

Brentwood Trampoline Club – Annual General Meeting

7th December 2007

Chairman’s Report – Steven Nicholls

It is hard, when writing a review of the year for an event, such as the AGM, not to fall into the trap of saying “...Phew, what an eventful year!” or “Gosh, we never expected it to be quite that busy”. However, in fact, to say anything else, at this time, would be a catastrophic understatement.

Worryingly, for members of the Club, the Coaches, the members of the Executive Committee and to you joining the AGM this evening, I have to let you into a small confidence. I could (and probably did) say the same thing last year, the year before and probably my predecessor said something very similar the year before that. It is probably not beyond the wit of man (or woman) to predict with any sense of accuracy (unlike the newspaper clairvoyants who make their trade in predicting that we are all, apparently, “due to meet a tall dark stranger”) that I will probably be saying the same thing next year. Speaking of predicting the future with accuracy, clearly Russell Grant and the coterie of Russell Grant hopefuls who all suggest that we will meet a handsome / pretty / tall / short / dark / stranger, do not seem to know the unassailable truth, that Gentlemen at least,prefer blonds!)

So why has it been quite so busy? Our Club is somewhat like a sleek ocean going vessel gliding along a tranquil sea, up top, everything seems calm and quiet leaving the hosts and guests to savour the ambience but, importantly for all, behind the scenes and below the surface there is frenetic activity as the engine pounds away delivering power to the propellers, the crew chart a new course to the next port and the rest polish, repair and replace. So you ask, what are the things that have made this year so busy?

Well, lets begin with the results. I do not want to repeat nor detract from anything that Paul has said, in his head coaches report given a few moments earlier, but it has been a highly successful year in terms of athletic achievement. We have Club members who are regularly competing at the very highest levels of the sport; regionally, nationally and internationally. This is a truly commendable result. But our athletes, as good as they are, do not suddenly wake up one morning and think.... “I know, today, I’ll go to the world championships” or “Today, I am going to qualify to grade four or three or two or one.” Of course not. It only happens because we have the facilities, the opportunities and, of course, the skill and commitment of the coaches to make it happen. I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank the coaches for their dedication and hard work.

During the course of the year, we have sought and obtained Gym Mark status. This is no mean feat. It is a highly demanding and exhaustive process. Gym Mark is a measure of threshold competency with prescribed minima covering all aspects of the conduct of the Club. We are one of three clubs in the region and the only club in the district who have achieved this status. We have also become a Brentwood Academy Club. This is a designation offered by Brentwood Borough Council and, again, we are unique in this district as we are the only trampoline club to have been admitted.

Finally, as Dave Kingaby has reported, we have really upped the anti on our fundraising. We have received £1800 this part calendar year and are likely to receive a further £3600 next. None of this could have been achievable without the Herculean efforts and feats of Dave Kingaby. Dave, aside from the fact that he coaches at every session and is our active press officer (I hope that everyone has seen the frequent articles in the local papers reflecting the achievements of the Club), has worked without rest to source additional funds. I would like to thank Dave, on your behalf for his contribution. This Club would not be the place it is today without his efforts.

We run this Club like a small business. We have regular outgoings and incomings. We hope that one of these numbers is regularly larger than the other although, of course, timing of the ins and outs sometimes means that they are not. Do the numbers add up? Well for the past few years we have been able to source the answer to this question from Deborah. Deborah Gill has been our Treasurer and an excellent Treasurer she has been too. Deborah has asked to stand down from the committee, at this AGM, although has gallantly offered to continue in another capacity. I would like to thank her, again on your behalf, for her outstanding commitment to the post and to the Club.

Tracy Hayward has been the Club's minute secretary. Her indefatigable commitment has been outstanding. There have been times at the end of a meeting when, the discussion has been....well, broadly based, that I think "pick the bones out of that one then Tracy! I have to say that she has never let me down. Thank you.

I would like to thank Olive, our external competitions secretary and judge, Tina our home competitions secretary and the person who organises and judges at our events, Sue and Jenni (our welfare officers) and Adrian Raison our parent representative for their hard work. I would also like to thank every parent who regularly comes to help lend a hand at competitions for their hard work. Our home competitions are, as I am sure that you will all know, held in very high regard within the region. We frequently receive effusive letters of thanks from participants. On a Sunday morning when teams are streaming in through the doors asking to make changes to the running order / line-up, I know that everyone would rather be somewhere else. Critically for the Club and for the success of the competitions they are not, and that's what makes the difference! I would like to thank Andrea for the hard work she puts into her role as membership secretary. She sends the bills out, chases (ever so nicely) the laggards and field's calls from mothers wanting their children to join the Club. Again, on your behalf, I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment.

On one final note, I would say that the members of the committee are just like everyone else in this room this evening. We have children who enjoy trampolining or are committed to coach children who like trampolining. The committee will not always be made up of people such as me and all these other people sitting here. That is why we are always looking for people who will say, I can help and I will help. As I have said more than once during this report, we desperately need people who are willing to make a difference.