

Mr Stuart Dunkley

22 November 1946 – 29 March 2018

Treasurer and Head Judge of the I.S.G.A.

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am writing today to tell you that our Head Judge and ISGA Treasurer, Stuart Dunkley, has died at home at 2.00am this morning.

Stuart has been a friend, colleague and mentor to a large number of teachers, coaches and officials over the years he has been with GISGA and ISGA. He first became involved with our association 27 years ago when Libby Craig, who was organising the Championships at Stamford School, asked him to join the judging panel in 1991.

Later in 1997 he took over the position of Treasurer for the organisation and remained in post until today, 21 years later. In February 2007, when Head Judge, George Finney, died of cancer, Stuart gradually filled this position too. Over the years he has also been asked to head up the judging at the IAPS and ISA national schools competitions, and at MISGA. He was a staunch supporter of the U7/U8 Novice competition at Holmewood House School too.

Through his judging, Stuart realised that a number of the coaches would benefit from knowing how to interpret the rules better, so he made himself available to visit schools around the country, helping and showing the coaching staff how to get the most out of their gymnasts. He would often return to these schools to continue mentoring the teachers and would frequently be invited to judge at small competitions they were participating in.

To the gymnasts he was known as the 'smiley judge' who was never mean with his scores. To the coaches he was a source of help and encouragement. To his fellow judges they knew that if there was a problem the 'buck' stopped with Stuart and he would get it sorted.

Stuart first coached at Peterborough Gymnastics Club, but he became passionate about school gymnastics and wanted to see it flourish at all levels. I believe he was the first judge to give the perfect 10.00 to a set floor in our 5 Piece competition. When new rules were brought in for the 2016 -2020 four year period, it was Stuart's idea and he was the driving force that saw the new senior 5 Piece set floor come into being - a sequence that would stretch the older girls, but still enable them to work towards perfection safely.

Over the past 2 – 3 years, while Stuart battled with his asbestos-related cancer, he was always keen just to get on with life. Latterly as his condition developed, he focused on making it to the next competition, or the next meeting. He was a courageous gentleman, husband, father and grandfather, who will be missed beyond measure, by all of his family.

I know that I and a large number of you have been fortunate enough to have counted Stuart as our friend, mentor or colleague. We have been very blessed indeed to have been part of his life.

With best wishes to you all

June

Mrs June Walden, Chairman ISGA.
29.03 2018

A number of the ISGA committee members attended Stuart's Funeral in Peterborough on 11 April 2018 and a donation of £100 was made from ISGA to one of two charities he nominated:

NGNPUK (NoGainNoPainUK), a local charity to Peterborough who provide pain relieving machines which enables patients to stay at home with their loved ones at the end of their lives, with their pain relatively controlled. <https://ngnpuk.weebly.com>

"In short a syringe driver is a device used in palliative care. It is a box that is attached to the patient by a needle, through which drugs can be administered giving a constant flow of pain relief. Without these devices patients have to wait for a nurse to attend to administer countless injections every time they are in pain. This causes distress to the patient and their family. It means a lot of waiting about when time is crucial for someone in pain. These devices can also help people remain at home instead of needing to go into hospital or a hospice in their final days".

At the Under 7 & Under 8 Novice Competition held at Holmewood House Prep School, Tunbridge Wells, on June 24 2018, the host school donated two winners silver salvers in memory of Stuart. See Gallery on ISGA website.