



Brentwood Trampoline Club

Annual Report 2008



Chairman's Report



Dr Samuel Johnson (www.samueljohnson.com) once famously remarked that "a man who was tired of London was tired of life for there is in London all that life can afford." Such was the frenetic pace of 18th Century Britain.

From this remark, one could conclude that Dr Johnson was, in fact, involved in the sport of trampolining. Such is the hectic pace experienced by the Club during 2008.

As in all successful enterprises there are a number of people working very hard. That is the reason for the success we have experienced. Winston Churchill often remarked about the contribution of the few; we are not too dissimilar. The BTC has coaches and active Committee members who each contribute to the overall success of the group. Some are more visible – front of house – and some are less visible – behind the scenes. Each plays a valuable role in the success of the Club.



The purpose of my report, this evening, is to comment on the past year, to highlight the future year and to acknowledge the contribution of the few and to thank them for their sterling efforts.



Coaching is at the heart of what the Club does and what the Club does well. It could not exist if Coaches were not as dedicated as they are. When you see members competing and winning, it is so because of their efforts. My thanks to them all including the newer younger members who have begun to work in a coaching capacity during the year.



Our coaches have not been idle. The coaching has gone from strength to strength. Graham Parker and Dave Kingaby each passed their level 4 coaching examinations to qualify them as senior coaches. Congratulations to them both. The benefits of better coaching (and hard work) are self evident and Paul Kitchen's report, highlights the many successes obtained by the members of BTC. Many congratulations.

We have three new Club Judges; Dawn Kelleher, Sophie Banks & Emma Richardson. Finally, on the subject of judging, Graham Parker also successfully qualified as a County Judge. Congratulations to them all.

The composition of the BTC Committee has changed during the year. We said goodbye to Deborah Gill as Treasurer and welcomed Tracy Osman to this role. I would like to thank Deborah for all her hard work. I would also like to thank Tracy for taking on the role of Treasurer and I have already enjoyed working with her and look forward to working with her in 2009.

Adrian Raison (parent representative and Judge), Sue Gregory (welfare officer), Jennie Chambers (welfare officer) and Tracy Haywood (minute secretary) have all stepped down from the Committee during the year prior to this AGM. I'd like to thank them for their contribution.

Tina Page is standing down from the committee at this AGM. Tina has made a remarkable contribution to the success of the Club. Not only does she regularly judge but she practically organises the competitions and grading events here at the Courage Hall. I am pleased to say that Olive Law has kindly offered to step into Tina's shoes and take over this critical position.

In addition to coaching, Dave Kingaby holds a number of other posts. He is the Club's man Friday. He is the publicity officer (and his report is included in this report), he has spearheaded the financial awards programme, he has been singularly responsible for the Club's membership of the Brentwood Academy. He was instrumental in ensuring the Club achieved the coveted status of becoming an accredited GymMark Club and we retained the status this year following the first annual audit. More recently, on the departure of Sue



Brentwood Trampoline Club

Gregory and Jennie Chambers, he has taken on the role of welfare officer. There is a finite limit to the number of jobs that Dave can take on and I will outline the open Committee positions in a short while. I can honestly say however, that without Dave, this Club would be a shadow of itself. I cannot begin to think of words that adequately sum up the significance and breadth of his contribution. I will thank him on your behalf now, but I would encourage everyone here tonight to make a point of personally thanking him for his efforts.

I mentioned that Olive Law is moving from external competitions secretary to organising the semi-annual competitions and regional grading events. I would like to thank her for all her hard work during the last year and for her hard work in the year to come.

Andrea Nicholls is the membership secretary. She works with the coaches to ensure that she has an accurate record of when each member attended and that this is reflected accurately in the bills that are sent out. It is a thankless task but essential. On your behalf, I'd like to thank Andrea for her hard work and commitment to this role. Can I take this opportunity to remind all members and parents and guardians of members that it is Club policy not to refund subscriptions in the event of sickness or incapacity. I know that this sounds harsh and, I wish it were not so, but was noted in the Treasurer's report we operate on the basis of a small weekly surplus. We cannot afford to hold places open and have no income.

We increased fees in the year to overcome a weekly operating deficit. We are constantly reviewing fee levels in the light of rising costs. It is not our intention to make huge annual surpluses. That said, hitting a small surplus is hard. The financial glide path is quite precarious. In fact, given that the operating turnover of this small club is in excess of £110,000 getting to within £1,000 (plus rather than minus) is an incredible result.

We will review fees again early next year and, possibly implement changes mid-year. If fees are to increase, I hope to will keep members advised of any changes with sufficient warning. I can advise you that we will be increasing the annual Club fees from £12 per year next year. The figure has not yet been set finally but is likely to be circa £20.

In the Coaches report Paul mentions the possibility of a purpose built centre in the Town. This would be a joint venture between three Clubs in the immediate vicinity. I want to assure everyone that this will not mean that we are abandoning the Courage Hall nor abandoning our members. However, it seems to be clear that a collaborative effort between the Clubs, supported by the Borough Council and with the very real prospect of substantial external funding is in this Club's and our members best long-term interests. More on this to follow.

There are a number of open Committee positions. We need volunteers to help with key positions. These include minute secretary (my typing is pitiful!), welfare officer, parent representative and external competition's secretary. Please, please, please offer to help. I can promise you that support and training will be given so nobody should feel as if by putting their hand up and volunteering they will suddenly be cast adrift. Consider sharing a responsibility with another parent or more. If you are interested please speak to someone (anyone) this evening.

Finally, I'd like to thank all the members for their participation and hard work and their parents for coming along and helping where they can.

Thank you.

Steven Nicholls

Treasurer's Report

BTC's financial year end in each year is 31st October. Financial accounts have been prepared in full accordance with established accounting procedures and have been certified by a qualified person. Copies of the accounts are available on request.

As at 31st October 2007, BTC began with a balance of £8,306.56. During the period our income, from a variety of sources (including subscriptions, pay to bounce, party bookings and competitions) was £57,635.09. Expenditures were £56,574.42. The largest expense is coaching fees then followed by hall hire.



Brentwood Trampoline Club

The excess of income over expenditures, during the financial year, to 31st October 2008, was £1,060.67. This is the equivalent of £20.40 per week. Further, this surplus is somewhat illusory as there are significant liabilities falling due early in the new financial year. As you can see, the Club operates on a shoe string and, our laces are quite short.

Indeed early in the financial year, we were obliged to revise the basis of subscriptions as our outgoings were exceeding our income. We increased the session charges and removed the sibling and multiple session discounts.

During the period we have received £6,560.50 from the Jack Petchey scheme. Monthly awards are directed at Club members aged between 11-25 to recognise achievement and 'leader awards' were also made to Paul and Dave for their coaching work. There are restrictions on how the money received from the Jack Petchey scheme can be spent. It cannot, for example, be used for day-to-day expenses but can be used for the benefit of the club such as capital items and for training and development – e.g. coaching development. In addition, the Club received £1,000 from Brentwood Borough Council as a result of our continued membership of the Brentwood Academy scheme. We received £2,400 from the sale of a trampoline. The club purchased a new trampoline and some new mats.

Steven Nicholls / Tracy Osman

Coaching Report

The club has continued with its development program and has benefitted from its coaching ethos by the achievements in the national and regional competition programs.

We continue to return very high qualification places based on the numbers entered, and have achieved many podium places at recent regional and open competitions; a testament to the high standards we expect. This will hopefully continue now the new competition structure is in place, and signs are already encouraging for the future.

We are also building for the future of the club by encouraging some of our older youngsters to qualify themselves into the coaching world. Several have already qualified and have allowed us to expand our programme from 6 to 8 beds a session. These new coaches are now developing the learning processes which will hopefully produce the coaches, judges and mentors of the future.

This development of the club goes hand in hand with our latest project to help develop a purpose built centre in the town. In cooperation with other clubs, and steered by Brentwood Council and Leisure Trust, we hope to satisfy the requirements of a 'MyPlace' application for money by harnessing the talents and endeavours of our youth in order to secure funding for a dedicated facility. We should know by February whether the application is likely to be successful, and talks are ongoing in order that the project is guided along what we hope is an exciting future for the sport within the town.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who has helped the club maintain its very high profile both Nationally and regionally. I would also like to congratulate:

- Hannah McCann on becoming the U13 National Grade-2 British Champion,
- Scott Gregory for his selection by the British Olympic Committee to represent GB in the Youth Olympic Festival taking place in Sydney in January, and
- All those members selected to represent Eastern Region at the recent Home Nations Championships.

Paul Kitchen



Brentwood Trampoline Club

Public Relations Report

Our PR focus, as ever, has been on three fronts:

- Generating media interest,
- Maintaining an attractive web presence and
- Building relationships with funding and other bodies.

Although there has not been as much press coverage as in recent years, releases were issued for January Grading, Eastleigh Gala, European Trials, Bournemouth Gala, Brentwood Grading, Gazette Club of the Week submission & a visit by the Mayor to launch our new trampoline. This year, however, fewer were published than usual possibly as a consequence of the Gazette's disappointment that performers failed to attend a photo call.

We also entertained a BBC Essex Radio reporter from their Saturday breakfast Show in February, a BBC film crew (with Sir Steve Redgrave), and another BBC Essex reporter this week who was interested in the history research undertaken by us linking Brentwood to the development of trampolining worldwide. These reports are all on our website of course, check them out at:

- http://www.brentwoodtc.org/press_releases.htm

Our website continues to be popular typically receiving well over 50 visits a day (up some 30% from last year). Although the majority of visits come from the UK, a significant percentage (13%) comes from the USA! All current news is regularly updated onto the home page using a 'blog' – this can be visited in its raw form at:

- <http://brentwoodtc.blogspot.com>

We also ensure that all session changes and Sunday PAYG sessions are shown on the home page through the use of a google calendar, this also can be seen in its raw form online at:

- <http://www.google.com/calendar/> and searching public calendars for 'Brentwood Trampoline'

Relationships continue to work well with both Jack Petchey and Brentwood Council renewing their financial commitments to us. We were also successful in getting recognition for members at both Brentwood and Essex Sports Awards. The GymMark audit was also passed with no major hitches. In a new venture this year we have run a few coach and judge courses and hosted regional activities – this makes us little money but does help raise our profile in the region.

Looking forward, we are working with other Brentwood Academy Club members to get better visibility of news in the local media through use of an Academy Club website and news service.

Dave Kingaby