

SPORTS

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RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

GIB GYMNASTS OFF TO UK

The Gibraltar contingent will be leaving this evening, at 5.30, for the UK where they will be participating in the British National Apparatus Championships at the Meadowside Leisure Centre, Burton-upon-Trent in the English midlands.

The GRG Association's selected representatives - Arian Barton and Georgina Cassar - Junior Section and Gabriella Gracia and Nicola Bosio - Under 13 Section - will be competing amongst 130 girls and 300 routines over 2 days.

Special thanks to Bonita Trust, Lloyds TSB Bank Plc, Sirius Investment Management and Verralls Solicitors for their kind sponsorship.

We visited them last week at the St. Joseph's School gymnasium where they were putting the final touches to their routines for the benefit of the media, in front of their 'little sister' colleagues of the Rhythmic Gymnastics School. One couldn't



fail to be captivated by the enthusiasm of all present and the sheer enjoyment displayed.

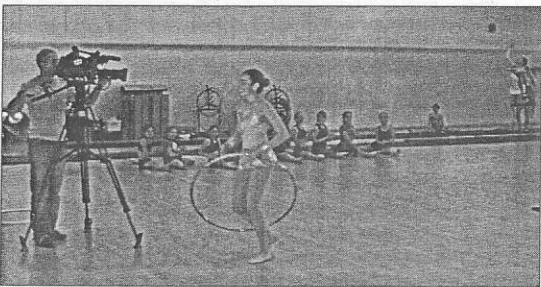
Rhythmic Gymnastics has come a long way, in a relatively short time on the Rock, and all, especially Head Coach/ Technical Director Sally

Holmes and her Assistants, past and present, are to be congratulated.

The regular medal successes from around the most competitive Campo circuit are evidence of what can be achieved in sporting terms with dedicated hard-work and sacrifice backing up initial enthusiasm and talent.

We can be sure that 'our four young ladies' will give of their best in the arena at the British Championships.

JES



Plenty of applause

CRICKET

NEW DOMESTIC SEASON READY FOR OFF

After the flurry of visiting sides in April, the scene is now set for the start of yet another domestic season on the Rock of Gibraltar and there are some interesting developments to note. Two of Gibraltar's longest established sides, Grammarians and UKCCC, disappear from the scene, though the latter will continue to compete at senior level under the new name of Mediterranean CC. Gib RFU will be the fourth club to contest the Wiggins/Benrimoj Shield which opens next week-end. On Saturday GCC will take on Mediterranean CC whilst Gib RFU make their debut on Sunday against Calpe CC. Both matches will be of thirty overs per side, though under the new rules agreed by the GCA Executive Committee earlier this

year, each side will bat fifteen overs alternatively. The venue will be the Europa Oval, times of start still to be decided.

The mid-week twenty overs league continues to grow in popularity with no less than fourteen teams competing. Newcomers to this level of cricket are Gib RGU CC, Hassans CC, Night Owls CC, Price Waterhouse Coopers CC, Sharaabi's CC and Sloggers CC. Looking further ahead, the GCA will be involved in three European competitions this season. In July the under nineteens travel to Jersey, whilst in August the under twenty-threes go to Guernsey and the under fifteens to La Manga in Spain. It promises to be an interesting few months ahead! -TJF

BILLIARDS

THE JUAN DURAN / GIB COIN BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT 2007

The Final of the Gib Coin sponsored Juan Duran Memorial Billiards Trophy will be played in the St Bernard's Catholic, Social Club on Friday 11th May; starting at 7.00pm promptly. The final will feature Ramu Daswani, of the St Bernard's Club, up against Lee Wheatley, of the Cue Ball Snooker Team; in a first to 300 points frame to decide the winner of this year's Juan Duran Trophy.

All are welcome as guests of the sponsors Gib Coin and the St Bernard's Club.

Presentation of trophies to the winners and prizes to the Winner, Runner-up, semi-finalists and the highest break will be made on behalf of the sponsors, Gib Coin, by a member of John Duran's family.

Eddie Newton (Event Organiser).

NETBALL

K.O. CUP & PLATE CONTINUES

Tonight's fixtures, in TCH:

7.00 - (Plate)	Marble Arc.	v	Pink Panthers
8.15 - (Plate)	Quest	v	Probike
9.30 - (Cup)	Elite Travel	v	Vibe

DARTS

Quartets, Pairs and 'Mixed'

It has been a particularly hectic couple of weeks for the local darts fraternity, especially the leading 'arrowsmiths' gearing up for Mediterranean Cup and World Cup action.

At the back end of April, the Gibraltar Darts Association hosted a visit from players of the Benalmadena League, of ex-pats, for a 'Teams of 4' tournament, designed as preparation for the international challenges ahead. There were two visiting teams, with some of their spare players making up five local quartets, including a GDA 'World Cup 2/2' squad, (two local stars working). The GDA's 'Med. Cup' quartet was full - Justin Broton,

George Federico, Francis Taylor and George Ramos.

Benalmadena 'A', with 3 wins from 3, won Group 1, of four teams, with St. Joseph's 2nd and GDA 'World' 3rd. GDA 'Med. Cup' won Group 2, of three teams, with two wins from two ahead of Benalmadena 'B'.

So GDA 'Med.' played St. Joseph's in one semi., winning 9-2; while Benalmadena 'A' won through to the final beating their 'B' side 9-3.

The local Med. Cup quartet proved themselves 'top of the oche' winning the final 9-3.

Darts prospered with a great competition, new friends and the promise of a return match along the Costa.



Mixed Pairs

Last Friday there was an added touch of glamour at the Colledge Cosmos Club, HQ of the GDA, when the female darts players from around the Rock responded to the GDA's urgent call for 'partners' for their Mixed Doubles tournament.

It was possible for a dozen pairs to contest the event, with Gib's leading male player Dylan Duo being partnered by 5 year old Melanie Vilerio Rodriguez.

It also saw 'long-time rivals' George Federico and Francis

Taylor, partnered by Kaz Bartram and Christine Schmidzu respectively, to make the final, which was won 2 legs to 1 by the former. Kaz is a newcomer to the local darts scene and much appreciated.

The tournament was contested to the short format of 3 games / 501 and most matched ended 2 legs to 1 to add to the enjoyment.

Semi - finals:

Taylor / Schmidzu beat Asquez / Asquez 2-0; Federico/Bartram beat Broton / Lynn 2-1.



Thanks go to GDA committee members Jonah Jones, Nicholas Cumbo and Darren Olivero for all their efforts in making it such a success.

The GDA wish to remind everyone of the 'Mixed' Trebles scheduled for Friday, 1st June. Further details from Henry Zapata on mob. 54016470.



Mens Pairs
The GDA Mens' Pairs, which attracted 16 pairings, was held on the same evening. (Best of 5;701). The recognised 'international' pairing of Justin Broton and Dylan Duo split up to join their respective local partners, Amos Bossano and Henry Zapata - and it paid off as these pairs contested the eventual final. There was a major upset in the opening round when one of the pre-tournament 'favourites' George Federico and Francis Taylor were eliminated by the King brothers, Jimmy and Alfred. Amos Bossano deserves a 'man of the match' accolade for his play when he and Justin, who have been

partnering each other since 15 years of age were still looking for their first 'Pairs title' at their 4th. attempt in a final. They came through a tough Group - Alan Kimberley/ Dayle Ramirez, George Ramos/ Eric Segui and the Kings, Jimmy and Alfred. But in the final with the score levelled at 2 legs all, Henry Zapata eventually hit the winning double to ensure another Trophy for he and Dylan Duo - and continued disappointment for Justin and Amos.
Semi - finals:
D.Duo / H. Zapata beat J. Stagno / D. Peach 3-1.
J. Broton/ A. Bossano beat J. & A. King 3-0.

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

IN THE FRAME FOR TOON JOB

Gerard Houllier and Sven-Goran Eriksson yesterday emerged as potential candidates for the vacant job at Newcastle even though the Magpies have set their sights on Sam Allardyce. The Lyon boss and the former England manager, both 59, have been heavily linked with the post vacated by Glenn Roeder on Sunday evening despite the fact that Allardyce is an overwhelming favourite to be appointed at the second time of asking. No talks have taken place between the Tyneside club and either the Frenchman or the Swede and their representatives. However, it is understood the Houllier camp have made their interest known, while Eriksson's agent Athole still has admitted his client would talk to the Magpies should they consider him an option. Still told PA Sport: "There has been no contact whatsoever, but if Newcastle were interested in Sven-Goran Eriksson, I am sure Sven-Goran Eriksson would be interested in talking to Newcastle.

"Sven is very keen to get back into club football and he would be interested in talking to any club which had real ambition." Houllier has just led Lyon to their sixth successive French title, and his second in the two years since he took charge. The club currently enjoy a 19-point lead over second-placed Lens with three games still to play. Houllier made his mark in England during a six-year stint at Liverpool, where he won the FA, League and UEFA Cups in 2001, and followed that up by lifting the Charity Shield and European Super Cup the following season. Eriksson is awaiting the right opportunity to return to management after his departure from the England set-up following last summer's World Cup finals. Newcastle chairman Freddy Shepherd has been keeping his own counsel since Roeder's departure in the wake of Saturday's 2-0 home defeat by Blackburn.

You can be a WINNER!!

For every £20 you spend on fuel or goods at any Gibraltar Shell Retail Outlet you will receive 1 Draw Voucher giving you the chance to win:

Goods chosen from JJ Tool Hire, Karcher Catalogue for Home or Car use to the value of £300 and one car wash per week for a whole year at the Shell Car Wash - total value £260.

in conjunction with:



Draw in conjunction with the Gibraltar Government Lottery - date to be announced in the Gibraltar Chronicle and at Shell Retail Outlets.

Waves of change



HUGHES WANTS SLICE OF SUCCESS

Mark Hughes cast his eyes enviously towards Old Trafford as he prepared Blackburn for a final advance on Europe. He is determined to savour the end of the season just like Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson as well as former team-mates Roy Keane and Steve Bruce. Ferguson has his hands on the Barclays Premiership title trophy again while Sunderland boss Keane and Birmingham chief Bruce finished one and two in the Coca-Cola Championship. Hughes believes a winning mentality is the reason the three of them are making a decent fist of it in

management. The Blackburn boss said: "We are a little bit stubborn and don't take no for an answer. We keep on going and try and prove people wrong all the time. "That is something we had as a group of players - a mentality that everyone was against us. "We were not prepared to accept defeat and we were not prepared to allow people an opportunity to criticise us. Maybe that's what drives us on. "It is fantastic the job Roy and Steve have done. It is going to be interesting next season coming up against them." Hughes took time off from preparing his team to face fellow UEFA Cup contenders Tottenham today to pay

tribute to Ferguson. He said: "Winning the Premiership title is a fantastic achievement whatever the circumstances. "Sir Alex must be feeling a great sense of satisfaction because there has been a break and questions asked about his team and even his own future. "He has answered all those questions and come out on top of the pile again. "For him to have such drive, determination and energy is remarkable. "United have been the best team this season. They have played the most expansive football and deserved the title."

ADDICKS PREPARE TO CUT THEIR CLOTH

Charlton are preparing to make massive cuts to their wage bill throughout the entire club next season as they face up to the £20million shortfall of life in the Coca-Cola Championship. Relegation was finally confirmed for the Addicks following defeat at home to Tottenham on Monday night. There could not be a worse time to drop out of the Premier League, given the new £1.7billion broadcasting deal which is set to

kick in from August. Even though the south-east London club will still receive a "parachute payment" of some £11.5million, that will represent more than a 50% drop of basic income and does not take into the account the significant extra revenue raised from marketing, sponsorship and ticket sales in the top flight. Manager Alan Pardew knows relegation will "cost people jobs" as the club cut back on their peripheral

staff, with around 40 or so redundancies set to be made heading into the new season. The Addicks boss himself is also not immune to the financial-restructuring which will take place. Pardew, 45, is understood to be in line for a substantial pay reduction of around £400,000 from the £1.2million-a-year deal agreed when he became the club's third head coach of a troubled campaign on Christmas Eve.

Waves of change

