

The GfA Technical Committee would like to pass on their apologies to all clubs - to their coaches, judges, gymnasts and parents for the very late running of the competitions for white and Silver levels held on Saturday 30th May. One of the issues was the new electronic system for the judges, which did cause a hold up initially, whilst the judges learnt to use it and needed to identify and put in place procedures where problems occurred. Gymdata's technical support team were outstanding in their resolving of temporary judging issues.

Once this time was lost, there was no way of making it up. We would point out that none of the gymnasts in the last round on Saturday were the very 'little ones', as we always ensure that final rounds are for those in the 'older' age groups.

Unfortunately, it was not economically viable for us to train the judges to this new system in advance of the actual competitions. However, this system is now fully understood and those sort of problems will not occur again, the positive comments we received on the new system were wonderful!

Obviously, none of us (particularly those of us closely involved in the organisation of the competitions) like over-running. The volunteers most involved were at the Competition Centre for several hours on Friday night, getting it all ready, as well as being in early on the Saturday morning and all had to stay until well after the end of the competitions on Saturday night to clear away and get everything ready for Sunday. So we really understand and appreciate the problems of long hours.

On the Sunday there was still time lost throughout the day and this, was probably due to the extra importance being given to the Presentation Ceremonies and we now know that more time may need to be allocated for these. However the GfA organising committee consider that it is of great importance that all the gymnasts receiving medals, ribbons, trophies etc. are given their appropriate good time in the limelight.

The main problem is the fact of the sheer numbers we are trying to cater for and this may need to be looked at and discussed at our Technical assembly and/or our GfA workshop days. We have already implemented some changes for this weekend (and also for November) which will assist us in keeping to time.

Please pass on this letter of apology to all the people in your club who were affected. To run competitions for so many people is an enormous undertaking and we keep trying to make improvements and sometimes, these can cause us a few problems. Many thanks for all the supportive comments and emails we have received and many thanks to all of you for the high importance you are placing on GfA within your club.