



Stephenson Road, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 6XR
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18 March 2020

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE – TEMPORARY CLUB CLOSURE

Dear members, parents, gymnasts and staff

I am once again writing on behalf of the club to provide an update regarding the impact of Coronavirus and our response.

Firstly I would like to thank all the staff, volunteers and other trustees for their incredible support, as well as those members who have been kind enough to write in with their messages of appreciation and support for our actions so far.

The priorities of ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of our members have not changed, and following constant internal consultation, we are taking the proactive measure of suspending classes and closing our facility for an initial 14 days whilst we reassess all of our options.

Our reasoning

Throughout this period there have been many factors to consider, and balancing the benefits to our members of staying open against the risks of the virus to our staff and users of our facility, as well as their families and the wider community, has been a constant challenge.

As a not for profit members club whose aim is to provide the highest quality of coaching and get every member to reach their full potential, our ambition was to keep both the gymnastics and wider sporting community active, especially during these times of uncertainty, but feel we are not able to offer enough solutions to keep that community completely safe.

What this means for you and our members

Whilst we will not be operating our regular classes until we feel we are able to find and implement new solutions to rebalance these risks, our team are now proactively working on ways our members can remain active outside of the club, and will be sending out weekly communications and resources about how we can do that to those members directly.

We are also looking in to ways to make this lost time up, whether through make up sessions, vouchers for future courses or credit towards future payments, however until we have a clearer picture it would be irresponsible of us to make any promises we are not able to keep but are cautiously optimistic we will be able to resume some limited operations during the Easter period.

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With regards to fees and membership we will be in touch with our members directly before the end of next week. During this time, please bear with us whilst we review our options for our members for this lost time.

Our team will continue to monitor the situation, as well as proactively look at potential solutions and additional measures which would allow us to reopen either regular classes or temporarily restructured ones and communicate those directly with our members via email.

What this means for us and our future

We are a charity, formed and owned by our members and governed by volunteer trustees such as myself. As many of our members know, we agonise annually over how we balance what the club has to charge for the use of our facilities, with the investment we have to make in the latest equipment, our coaches and operating the club efficiently.

This does leave us in a financially vulnerable position, and ask that all members who are in a position to do so continue to support the club and our staff through this difficult time, as our future as one of Basingstoke's largest and longest running charitable sports organisations depends on it.

We are taking several additional precautionary measures to do everything we can to remain financially viable, however without your support our incredible workforce and the gymnasts they coach could be at risk.

For all further questions, suggestions or support please email covid@basingstokegym.co.uk which is still being constantly monitored by me and our working group.

Many thanks for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming everyone back as soon as is safe and responsible to do so.

Steve Hough

Chairman of Trustees, Basingstoke Gymnastics Club

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