

**British Gymnastics Southern Region
Chair's Report – Biz Scales
18th April 2010**

The start of the year welcomed Cristina Mitchell (Regional Administrator) and Emily Sanderson (Workforce Coordinator) into their new posts. After a period of training both are now up and running. The newsletters are well received and the increasing number of courses is a valuable service to the members.

All courses are now run by the region including the Proficiency Level Coach courses. There are still some details we need to address concerning booking procedures for courses and the region has a shortage of UKCC trained tutors and assessors.

Gymnastics England has supported the region in the mounting of the Regional Conference in December, which was well received by the attending clubs. It is hoped that this will be an annual event. The Region gave recognition to the good work in the region by making awards in each discipline. Some of these award winners have been nominated for the national awards, which Gymnastics England will make in June. The workshops gave clubs a chance to catch up on the new coaching awards schemes and gather ideas on club development.

The forthcoming Regional Disabilities Road show and the Regional Festival are part of the delivery of the Regional Development Plan for which funds have been released by Gymnastics England.

The English Association is the organising body for Commonwealth Games this year and plans are well underway. There is a willingness to work to develop England teams in WA, MA and Trampoline and ultimately all disciplines but a lack of funds will be the limiting factor.

The UKCC Coaching scheme is progressing well. Levels 1&2 are regionally based and Level 3 technical modules are to be organised zonally. Tumbling has already started. In Trampolining, coaches who have a Cycle 5/6 qualification will need to attend a technical update and these are currently being advertised

The Region is still owed £1000 by the Women's Artistic Committee and it continues to be a concern that the WA committee is not functioning as well as it needs to be.

Southern Region Development Report – Helen Young

Club Conference

The first Regional Club Conference was held on 31st of January 2010 at Basingstoke Gymnastics Centre with 50 coaches and volunteers attending. Workshops included: an overview of coaching courses, an update for tutors and assessors, ideas around generating income for clubs, adapting mainstream sessions to include young people with a disability, the role of the Welfare Officer and ideas for marketing and publicising your

club. Attendees met other coaches and the National Staff, as well as the Southern Region staff and committee.

This will become an annual event and we welcome your suggestions, in particular with regards to workshop ideas.

Thank you to all who were involved with the planning and delivery of the event.

Regional Awards

Congratulations to the following who won one of our Regional Awards 2010. These were presented at the Regional Club conference and awards went to the following:

Club of the Year 2009: Bulmershe Gymnastics Club
General Gymnastics: Rebecca Taylor
Freestyle Gymnastics: Anthony Rose
Women's Artistic Gymnastics: Ruth Easterling
Tumbling: Anne Bidmead
Aerobic Gymnastics: Pete Martin
Trampoline Gymnastics: Lynda Tee
GMPD: Justine Abraham
Men's Artistic Gymnastics: Adam Paterson
Acrobatic Gymnastics: Caroline Hodgson
TeamGym: Julian & Bev Such & PSG Junior Team

Regional Festival

We are running the regions first Regional Festival of Gymnastics for the Southern Region, at Mountbatten Leisure Centre, Portsmouth, on Sunday 18th July 2010. This event is open to all Southern Region Affiliated British Gymnastics Registered Clubs as well as school based clubs. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase and celebrate gymnastics within the region. We look forward to receiving your team application.

Anyone wishing to support the event in any capacity, then please contact us.

Supporting clubs

A survey was sent out to all Southern Region British Gymnastics registered clubs, asking them to answer a few questions to help prioritise the support given to clubs from the Regional and County Development Officers. Clubs were asked whether they were looking to increase club capacity and if so by how much, how the club may plan to do this and whether there were any barriers that may prevent the club in achieving this. Finally, the clubs were asked to state what support they may need to assist them with this. 51 responses were received from the 132 clubs that the survey was sent to and of these, over half stated they were looking to increase their capacity. Replies were analysed and resulted in: a) running a regional Street Cheer/Cheerleading project that trained 50 coaches to run sessions at their club b) developing information about funding opportunities and fundraising and c) conducting 19 meetings to work with individual clubs.

Hampshire Gymnastics Development Report – Hayley Buckman

Gymmark

Congratulations to Gang Warily GC who have worked toward Gymmark for the past six months and successfully passed in February.

Disability Roadshow

The County's first disability roadshow is due to take place on Sunday 9th May at Chamberlayne Leisure Centre. This is being delivered by coaches from Just Jump, Southampton GC and Basingstoke GC. Participants will be offered the opportunity to take part in Fundamentals, Gymnastics and Trampoline Sessions throughout the day as well as watching Gymnastics and Trampoline displays.

Tumbling Camp

The County Development Officer has successfully secured funding to help support the delivery of a Tumbling Summer training camp. The Camp is running 2nd – 6th August 2010 at Basingstoke Gymnastics Club. Tumblers and coaches who are involved in the sport across all levels will be invited to attend. The camp will involve training, judging workshops, displays from National gymnasts, coaches seminars and advice from ex-world champions!

Key Step and Next Step Judging Courses

Courses are continuing to be delivered to help support the Key Step and Next Step Schools competitions happening across the County. Through the set up of the Hampshire Schools Gymnastics Association the group have been able to apply for funding to help support schools County competitions. The first College's Next Step trampoline competition is due to take place on Wednesday 5th May at Taunton's College. The group are also in the planning stages of a Next Step Acrobatic competition to happen Oct/ Nov.

Leadership Academies

The Hamble Leadership Academy have been recently trained in First Aid. The group recently ran a Schools Gymnastic Competition at Hamble Sports College involving 25 students from the Sports College. They plan to expand this for next year, involving students from all 4 secondary schools in the partnership. The next project for the group is to deliver a Key Step competition for year 4 students from across the partnership.

A second Leadership Academy has been set up focusing on Trampolining. This is in the Portsmouth area. The Academy has recently done the Proficiency Trampoline award and some have taken their Level 1 trampoline award to focus on coaching. Some of the academy will be supporting the Regional Festival at the Mountbatten Leisure Centre.

Hampshire Gymnastics Association Mega Gym competition

The HGA continue to deliver the successful 'Mega Gym' competition for Schools and Clubs at recreational level the most recent taking place on Friday 2nd April involving approximately 200 children.

Workforce Development Regional Report – Emily Sanderson

Courses

A needs analysis was conducted and issued to all clubs via the Club Conference and the weekly Regional Club update email. The results have been collated and have helped to structure a 6-month plan of future courses within the Region.

The next stage is to source venues, tutors and assessors to deliver our courses and to send all clubs an overview/calendar to display in their venues.

All courses have been inputted onto the CRM system and have been electronically registered with 1st4Sport.

Future plans include sourcing more venues to host courses, particularly classroom-based courses and Trampoline courses.

Updates from British Gymnastics, 1st4Sport and SCUUK

1st4Sport is now the new awarding body in partnership with British Gymnastics. As a result, all UKCC Level 1 and Level 2 courses must now be registered electronically via the CRM system. Courses must be registered one month prior to the start date or the Region must pay a fast track fee. There is now no cancellation fee.

Level 3 Technical modules have now been introduced and are being run nationally. Workforce Updates emails are being issued to inform our tutors and assessors of any changes/new information released that may impact on their roles.

Safeguarding and Protecting Children Awareness courses are no longer being run through BG. As of 1st April all these courses are being delivered through SCUUK.

Tutor and Assessor Training

Tutor training booked with two National Trainers over two weekends of 19th June and 6th November 2010. (Weekend One for UKCC Level 1 and Weekend 2 for UKCC Level 2). The venue will be the Quality Hotel in Reading, Berkshire.

CV's have been gathered from various candidates, which are to be collated and examined by the Regional Committee. Once a decision has been made to whom the Region prioritise tutor training, all potential tutors will be issued invitations.

Assessor training needs to source a venue that can cater for both old round of second assessments and portfolio checks and the full new round of training. Potential venues are Basingstoke and Andover and estimated to be in October 2010.

Professionalism of our Workforce

Various documents are being compiled to help professionalize our Workforce to improve the South Region's standard of the delivery of courses. These include a set of Workforce confirmation forms / terms and conditions for our tutors and assessors and a basic service level agreement for our venues. These documents look to help improve communication between myself and our workforce and to put in place a set of guidelines to ensure all candidates who enrol on our courses gain a quality service.

Future Plans

Plans include setting up a mentor database to support any candidates who enrol on a course who are not attached to a club, picking up with Judging courses and courses which help to support our volunteers and young leaders e.g. Helpers Awards and to compile a volunteer mailing list in order to advertise events, competitions and courses to our volunteer network.

Regional Administrator Report – Cristina Mitchell

Regional Affiliations

The number of clubs affiliated to the region for 2010 is 84, with half being in Hampshire, 8 in Berkshire, 15 in Buckinghamshire, 15 in Oxfordshire, 2 in Channel Islands and 2 others (1 from Surrey and 1 from West Sussex). Despite promoting the benefits of affiliations in the weekly e-newsletters, quite a few clubs have not affiliated to the region in comparison with last year. The clubs that haven't affiliated were contacted several times by the county representatives and also myself. Following the approval of the Regional Committee, the clubs who haven't affiliated were removed from our communication list and the website. I keep an updated record of affiliated clubs and the applications forms, which have been filed. The cheques were sent to our treasurer in February and March.

Communication

I have continued to send the weekly e-newsletter and all clubs have found this type of communication very useful. As a result, the number of clubs involved in submitting information and adverts to be included in our weekly communication has increased. December's newsletter was sent in January, slightly later due to change in staff. The March newsletter, along with the affiliation certificates and events posters were sent in the middle of March.

Website

The website has been updated on a regular basis, by posting news, events, case studies, newsletters and other information for the clubs. There is now a page of events, which includes all our annual events, festivals and the calendar. I have updated most of the pages, to make the website look more user-friendly and not too cluttered with information. I asked the clubs to keep me updated when their job adverts no longer need advertising. Updated the club contact details and removed the clubs that have not affiliated to the region. Next steps are for me to organise the calendar of events in a more user-friendly format. I also sent the updates and information for the Sport Hampshire & IOW website.

Regional Club Conference

We have organised our first club conference this year, in January and have had 50 attendees, with an excellent feedback following the event. I have supported the team with coordinating the event, venue, trophies, confirmation and thank you letters, attendance certificates and collecting the feedback.

Case Study

The case study I wrote with the help of Goshawks Gym Club in February was about ways of generating income. This case study, along with the other 2 case studies written in February by Hayley were posted on the website and represent a very good source of information to the clubs.

Regional Events

The three upcoming events have been advertised on the website, newsletters and e-newsletters and promoted to the clubs. Three posters were created to advertise these events. I also created the tickets for the regional festival. We are in the process of collecting the application forms and submitting confirmation letters to the registered clubs.

Southern Trampoline Report – Biz Scales

The start of the year was difficult for the regional clubs. The bad weather in January affected the opening competition of the year. The designated venue was Milton Keynes and it was decided that it was unsafe to ask 300 competitors to travel. The competition was cancelled. This competition is also a qualifier for some for the National class competitions in March. It was decided to put on a truncated assessment for those competitors at Bracknell. This worked well and the committee are grateful to Edgbarrow Trampoline Club for hosting this event at such short notice.

The next event was timetabled in June but the host club had to withdraw their offer and so at the last minute Wight Flyers have volunteered their venue. The committee is grateful for this offer. It is hoped that the remainder of the programme runs more smoothly.

The Region will be involved in the Trampoline English Championships in November and the selection of teams will be done via competition results throughout the season.

The Trampoline Technical upgrade courses are now being advertised for Cycle 5/6 Coaches who wish to progress to the level 3 technical modules which will be run later in the year. Any Senior Club Coaches may attend these modules as part of their CRP programme.

Southern Trampoline has nominated a number of new tutors for Levels 1&2 and the region is in the process of securing the UKCC trainers to hold courses shortly.