



DUNDONALD GYMNASTICS CLUB
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Chairman's Report – Dundonald Gymnastics Club AGM – 18th June 2009.

Well, this has certainly been another very busy year! The structure of the club, with the coaching staff independent of the committee, is now settled and is enabling us all to work together effectively.

The key goal of the club remains the provision of quality recreational and competitive gymnastics in a safe and rewarding environment. Of course this objective wouldn't be possible without our excellent coaches, but it also requires the constant replenishment of our membership as the children move on. Success breeds success and keeping the membership high makes the club attractive to parents and children alike.

With that in mind we are focussing our attention on recruitment this year. The website has brought in a small but steady flow of enquiries from parents who have stumbled upon it through Google. What we need to do now is to put the word out into our local communities with the distribution of fliers, posters and articles and features in the local newspapers (with plenty of photos of our gymnasts holding up the club banner!).

Additional members will of course enable us to raise more income but, as we strive to keep fees at a reasonable level, we must also continue to actively raise funds in other ways.

This past year has seen some spectacular fund raising activities and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for all their hard work. Our annual Christmas Display was very successful and I was astonished by the huge amount raised by the Tesco Bag Pack at the end of March. The Summer BBQ and competition last weekend was very well received by the parents and added significant funds to the pot as the last term of 2008/2009 draws to an end.

The Smartie Tube competition earlier in the year was popular with the children, although I'm not so sure how many of them actually "earned" the money they collected!

Scott and I completed the Awards for All application only to find that the deadline for the form we had used had already passed. Fortunately it didn't take Scott long to fill out the new form and we are now awaiting the outcome – fingers crossed!

The Saturday morning Tuck Shop continues to do very well thanks to Sara's hard work and commitment to the job. As always parental help needs to be encouraged to help maintain what has fast become an essential part of the club (I promise I'll do a few stints next term Sara!)

I think anyone who was at either the Christmas Display or the Summer BBQ last week will testify that the DGC identity is now well and truly established with the club's Merchandise. Seeing so many of our members all wearing the track suits, leotards and t-shirts was tremendous. Finding new suppliers of leotards and track suits was not easy when our previous suppliers went out of business. Once again Dawn has done a fantastic job of managing the stock and organising branding, not to mention selling it at the same time as taking fees each term! I think we might be changing that business model next term to make it a bit easier to manage.

Linda was the driving force behind the sourcing of our new storage container and Dawn organised the GE Volunteer group from her work to come along for a couple of weekends to line it inside so that it would be suitable for the safe storage of our equipment. A job very well done.

Our child protection officer, Yvonne, has made sure that coaches, myself, Sara and Shirley all now have the necessary Disclosure certificates. Sara, Shirley and Tracy have also attended the Safeguarding course.

So, to summarise, it has indeed been another year of tremendous activity for Dundonald Gymnastics Club. Our gymnasts have done ever so well in all their endeavours as I am sure Scott will tell you about in his Coaches' Report. We continue to offer all our members a first class gymnastics experience at whatever level they find themselves at. The challenges of maintaining and growing the membership and securing funding will always be there, but we have proven year after year that together we can overcome them and go from strength to strength.

Finally I'd like to say thank you to the coaches, my fellow committee members and all the parents and gymnasts who have supported the club with their hard work during the year.

Thanks!

Clive Watkins
Joint Chair