

## AGM reports 2026

### **Club Management**

It is with great pride I welcome you to our Club Report for 2025–2026. Reflecting on the past year, I am reminded time and again of what makes Woking Gymnastics Club so special — not just the sport we love, but the remarkable community of people who bring it to life every single day.

This has been a year to celebrate. We were honoured and delighted to be named **British Gymnastics Community Club of the Year 2026** — a recognition that means so much to everyone associated with this club. It is an award that belongs not to any one person, but to every gymnast, staff, volunteer, trustee and family member who has played a part in making Woking Gymnastics Club what it is today. We are incredibly proud.

Our gymnasts have also continued to shine in competition, representing the club with skill, determination, and tremendous sportsmanship at every level. Watching them perform — whether stepping onto the floor for the very first time or competing at the highest levels of the sport — never fails to fill me with immense pride. Their achievements are a testament to the countless hours of hard work they and their coaches put in, week after week.

It is our staff, volunteers, and trustees I want to take a moment to recognise. Woking Gymnastics Club does not run itself. It runs because of the dedication of an extraordinary group of people who give their time, expertise, and energy so generously. We are deeply grateful for everything you do.

Beyond the gym, we have continued to strengthen our ties with the wider Woking community. We firmly believe that gymnastics has the power to build confidence, resilience, and friendship in young people, and we are committed to ensuring that as many children and families as possible can access and benefit from what we offer.

As we look ahead, I am excited about what the future holds. We have a wonderful club, outstanding people, and a shared passion that unites us all.

Thank you for being part of it.

*Andrew Challis*

*Chief Executive Officer, Woking Gymnastics Club*

## **Community and Development**

Woking Gymnastics Club remains committed to serving our local community and ensuring that gymnastics is accessible to as many people as possible. Throughout 2026, we have continued to expand opportunities for participation, inclusion, and personal development.

### School Gymnastics

Our partnership work with local schools has continued to flourish throughout the year. We have maintained our regular lunchtime gymnastics provision at Horsell Village School, providing children with the opportunity to experience and enjoy gymnastics in a familiar environment. In addition, we have started to work with Sythwood School – providing weekly sessions for their pupils with visual impairments.

We have also continued our partnership with the University of Surrey Gymnastics Team, delivering weekly coaching sessions every Friday evening during term time at our club venue. Led by our coaching team, these sessions provide students with high-quality coaching while strengthening our links with the wider gymnastics' community.

### Leadership Academy

The Leadership Academy continues to play a vital role in developing the next generation of coaches and volunteers within Woking Gymnastics Club.

Now in its eighth year, the programme remains a key part of our workforce development strategy. During 2026, a new cohort of 21 young leaders began their volunteering journey with the club, building on the success of previous years and strengthening our future coaching pathway.

Our young leaders now volunteer within weekly recreational classes while progressing through a range of training courses designed to develop their coaching skills, knowledge and confidence. We would like to thank all of our coaches and mentors who continue to support and inspire them throughout their development.

### Disability Gymnastics

Providing accessible and inclusive gymnastics opportunities remains one of the club's core priorities. Throughout 2026, we have continued to deliver dedicated gymnastics sessions for children and young people with additional needs, ensuring that participants can enjoy the physical, social and developmental benefits of gymnastics in a safe and supportive environment.

Our programme continues to offer specialised classes for both pre-school and school-aged gymnasts, supported by strong partnerships with Sythwood School, Sight for Surrey, Halo, the National Autistic Society and Freemantle School. We also look forward to building our new partnership with the Community Physiotherapy Team at St Peter's NHS Foundation Trust. Together, these partnerships help us extend the reach of gymnastics across our community and ensure opportunities remain accessible and inclusive.

Congratulations to the nine gymnasts who represented Woking Gymnastics Club at the Regional Disability Championships earlier this month. The team delivered outstanding performances, achieving five medals and four ribbon placements!

### Staff and Workforce Development

Developing and supporting our workforce has remained a major focus throughout 2026, and we are proud to say that we now have more qualified coaches than at any point in the club's history.

Congratulations to Sherrick on completing his Mentoring qualification; Maddie and Kara on achieving their Level 2 coaching awards; Steve on achieving his Level 3 qualification; Margarita on completing her Level 4 award; and Craig on achieving his Level 5 qualification. We are also delighted to welcome twelve new Gymnastics Helpers into our coaching workforce. A special mention must go to Plamen, who was invited to join the Welsh National Coaching Team, a fantastic recognition of his expertise and contribution to the sport.

Thank you to all of our coaches, volunteers and staff for their commitment, professionalism and passion throughout the year.

### Awards and Recognition

2026 has been a landmark year for Woking Gymnastics Club.

Following our success as South-East Regional Club of the Year in 2025, we were incredibly proud to be named British Gymnastics Community Club of the Year 2026. This prestigious national award recognises excellence in participation, inclusion, development and community impact.

The award reflects the tremendous efforts of our coaches, volunteers, gymnasts, parents and supporters. To receive national recognition for our achievements is something the entire club can be immensely proud.

### Club Festival

On Sunday 5th July 2026, Woking Gymnastics Club will once again host its annual Club Festival at Guildford Spectrum.

Club Festival remains one of the highlights of our calendar, bringing together gymnasts from our recreational, pre-school, disability and squad programmes to celebrate their progress and achievements.

This year, we are looking forward to welcoming a record number of participants, with over 450 competitive gymnasts and a further 200 gymnasts participating in display performances across the day. We are excited to showcase the talent, dedication and enthusiasm that exists throughout every area of the club.

### Looking Forward

As we look ahead, our commitment remains unchanged: to provide high-quality gymnastics opportunities for everyone, regardless of age, ability or background. Through strong community partnerships, inclusive programmes, coach development and a thriving membership, we will continue to create an environment where every gymnast can flourish.

Thank you to all of our members, families, volunteers, coaches and supporters for another outstanding year. Together, we continue to build a club that not only develops gymnasts but also strengthens our community.

*Jessica Spragg*

*Operations and Community Manager*

## **Pre-School Gymnastics**

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

Pre-school gymnastics offers significant benefits. It teaches children 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 19 classes weekly:

- Our popular 5 PlayGym sessions are especially popular during half-terms and holidays. We now also offer a PlayGym + session during half-terms for children up to 12 years old.
- Our 3 Fun4Baby drop-in sessions provide new mums and dads with a fantastic learning environment where their babies' physical needs can be met in a fun and safe way, supported by trained and friendly staff.
- We offer 3 structured classes for preschoolers accompanied by an adult.
- We have 5 independent classes available to preschoolers aged three and older who are ready to attend class without a parent.
- We also provide 2 classes for Freemantle's school during term time, supporting children with additional needs. White Lodge has been attending the gym for many years but recently lost their funding. The children who attended White Lodge still attend the gym and receive rehabilitation with Gemma.
- We also run Disability sessions for children attending Freemantle's during half-terms, in addition to their term time sessions allowing them to attend with their families.
- Our coaching team of Gemma, Becky, Ollie, Maxine, Kara, Steve, Craig, Maddie and Jamie is an integral part of our pre-school development programme. We appreciate their dedication and passion for the children who come through our doors.

We've seen a positive rise in children with additional needs attending the gym. This is great news, as many children with additional needs miss out on after-school opportunities.

In December, we held our first-ever in-house disability competition. It was a huge success and provided many children with their first chance to participate in a sporting event.

Recently, children from Sythwood's Visually Impaired Unit attended the gym for six weeks to learn gymnastics and improve their coordination. Both the students and teachers found it very beneficial and we look forward to welcoming them back next term.

We want to express our deepest gratitude to our Trustees and Club management for their unwavering support. Together, we can create the best preschool gymnastics experience ever!

*Gemma Parker*

## **Recreational Gymnastics**

Our Recreational Gymnastics programme has continued to grow and thrive this year, with 900 members attending weekly classes. We have focused on enhancing our Floor & Vault curriculum and expanding the Men's Artistic skills available within our programme, ensuring sessions remain fun, engaging, and appropriately challenging.

Our aim remains to provide high-quality opportunities at grassroots level while maintaining an inclusive and accessible environment for all gymnasts.

### Badge Testing

Our in-house badge progression scheme continues to motivate gymnasts and celebrate their achievements, with successful participants receiving both a certificate and badge in recognition of their progress.

To support our updated curriculum, we have developed a new badge scheme, "Level Up!", which is scheduled to launch in October 2026. The new programme has been designed to:

- Streamline the assessment process by reducing the number of skills required for testing.
- Include skills that benefit both Men's and Women's Artistic Gymnastics.
- Focus on core gymnastics fundamentals to develop well-rounded and versatile athletes.
- Ensure progression remains fun, motivating, and achievable for recreational gymnasts.

### Competition Success

Our Floor & Vault gymnasts have demonstrated outstanding commitment and enthusiasm, achieving excellent results throughout the season. Working gymnasts competed in 13 competitions across county, regional, and invitational events.

Highlights included:

- 4 Regional Floor & Vault Champions
- 24 County Floor & Vault Champions
- Numerous medal and ribbon placings across all levels

We have also further developed the Floor & Vault pathway by introducing a new 4-Piece group and increasing participation opportunities for boys within the programme.

### Key Steps

Our Key Steps gymnasts enjoyed another successful year under the guidance of Sherrick Reid and his coaching team. Competing in two events, they showcased significant improvements in both skill execution and presentation.

At the Liberty Competition, gymnasts achieved:

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

Gymnasts have also continued working towards their Key Steps Rainbow Awards, providing a clear framework to celebrate progress and achievement throughout the year.

### Looking Ahead

As we move into the coming year, our focus will be on launching the new Level Up! badge scheme, further strengthening our recreational curriculum, and continuing to develop opportunities across Floor & Vault, Men's Artistic Gymnastics, and Key Steps programmes.

We will continue to invest in coach education and leadership development, ensuring our members benefit from high-quality coaching and positive experiences. With strong membership numbers, growing competition pathways, and an expanding coaching workforce, the future of Recreational Gymnastics at Woking remains extremely positive.

*Rebecca Brikett*

*Head of Recreational Gymnastics*

## **Women's Artistic**

This past year has been both incredibly rewarding and full of progress for our Women's Artistic Gymnastics programme. It is a privilege to lead WAG at Woking Gymnastics Club, a club with a proud history and strong reputation within the sport. Our commitment remains the same: to provide every gymnast with the opportunity to reach their potential within a safe, supportive, and inspiring environment.

One of the highlights of the year has been the continued growth of our squad. We were delighted to introduce a new Development Squad under the leadership of Rebecca Birkett, who has done an excellent job nurturing and developing these young gymnasts. Their enthusiasm, commitment, and progress have already made a positive impact on the programme, and it has been exciting to see them flourish throughout the season.

We currently have five teams, each with its own objectives, responsibilities, and expectations. To help deliver our mission, I am fortunate to work alongside a dedicated and committed coaching team, including Margarita Padilla, whose natural curiosity and eagerness to develop recently saw her pass the HPC Level 5 Theory Test. Maddie Grant has also completed her WAG Level 2 Coaching Award and is now guiding both Team 3 and Team 5 through their gymnastics journeys. Lily Clarke-Moss, following her retirement from competitive gymnastics, completed her WAG Level 1 course and is now helping our youngest gymnasts take their first steps in the sport, supported by Annabella Higgins and Charlotte Barnard. And, of course, Becky's expertise and passion are a tremendous asset to the squad, enabling us to cater for gymnasts from grassroots through to international level.

While our focus will always be on the journey rather than the destination, it has been pleasing to see that hard work, commitment and perseverance rewarded with considerable success over the past year.

The competition season began in September with a friendly competition at Basingstoke GC, where Maggie Rees completed her first assignment for Team Wales, helping them secure the team title while also winning a gold medal on Bars.

Later in September, the majority of our gymnasts competed at the South East Voluntary Championships at Guildford Spectrum. Some of our youngest gymnasts delivered fantastic displays of elegance and difficulty, leading to a 5th-place All-Around finish for Barbara Smorag in the Tin category. The Classic Challenge brought further success, including a 4th-place All-Around finish for Alicia Wright, who also earned a bronze medal on Floor, while Bella-Rae won gold on Bars in the Silver category. In the Gold section, Annabella Higgins brought home a fantastic bronze medal on Floor. To cap off an already outstanding day for Woking Gymnastics Club, Sofia Valente dominated the competition floor, winning the All-Around title and qualifying for the Classic Challenge Bronze National Finals later in the year. She also claimed titles on Beam and Bars and finished second on Vault.

This success was followed by the FIG and FIG Development competitions, where our gymnasts made a strong statement. Aissa Costea won silver in FIG Development 2 and added further silver medals on Floor and Beam, securing qualification to the National Finals in November. Annabelle Chau also delivered a composed performance on Beam and was rewarded with a bronze medal. One of our youngest gymnasts, Orla Pestle-Page, enjoyed a remarkable day, finishing 2nd All-Around, 1st on Floor and Vault, and 3rd on Bars in FIG Dev 1 section. To conclude an impressive

regional campaign, Maggie Rees brought home a fantastic bronze medal on Bars in a particularly strong field.

The regional season concluded in November with further success. Julia Hamasaki finished 2nd All-Around in the Copper category and won two additional medals gold on Floor and bronze on Beam. Her teammates Amelia Power and Heidi Woodhatch were also rewarded for their performances, with Amelia winning bronze medals on Floor and Vault and Heidi securing gold. These excellent performances helped Team Woking finish 4th in the team competition, narrowly missing out on a podium place. To round off the weekend, Ziggy held her nerve to produce a bronze medal-winning Beam routine. As a result of these outstanding performances, Woking Gymnastics Club earned nine places in the South East Regional Squad.

Following their performances at the Regional Championships, Sofia Valente and Aissa Costea earned the right to represent the South East Region at the National Classic Challenge Finals and National FIG Development 2 Finals respectively. Both gymnasts demonstrated grit, determination, and composure, with Sofia helping her team achieve an incredible 2nd place nationally, while Aissa contributed to Team South East's impressive 5th-place finish.

To wrap up the year, Maggie Rees travelled to the Czech Republic with Team Wales to compete in one of Europe's most prestigious junior competitions Olympic Hopes. Despite it being her first international competition and Team Wales facing several challenges, Maggie delivered a superb display of courage and determination, overcoming injury to help Team Wales secure an incredible 3rd-place finish against some of the strongest teams in Europe.

After a short break, attention turned to the Home Nations Championships in 2026, where our FIG gymnasts performed elegant routines, gaining valuable experience and notable results. Sofia achieved 10th place All-Around and a top-five finish on Vault at the Welsh Championships.

This was followed by the Scottish Championships, where Annabelle Chau demonstrated great composure and elegance, before the English Championships at the end of February. There, Sofia continued her impressive form, finishing 11th All-Around, 5th on Beam, and impressing the national coaches with a daring release and catch on Bars. This outstanding performance earned her a place at the most prestigious domestic competition of the year the 2026 British Championships in Liverpool.

The final weekend of March is always reserved for the British Championships, the pinnacle of domestic gymnastics and a competition every club aspires to be part of. The competition began with the Aspire category, where Nicole Murdzhanova and Sofia Valente demonstrated exceptional difficulty, courage, and maturity despite their young age. Sofia finished an impressive 30th overall.

In the Junior category, Kimberley Ly faced a field of the best 72 junior gymnasts in the UK and once again produced four clean routines, finishing 21st All-Around with a total score of 43.70. Following her performances at the Home Nations Championships and British Championships, Sofia attracted the attention of the Junior National Coach and was invited, alongside her personal coach Margarita Padilla, to attend a GB Development training camp in April. Following a rigorous assessment process, Sofia was awarded a place in the GB Development Squad - a fantastic achievement for both Sofia and Margarita.

With the national competitions concluded, focus returned to regional events as gymnasts competed for South East Grades titles.

The season began with the South East Development Grades Championships, where our Development Squad enjoyed further success. Martha Rees won a bronze medal on Vault in the Prep 3 category. Barbara Smorag and Talia Hewett both finished within the top six All-Around, with Barbara scoring 60.20 and taking silver on Range and Conditioning, while Talia finished with an excellent score of 59.90.

In Development Grades, Jessica earned gold on Beam for her beautifully executed routine, while Amelia Power showcased her strength and power by winning gold on Floor and silver on Vault in Development Grade 2.

A few weeks later, the remainder of the WAG squad took to the floor at Guildford Spectrum. On Saturday, our Excel gymnasts competed. Sadie Ball, one of our youngest gymnasts, showcased her natural elegance to secure a top-eight All-Around finish with a score of 56.70. In Excel Grade 1, Ziggy Jones-Kerr delivered clean, composed performances to pass her grades with flying colours and finish in the top five on Floor.

In Excel Grade 2, the battle was not only for regional titles but also for the coveted top-five places that would secure qualification to the National Finals. Orla Pestle-Page dominated the competition, winning the All-Around title with an outstanding score of 57.60. She also claimed the Floor title and added silver medals on Bars, Beam, and Range and Conditioning. Aissa Costea used the competition as excellent preparation, finishing 3rd All-Around while adding silver medals on Bars and Range and Conditioning and a bronze medal on Beam.

Sunday brought more success for some of our older gymnasts. Bella-Rae finished 3rd All-Around in the Classic Gold category and collected four additional apparatus medals, while her teammate Annabella Higgins finished 4th All-Around and claimed silver medals on Vault and Uneven Bars.

Fenton Manor Sports Complex in Stoke-on-Trent hosted the National Excel and Performance Grades Finals, where the country's best gymnasts gathered to compete for national honours.

Annabelle Chau and Aissa Costea competed in the demanding Excel Grade 3 category the final stepping stone before the British Championships. Months of hard work culminated in excellent performances, with Aissa achieving the pass mark of 57.05 and finishing 21st All-Around nationally, while Annabelle scored 54.70 to place 29th All-Around in the UK. Shortly afterwards, Orla produced a wonderful combination of power, elegance, and poise to help Team South East finish 5th nationally in the Excel Grade 2 National Finals, while also securing a top-six finish on Bars.

None of this would have been possible without the tremendous effort and support of our coaching team, who are always there to encourage, nurture, and inspire our gymnasts while ensuring they enjoy every step of their journey. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to Ben, whose enthusiasm and positivity are contagious and greatly appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank all our coaches, Simon and the boys' coaching team, our parents for their continued trust and support, and the entire administration team.

*Plamen Lichev*

*Head of Women's Artistic Gymnastics*

## **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 36 boys currently in the squad. Our Boys' Squad are enjoying enviable successes at national and international level, including several boys in national/home nations age group squads. Squad members are usually specially selected from our pre-school, key-steps 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 2026. We have had some amazing results in the last 12 months, congratulations to all gymnasts.

Most notable achievements in the last 12 months:

2025 National Grades:

- Harlee Jean-Baptiste Shand 1st Level 2 Blakeborough All-Around & BG Development squad 2026
- William Brierley 4th Level 3 Blakeborough All-Around and GB squad testing at LNSC
- Ivan Dimitrov 5th Level 1 Bob Currier All-Around and BG Reward camp at LNSC
- Ruben Murdzhanov Level 2 Bob Currier 2nd AA and BG Reward camp at LNSC
- Thomas Lyall Level 2 Bob Currier 8th All-Around and BG Reward camp at LNSC
- Jude Rawlings Level 3 Bob Currier 3rd All-Around and BG Reward camp at LNSC
- William Middleton Level 4 Bob Currier 3rd All-Around and BG Reward camp at LNSC
- Mac Griffiths Level 5 Bob Currier 4th All-Around and BG Reward camp at LNSC
- Fionn Kelly Level 5 Bob Currier 6th All-Around and BG Reward camp at LNSC

Northern Europeans:

- Oliver Porter Team 2nd All-Around 4th & P-Bar 2nd

Welsh Championships:

- Ben Porter All-Around 3rd in his first U18 competition & Pommel Final

English Championships:

- Ben Porter All-Around 4th & 2nd on Floor

- Oliver Porter 7th All-Around in his first senior competition & 3rd on Floor
- Harlee Jean-Baptiste Shand 2nd All-Around U12 & P-Bar U12 Champion
- Edward Warburton-Gates 7th All-Around U12 & 2nd on Pommel
- William Brierley 8th All-Around U12 & 2nd on Rings

#### British Championships:

- 8 Woking MAG gymnasts qualified for the British
- Ben Porter 6th All-Around & Junior P-Bar Final 3rd

#### Regional Championships:

- Massive medal haul including; Nelson Kasasa, Harlee Jean-Baptiste Shand, Fionn Kelly and Luke Everett winning their respective age categories

#### NCAA:

- Jasper Smith-Gordon Number 1 US College Vaulter

#### Pipers Vale Challenge:

- Nelson Kasasa 1st All-Around 1st on Pommel, Rings, P-Bar & H-Bar 2nd on Floor & 3rd on Vault
- Kaloyan Dimitrov 11th All-Around

#### British Teams:

- Fionn Kelly, Mac Griffiths, Edward Warburton-Gates, William Brierly and Harlee Jean-Baptiste Shand competed in the Bill Williams Trophy finishing 5th
- Jamie Lewis, Rudi Moriano, Josh Porter, Oliver Porter and Ben Porter competed in the Adam Shield, finishing 4th
- 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.
- Josh Porter & Oliver Porter gained a place in the England Squad.
- Craig passed 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*

*Head of Men's Artistic Gymnastics*