



Gymnastics Club



Registered Charity no.1158811
British Gymnastics Reg. No. 41609

Chairman's Report 2015/2016



This has been an extremely successful but another challenging year for the Club.

It has always been and remains the ethos of the Club to be open to all as a grass roots Club embedded in the Community. In doing this our aims are to bring the sport of Gymnastics and the associated activities of the North Devon Display Gymnastics Club to as many people of all ages and abilities as possible and to have a reputation built around Accessibility, Inclusion, Safety, Enjoyment and Aspiration.

In being fortunate to have such positive and motivated teams both as Trustees and in Coaching, it was inevitable there would be success and changes in the Club administration, Coach Education, Individual Gymnasts and the Display and Competition Teams.

The impact of incoming employment legislation has as expected, had an effect on both Club finances and Administration.

In recognition of the the ever increasing statutory requirements on the Club and in particular, employers, the Trustees have had to consider the financial and personnel effect that the regular increase in the minimum wage and the introduction of the living wage has and will make.

In November 2016, employees will have the opportunity, and some the legal right, to start the process of joining a work place pension to which the Club will have to contribute. This will be fully implemented in February 2017.

The Club's accountants will run the payroll along with personnel guidance and advise and administer the workplace pension scheme.

To address the Club's long term liabilities and responsibilities the Trustees have set up a Contingency bank account with the aim of accumulating enough funds to cover 3 months of outgoings in reserve

In the past the Club has struggled to recruit and retain Trustees to necessary roles. To try to address this the Trustees decided on a form of induction. Interested people have been co-opted in to the Committee to give them a period of time to learn and understand the needs and administration of the Club whilst getting to know the Committee; being in an informed position to then put themselves forward. This has proved highly successful with 3 of those Co-opted for over a year, now ready to stand for election at the AGM in November 2016

The full Trustee Committee of 10 members is in a position of strength to look and work towards the future continuing Club development as a Community Facility offering a variety of activities to all ages and abilities

The Penstowe section at Kilkhampton proved very successful in creating a greater demand for gymnastics than anticipated.

The closure of 2 gymnastic clubs in north Cornwall led to further requests for membership generating a long waiting list.

In September 2016, in response to this demand, the Club opened a section at Bude Haven Community School, running 3 nights a week with a full variety of progressive classes and more planned.

As Penstowe could not provide the facilities or training hours required, all members were moved to Bude Haven, a short distance away. This section is already at capacity with a waiting list.

Well established sections at Holsworthy and Torridge (Bideford College) with increased membership, continue to flourish.

The last year has seen the Club both holding and attending great events and competitions that have shown the continuing development of not only gymnasts but also their Coaches.

In October 2015, 41 gymnasts, making up the Display Team plus Coaches and Parents attended a full weekend of gymnastics at the Annual London Gymnastic Festival.

In April the club held its Annual Awards night for the whole Club which was a great success. Gymnasts were delighted with their medals and parents and visitors were entertained by a variety of movie themed routines.

Along side parents, we were visited by some of our sponsors and local councillors including the Mayor of Bideford. The Club's sponsors include many local businesses, some from as far afield as Bude, Bideford Town Council, Torrington District Council and the Lions Club of Bideford.

Every 2 years the Club plans a trip abroad for its display team. These events are often the first time a gymnast has travelled overseas and although great fun are also hard work and educational.

Any Club member of school age can join the team regardless of ability.

This year, in July, the Display Team of 25 Gymnasts plus Coaches and Parents went to Italy to attend the International Festival Del Sol. This gives an opportunity for clubs from all over Europe to showcase their teamwork, talent, gymnastic and choreographic skills. This was brought together in a dramatic and well received 'James Bond' themed set of routines.

None of the above would be possible without the huge commitment and hard work given by the Head Coach, the Coaching team and our volunteers.

Our aim is to bring through well trained and qualified coaches to carry the Club into the future. Investment financially and in time as mentors, in a structured Coach and Volunteer training programme, has greatly benefited the Club both in the short and long term.

Two years ago, as part of our coach education programme and to address the shortage of qualified Coaches, the Trustees in consultation with the Head Coach, took the decision to generate a Sport Apprenticeship. This has been highly successful with the second candidate, as the first, becoming a valued and popular member of staff.

It also opens an avenue of education for all our staff should they want it.

We look forward to offering a third apprenticeship in the future

My personal thanks go to our Head Coach who works tirelessly aiming for the best future for both the Club and its gymnasts and to all our coaches for their commitment and hard work to NDDGC in helping it remain true to its core values.

Our thanks must also go to our volunteers; Trustees who give up their time regularly and shoulder the legal responsibilities to manage the Club; all our helpers, both in coaching and working at events to raise funds; and to all our sponsors and those who gave grants, without whom we would not survive

In closing, the Club is in a strong and healthy condition. It is aware of its weaknesses but is striving to overcome them, to improve and develop.

I and the Trustees look forward to the new gym year, as always, with great optimism.

Joy Payne
Club Chairman