



General

It was a very good weekend. The vast majority of people enjoyed the weekend, and there were no major problems.

"As a new gymnastics mum I have been extremely impressed with the forward planning and prompt information which appeared for this event on your web site. To know exactly which day of the weekend and the time of registration, a month before the event ensured that we could make arrangements for our B&B business so we could all be there as a family to support our daughter. If only others would follow your lead! (some only give information out the weekend before too late for us to maximise business so something has to give)"

"All in all we thoroughly enjoyed the day and thank you for your excellent organisation from a spectators, competitor's mum, point of view. I trust it was a successful day for Sussex gymnastics. Look forward to being at next year's event, where ever that will be. Keep up the advanced information on your website and encourage others to do the same ie. the grades in Guildford."

"Firstly to say how lovely it is to see everyone again of course! I enjoyed my day at the Sussex and judging. I would like to thank you all for your hard work in organising such an event. "

Trophies and awards

Many competing groups did not receive trophies. This was especially true in the Tumbling and Acrobatic competition. As the competing groups change from year to year, it is inevitable that some groups will not have a trophy in some years.

Most of the trophies awarded over the weekend have been donated by people in the past. Many of these trophies were allocated by the donor to be awarded for specific things (eg. a trophy is awarded to the gymnast who scores the highest overall amongst the 3 FIG challenge groups – 5 gymnasts this year).

"Maybe the programme should include a paragraph encouraging the donation of trophies."

An explanation of the minimum scores was supposed to be printed in the programme. There was simply no space for it within the 24 pages this year. We will try and ensure it goes in next year!

VIPs

Someone needs to be given the job of entertaining the VIPs who attended the event and were involved in the awards ceremonies. This person could act as a 'host' for the event, welcoming people in and so on. There needs to be some seats reserved for these people as well.

Displays / other entertainment

The silk artiste display was provided by h2oh. It was generally very popular with the audience and the children. There was a problem in that most people watching the display in the evening had already seen it at lunch time. We will try and get a similar display next year, something non-gymnastics, maybe with more audience participation.

"I loved the 'buzz' of the 'market area', really pleasing on the eye and the stall holders should be complimented on their input to the whole scene as well as enjoying their profit."

The Audience

"The hall for the spectators and gymnasts was very cold all day (certainly until we left at 2pm) It felt like the AC was on and didn't need to be. How does this help the gymnasts keep their muscles warm."

Some members of the audience felt cold while watching. The gymnasts, however, seemed to be quite comfortable.

"It appeared to be an oversight on how many tickets were available. When I purchased my ticket I had to wait 1:30 hours before finding a seat. No allocations had been made for wheelchairs or buggies. The period between am and pm session was mayhem with a complete bottle jam of people trying to get upstairs before allowing people to exit."

Seating did become crowded during the changeover period between competitions (lunch time). This is very hard to allow for, as basically there will be twice the audience numbers in the hall than has been allowed for. We do not want to make people wait outside until the next competition starts. We will try and get more seating next year. This can be used purely for gymnasts during the competition and for the audience for the changeover period. This seating is likely to be tucked away in the corner of the hall.

"I think £6.00 per person entry fee is very expensive! I agree if you watch all day, but to be fair most people just come to watch their child compete."

£6.00 spectator entry fee is incredibly cheap for this kind of event. There is a very good chance the spectator price will go up next year.

Timetable / running order

There were people ready to commence rigging of the arena before the hall was vacated. We need to know exactly when the hall is free so we can get the people there at the right time and start rigging efficiently.

"Whilst I appreciate it is very difficult to fit everything in and it was a long day anyway (in some respect due to what appeared from a lay persons view point slow judging on the floor and vault.) 8am registration meant either getting up in Rye at 5am or having to afford accommodation near enough so our 8 year old wasn't too tired by the time she started competing at 9.20. I'm not sure how a later start could achieve all you wanted but even an extra hour would help."

The timetable was a lot easier for rig and de-rig this year than in previous years. We will probably use a vary similar timetable next year. However, Saturday morning is particularly full.

There is always a clash when Acrobatics is competing at the same time as tumbling. The only alternative is to put these events on at different times, but it makes sense to have them at the same time as gymnasts tend to enter both of these disciplines.

There was time and space on Sunday afternoon to fit in a trampoline competition. The trampoline discipline will be informed of exactly how much time and space is available and we will try to fill it.

"From the announcement desk, we couldn't read the competitors' numbers in the distance which meant many of them didn't get a mention. Score displays hired from Continental could be used; get the runners to display the scores as well; so one runner goes to the score desk, one shows the correct score and changes the competitor's number at the start of the routine to show the announcer."

There needs to be one person named for each competition to sort out problems that occur with the timetable and so on.

Awards evening

"The Saturday evening do was very good, despite concerns the place was small, the cosiness was great. Sorry I fell asleep. The service was polite and proper and the food spot-on. I would happily return, but wherever it is next time please supply an address and map sheet (preferably OS) in advance of the weekend. "

This event was held quite some distance from the venue. We will try and use the Hickstead Hotel next year for accommodation and for the evening. This will hopefully also encourage more people to get involved in the event, and maybe stay over Saturday. It is hoped that the Continental drivers will have a better class of accommodation there as well.

Raffle

"I was there Saturday and thoroughly enjoyed it. I was disappointed that the raffle sales were so low with such a large crowd, but still good fun. I think there should be a raffle. I suggest posters, and announcements to drum up business, plus sellers that hassle the crowds."

On Saturday we made £33.00 profit with 242 gymnasts appearing over the day. On Sunday we made £70.00 profit with 130 gymnasts appearing over the day. We need to get people to run the raffle a little better than happened on Saturday. People selling the raffle need to go in to the audience during the day and keep going. There were periods during Saturday when the raffle desk was left unattended, so people could not buy tickets.

Women's Floor & Vault Rules

The tariff sheets made the event run a lot smoother. The judges felt it would have been particularly hard to judge floor without them.

The rules used are the same as used in regional floor & vault competitions. The point of using these rules is to allow gymnasts to enter regional events without having to learn new rules. They were, however, extremely complicated for coaches and judges. This is the first year these rules have been used, it will get better with experience.