

## **Club Management**

The following reports reflect not only the continued success of Woking Gymnastics Club but also the dedication and passion of our entire team—from our talented coaches and hardworking support staff to our exceptional board of volunteer trustees.

Gymnastics is a discipline that demands focus, perseverance, and patience. In return, it offers meaningful rewards—new friendships, personal growth, and the joy of achievement. At Woking Gymnastics, we are proud to foster an environment where every accomplishment is recognised and celebrated, whether it's representing Great Britain on the international stage (congratulations, Jamie!) or mastering your very first forward roll.

Thank you to everyone involved in the Club for your support over the past year. As we look ahead, we're delighted to have you with us on this journey.

*Andrew Challis*

*Chief Executive Officer, Woking Gymnastics Club*

## **Community and Development**

Woking Gymnastics Club is dedicated to serving the community and ensuring that the exciting sport of gymnastics is accessible to as many people as possible.

### **School Gymnastics**

This year, we maintained our weekly collaboration with the children from Horsell Village School to deliver our lunchtime club. We were thrilled to invite the participants to our annual Club Festival, where they did a brilliant job showcasing all they have been learning in their weekly classes. Additionally, we have had our team of coaches visit several other schools this year, introducing gymnasts to more children in our community!

### **Leadership Academy**

For participants aged 11 to 17, we offer a Leadership Academy that provides a structured pathway for young people to develop within our gymnastics environment. From our cohort of ten young leaders in 2024, seven have joined our recreational coaching team. We have loved seeing their growth over the past year and look forward to their continued development with us. We currently have 12 young leaders completing their coaching training, and we are looking forward to them completing their first coaching qualification over the summer break.

Thank you to our coaches for their ongoing mentorship and development of our volunteers, helping us build a strong workforce for the future.

### **Disability Gymnastics**

This year we have continued to work with multiple classes each week from Freemantle's School, providing dedicated gymnastics sessions free of charge. Additionally, we have maintained our sessions for pre-school children from the White Lodge Centre.

Internally, we have continued to grow our class offerings and provide three dedicated sessions for children with additional needs each week—one for pre-school aged children and two for school aged children. We are extremely proud of the eight children from these classes who represented Woking at the regional disability championships, earning one gold, two silver, and two bronze medals!

Over the summer holidays, we will once again host our disability gymnastics day, welcoming multiple groups from the National Autistic Society, LinkAble and Sight for Surrey.

### **Staff**

We are very pleased to welcome the following members to our team who have started with us within the last year:

- Maddie Grant – Level 1 recreational gymnastics coach
- An additional 7 Gymnastics Helpers

We are also extremely proud of supporting the below coaches through their most recent coaching qualifications. Congratulations to the following for recently passing their exams:

- Eleanor Whitaker – General Gymnastics Level 1
- Veronica Margan – General Gymnastics Level 1
- Jamie Lewis – Men's Artistic Level 1

- Luke Everett – Men’s Artistic Level 1
- Amelia England – Women’s Artistic Level 1
- Poppy Davies – Women’s Artistic Level 1
- Charlotte Barnard – Women’s Artistic Gymnastics Level 1
- Amy Rolfe – Women’s Artistic Level 2
- Steve Elwood – Men’s Artistic Level 3
- Plamen Lichev – National Judging Qualification
- Simon Elliott – National Judging Qualification
- Philip Davies - National Judging Qualification
- Craig Woodhams – Brevet Judging Qualification

## **Awards**

What an incredible year it has been for Woking Gymnastics Club, filled with numerous achievements across all departments within our Club!

To begin with, we were honored to be named the '2025 Large Club of the Year' at the South-East regional awards evening. This prestigious recognition highlights our commitment to expanding our community, disability, and engagement initiatives, which cater to gymnasts of all backgrounds. Balancing our successful elite artistic programmes, alongside robust support for grassroots gymnasts for all ages and abilities, is a testament to our club's dedication to providing a safe and welcoming gymnastics environment for all.

Additionally, we were thrilled to be selected as finalists for the 2025 British Gymnastics Community Club of the Year award, standing alongside top clubs nationwide. It was a true privilege to be among the finalists for such a prestigious award.

Continuing on from the 2025 British Gymnastics awards, our club celebrated another significant achievement: Gemma Parker, one of our lead coaches, received the '2025 Inclusion Champion' award. Gemma's outstanding efforts in promoting inclusivity within gymnastics, particularly for underrepresented groups, have made a profound impact. Her work with local schools and The White Lodge Centre has ensured that children with disabilities have access to gymnastics in a supportive environment. Gemma's introduction of SEN PlayGym sessions for preschool children with disabilities further exemplifies our commitment to inclusivity and early childhood development. Congratulations, Gemma, on your remarkable contributions to Woking Gymnastics Club this year!

## **Club Festival**

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025, Woking Gymnastics Club held its annual Club Festival event at the Guildford Spectrum. Gymnasts showed off their skills on floor and trampette, impressing the judges with their strength and dedication.

A huge thank you to everyone for their incredible contributions to club festival. The day wouldn't be possible without the support of parents and families who have supported our gymnasts every step of the way.

Together, you have created an environment filled with passion, camaraderie, and joy, and for that, we are truly grateful. Thank you all for making our club festival a memorable and successful event. We look forward to many more in the future and hope everyone enjoyed themselves!

*Jessica Spragg*

## Pre-School Gymnastics

Woking Pre-School Gymnastics is dedicated to introducing gymnastics to all pre-schoolers, both mainstream and those with additional needs. We strive to support parents and children, helping them develop physically and intellectually through play. Our environment empowers both parent and child to thrive.

The benefits of pre-school gymnastics are significant. It teaches children about discipline, following directions, movement, and coordination. It builds confidence in their bodies and fosters a positive body image through enjoyable activities. Our goal is to establish a strong foundation of skills and attitudes, giving children a better chance to succeed.

We currently run 21 classes during the week:

- Our 5 PlayGym sessions are very popular and even more so during the half terms and holidays.
- Our 3 Fun4Baby drop-in sessions provide new mums and dads with an incredible learning environment where their babies' physical needs can be met in a fun and safe way, supported by trained and friendly staff.
- For our babies who started walking, we have 3 Fun4Toddler drop-in sessions.
- 3 Structured Classes are available to preschoolers accompanied by an adult.
- 5 Independent Classes are available to preschoolers from the age of three who are ready to attend class without a parent.
- We also provide 2 classes for The White Lodge Centre and Freemantle's school, which supports children with additional needs, as well as families and carers in Surrey and surrounding areas.

Our Pre-schoolers also took part in the recent Club Festival, showcasing their gymnastic skills in the display. Additionally, our independent gymnasts made us so proud by taking part in their first-ever gymnastics competition!

Our coaching team of Gemma, Debbie, Becky, Craig, Maddie, and Jamie are an integral part of our pre-school development programme. We appreciate their dedication and passion for the little ones coming through our doors.

With sadness, we bid farewell to Edith, who retired in December and handed over the role of Head of Pre-school to Gemma. Thank you for Edith's amazing work at Woking Gymnastics Club over the many years, we all miss you greatly!

We want to express our gratitude to our Trustees and Club management for their unwavering support. Their guidance has been instrumental in making preschool a fun, creative, and enjoyable experience for our children.

Together, we can ensure that this is the best preschool gymnastics experience ever!

*Gemma Parker*

## Recreational Gymnastics

Our Recreational Gymnastics program has continued to thrive and expand this year, with 920 members participating weekly. We've placed a strong focus on growing our Key Steps and Additional Needs classes to ensure gymnastics remains inclusive and accessible for all, providing the best opportunities at a grassroots level.

### Curriculum Development

This year has seen significant progress in the development of our Recreational system. We've introduced a renewed and more engaging curriculum, designed to enhance each gymnast's experience and ensure they develop a broad range of gymnastics skills. This updated curriculum helps foster both confidence and enjoyment in our sessions.

### Badge Testing

Our in-house badge progression scheme continues to be a key motivator for our gymnasts. Starting with Levels 1–3 for Pre-School and Levels 3–12 for Recreational gymnasts, the scheme rewards progress as gymnasts master 16 out of 20 skills per level. Successful gymnasts are awarded both a certificate and badge, celebrating their hard work and development.

To better align with our new curriculum, we are currently reviewing alternative badge schemes that more closely reflect the skills and progressions we now teach. We hope this will offer clearer feedback on each gymnast's personal journey and streamline the assessment process for coaches.

### Coaching Development

Alongside curriculum improvements, we've placed a strong emphasis on developing and supporting our coaching team. This year, we've delivered regular on-the-floor mentoring and funded 12 coaches to attend external coaching courses, improving the overall quality and consistency of coaching delivered.

We've also increased the number of in-house coaching clinics, providing targeted support and upskilling opportunities, especially for our younger coaching team. We plan to build on this success next year with even more clinics to further raise coaching standards.

### Competition Success

Our Floor and Vault gymnasts have shown outstanding dedication and enthusiasm, achieving fantastic competition results this year. Some highlights include:

#### **South-East Intermediate:**

6 Gold, 3 Silver, 5 Bronze, and 3 further gymnasts placing 4th–6th—surpassing last year's achievements.

#### **South-East Bronze, Silver, Gold:**

6 Gold, 1 Silver, 3 Bronze, plus 5 more 4th–6th place finishes.

Looking ahead, we're exploring opportunities for our gymnasts to enter 4-piece and tumbling events, offering new challenges and experiences.

In line with this, we are currently reviewing the coaching team delivering the Floor and Vault program as part of our ongoing commitment to staff development and ensuring that every gymnast receives the best possible coaching support.

### **Key Steps & Additional Needs Competitions**

Our youngest competitors from Key Steps have also had a fantastic year under the guidance of Sherrick Reid and his team. They've competed in two events, showcasing their improved style and skills. At the Neon competition, we celebrated:

- 6 Gold
- 4 Silver
- 4 Bronze
- 6 Rosette placings (4th–6th)

We're equally proud of our growing Additional Needs competitive team, who recently took part in their second ever external competition. This year, the team doubled in size to 8 gymnasts, achieving:

- 1 Gold
- 2 Silver
- 2 Bronze
- 3 Rosette placings (4th–6th)

### Looking Ahead

It's been an incredibly rewarding year for our Recreational Gymnastics program, marked by growth, development, and achievement at every level. From curriculum updates and coach development to competition success and increased participation, we're proud of the progress made by both our gymnasts and coaching team. As we look ahead, we remain committed to delivering high-quality, inclusive gymnastics opportunities, continuing to invest in our coaches, and creating an environment where every gymnast can thrive and reach their full potential. We're excited to build on this year's success and look forward to another fantastic year of gymnastics.

*Rebecca Brikett*

## Women's Artistic

This past year has been one of the most rewarding yet. Leading the Women's Artistic Gymnastics programme at Woking Gymnastics Club—a place with such a rich and infamous history—is something I never take for granted. Our goal remains the same: to help every gymnast fulfil their potential in a safe, supportive, and inspiring environment.

I feel incredibly lucky to work alongside such a passionate and dedicated coaching team. Margarita Padilla, Amy Rolfe, Maddie Grant, and Charlotte Barnard, who recently achieved her Level 1 coaching qualification, bring so much energy and care to the programme. Without them, none of this would be possible.

At present, we're supporting 25 gymnasts across four groups, each with their own goals, challenges and strengths. It's been inspiring to see the effort they put in day after day. While we always focus on the journey and not just the results, this year has certainly given us a lot to celebrate.

The competition season began in September with a friendly at Basingstoke Gymnastics Club. It was a great start, with our gymnasts bringing home over a dozen medals. Among the standout performances were All-Around wins from Sofia Valente and Amelia Wilmshurst-Clark in the Zinc category, Annabelle Chau in FIG Dev 1, Bella-Rae in the Bronze category, and Kimberley Ly in the FIG Aspire section. It was a real testament to the hard work over the summer.

Later that month, we headed into the South-East Voluntary Championships, where we continued to build momentum. One of our youngest team members, Talia Hewett, earned a silver medal on floor with a score of 10.65. Bella-Rae and Annabella Higgins both qualified for the National Finals as part of the South-East team in their respective categories. Kimmie Ly brought home a well-deserved bronze in the Aspire age group with a total of 42.65.

The Regional Zinc event brought more strong performances, particularly from Isabella Edgar, Sofia Valente and Amelia Wilmshurst-Clark. Sofia placed second overall with 45.05, just ahead of Amelia in third with 45.03.

Following these successes, Woking was awarded nine places in the South-East Regional Squad—a huge achievement and reflection of consistent effort and progress.

After a well-earned winter break, our focus shifted to the Home Nations Championships. Our FIG girls gave some elegant, confident performances, gaining both experience and results. Kimmie Ly finished in the top six All-Around at the Welsh Aspire Championship, achieving a personal best of 44.40 points. Maggie Rees also had cause to celebrate, earning a place on the Welsh Development Squad for 2025 after a strong, consistent showing.

The end of March brought one of the most exciting and anticipating competition of the season—the British Championships. At just 12 years old, Kimberley Ly showed real composure and grace, delivering four clean routines. Her performance placed her in the top 20 in the UK and caught the attention of the GB national coaches. As a result, she earned a place in the Great Britain Development Squad—a huge and well-earned recognition of all her hard work.

Shortly afterwards, our younger Development Squad gymnasts took to the floor at the Regional Grades' competitions. Gretel Wright, Lyla Shuttle and Emily Xu all rose to the occasion. Emily in particular had a brilliant day, earning the All-Around silver medal with a score of 62.25 points.

In April the second part of the South-East Grades Championships took part, where Woking Gymnastics Club once again proved itself as one of the region's top clubs. We secured six spots for the National Finals in Stoke-on-Trent after a successful weekend. Annabelle Chau and Aissa Costea came second and third respectively in Excel Grade 2, while Nicole Murdzhanova won the All-Around title in Excel Grade 3 with a score of 53.48. In Performance Grade 1, Sofia Valente took the regional title with 60.65 and Amelia Wilmshurst-Clark followed closely behind with 59.96. Bella-Rae also stood out with five clean routines, earning bronze overall and picking up regional titles on both Bars and R&C.

The season culminated at the National Excel and Performance Grades Finals held at Fenton Manor in Stoke-on-Trent. Annabelle Chau and Aissa Costea helped the South-East Team to a fantastic fifth-place finish in the Excel Grade 2 team competition. Aissa especially impressed with a beautiful beam routine that earned her 12.150 and a sixth place ranking nationally on that apparatus. Nicole Murdzhanova competed in what is widely considered one of the toughest grades, Excel Grade 3. She performed with style and confidence, passing her grade with a score of 54.70—one of just 20 girls in the UK to do so—and placing herself just one step away from British Championship next year.

In Performance Grade 1, Amelia Wilmshurst-Clark and Sofia Valente helped Team South-East finish in the top six, with Sofia earning a brilliant silver medal on vault with a score of 13.225. Bella-Rae closed out the competition season by contributing to a top ten finish in the team competition.

None of this would have been possible without the commitment and care of our coaching team. They are always there supporting, guiding, encouraging, and making sure our gymnasts enjoy the process as much as the results. I want to thank each of them sincerely, along with Simon and the boys' coaching team, the admin staff, and especially our parents. Your trust, support and belief in what we're doing are what make this programme so special.

I'm so proud of what we've achieved this year. More than the medals or placements, I'm proud of how our gymnasts carry themselves—with resilience, passion, and joy. I look forward to what the next year brings as we continue to grow, learn, and enjoy this incredible journey together.

*Plamen Lichev*

## Men's Artistic

### Coaching Team

Simon Elliott, Craig Woodhams, Steve Elwood, Sherrick Reid, Oliver Porter, Jamie Lewis, Olivia Mitchell-Jones, Jack Dadswell & Jay Coote.

Woking Gymnastics Club has a proud history of high-level Elite Men's Artistic gymnastics with currently 41 boys in the Squad. Our Boys' Squad are enjoying enviable successes at national and international level, including a number of boys in national/home nations age group squads. Squad members are usually specially selected from our pre-school and recreational classes.

My role as Head of Men's Artistic is to develop and nurture the gymnasts and coaches within the squad to produce high level elite gymnastics. I am passionate in furthering the boys' squad to continued competition successes in national and international recognition and selection.

I am responsible for planning and delivering a progressive development strategy for the boys to see them realise their full potential. This is in conjunction with encouraging and furthering my team of coaches in their coach education, knowledge and skills for their personal development and ambitions.

Boys start at 4 hours leading up to 26 hours per week, working across two facilities. Boys in the main squad are competing at regional, national and international level competitions.

I am proud of all the boys in the squad for their dedication and commitment in continuing their training throughout 2025. We have had some amazing results in the last 12 months, congratulations to all gymnasts.

### Most notable achievements in the last 12 months:

- 2024 National Grades: Harlee Jean-Baptiste Shand 1st Level 1 Blakeborough All-Around & BG Development squad 2025
- Edward Warburton-Gates 3rd Level 2 Blakeborough All-Around and BG squad testing at LNSC
- William Brierley 4th Level 2 Blakeborough All-Around and GB squad testing at LNSC
- Aaron Prinsloo 4th Level 1 Blakeborough All-Around and GB squad testing at LNSC
- William Middleton Level 3 Bob Courier 3rd All-Around and BG Reward camp at LNSC
- English Championships:
  - o Jamie Lewis All-Around Champion. Gold on H-Bar, Silver on Floor and Rings, Bronze on Pommels
  - o Oliver Porter 5th All-Around and 3rd on Rings in the U18 age category
  - o Jay Coote 2nd on Vault
  - o Edward Warburton-Gates finished 4th All-Around in the U12 age category
- British Championships:
  - o Jamie Lewis All-Around Champion. Gold on Pommels and H-Bar, Bronze on Rings
  - o Ben Porter 6th All-Around in the U16 age category. Silver on Rings
  - o Oliver Porter 6th All-Around and Gold on Rings in the U18 age category. Junior Masters Rings Champion and P-Bar Junior Masters Silver
- European Championships:
  - o Jamie Lewis 9th All-Around and European Team Champion

- British Teams: Edward Warburton-Gates, William Brierly and Willian Middleton competed in the U12 Regional Team winning the Bronze
- Rudi Moriano, Luke Everett, Oliver Porter and Ben Porter competed in the Senior competition, finishing 11th.
- Jamie Lewis gained a place in BG Senior Squad. Ben Porter gained a place in BG Junior Squad and Harlee Jean-Baptiste Shand gained a place in BG Development Squad.
- Oliver Porter gained a place in the England Squad.

For an in-depth look at all the competition results, please look at the competition results tab on our website.

Craig passed his Brevet Judging qualification.

Simon passed his National Judging qualification.

Craig is currently doing his Level 5 MAG coaching qualification.

Thank you to all the men's coaching team, and everyone at Woking for your hard work and dedication in the last 12 months. We are looking forward to even more success over the next 12 months!

*Simon Elliott*