

# HGC Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

31st January 2009



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## News from the Boardroom

### News on extension

Thanks to all our supporters: those who signed petitions and attended the Town Council meetings and especially to our trustee, Mike Fowler, owner of Sports and Fashions in Huntingdon, for their hard work in persuading the Town Council to grant us access rights to Mayfield Road and agreeing to change our leases so that we can start work on phase 1 extension. We are currently work-

ing on the legal documents that will allow us to start construction and we hope that this will be some time in February. This would mean that our new entrance will be ready for the start of September term.

February will also be the month when we hear whether our applications for the money for phase 2—the new gymnastics hall—have been successful, so it will be a very important month for the club.

Decisions on the new building and the club in general are overseen by the club's board of trustees who meet on a regular monthly basis. The board is currently without a secretary and a HR officer. I would love to hear from anyone with organizational skills and access to e-mail who would be able to contribute a few hours per month to the running of the club. I can be contacted through Erica, please do get in touch if you think you can help.

Tracy Crosland, Chairman club

## New Welfare Officer – Maria Crawford

HGC would like to welcome our new welfare officer, Maria Crawford.

Maria became a parent volunteer in 2003 coaching at a club in March. She has completed and passed a Level 1 assistant coaching course in general gymnastics and joined HGC in January 2008. She has three daughters, 2 of whom attend recreational classes at HGC.

At the end of last year she

attended the BG Child Protection Awareness and Time to Listen Courses.

We are very grateful to have Maria on board and hope that she will become an integral part of our team. If you need to contact our welfare officer, please collect her details from the office.

Better late than never, we would like to congratulate our other Welfare Officer, Hannah Stirley on the birth of her daughter Imogen.



## Head Coach News

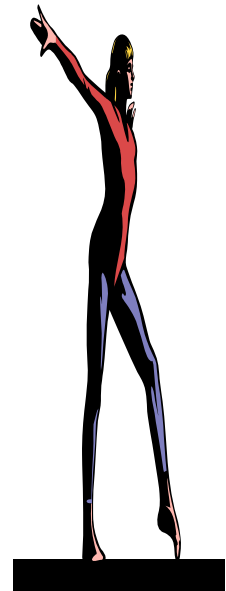
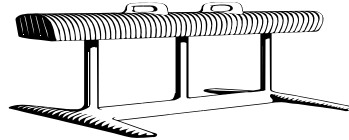
Happy New Year to you all!! Last year was one that I will remember forever. I fulfilled one of my ambitions by going to an Olympic Games, and our results both domestically and internationally were something that, as a club, we should all be proud of. Amongst this elite success, the club is thriving, with successful Christmas fun week, classes bursting at

the seams and plans for the new building looking closer to becoming a reality every day.

2009 will also be a busy year with the World Championships in London in October. We plan to make a block booking for the club and hope that many of you will come along to watch our gymnasts at the O2 arena.

Once again I would just like to thank everyone for their support in what has been an incredible year.

Paul Hall



## Head of Recreational Gym – Clare Rodwell

My first Christmas as a Huntingdon coach was great! We had an amazing end to the year with 5 days of Festive Gym fun. The children really enjoyed themselves and we also managed to raise some money for the club. Well Done to everyone who took part and thank you to all the parents for your support.

The next Taster Sessions are coming up in February half term. They run from 16th-20th ~ if you have not yet booked give us a call.

The April holiday Tasters take place from the 14th—17th and the date to book is the 9th April.

I am organizing a

“Superstars” challenge which will run from 6th to 9th April for one and a half hours each day. This challenge is enjoyment orientated with gymnasts participating in a number of strength, coordination and gymnastic activities. Everyone will receive a certificate and the winner in each age group receives a trophy. It is only £2 to enter on a first come first serve basis. Entries close on 21st March so don't delay, book today.

Please check the notice board upstairs for news!

## Elite Girls Coaches- Adam & Monica

Congratulations to Laura Gilbert & Becky Morris who were both selected for Regional Squad — Well Done!!

Best wishes go to Kati Simpson as she recovers from a broken ankle.

The girls will be preparing for a few competitions in the next few weeks and we wish them best of luck.



## Parent and Toddler Sessions

Open play sessions for toddlers who are 5 years old and under. £3 per child. Pay on the door. (Crawlers cost £1.50 if they are not a younger sibling).

**TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAYS** from 10am - 11am and 1.30pm - 2.30pm  
**SATURDAYS** 3x1 hour sessions between 9am and 12noon.

## Boys Coach ~ Ben Howells

All our National Squad / Top Squad Gymnasts have held on to their places going into 2009.

All boys will be preparing for the competition season, which for most will start from March and run through to May/June.

**8th March - U14 & Senior British Teams**

**21st—22nd March - London Open**

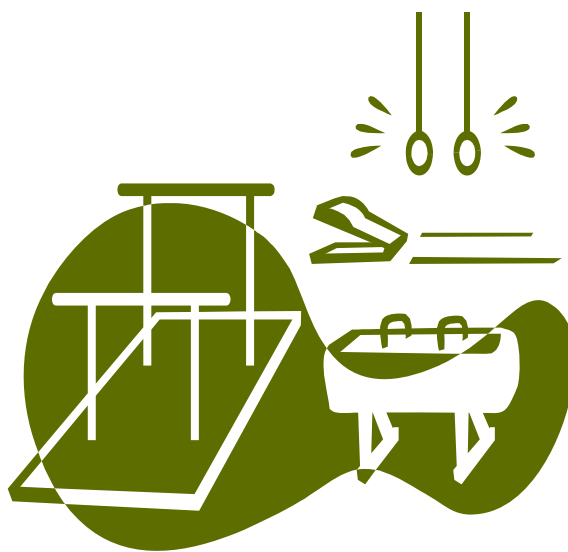
**25th March-5th April - Europeans**

**25th April - Elite Grades & Regional Voluntary Team**

**2nd—4th May - Setwork Finals**

**27th June - Pegasus Open**

**Please ensure all competition fees are paid promptly**



## Girl's Development Coach ~ Rebecca Chapman

All our girls are working towards grades in March. Anyone wishing to support our gymnasts are most welcome to come along on 7th March at 3pm to watch them being put through their paces.

Congratulations to the following girls who have made County Squad: Hannah Morris, Ailsa Wilson, Hannah Phillips, Tilly Allen, Rhiannon Anderson, Alice Lunn, Rebecca Smith, Natalie Readbone, Maddy Young, Inola Brown, Lottie Smith, Carrie Walker, April Williams, Jade Gregory, Gabby Brumfield, Maya Levy, Jessica Stirley and Katie Reynolds.

## News From the Office

Firstly I would like to welcome Hayley Vickery to the Team. Hayley joined in September as an Administrative Assistant. She works every morning between 9am and 1pm and is generally responsible for membership, registers, taster session and party bookings.

Secondly I need to remind you that April is traditionally the time when we make decisions about whether to increase fees or not. Our trustees will take the present economic conditions into account and weigh them up against the club's financial requirements. I will let you know of any changes as soon as possible. Speaking of fees—these are due from the 23rd of March to the 4th April. A reminder, especially to our new members: your child's place does not automatically get carried over to next term.

You need to 'book' them in on next term's 11 week course by paying their fees at the end of this term. If your child has decided not to return, please still tell me so that I have enough time to fill the vacancy. And while we're on the subject of terms, this term ends on Saturday 4th April and starts again on 20th April. Remember there is no recreational gymnastics during half term. The summer term will close on the 11th July. We hope to organise a Display for the end of summer, but we'll keep you posted on this one.

As from January all B Squad girls should now be paying their fees via standing order on a monthly basis. Thank you to all those who have already done so. If you haven't set up your s/o yet, please come and collect the details from me in the office.

## More news from the office.....

Did you know that HGC has a website? It has recently been refurbished by Nic Tombs (from Kidmobile) and we're very grateful for all the hard work he put in. Thank you Nic! It has all the basic information and in the future we would like to post all news, press releases etc so that you can access any information you may need. The address is [www.huntingdongymclub.com](http://www.huntingdongymclub.com)

You may also not know that we sell internet access at £1 per month—the best deal in town.

I would like to say thank you to all our volunteers who man the canteen every evening. Without you we would have many parched throats. We are always in need of extra help, so if you can spare a couple of hours on any day, especially the 4 o'clock class, please come and see me.

And finally... for those parents who have small children up on the balcony please do not let them run up and down or drag the chairs because it makes the most awful racket in the office and I find it

difficult to hear myself think!

One more thing: there is a person who pays a monthly standing order into our old bank account that I need to contact. The reference is Gary Christophe. If this is you, please can you come and see me in the office, you need to change your s/o as we have opened a new bank account. There is also a person who has recently set up a s/o and the reference is S Heley. Please could you come and see me as I need additional information from you.

## Holiday in Turkey up for grabs...

In September we organized our first Charity Ball. There were various items on auction but one of them was not claimed/paid for. We would therefore like to offer it to anyone at the club for the price that it was originally auctioned off at. The 'prize' is a week's accommodation for up to 4 people in a resort called Lakeside Gardens located 15

minutes from Bodrum Airport and 20 minutes from Bodrum town in Turkey. The holiday can be taken anytime till the second week of May 2009, subject of course to availability. The holiday does not include flights or transfers.

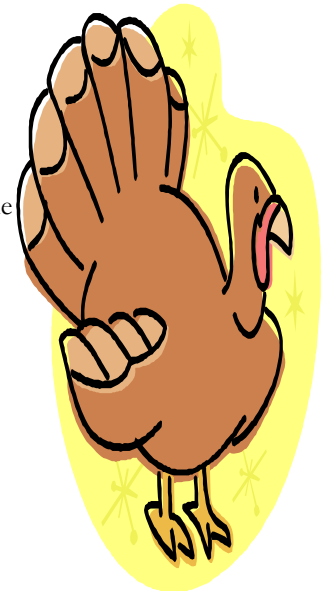
We are selling this holiday for £275 - what a bargain! If you are interested in this holiday please come and see me in the

office - I do have some extra information and obviously, the sooner you let me know, the better chance there is of getting the week you want.

Go on, you're worth it!

Erica

(best to fly from Gatwick)



## Friends of Huntingdon Gym Club

Yes, this is NEW! With HGC's ever increasing popularity and international reputation it has become important for us to form a group which will not only take on in-house fundraising but also to take care of events and/or visits. Let me explain: from time to time we have gymnasts who visit us from other countries. At the moment we have nothing to offer them - no place to accommodate them or take them on outings or feed them. What we would like to be able to do is have a group of people who we can call

on who are prepared to offer hospitality in the form of either having a gymnast as a guest, or cooking a meal or taking them out for some sight-seeing.

We also need a group of people who can assist us when we organize fundraising events—this can be anything from writing letters to making phone calls to helping at an actual event. Last year we organized our first Charity Ball—and most of the work was done by one lady, Jo McKenna. She did a great job, but she needs help for next

time. We raised nearly £6000 at last year's ball and we'd like to do even better this year!

If you are interested in being part of something really exciting then PLEASE come down to the office so that I can give you some details.

To give you an idea of what's coming up this year: visits from Norwegian and Saudi Arabian gymnasts, Easter egg fundraising campaign, summer display, family disco, possible summer/craft fete

## ECGA AWARD EVENING

At the recent Eastern Counties Gymnastics Association Awards evening HGC had no less than 11 nominations in numerous categories. Joshua Goddard was nominated as Junior Male gymnast, Jackie Eldridge as Volunteer of the Year and Julia Gall for the Distinguished Service Award to Gymnastics.

Over 120 people attended the third annual dinner and presentation—which was a huge success

despite the heating breaking down! Presentations to the winners were made by Avril Spriggs deputy president of British Gymnastics (she is also the Regional Welfare and Ethics officer) and Sally Echlin, Chair of the Region.

From a total of 16 categories, Huntingdon took the following:

Senior Coach - Paul Hall, Huntingdon

Senior Female Gymnast - Marissa

King, Huntingdon

Senior Male Gymnast - Louis Smith, Huntingdon

Large Club of 2008 - Huntingdon Gymnastics Club

Club Team of 2008 - Adam Shield Team, Huntingdon

MTC Technical Award: Daniel Keating & Louis Smith

On the evening, the club was given a special award of £750 for our fantastic achievements in 2008!



### FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS...

Approximately 27 years ago, Terry Sharpington operated a gym club from a local school with 20 gymnasts and the minimum of apparatus (2 mats, a vaulting horse and a home-made spring board!). A few interested parents volunteered to help and eventually trained to become qualified coaches. Through sheer hard work, dedication and determination, the club grew in stature and success. Eventually in 1982, with financial help from the Huntingdon Town Council and the (then) Sports Council, a purpose-built facility was built, with the club coaches and a group of willing parents carrying out all the interior decorating and fitting. As a result membership grew enormously and competitive squads progressed from County level to Regional, National and eventually, International standard.

By the late 1980's it became clear that the club had 'outgrown' itself - the general classes were full, there was a long waiting list and there existed a group of talented gymnasts working at the very highest level of the sport who required

more training time and attention in order to achieve the results of which they were capable and which they deserved - not unlike the situation we face at the moment!

The problem was solved in two ways: Firstly, the Huntingdon Town Council recognised the important role played by the Club and funded an extension to the building in order that more children could be accommodated and secondly, Terry gave up his daytime job to work full time at the gym. He was able to start parent/toddler sessions and increase the number of general classes as well as provide the much-needed extra coaching for the elite girl gymnasts. By 1994, the boys section was expanding and improving steadily and was in need of the type of training being offered to the elite girls. Additionally, both boys' and girls' training level required the expertise of a world class choreographer for them to compete on an equal footing with other National and International gymnasts. With help, initially from the

Huntingdon District Council and subsequently, The Foundation for Sport and Arts, a full-time choreographer, a Boys/Special Needs coach and a young General Coach were employed. With this support, the boys section scaled new heights and a tremendously successful Special Needs section was established.

There has followed a period of enormous success for the Club. In 2000, in recognition of it's success, the Club was awarded the status of High Performance Centre by the British Gymnastics Association and Sport England and has justified this award by continuing to achieve the highest honours. On a more local level, the club was also recognised in 2000 by the Huntingdon Freeman's Charity in the form of a grant-aid to completely refurbish the gymnasium with new equipment.

To be continued in the next newsletter.....

## Message from Katie Thornburrow of Granta Architects:

It has been over two years since the gym club received planning permission to build a second hall, new entrance, and a lot more. The approved scheme is on a board in the party room, if you want to check out all that is proposed. Well, some of the building work might commence in the next few weeks. I say 'might' because there are a few more hurdles, but all the signs are looking positive

The work has been split into two phases now to meet the requirements of a grant obtained through Cambridgeshire Horizons.

### **The first phase will include: -**

**New access road off Mayfield Road  
New entrance hall and reception/office providing assembly space and improved security**

**New access to the viewing balcony and a toilet at first floor level**

**New staff room and a second office**

As soon as there is a firm date for the start of the building work, you will be notified. The cooperation of all users of the gym will be required during the

construction to ensure the safe and smooth running of the facilities. Applications have been made for grant money to fund the second and final phase of the work, the outcome of which may be known soon.

With luck the second phase will run straight on after the first phase...

