BRITISH AMATEUR GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION 2025
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at Lilleshall National Sports Centre
on, Wednesday 27th November 2025 at 6pm

MINUTES

1. **PRESENT:**
Mike Darcey (Chair of the Board), Helen Phillips (President of the Board), Sarah Powell (CEO), Chris Davison (Executive Director – Finance & Business Operations) (CD), Geraldine Costello (Safe Sport & Governance Director) (GC), Andy Dodd (Communications and Engagement Director) (AD), Jay Roper (People, Places and Experiences Director) (JR), Paul Newton (PN), Brian Stocks (BS), Mike Weinstock (MW) and 14 Members attended in person or by proxy.

APOLOGIES:
The President gave apologies on behalf of Meg Warren and David Watt.

2. **INTRODUCTION:**
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and commenced the meeting by asking members present to take a moments silence as a mark of respect for Remembrance Day and to remember those within our Gymnastics family who we sadly lost over the last 12 months and who had a significant impact on our sport most notably, Tom McCarthy, Jack Scrivener, Lee Arnold, Mike Steele and Judy Wootton.

The minutes from the 2024 meeting were approved as read.

The President presented her report as a reflection of the accounting and calendar period of 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025. The President thanked all our gymnasts at all levels for their continued love and commitment to our sport. The President followed by providing a comprehensive review of the year from a Presidents perspective noting key occasions and activities that have been a focus and advised that she remains available to all members throughout the year should anyone wish to contact her.

Continued growth within **membership** with 1k clubs having registered with BG for 2025/26 and October membership finishing 7k ahead of forecast. The experience of our members is central to everything we do, it is our members who enable our sport to thrive. Last year our membership grew by 4% for the second consecutive year, reaching a total of 415,612 members, making us one of the largest membership communities in sport in the UK.

We have prioritised supporting our registered clubs and last year we introduced a new Gymnastics Buying Group to help BG clubs access high quality services at a reduced price to help assist their financial sustainability and ensuring the funding portal helps clubs access funding streams that may be available to them.

JustGo was introduced as a new modern and user-friendly membership system. My BG supports clubs and members in joining and renewing their membership and engaging with the sport. A new, free to use, club management and class booking platform is also available for BG registered clubs.

The **2025 British Gymnastics Annual Awards** saw a record number of nominations received and saw Sam Oldham inducted to our Hall of Fame. The president reminded that nominations for the 2026 BG awards are currently open with a deadline of Monday 17th November.

Last year we were thrilled to announce **Barbara Slater as our new Patron**, building on the remarkable foundation laid by Sir John Major who had held the role for 11 years. Barbara has already been a visible present any many events across all disciplines and is keen to support the sport as much as she can.

Rise Gymnastics has been delivered by nearly 600 clubs, leisure centres and schools, whilst there have been 72 local Rise Gymnastics competitions organized by our clubs and partner leisure centres so far, plus 433 schools competing as part of the School Games.

Our **Club Capital programme** continues to invest in gymnastic facilities where they are most needed. Last year the programme invested in loans totaling £657k to support 5 clubs to move into new or expanded facilities. The programme includes supporting Olympic gymnast Joe Fraser to achieve his dream of opening his own gymnastics club – Joe Fraser Gymnastics.

We made a public commitment to be relentless in our pursuit of **inclusion and accessibility** in gymnastics, while this is a journey and there is still much to do; we are making good progress.

Last year saw our **Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP)** being approved by UK Sport and Sport England, which will provide a foundation for driving forward inclusion in gymnastics, initially focusing on the priority actions that we need to take ourselves.

A significant amount of work continued as part of **Reform 25**. The project has since concluded with our final report and internal evaluation report being published in July 2025, and us recently holding a culture symposium for the wider sport sector to share our learnings across culture change, welfare and safe sport, learning and development, and performance. The Chair played a large contribution to the project as well as the CEO and others, the President passed on her thanks to everyone involved.

To build on the progress made, a **new strategic approach to welfare and safe sport** was implemented that is both positive and person-centres, ensuring the welfare of all involved in the sport is paramount in our approach and thinking. Improvements have continued in this area by listening and learning, including working with the community, providing targeted support to those affected during the safeguarding process, and proactively supporting gymnasts on national programme squads. This work was supported by the contribution of our **#BeTheChange campaign**, including the publication of the final set of safe sport policies which have received national and international recognition.

Our second **National Welfare Officer Conference** was successfully held which brought together those who take on the responsibility at gymnastics clubs and venues right across the country as part of our wider support for them. We have also built a strong collaborative relationship with Active Partnerships to work with Sport England-funded Welfare Officers opening in areas across the country.

Work has taken place to develop our people by focusing on continuing work on our **Learning and Development Strategic Plan**, reviewing and developing our approach to what is currently level 1 and level 2 coach qualifications, working on our new **entry-point foundation coach offer** which will be introduced next year which will help with the challenges of recruit, training and retaining coaches and the impact this has on capacity. Following feedback from our Technical Committees and the community, a different approach has been taken to judge education for the LA Cycle. We have invested heavily in the **coach development team** which has seen us support over 500 coaches across approximately 50 clubs in the UK. Following overwhelming positive feedback and the impact the team had, with support from Sport England, we have invested to triple the capacity of the team from October 2025.

Great Britain's gymnasts continued to perform well on the international stage, making last year one of remarkable progress and proud moments. Bryony Page's history making gold at the Olympic Games saw her win all four of the British, European, World and Olympic titles within the space of 300 days. Like so many of our gymnasts, Bryony is an incredible role model of our sport, and now has the complete set of Olympic gold, silver, and bronze medals.

The bright future of our team was highlighted by Jake Jarman and Harry Hepworth, both winning bronze medals in Paris.

Our **'United by Gymnastics'** campaign highlighted the shared pride and passion felt across the country and that unites our gymnastics community.

Record ticket sales were seen for the Artistic British Championships held in Liverpool, alongside a 2+2 year broadcast commitment from BBC Sport.

Over 2,000 gymnasts showcased their talent and brought joy to thousands of spectators and viewers across all six of our British Championship events.

A significant moment for our sport came at the **FIG Congress** in October 2024 when **Para-gymnastics** became an official discipline of the FIG – this is a key step on the journey to realising our ambition of gymnastics becoming a Paralympic sport. A particular thank you was given to Patrick Bonner for his commitment and drive to make this happen. Andy Tombs was also successfully elected as the President of the FIG Men's Technical Committee.

The President gave a huge thank you to the dedicated gymnastics workforce of coaches, club owners, judges, technical officials and safeguarding officers who are all supported by an amazing army of parents and other volunteers working tirelessly behind the scenes. We are grateful to all of you, our gymnastics family, for everything you do to support the sport.

3. DIRECTORS' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – RESOLUTION 1:
To formally adopt the Directors' Report & Financial Statements for the year ending **31st March 2025**

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTIONS/VOID
16	1	2

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Directors' Report & Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025, be adopted as the votes lodged had recorded a simple majority.

The formal business of the AGM Closed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair opened the floor to the attendees to raise questions.

BS queried, what support was available for coaches affected by safeguarding concerns.

GC advised that all coaches, and everyone, not directly involved, are offered support via Care First, which is a service provided by part of our insurance. BS didn't believe that this was openly known to all coaches, and it needed to be communicated.

BS couldn't find reference to the 2025 AGM on BG's website and feels it needs to be openly advertised.

It was advised that the papers for today's meeting were available online. The membership types are to be updated within the AGM papers for the 2026 meeting. BS also raised that he didn't believe that membership benefits were clearly listed on our website for the new membership types.

PN raised a question regarding whistleblowing and BG having a standalone policy that could be used if concerns were to be raised around BG employees.

The President advised that this was an operational point and that the CEO would be in contact. The CEO advised that there are independent individuals who could be contacted, depending on their concern. There is mention of whistleblowing within the safeguarding policy but noted that this was centered more around safeguarding and not staffing. It was agreed that the policy needs to be made clearer and made available to members. **ACTION: CEO**

It was raised that when contacting member services to seek an answer to a question they don't tend to have knowledge of the answer which tends to result in having to wait for an email response, the staff don't tend to know who is working on what to be able to immediately assist.
ACTION: GC ADVISED THAT WEEKLY BRIEFINGS SHOULD TAKE PLACE AND THAT THESE WOULD BE PUT IN PLACE.

MW queried around Welfare Officers, he doesn't currently have one within his region and advised that he was now being asked to pay for welfare officers to attend events. It was advised that you may be asked to contribute to their attendance at an event.

PN raised that as part of the value of people which was mentioned within the President's speech if there was the possibility of BG reviewing the expenses policy as it wasn't believed to have been updated since pre-covid. **ACTION: CEO**

PN queried if BG were open to learning from other gymnastic organisations in the UK. BG was always seeking best practices and to review what others are doing in gymnastics and other sports.

MW queried if BG could do more to support the regions in what they do. Festivals used to take place c10 years ago, which generated income and provided more opportunities. MW praised the events team and the programme that they delivered and provided positive feedback in relation to Welfare and Safe Sport, which was well received.

PN advised that there had been some concern within the regions relating to the overall governance with a valid legal concern around clubs not doing tax returns and therefore having no accountability. The President advised that discussions had taken place at board meetings around this.

British Gymnastics noted that they have plans to do more to support the Regions and to ensure good governance across them all to ensure there is a level of consistency and standardisation.

BS advised that he still couldn't find mention of Life Membership on our website, there is no mention acknowledging them and he felt that we should be communicating with them.

The CEO advised that there is work being undertaken to review all of the categories and to communicate better across the community with Life Members etc and other notable achievements. A list of the family of gymnastics needs to be established. It was advised that we can look at adding Life Membership within JustGo. **ACTION: AD**

It was noted that for Life Members not to have to renew each year they must ensure that the relevant tick box is completed.

PN queried as it is not required for judges in England to have a DBS like in Scotland whether there is any plan to change this in the future. GC advised that we are looking at this and looking at the current criteria and whether as an organisation we need to start obtaining DBS documentation or if we can look at how we can do it differently. PN to introduce GC to two individuals who work closely with DBS to offer advice. **ACTION: GC**

There being no further questions the meeting closed at 19:05