



South West Winterguard Academy



2012 COMPETITION SEASON INFORMATION

31 Aug 2011

Dear Member/Parent/Carer

Introduction

We hope that you or your son/daughter has enjoyed the summer practices and being part of our guard and found the experience of colourguard enjoyable, fun and rewarding.

We now hope you understand the activity a little more and also that it leads to competitions which are held around the UK from Jan to Apr. To accomplish the standard which we know all our guard members have the potential to reach we need to make you fully aware of the commitment required for the competition season leading up to the finals in April next year. We hope the information you are now reading will inform you of the practice requirements and the costs which are involved. Any other information we think you need to know have been put in the further information part of this letter.

Practice Times

Standard weekly practice times are detailed below and included in the Newsletter, but if the need arises for additional practice you will be informed in good time via a Newsletter. Any additional practice will not be charged to members and parents.

	Cadets	Juniors	A-Class
Week Day Practice	Friday 16.15-17.30pm Meadowbrook	Wednesday 7-8.30pm Meadowbrook	Monday 6-8pm Meadowbrook
Weekend Practice	Saturday 10-12pm Almondsbury	Saturday 1-3.30pm Downend	Saturday 2.30-6pm Downend

Competition details

Dates	Location and Details
Sun 15 Jan	Filton College, Bristol BS34 7AT
Sun 12 Feb	Charter Hall, Colchester Essex CO1 1YH
Sun 18 Mar	Triangle Leisure Centre, Burgess Hill W Sussex RH15 8WA
Sat 31 Mar - Finals	WGUK British Winterguard Championships Fenton Manor Leisure Centre, Stoke On Trent ST4 2RR

The meeting place for each competition will be Meadowbrook Primary School. Competitions times may vary but we would usually leave at approximately 8am and return at about 9pm. The exact details will be communicated nearer the time.

Staff Passes

As we are putting out 3 guards we will receive 15 staff passes at a cost to each staff member of £15 each. This allows each staff member to gain entry to each competition, but it does not provide any seating in front of the performers. Staff passes will be applied for in December 2011, with named staff members and these cannot be transferred. The roles of Directors, Instructors and Executive Committee will take president but will still leave some staff passes available. The roles are yet to be confirmed but may include Cadet Supervisor x2 (to stay with the Cadets at all times), Equipment/Scenery x4 (help with the floor and any equipment movement), Make-Up/Hair and Uniforms/Repair. We will assess who is interested in helping out over the next few weeks and who will be going to each competition.

Members Costs

We fully appreciate costs are a major factor in today's environment which is why the costs are of paramount importance to us, ensuring we keep them to an absolute minimum. We ensure this through good management practices and fundraising activities.

The 2012 competition season fees are Cadets £140, Juniors £150 and A Class £170 for each guard member. The fees payment options are detailed on the attached individual 2012 Competition Season Payment form. This is exceptionally good value as the fee includes the costs to cover their WGUK Guard entry fee, uniforms for competitions, flags and other equipment, instructors and insurance and hire of halls for practices weekdays and weekends which will total over 150 hours over the 6 months for Cadets and Juniors from 01 Oct 11 – Sat 31 Mar 12 and 7 months for A Class 05 Sept 11 – Sat 31 Mar 12.

Each cost and due date has been worked out ensuring no payments are due during December to help support families over Christmas. Once an application request has been signed and received SWA expects the payments to be made on time. Last year the club had to borrow money which was at a personal cost to the Core Director as some members paid late. This year we have had to introduce that if a payment is not made by the agreed date without prior approval from the Core Director or Treasurer a £5 charge will apply.

Additional costs to this will be the requirement to purchase a South West Academy embroidered personalised Logo zipped hoody as part of the uniform at a cost ranging from £17-£20, depending on size. These are available to order now with the clothing form. These will be needed for bag packing.

SWA Preview Show

We will be planning a preview show before the first competition, which will give us a complete run through of all our guards and give us the chance to invite other local performing groups to make a whole community show. Further details will follow.

Transport to Competitions

Transport to competitions 2, 3 and Finals is additional. They are at a cost of £15-£20 for per person for Parents/Family/Staff and £20 per Member. Members and Staff have the opportunity to raise funds at bag packing which should cover this. Both of the coaches are executive with a DVD and toilet on board. The larger coach will have members and some staff the other will have remaining staff and parents/family. We will have a selection of drinks and tuck on each coach. If insufficient parents apply for transport we may have to use mini buses for their

SWA 2012 Competition Season Information Letter

transport, but we are basing on a coach at this present time. (for further information see the enclosed Transport Request Form 006 and cost breakdown pages in this letter)

Competitions at Bristol, Colchester and Burgess Hill (1, 2 and 3)

Bristol competition We will meet at Meadowbrook Primary School to put on performance costumes, makeup and sort the equipment. Then in our own transports we will transfer to Filton College. On arrival parents/family will need to purchase an entrance ticket which is approx £6 for adults and lower for children/concessions.

Colchester and Burgess Hill We will meet at Meadowbrook Primary School to load the coaches of performance costumes and the equipment. You will be able to park your car there during the day. On arrival parents/family will need to purchase an entrance ticket which is approx £6 for adults and lower for children/concessions.

WGUK British Winterguard Championships Finals at Stoke on Trent

We will meet at Meadowbrook Primary School to load the coaches of performance costumes and the equipment. You will be able to park your car there during the day. For Finals competition each seat is numbered and demand for these is very high. Last year as the same for this year we will be applying for tickets the morning they are available which should ensure we all sit together and have good seats. Find attached a booking form 012 which needs to be completed. Cost for seating for £16 Adults and £13 Children/concessions.

Fundraising

One of the other main costs we will have during the competition season are the coaches so we are planning fund raising activities specifically to raise funds which includes guard members bag packing at local supermarkets. All these dates are published in your Newsletter. A reminder you **MUST** wear an SWA Hoody to bag pack.

You will also receive a football card, which contains 30 team names to sell for £1 each to friends and family. Once you have sold all 30 teams, scratch off the winner team name and the person who bought that team receives £15 and the guard receives the other £15; which will go towards your transport costs. If you have any other fundraising idea we would love to hear from you?

Making a Payment

We would very much prefer if payments could be made via the bank, account details are over the page. In the Bank transaction can you please include the members name and charge as a reference so we know who and what the payment is for. Cheques can be made payable to: South West Winterguard Academy. We also accept post dated cheques if that helps. All payments received will be issued with a receipt.

Sponsorship

To ensure we make this activity as affordable as possible we are always seeking sponsorships in many ways. This can be simply a donation of funds or it could be a raffle prize or help to purchase equipment to make scenery, or simply electrical tape, the list is endless. So if you know anyone who would be willing to support us please get in touch. Each main sponsor would receive advertising on our leaflet, website and literature and for those helping in a major way be invited to attend as a VIP guest at our Preview show.

Summary

On the last page of this letter we have included some questions and answers which you may have. We have enclosed the guards latest Newsletter with yet more information regarding our group with forthcoming dates for practice, social events and bag packing dates. Remember we have our own website which has a copy of the Newsletter and lots of other information.

I hope this letter explains everything you need to know but if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact either myself or any of the team.

Ken Burrows

Core Director

0775 2472314

Enclosures:

Competition Season Payment Form (Cadets Form 009/Juniors 010/A-Class 011)

Transport Request Form 006

Finals Tickets Request Form 012

Newsletter Issue 12

COST BREAKDOWN FOR SWA 2012

This provides Parents/members with a reminder of the costs and their due payment date.

Competition Fees

Competition Fees - Cadets	
Option 1 * One Lump sum	Option 2 * 3 Installments
£140 due 31 Oct 11	£40 due 31 Oct 11
	£50 due 31 Nov 11
	£50 due 31 Jan 12

Competition Fees - Juniors	
Option 1 * One Lump sum	Option 2 * 3 Installments
£150 due 31 Oct 11	£50 due 31 Oct 11
	£50 due 31 Nov 11
	£50 due 31 Jan 12

Competition Fees - A Class	
Option 1 * One Lump sum	Option 2 * 3 Installments
£170 due 31 Oct 11	£50 due 31 Oct 11
	£60 due 31 Nov 11
	£60 due 31 Jan 12

If the full amount for Competition Fees are paid by 31 Oct 11, £5 will be taken off the fee.

If payment is not made by the agreed date without prior approval from the Core Director/Treasurer a £5 charge will apply.

Transport to Competitions

Transport Costs			
Venue and Date	Costs per coach seat		Date cost due
	Parent/staff	Members	
Sun 12 th Feb 12 Colchester, Essex	£15.00	£20.00	31 Jan 12
Sun 13 th Mar 12 Burgess Hill, West Sussex	£15.00	£20.00	28 Feb 12
Sat 31 st Mar 12 Finals, Stoke on Trent	£20.00	£20.00	24 Mar 12

Variation between Parent and Member/Staff is due to Members and Staff have the opportunity to fund raise at bag packing.

WGUK Finals Tickets

WGUK Finals Sat 31 Mar - Tickets		
Requirement	Costs per seat	Date total cost due
WGUK Finals Tickets - Adult	£16.00	31 Jan 12
WGUK Finals Tickets - Child / Concession	£13.00	

These costs are based on last year's prices with the booking on line fee included.

Payment Options

<u>Via Bank Standing Order</u> Lloyds/TSB Account 24025368 Sort Code 30-62-32	<u>Cash/Cheque</u>
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Cheques can be made payable to: South West Winterguard Academy

Further information (Questions and Answers)

Q. Will I have to accompany my child at competitions?

A. **No.** But you are more than welcome to travel on the coach with all of us, see below.

Q. Is my child looked after at competitions?

A. **Yes.** An adult will always supervise your son/daughter.

Q. Are there any extra hidden costs I need to pay for?

A. **No.** All costs have been included the costing section. Although at the end of the season your son/daughter may wish to contribute in a gift for your guard Director and their Staff. The only other cost will be a presentation night at the end of the season where we present guard members with awards to round the season off. The price and date of this and any other social evening will be communicated to you in a Newsletter.

Q. Do we practice when we are on half term?

A. **Yes.** Times and dates are yet to be confirmed.

Q. What happens if my child is away on holiday when practice is on?

A. They will catch up when they return, please let your Guard Director know in advance.

Q. Do we pay for practice when we are on holiday?

A. **Yes.** The costs are fixed for the season.

Q. Are weekend practices included in our funds or do we have to pay extra?

A. **Yes.** Weekend practices are included. If the Guard Director requests any extra practice above those published there will be no charge to you.

Q. Can we as parents travel to competitions, if so what are the travel arrangements?

A. We are aiming to hire 2 (a 48 and a 34 seater) executive coaches for the 3 away venues. The members costs will hopefully be paid from the fund raising events. Parents can travel on the coach by completing the travel form. The cost is £15 for venue 2 and 3 and £20 for Finals per person and will be on a first come first serve basis receiving the completed transport form.

Q. Will new members be still joining throughout the competition season?

A. **No.** New members will not be able join after 02 Oct until past finals, as from then members will be learning the show for competition.