

South Central Area Forum

Notes - Tuesday October 13th, 2020 at 7.00pm via Zoom

Attendees: Welsh Gymnastics Head of Development, Welsh Gymnastics Area Development Officer, Area Lead, Area Competition Organiser. **Club Representation:** Pen-Y Bont GC, All Stars GC, Bedwas GC, YMCA Barry CG, Fusion GC, Heolddu GC, Maesteg GC, Maesteg TC, Islwyn GC, St Tydfil's GC & VGA

1. **Welcome** and thanks to all from Lead Officer. House keeping and introduction to how our online meeting will work. **Apologies** received from Vertigo TC.
2. **COVID-19 / Step Forward Plan Update**

WG Head of development gave an overview of the current situation explaining Welsh Gymnastics are continuing to work closely with British Gymnastics & Scottish Gymnastics to produce documents and tools for all clubs/members. The Step Forward Plan is available on the BG website through the club log in for all to access. Clubs are encouraged to read in detail.

Welsh Gymnastics are following Welsh Government guidelines and will endeavor to update the community immediately after each Government announcement with any further guidance and changes. Currently, WG are awaiting further guidance on the Welsh Government intending to allow children to cross county lines to access their gymnastics clubs.

Members are also reminded to continue to follow local lockdown guidance, that all members over 11 are to wear face coverings (unless carrying out strenuous activity), to remain socially distance during classes, continue with no supporting during coaching and the guidance on simultaneous groups of 30 were reiterated to the forum. More information on these can be found at <https://gov.wales/sport-recreation-and-leisure-guidance-phased-return-html>. With particular attention to the following statement:

Simultaneous gatherings of individuals and groups up to 30 people are allowed within a large space such as a swimming pool, a gym, or a sports hall, as long as the space allows for physical distancing, with groups and individuals separated and managed safely. This should only be considered where space is sufficient to allow 100sqft per person or 3sqm per bather as set out in [UKactive guidance](#), where entry and exit for individuals and groups can be managed, and where the space can be partitioned so individuals and groups do not interact, without limiting the ability to allow appropriate ventilation and control environmental factors such as humidity in each space.

Clubs were praised and thanked for supporting each other and gymnasts from the WG centralised programme in creating opportunities for gymnasts from neighboring clubs to train while they are unable to train at their primary club.

A final note was made to encourage clubs to remind members of the Welsh Gymnasts Access Gymnastics funding <https://www.welshgymnastics.org/search/?query=access> as well as the free WG recreational classes.

3. Area budgets and accounts

No change from previous meetings.

The area lead is still to meet with the WG Finance Manager to get a detailed understanding of the South-Central Area accounts. Welsh Gymnastics HOD will arrange this meeting online. Forum members are encouraged to submit ideas of how to spend the money to WG Development Officer or bring them to the next meeting.

Two suggestions were made:

1. A member for the forum asked if the money could be spent to subsidise Sport Leaders from the area to attend the upcoming “Winter Series” sport leader online sessions. This was agreed and passed by the forum attendees.
2. A member of the forum suggested that an S&C workshop be organised and paid for by the area for all coaches and gymnasts who wished to attend from all disciplines. This was agreed and passed. The area lead will organise this and communicate to clubs.

4. Minutes from previous meeting revised

All minutes were shared with the forum members. It was agreed they were true and accurate.

5. AOB

1. WG Online Sport Leader Workshops. Thank you to forum member who suggested WG organise and run online workshops for sport leaders. Over the summer 2020, 16 sessions ran covering 5 different topics. Over 100 sport leaders from 26 Welsh clubs attended. 10 of the attendees achieve special recognition awards with 3 of them coming from the SC area.
If clubs wish for any of the summer sessions to be repeated, clubs are encouraged to get in touch with the club’s development officer.
A “Winter Series” of workshops has now been created and will run over the next 6 months (Oct 2020 – March 2021). The first in the series is currently open for enrolment at www.welshgymnastic.org/courses. This link will be shared with all clubs via email and the South-Central Facebook page.
2. Discipline update – Women’s Artistic. Coaches are encouraged not to “push” gymnasts to learn new skills and be ready for competitions but are encouraged to take training slow.
3. All forum members are encouraged to send any guest speaker ideas to Kathryn.cope@welshgymnastics.org for future forums
4. Forum members wanted to thank and congratulate Carl Field, WG Communications Manager, for his hard work since starting at WG in June 2020.
5. The South-Central Facebook page for Coaches and judges will be used as a method to share ideas regarding cleaning, coaching, gym set ups. If members are not already involved in the group, then do request to join.
6. WG are planning another “Wales wide” club forum. This will be communicated to all clubs as soon as it is confirmed.

7. Melissa Anderson will leave as area lead after December 2020 to pursue a role on the WG Board of directors as a Non-executive Director. The area members wish to thank Melissa for all her work in the area and wish to congratulate her on the new venture. There is no succession plan in place yet but the WG board will work on this in coming meetings.

Closing note from WG Head of Development to all clubs:

Thank you to all for attending, it has been great to see everyone again. At Welsh Gymnastics we want to support every club in our community to thrive and come out of this situation stronger. Stay in touch with each other and share your situations with us at Welsh Gymnastics.

Next Meeting: December 8th, 2020 via Zoom at 7pm

Details to be finalised and circulated to all clubs via email and the South-Central Facebook page