



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

Chairman's Report 2019/20



Until the advent of Covid-19 this year had been extremely successful.

Starting as the usual busy gymnastic year, planning to hold various events and attending great competitions and festivals that have given so much pleasure in past years.

With a growing membership spread over the main club headquarters and two satellites, a well qualified and committed coaching team, the future was positive but, as always, challenging.

That challenge came in the form of the Covid-19 pandemic forcing the Club, as a leisure facility, to close in March without notice for the remainder of the gym year (six and a half months).

The Club, like many organisations, had to furlough all its staff. It received grants to help it remain viable having lost all income for the remainder of the gymnastic year to September 2020. Contingencies were eaten into.

In being fortunate to have such positive and motivated teams both as Trustees and in Coaching, the time was put to good use. Trustees as volunteers gathered all information and produced plans for re-opening. Work that we had not had time to do, because of an ever busy facility, was carried out. The Head Coach led back to work consultations with coaches to agree the best way of working within ever increasingly erroneous guidelines.

This 'can do' attitude prepared us for successfully reopening on the 7th September 2020 albeit with a much reduced membership caused by restrictions to numbers in buildings at any one time and the need to provide a safe and progressive coaching environment. Because of the requirement to work in 'Bubbles' staff hours were increased.

Feedback from gymnasts and parents was very positive with a degree of confidence in the club that was encouraging.

Satellites held in school and leisure centre locations were unable to reopen.

It will take time, patience and perseverance to return to pre-Covid conditions. Our membership will increase as we can accept more gymnasts.

We are concerned about the effect of another enforced shut down on the business of the Club as any responsible team would be.

We have taken steps to minimise expenditure.

Looking forward to a return to stability and a steady increase in membership as was previously indicated, the club will again, in time, regain a position of strength to look and work towards its future Club development as a Community Facility offering activities to all ages and abilities.

The Trustee's continuing aim is to, eventually, have a permanent purpose built facility housing all activities, both gymnastic and social events in safety and comfort.

As we recover, funds will be set aside and fund raising efforts will be made.

There remains much uncertainty in the future. We have dealt with the circumstances so far with positive actions to do our best to look to the security of the club for the future.

As always, 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.

Therefore my personal thanks go to our Head Coach who works tirelessly, along with our Membership Administrator, 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 especially in this very difficult time.

Our thanks must also go to our volunteers:-

Trustees, all volunteers, 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 have survived.

We look forward to seeing you all as and when the Covid-19 period diminishes to a point where it allows us to work together again.

The Club is aware of the difficulties ahead but will always strive to overcome them, to provide a gymnastic facility our community can be proud of.

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.

I and the Trustees, as always, despite present conditions, work with optimism for the future.

Joy Payne
Club Chairman