

# New Sports Complex Opens in Suvorov

Yulia Grishina.  
Photos: Alexey Piryazev.

**With financial aid from Shchekinoazot, the facility underwent capital repairs and now enjoys a modern fitness room, gym and weight-training equipment as well as the Vityaz sports club. In addition to sambo, young athletes can enroll in karate and hand-to-hand combat. All classes are free of charge.**

**T**he sports complex has occupied the building since 2008. It was constructed back in the 1960s. The capital repairs started June this year, and by early October the sports school had already opened its renovated doors for 142 students aged 6 to 18.

Shchekinoazot provided financial assistance for the project as part of a massive social programme targeted, among other things, at promoting sports and supporting the region's youth. The programme also included renovations on the Vityaz boxing centre and the Yubileyny House of Sports in the workers' settlement Pervomaysky.



Boris Sokol

"Our goal is to create conditions to assure a comprehensive education for all kids, regardless of their family's wealth. We believe that all classes should be held in comfortable equipped gyms and be free", says Boris Sokol, President of Shchekinoazot. "There are a lot of very talented children in our region. They are our future!"

The renovated sports complex received new windows, floors and wiring, while the walls, ceilings and shower rooms were repaired. Now it has convenient locker rooms, a doctor's office and a massage room, and rooms for coaches. It also has a modern gym and a workout room.

"The renovation allowed us to offer new martial arts: in addition to sambo, children can choose from re-opened courses in karate and hand-to-hand combat", said Elena Iordanskaya, director of the Sports School for Children and Youth. "Prior to the repairs, we had 72 athletes. Now the number of students has nearly doubled to 142". Young athletes can



Elena Iordanskaya



22 October 2018 Commemorative picture: young athletes with honorary guests of the ceremony.

finally exercise in comfortable equipped rooms. Many thanks to Boris Aleksandrovich Sokol and the President of the Nasledie fund, Sergey Nikolaevich Lalakin, for their help and for caring about children!"

The list of honorary guests who attended the opening ceremony included the chairman of the Tula Region sports committee Dmitry Yakovlev; two-time European champion, world champion and Olympic champion Aleksandr Povetkin; master of mixed martial arts and bronze medalist of the Pride Grand Prix Sergey Kharitonov; honorable master of sports of the USSR, honorable coach of the USSR, Olympic champion, world champion, European champion and USSR champion Shamil Khisamutdinov; heroes of Russia Vyacheslav Bocharov and Aleksandr Romanov; Olympic champion, world champion and six-time European Greco-Roman wrestling champion Alexey Mishutin; and others.

"Promoting sports among children is one of the priorities for Tula Region authorities. We are planning to both construct new sports facilities and to repair old ones", says the chair of the regional committee for sports Dmitry Yakovlev. "We are immensely grateful to our sponsors and partners who help us develop sports infrastructure in the region. We hope that this initiative will continue for more children to make first steps towards their sports victories".

"When I took up sports, I could only dream of a gym like

this one. It has everything you need for exercising, performing and winning", said Sergey Kharitonov. "The main thing for an athlete to do is set a goal. I hope our youths will be persistent, will never rest on their laurels and of course, will win".

Students at the sports school and their parents have already tried out the new opportunities that the complex offers them.

"My youngest daughter has been attending sambo classes here for three years. The school has become our second home", says Elena Panferova. "The renovation has completely changed the look of the building. We are so grateful to Shchekinoazot!"

"I won several city and regional sambo contests. Now we have a big gym, and it is a lot cozier", Anastasia Panferova shared her impressions. "I want to become a world champion in sambo and then a coach".

After the opening ceremony young athletes demonstrated some sambo moves, boxed in the new ring and received branded presents from Shchekinoazot.



Sergey Kharitonov



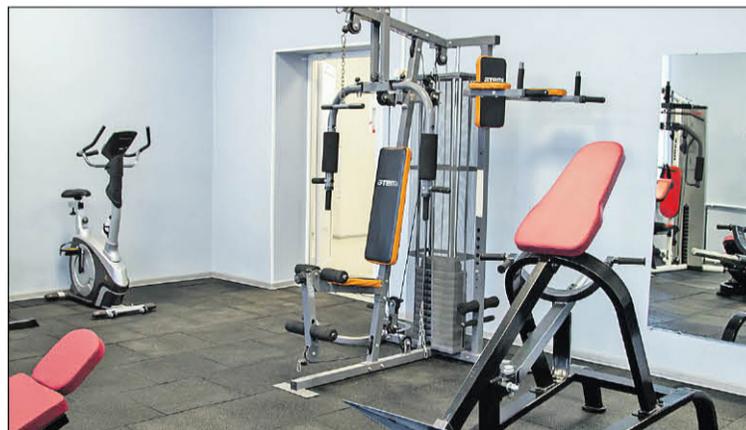
Elena Panferova



Anastasia Panferova



The red ribbon is cut!



Now students at the sports school can exercise in a new, fully equipped gym



Demonstration performances by young athletes