

Chairmans Report 2024-2025

The 2024/2025 year saw the club go from strength to strength, with classes full and now having waiting lists.

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 recognition of 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 increases in minimum wage, living wage and pensions has made. The club's accountants who run the payroll, along with personnel guidance and advice, also administer the workplace pension scheme.

Class fees are reviewed regularly and increased as necessary to cover the overheads of the club. During the year we have also been fortunate to attract some grant funding from various local organisations towards coaching and equipment.

The past year has seen the club move forward positively and proactively.

Since the appointing of our new head coach we have worked together as a committee of trustees and coaches to improve the ethos of the club moving forward. The coaching team have worked together to provide a more consistent and cohesive plan of teaching. Some of the changes implemented are; a new awards scheme for the recreational classes to replace the BG badge system, termly progress reports, performance pathways, annual awards and celebration evening & a young leader program. Our young helpers and super helpers from within the club have proved very successful. It has been great to see these young people sharing their own skills and knowledge with the younger members. Our aim is to bring through well trained and qualified coaches to carry the club into the future, with investment by the club, both financially and as mentors.

The club has thrived this year, with many events taking place both within the club and the gymnastics community.

In November 24 we held our first Awards and Celebration under the new management. It was wonderful to celebrate the achievements and hard work of all our gymnasts and to see their progress. The event was a sellout success, with very positive feedback from parents and gymnasts. Plans were put under way for an even more spectacular event in November 25.

Our new levels assessment scheme held testing in February and June, with many gymnasts passing their grades and attaining medals. The levels system has been implemented throughout the lesson plans in the recreational classes and gymnasts are showing improvement, particularly in basic skills.

We ran our very successful recreational competition in April 25. The competition gives our recreational gymnasts a chance to show off their skills in a fun and friendly competitive environment. We have used the results to create a performance pathway through the club, with high performing gymnasts being selected for the development team.

February 25 saw the junior display team being invited to perform in the half time show at the mens rugby final at Exeter Chiefs. The team enjoyed learning and performing routines to a packed stadium.

Alton Towers was the destination for our trip in June 25 with the display team performing their Rhianna Megamix routine at the Chance to Dance festival. This was a great trip with the opportunity to visit the theme park and splash pool at Alton Towers being the highlight. Any club member of school age can join the display team regardless of ability.

The development team had an extremely successful year, attending competitions at Penryn and Baskervilles. The team achieved the top six and top 3 placings in most categories which is an amazing achievement.

Following the success of our development/competition team, we have created a performance pathway within the club for gymnasts that show potential. This includes a predevelopment class running alongside the development and an advanced recreational class. The introduction of these new classes will give structure and purpose, encouraging gymnasts that want to work hard.

There has been a proactive fundraising effort this year, with many fun events being held, including the sleepovers, and bingo nights.

None of the above would be possible without the huge commitment and hard work given by our coaches, trustees and volunteers, and my personal thanks go to everyone, especially our head coach Vickie who works tirelessly, along with our club manager, aiming for the best future for both the club and its gymnasts. I really appreciate all your hard work and commitment to helping the club remain true to its core values.

In closing, the club is in a strong and healthy position, with an increase in membership meaning that most recreational classes are full and some even have waiting lists. The development team are working hard and training is under way for upcoming competitions.

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

Jayne Poole
Club Chairman.