next year.

The regional committee need to look closely at how funds will be raised to support our clubs and tutors through grant aid.

Gymfusion

I attended the launch of the Gymfusion in Nottingham. This was a very entertaining show and included a team from Bulmershe who should be congratulated on their excellent display. BG announced that there would be local rounds of Gymfusion and applications are now invited from regions. This was originally aimed at gymnasts who do not necessarily compete. It is an opportunity for performance. It should be noted that all the demonstrations in the show were from competing gymnasts.

Safeguarding Children

Clubs have been alerted to an update in the rules regarding Safeguarding children and how this applies to paid coaches.

Regional Website logo

The regional website was to be updated with the new logo. It was indicated to me that as regions are autonomous we perhaps should shy away from using the BG logo for the region.

BG appears to have no queries with this but it needs to be confirmed that this is how to proceed.

Biz Scales

Trampoline Report

Competitions

The Grading competitions occur 4 times per year in October, January, March and May. This season has incorporated a second chance validation for promotion and this has worked well. Our recent grading was in Farnborough and this was a well run competition.

Regional Squad

The newly introduced regional squad is run by the newly qualified HPC coaches in the region. The members of the squad are selected from regional and national results and are part of the Excel programme for trampoline. The plan is to meet 3 times per year. Some of the squad members have been promoted to the Super Regional Squad and this has opened up further places in the regional squad. Southern Trampolining funds the regional squad training.

Level 3 Modules

Southern Region has not hosted any Level 3 modules. It was difficult to secure an appropriate venue for this level. Alton Sports Centre has recently been approved as a Trampoline Course venue and BG are looking at mounting Level 3 modules at this venue.

British Championships 2011

This takes place on July 22 – 24th and the southern region will be well represented by southern clubs. The largest contingent comes for Edgbarrow. Southern Trampolining wishes all southern competitors good luck in the competition.

England Selections

The recent selection for England included Liam Abrahams and Katie Lewis (Edgbarrow) and Lewis Bartlett (Portsmouth). This team will compete in the Cumru Cup and the Flanders cup.

Club Development Coordinator Report

Hampshire Games 2011

The Hampshire Games took place on 11th June in Aldershot. Teams from each authority were identified through the local Sports Development Officers through either Schools or Clubs.

The Gymnastics Competition involved 136 children aged 7 – 10. These children were split across 8 teams of 12 for Years 3/4 and 5 teams of 12 for Years 5/6. Each child competed on 3 stations and the top 50% boys and girls scores counted towards the overall team score. The Final results are as follows:

Year 3/4:

1st – Eastleigh

2nd – Winchester

3rd – Southampton

4th – Portsmouth

5th – New Forest

6th – Rushmoor

7th – Basingstoke and Deane

8th – Test Valley

Year 5/6:

1st – Eastleigh

2nd – Southampton

3rd – Rushmoor

4th – Basingstoke and Deane

5th – Winchester

The event was judged and delivered by Young Leaders from The New Forest and Portsmouth Leadership Academies.

Gymnasts from Dynamo School of Gymnastics performed a display in the Opening Ceremony of the Games and gymnasts from Treasure closed the Gymnastics competition with another great display.

National Conference and Awards

This took place over the weekend of 25th/26th June and was held at the International Conference Centre in Telford. It was a great success with high quality workshop deliverers and keynote speakers.

The National Awards were also on Saturday 25th June. The South had short listed nominees in all categories:

Volunteer of the Year – Neil Moulster

Young Volunteer of the Year – Colette Hayes

Service to Gymnastics – Mike Walker

Club of the Year – Dynamo School of Gymnastics

Education Award – Amanda Quill

Congratulations go to Colette Hayes for winning the National Young Volunteer of the Year award.

Gymmark Reaccreditations since April

Congratulations to the following clubs for successfully achieving gymmark reaccreditation:

Basingstoke Gymnastics Club

Dynamo School of Gymnastics

Locksheath Gymnastics Club

Portsmouth School of Gymnastics
Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy
Southampton Trampoline Club
Ville Gymnastics Club

New Forest Leadership Academy training

Young Leaders involved in this academy regularly meet to discuss the development of gymnastics and trampolining with the New Forest. The group all received Event Officiating training on 10th May and many supported the Gymnastics event at the Hampshire Games. The next task set for these Young Leaders is to develop an event within their own clubs with the support of the Club Development Coordinator, and also to look at funding available to aid with their future development as leaders.

Playground to Podium disability day 22nd June

This was the first year that gymnastics has been invited to be involved with the Playground to Podium disability day, which took place on 22nd June at Portsmouth Gymnastics Centre. Young people with a disability were selected to take part in the talent – ID day in Portsmouth. They were able to participate in a number of sports including Rugby, Wheelchair Basketball, Table tennis, Boccia, Athletics, Gymnastics and Trampolining.

This is a great opportunity for gymnastics to be involved as they are not currently involved in the National Programme however were invited as the County Sport Partnership recognised some great exit routes. Many thanks to Alberto Cacace, Justine Abraham, and Lorna Clinton for their time and expertise at this event.

Intro Judging Course - Portsmouth

12 Young People from across Portsmouth and the New Forest undertook the Introductory Judging Course in preparation for the Hampshire Games on 25th May. Congratulations to all for successfully passing and thank you for your support at the Games.

Schools update through Hampshire PE consultant

Plans are underway to begin a schools e-newsletter to be sent out each month through the Hampshire PE consultant, Roy Gittens. We hope that this will help with communication to all schools, support for after school clubs, and communication of coaching courses.

Tumbling Camp

Applications are still being accepted for the Regional Tumbling Camp, which is due to take place 1st – 5th August 2011 at Basingstoke Gymnastics Club. The Camp is open to gymnasts as well as coaches, providing advice and coaching from International coaches and performers.

Workforce Development Regional Report

Course Programme

A full course programme has been set for 2011 to include UKCC courses, Teachers Awards, Club Welfare courses, Mentoring courses and Proficiency courses and will shortly look to put a programme together for 2012. The programme will follow the same structure as 2011 to ensure there is a geographical balance of courses across the Region as well as a regular structure in terms of availability. (For example, one core proficiency every month, one Level 1 General Gymnastics and Trampoline every 2 months etc.) The programme will look to run two courses at the same time at venues to help reduce costs overall.

Tutor and Assessor Training

The region has two new tutors signed off to deliver UKCC courses.

Chris Seelig has been signed off to deliver UKCC Level 1 General Gymnastics courses and Alberto Cacace has been signed off to deliver UKCC Level 1 in Tumbling and Level 1 and 2 courses in General Gymnastics and Men's Artistic.

All trainee tutors have been issued with Sign off sheets issued by Coach Education detailing the process involved in being signed off as a tutor. All trainees were issued with a list of all our Active tutors so they could assign themselves with a mentor and have been advised to regularly look at the Regional website in the event there is a course they would like to shadow/co-deliver.

Workforce Development Manager, Geoff Grant, is currently reviewing future Tutor training budgets. This will be discussed at a Workforce Development meeting on 7th July with new budgets and plans to be announced.

New tutors will be recruited on a National basis and will be approved by the Regions and Coach Education department at BG. This will include a formal interview process and job adverts displayed on the BG website based on the Regions needs.

A gap analysis has been conducted based on the needs of the region, indicating the need for more tutors in General Gymnastics, Men's Artistic and Aerobic Gymnastics. The analysis also indicated a need for more tutors to be based in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire area to increase provision to these counties.

Future Plans

The main priority is to continue offering a regular programme of courses to the Region and to fill in the gaps in the planner. This will be monitored through the regions IV/EV programme with meetings on a quarterly basis.

To set up a Regional Tutor and Assessor forum. A provisional date has been set for 6th November. This will essentially cover policies and procedures set out by BG and the region as well as give our tutor and assessor workforce the opportunity to openly discuss any matters of interest.

Regional Administrator Report

Regional Affiliation 2011

We currently have 83 clubs affiliated to the South Region, via the counties or directly to the region in the case of Berkshire and Trampolining clubs (12 in Berkshire, 15 in Buckinghamshire, 3 in Channel Islands, 36 in Hampshire, 15 in Oxfordshire, 1 in West Sussex and 1 in Surrey). The clubs who have not affiliated to the region do no longer receive our weekly communication, quarterly newsletter and do not benefit of the courses discounts. There were also some clubs that did affiliate late, to enable them to compete in the regional competitions and events. This was possible due to the good communication between the region and the technical committees (especially the Women's Artistic). The new method of payment (via PayPal) has been proven to be successful.

Communication

Our weekly e-newsletters to the clubs and quarterly newsletters have been sent as per normal. We constantly encourage clubs to submit their stories, events and to share their achievements and successes to everyone in the region and also at national level (in GymBlast).

Website

The website has been updated on a regular basis, by posting news, events, case studies, newsletters and other information for the clubs. The number of **hits** has been increased comparing with the same time last year, as shown below:

Apr 2010	Apr 2011	May 2010	May 2011	June 2010	June 2011
50,524	62,728	63,703	65,160	52,473	53,847

For the first 6 months in 2010, we had a total number of hits of 387,154 and for the same period in 2011, we had 435,786, which represents a 12.5% increase in the number of hits.

The number of **unique visitors** has also increased significantly comparing with the same time last year, as shown below:

Apr 2010	Apr 2011	May 2010	May 2011	June 2010	June 2011
1422	2246	2000	2535	1603	2078

Regional Club Conference 2012

The date for the 2012 regional conference is Sunday, 26th February. We have already started the preparations for it and identified a few possible venues and the workshops. The plan is to keep some practical workshops in the afternoon and the theoretical ones in the morning. We are in the process of inviting tutors to deliver our workshops and one key speaker.

Case Studies

I wrote two case studies in the last month, one on ideas of income generation, thanks to the information we collated from clubs at our club conference. The second one is about the key factors in improving communication in the South Region. It is an informative case study, which demonstrates the work that I have been doing in terms of communication for the benefit of our clubs. Both case studies will be posted on our regional website in due course.

Bucks County Committee Report

Since the last meeting in April, further 2 clubs have affiliated to the County and Region and further clubs are considering it. Despite the number of clubs joined, the number of members is lower than last year and probably half what it was 5 years ago.

UK Gymnastics continues to have a negative effect on membership in Bucks despite the efforts put in by the county committee, the high cost to clubs of being in membership with BG and particularly coach education costs being the biggest barrier.

The County continues to hold competitions: 2 Women's Artistic since March and 1 General competition. The General Comp had 300 gymnasts competing. Two more General Comps, one Sports Acro/Tumbling and 2 Women's Artistic to be held before year end. The Tumbling Clinic was very successful and the support from Region was appreciated. We are intending to hold a Choreography course before year end. We have also had a Home and Away competition with Jersey clubs. Despite the high cost of coaching courses a large number of coaches have passed Level 1's and 2's. BG centrally has said that Region must give financial support to this and the bursary scheme is noted.