



DUNDONALD GYMNASTICS CLUB
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Chairman's Report – Dundonald Gymnastics Club AGM – 18th June 2008.

This has been a year of rapid change for Dundonald Gymnastics Club. After being run for many years by the club coaches, the decision was taken at last year's AGM to appoint a non-coaching parent committee. The purpose of this was two fold. Firstly, we had reached a stage in our development where the burden of administration that goes with a club of this size needed to be removed from the shoulders of our coaches and allow them to concentrate on giving the children 100% of their expertise and attention. Secondly, a non-coaching committee was seen as a way of reaching out to parents and helping to encourage their involvement.

The committee that was elected last year to perform that role was:

Clive Watkins (Joint Chair)
Ann Cowan (Joint Chair)
Dawn Telford (Treasurer)
Angela O'Regan (Secretary)
Yvonne Smith (Child Protection Officer)

At our initial meetings it was clear that we needed to address a couple of things to enable the club to grow and to provide an effective and financially secure platform for the coaching staff to realise their goals. Primarily we needed to raise funds to allow the procurement of essential new equipment. As well as that we understood that we needed to communicate more effectively with the parents and the gymnasts themselves.

Our club website was designed in the summer and was launched to coincide with the new term last August. It gives the club a great way of putting all the useful information together in one place as well as allowing us to put out quick updates. If you haven't already explored it then I strongly encourage you to do so. We'd also like feedback about the website so that we get to know what you do and don't like about it and what you'd like to see on there.

In an effort to create a strong club identity we decided to introduce a range of club merchandise which would also allow us to raise some additional funding. Using an updated version of the club logo and the lettering from the website we designed T-shirts, track suits & water bottles. We also renegotiated the supply of leotards in the club colours. The ordering and supply of these items to everyone was a massive undertaking. Dawn Telford in particular deserves a huge "thank you" for all her hard work which has been ongoing throughout the year – at times her house has been more like a DGC merchandise warehouse!

Another enterprise that came out of the first committee meetings, after a suggestion from Sara Politakis was to start a Saturday morning tuck table. After regularly seeing much money being fed into vending machines it was decided it would be a better idea if the club could provide refreshments and make a small amount of profit to feed back into the funds. Angela O'Regan has been instrumental in keeping our little tuck shop wonderfully stocked with all manner of goodies as well as donating the cups, lids etc. It has been very successful and is especially welcome by those bleary-eyed parents who more often than not really *need* that first cup of coffee on a Saturday morning. Thank you to all those involved in keeping it going. On that note I'd like to take this opportunity to ask for volunteers to take turns attending to the

tuck table. We really just need people to take money and refill the hot water flask every now and then. If enough people put their name forward then it doesn't become an inconvenience for any one individual.

Throughout the year we have organised several events to aid in raising funds for the club. These include...

Smartie Tubes (filled with 20p coins donated to our gymnasts in exchange for chores done around the house)

Christmas Display

Summer Display

Bag Pack (27th June!)

The two displays have both been exceptionally successful – thank you to everyone who helped and attended.

We have also received two very generous donations. One from Hillhouse Quarry and the other from INEOS at Grangemouth. The INEOS donation was obtained by Julie Ann Desimone, a parent of Danielle & Louisa, who applied for the grant through her work. Thank you Julie Ann!

The financial details for all of these activities will be in the Treasurer's report.

Yvonne, our Child Protection Officer has been busy making sure everyone has the correct training and disclosure documentation.

- All coaches have up to date Disclosure Scotland through Scottish Gymnastics (Sylvia has through South Ayrshire Council but will also obtain one through SG - mandatory)
- All coaches, Clive and CPC (Yvonne) attended Safeguarding & Protecting Children course on 10th November 2007
- Head Coach, Scott and Child Protection Co-ordinator, Yvonne attended Safe Gym for All training on 20th April 2008
- CPC will hand out 'Stay Safe & Have Fun in Sport' Leaflets to all gymnasts after summer break to raise awareness about staying safe in sport and ensure all children are aware who to speak to if they have any worries or concerns .
- Dundonald Gymnastic Club will comply with the Scottish Gymnastics 'Safe Recruitment Policy' (updated March 2008) to ensure that unsuitable people are prevented from working with the children attending.
- One person who has shown an interest in becoming a coach has been asked to complete a 'Self-Declaration Form'. They will also need to fill out an application form and then Disclosure Scotland if successful.

Summary...

I didn't quite know what to expect when I ~~was~~ (!) volunteered for role of joint-chairperson on this committee. I must admit I was glad of the security blanket of having the job being shared between myself and Ann. As it turns out I needn't have worried. With the help of the coaches we hit the ground running and we were able to have an immediate impact on the club. Most of the hard work has been done by my fellow committee members. They never thought they'd hear me say this, but, ladies you really have made my job stress-free! I know we can all continue to work together... coaches, committee, gymnasts and you the parents, to make a positive difference to Dundonald Gymnastics Club as we take the club forward.

Thank you.

Clive Watkins
Joint Chair