



The Active Life Centre, Stephenson Road, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 6XR
Telephone: 01256 352858: Email: Info@basingstokegym.co.uk
Website: www.basingstokegym.co.uk

7 July 2020

MEMBER UPDATE- RECENT GYMNASTICS MEDIA REPORTING.

Dear members,

I hope you are all well, as life gathers pace once again we are so looking forward to reopening and seeing you all as soon as possible.

As you may have seen, there has been recent media reporting around alleged inappropriate behaviours, welfare concerns and the British Gymnastics response to those concerns raised. These allegations centre around a culture of fear, physical and mental abuse within elite level gymnastics.

I felt it important to write to you all in the proactive way in which Basingstoke Gymnastics Club has always conducted itself to state clearly and unambiguously, that these behaviours if founded have no place in gymnastics, and we have no known issues regarding any of Basingstoke's current or historic staff. We are immensely proud of how, as a member's club, we have always promoted positive welfare support for our gymnasts and staff across all disciplines and levels. As we look forward to reopening I want to be clear that the welfare of our members will be the club's top priority and inappropriate behaviour from any member of the BGC family will not be tolerated or ignored. We pride ourselves on the policies and procedures currently in place around safeguarding and I have requested an immediate review to ensure they are as robust as possible in light of the recent allegations in the wider community. This will be complete prior to reopening.

We fully endorse the BG response found here:

<https://www.british-gymnastics.org/news-and-events/news/latest-news/9164-british-gymnastics-response-to-media-reports>

As well as having a proactive welfare team, you, our staff and members are a big part of the positive welfare culture and I encourage you to have the moral courage to challenge any behaviours that would not reach the high standards we all expect, wherever you may find it.

We wholly support any ongoing investigation and should BGC be approached we will support in the open manner on which we have built our reputation.

We are here to support all of the BGC family, enabling staff, coaches, gymnasts and family members alike. If you would like to discuss anything in confidence then you can speak direct to any staff member, manager or trustee in confidence with whom you would be comfortable discussing your concerns. You can also contact our welfare team through welfare@basingstokegym.co.uk or integrity@british-gymnastics.org should you wish to report independently outside of the club.



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Basingstoke and Deane Sports Council,
Club of the Year 1998, 1999, 2003, 2008, 2013 & 2015





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Gymnastics is a sport that we all love, Competitive Gymnastics is built upon a foundation of respect, honesty, integrity, discipline and excellence. Whether an enabling staff member, coach, gymnast or family member, we succeed as one. Fear and intimidation have no place here, where instead effort and talent excel in equal measure. I am proud of the positive impact, knowledge and skill our well trained staff impart on our members, I am confident in them all and that we need not fear any issues in our wider sport but will learn from them, while focussing on the supportive and inclusive environment in which we thrive.

Yours Sincerely

Vincent Bartlett MBE
Chairman, Board of Trustees, Basingstoke Gymnastics Club



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