



# Trampoline East

Committee Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2015

Venue; Cambridge

Minutes

**Present:** Stuart (Chair), Nikki W (Vice-Chair), Neil P, Paul K, Dave K, Emma A, Kim P, Sarah J, Karly G, Tony F, Robin A, Phil D, Alex D, Pat D

**Apologies:** Rachel P

**Last meeting minutes:** Approved

## Reports

### ○ **Chairs report**

Welcome all and thank you for giving up your time after a long day of competition, hopefully we can deal with the arising issues smoothly and all get on our way. Can I remind everyone we as a committee were voted in to work together as a team to take forward the sport of Trampolining in the region for all the clubs and competitor's not just our own.

### ○ **ECGA/NTTC meeting report**

Nikki provided feedback from the ECGA meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

**Bursaries** – The ECGA had not received any suggestions as to where the regional bursaries should be given this year. Last year bursaries were given towards Level 1 courses. It was agreed that all suggestions should be passed to Nikki.

**Club Welfare Officers Day** – The region's Club Welfare Officers Day is due to be held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The Committee noted that Heidi Saxon had left her role as BG Welfare Officer. It is likely the role will be replaced by Support Officers, one for the North and one for the South.

The East region received an award from the Ethics and Welfare Department for their commitment to Safeguarding and Protecting Children.

**Entry to regional competitions** – a new online system for regional competition entries was now ready to use. The Committee will need to decide if it wishes to use the system in the future.

**Trampoline facilities @ Lilleshall** – The facility can be rented by Clubs in order to run camps etc.

**Trampolining at the Commonwealth Games** – It was noted that there are ongoing discussions to include Trampolining in the Commonwealth Games, although it unlikely to happen until 2026.

**Approved Kit company for regional leotards** – Quatro is suggested as the regions kit supplier and should be used for the regional squad's leotards.

○ **Treasurer's report**

Our opening balance was £2,717.13

The current balance sits at £2,396.84. The enclosed bank statement shows a balance of £2515.84 (as the last cheque issued for £119 for zonal certificates has not yet been cashed).

There are payments of £530 still to be made from the schools comp, but there may also be some more income to come in.

I don't have all the final figures yet, but overall we made a profit on the regional schools (approx £700) but quite a heavy loss on the zonals (approx -£1300)

○ **Welfare report**

**NEW LEGISLATION/GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE/BG UPDATES POLICIES & PROCEDURES:**

Heidi Saxon has left the Ethics and Welfare Department at British Gymnastics after 13 years' service. Her role is yet to be filled.

British Gymnastics have introduced a new role called Business Support Partner. There will potentially be one person covering the north of the country and one covering the south. The role will take the Support Partner out into clubs that need assistance, covering most aspects of the running of a club.

**WELFARE MATTERS:**

Nothing to report at present.

**EVENTS:**

This year's Club Welfare Officers Day will take place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May. I am just awaiting confirmation of venue availability.

British Gymnastics Ethics and Welfare Department held what I can only describe as the biggest, best and most beneficial Regional Welfare Officer's Conference last weekend. This conference ended with an awards dinner. There were two awards given to individuals from other regions, however, the Ethics and Welfare Department gave their own award to a region for their commitment to Safeguarding and Protecting Children...this award was given to...The East Region, so congratulations and my most sincere thanks to everyone on the Regional Executive Committee for supporting our Club Welfare Officers Day which has been used as a good example to other Regional Welfare Officers and also to the County and Club Welfare Officers of our region for their commitment too.

**OTHER POINTS / MATTERS TO REPORT:**

Since our last meeting, it has transpired that there was another attendee at the Time To Listen Tutor Training as a new tutor, so we welcome Litsa Downes, who is currently a pre-school tutor.

I have been asked to assist other Regional Welfare Officers who have adopted a similar, yet considerably smaller scale Club Welfare Officers Day/Evening by giving presentations to their Club Welfare Officers.

I have recently approached someone to take on the role of County Welfare Officer for Essex to replace Debbie Fountain, however, I am still awaiting confirmation. I am still working on Norfolk and Suffolk to strengthen the team.

○ **Judging report**

Please accept my sincere apologies for not being able to attend the meeting and events taking place today.

I am judging at the Flower Cup in Aalsmeer (NED). Our region's own Austin Pannell is competing at the event as well as 3 of the 4 GB Senior Men. Thanks goes to Andrew Aistrup for looking after the officials in my absence (both in the run up to and on the day) and to everyone who has volunteered at all the events we have held so far.

## **Competitions**

We have held 4 events this year so far (2 NDP, 2 Trampoline East). At the first event, we were short of officials so it was necessary to run with 3 execution judges per panel. Although not ideal, I was happy with the outcome on the day. I was particularly pleased with how coaches, gymnasts, committee members and parents responded to the lack of judges. I heard very few grumbles day or subsequently. However, not wishing to repeat it was decided to increase the required number of judges for the 3rd & 4th events so we would have a full complement this time around. Unfortunately, due to a problem with the entry form (which meant a significant number of officials were not on the list used to create the panels) combined with a much shorter than usual lead time, it was not possible to investigate the mishap fully. Regrettably it became necessary to run again on 3 execution judges per panel. This issue was compounded by some clubs not being able to fulfil new requirements at short notice. I understand the entry form issue will be resolved for next time round.

**Proposal: Can we please vote to refuse entries that fail to provide the requisite number of officials? I can still allow for special cases, but these should be requested BEFORE submitting entries not afterwards. Neil - perhaps you could have a thought as to how this could be implemented practically? Happy to discuss more if required.**

**At the first and second events, I held officials meetings beforehand with video to help get some consistency across the panels and also to reaffirm rule changes and clarifications that had been issued by the NTTC. I have received feedback that people found this very useful, however if the committee have any feedback, I would be grateful if this could be minuted.**

## **Judge Education**

So far on 2015, we have qualified a further 14 club judges from a course on Brentwood run in January. There are 2 other courses planned, one in Cambridge 9 & 10 May run by our newly qualified tutor, Andrew Aistrup. Another one in Ipswich 26 & 27 September run by myself. If there is any demand for more, please let me know and I will arrange one with one of us. This may be particularly useful if my proposal to refuse entries who fail to provide the required number of judges. Application for any judge course is strictly via the BG website.

Congratulations to Andrew on gaining your tutor status. It's great for our region to have such keen volunteers and dedicated professionals.

I am planning on attending a DMT Level 1 judge course in Gillingham on 6 June. If the course goes ahead, I will then be signed off to run DMT courses. I hope to run a DMT courses region in Quarter 4. Judges wishing to attend this must hold the TRA county judge award (Level 2). Also, I am keen to know if there is any demand for a TRA County Judge course in region. Any club judges who have, or will soon have, completed 8 competitions are eligible to upgrade. Please contact me on [andrewrjonesuk@gmail.com](mailto:andrewrjonesuk@gmail.com) if you are interested.

## **National Events**

The judges for Spring Event Series have been confirmed. The officials selected will have been contacted directly. Well done to those selected. We will be required to provide officials for the regional NDP finals in Peterborough. Therefore can I ask that judges who would like to volunteer for this event contact me directly on my email [andrewrjonesuk@gmail.com](mailto:andrewrjonesuk@gmail.com). The event itself is on the 30 & 31 May 2015. We would need to nominate 3 TRA judges and one DMT judge. TRA judges should hold the 'Regional Judge' award, however I think there may be possibility for county judges to be put forward too. DMT judges must hold the 'DMT County Judge' award which is the first level DMT judge award.

**Proposal: Please can we request transportation and accommodation (Sat night only) costs from ECGA for the officials volunteering?**

Andrew Jones

○ **TRI Squad report**

As always a major issue when it comes to available dates, centre and coach availability etc. preventing early publication of information. However, all dates are now finalised and available on the website.

A new approach to the squad format got underway last month. As always, great support and enthusiastic exchange from the stalwarts, and many thanks to Jack for his never ending energy to bring something back to the region based on the technical approach to the learning process.

Thanks also to Pat and Dave for their skills and experience which makes the whole thing work.

We have added to our equipment base with a new Ultimate 4x4. We can now provide 6 - 4x4's 1 - 5x4 and 1 - 6x4.

As mentioned in last year's report, we wanted to give more focus to the younger gymnasts, and by creating two age based groups we can set specific goals.

By separating the age groups, we have gone some way towards this end. As gymnasts move out of the junior ranks either by elimination or upward migration to the Youth Squad, opportunities for the new emerging talent will present themselves, and by fine tuning the selection process over time, hopefully we will achieve the technical priorities that underpin excellence. The Youth squad will also develop in the same way as the talent pool feeds through.

In splitting the squads but extending overall hours, we had some early concerns that they might not be self-financing. Following the junior trial and first 'real' squad day, we no longer have that concern which raises the question of whether we should try to make use of any surpluses (estimated at about £100 per squad) in supporting the squad in further ways, perhaps with coaching aids, giveaways such as T shirts or reduced fees.

Talking with many coaches, the limiting factor for many clubs appears to be time commitment, either through personal limitations (thinking more of parents here) or poor access to available training hours. Where these conditions exist it is ever more important to make the most of the valuable time available.

***Important Comment from last year's report.***

*Pat Jack and I at the continued request from some clubs, have extended our involvement by offering time to continue the basis of squad delivery, and to 'push on' a little. Whilst the foundation stuff is being dealt with admirably, it is important to recognise that it is just that – a foundation. Coaches need to make assessments as well as to when to test the potentials of their gymnasts by discovering and experimenting with their capabilities and coping skills. This becomes a vital piece of the jigsaw in the LTDP of their gymnasts.*

As the NDP pathway has been introduced with a view to helping coaches and young gymnasts aspire to the highest level, the work at the squad sessions will begin to replicate some of the elements in that program. This should:

- 1) Make coaches, Parents and gymnasts aware of the standards expected within the NDP structure.
- 2) Enable those of sufficient ability and ambition to start working towards the stated goals of the National program.

Paul/Jack.

○ **DMT rep report**

Emma informed the Committee that 50 competitors across the region had competed in the NDP Competitions this season. 17 competitors at Hitchin; 33 competitors at Cambridge. Provisional results suggest that 14 competitors have qualified for the Regional Finals:

NDP1 = 2 competitors; NDP2 = 4 competitors; NDP3 = 3 competitors; NDP5 = 1 competitor; NDP6 = 4 competitors.

The Committee noted that a DMT Club Coach course had been arranged for the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> April at Hitchin.

Concern was raised regarding the lack of qualified DMT judges in the region. It was noted that a number of DMT judges had completed their judging course out of the region in order to qualify. It was agreed to try to organise a DMT judging course in the region.

○ **Schools report**

Claire provided a summary report of her first year as the schools competition co-ordinator. The Committee noted that whilst the regional competition had made a profit, it had not been as much as previous years. Claire stated that she would like to see the comparable costs of hosting the zonal competitions as this had been particularly expensive to run and the region had made a loss of £1300.

The Committee noted that the number of competitors from the East were a lot less than other regions and it was thought that schools needed further encouragement to take part in the competitions. The Committee suggested that links could be made with the different school partnerships to assist and promote the competitions in the region, as well as with the Leadership Academies.

The proposed date for the regional schools competition is Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

○ **Coaching Courses report**

As of March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Region has held 1 Level 1 course at Hitchin Boys School. This was successfully run by our newest tutor Charlie Mussino.

The L2 planned for May/June has been cancelled due to lack of numbers expressing interest. Additionally the L3M3 that was planned for March 8<sup>th</sup> was cancelled.

The Region currently has its first DMT for 3 years course planned for 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> April in Hitchin, to be run by Toby and Phil. Hopefully, this will be the first of many and increase the up-take in this discipline and lead to increased clubs taking part and increasing numbers of gymnasts competing.

The next courses are L3M4 planned for July 5<sup>th</sup> at SVC, level 1 in July/August at Easton, Level 1 at TAC starting in September, Level 2 in SVC also starting in September with an L3M1 on 27<sup>th</sup> September and the final course of the year an L3M2 on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

Some things to note:

The Level 2 course is now 4 days in length with an 8 hours of on-line learning, which must be started before the course starts. This DOES NOT affect the course price. When questioned on this BG insisted that the cost of the on-line learning segment is as expensive to develop and manage as an additional day on a course.

There is no L2 skills update day anymore. Any coach on an old cycle must attend the relevant days to catch up and can be signed off by a tutor on attendance at those modules.

The National Coaching Symposium will be held at Lilleshall on the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> September. This clashes with the National league competition in Wales.

I attended the Performance Pathway information day held recently at HBS presented by Paul Greaves. From a coach education view I found it a useful and interesting day, and with 3 Regional tutors in attendance it should assist the Regions tutors to deliver course that dovetail with the competition activity.

Some points of interest that came out of the day:

- 1) The NDP structure IS considered a more appropriate LTAD structure than the previous structure and significant research and investigation has gone into this to back up the new structure.
- 2) The tariff limits have been calculated by working back from the average World and Olympic tariff routines and through the world-age groups and into the National competition structure, they have not been set arbitrarily but based on the low end of the average DD scores at the various levels.
- 3) The NDP finals should have been treated more like a National Final, but due to a technical glitch, the light and sound system was not available. Hence the somewhat muted atmosphere.

#### ○ **Web-site report**

The past two months saw a substantial increase in accesses to the website with January to February supporting nearly 5,000 sessions compared to just over 2,000 in the preceding 2 months. You will see from below that Zonal Schools accounted for a lot of this. Most visits arrive from search engines (nearly 3,000), over 1,000 from a direct link (e.g. clicking a link in an email) while a much smaller, but growing proportion, from Social links such as Facebook (~170). The most popular pages in this two-month period were:

1. Home – 1856 sessions
2. Competitions 2015 - 1255
3. Zonal Schools Programme – 856
4. Zonal Schools update - 544
5. News – 512
6. Competitions (generic home) – 498
7. Squad selection 2015 – 488
8. Zonal Schools Results – 407
9. Squads update – 394
10. Zonal Schools Final Updates – 392

#### **Facebook**

This is updated automatically as news posts are loaded on the website. At present there are just 66 page likes (up from 61 at the beginning of the year), so it is probable that quite a few coaches are following but not many ordinary club members. About the maximum number of visits per day is 4. Age/gender demographics are mystifyingly incomplete – 5% of followers have no age and are neither male nor female:

	<b>All</b>	<b>13-17</b>	<b>18-24</b>	<b>25-34</b>	<b>35-44</b>	<b>45-54</b>	<b>55-64</b>	<b>65+</b>
<b>Female</b>	71%	3%	9%	9%	29%	21%	0%	0%
<b>Male</b>	24%	0%	2%	6%	3%	9%	5%	0%
<b>Geographic distribution</b>	<b>#</b>							

is as follows:

**Location**

Cambridge	14
London	10
Colchester	6
Harlow	6
Ipswich	5
Norwich	4
Brentwood	2
Lowestoft	2
North Walsham	2
Saffron Walden	2
Bedford	1
Belfast	1
Braintree	1
Buntingford	1
Epping	1
Hitchin	1
Monmouth	1
Pakefield	1
Pett	1
Porthcawl	1
Stowmarket	1
Wacton	1
Wickford	1

○ **Disabilities rep report**

Sarah reported that there had not been a great amount of activity since the last meeting. However, due to greater awareness of Disability Trampolining in the region, the numbers of disabled competitors competing in the TPD and NDP competitions this season had increased significantly.

The National Schools Trampoline Finals competition had also seen the East region's Disabled competitors take two golds and one silver.

The Committee noted that competitors with disabilities were not always encouraged to compete in both the TPD and NDP grades and some were struggling with the NDP competition. Sarah would like to increase participation by canvassing schools and colleges and raising awareness of the sport.

It was noted that a Disability Awareness Course is due to be held in September at Recoil Trampoline Club, Brentwood and Sarah is working on a proposal for a Disability Squad in the region. It was mentioned that funds for the squad should be available from ECGA.

○ **Competitions rep report**

Neil reported that the competitions have been very well attended. He apologised for the software error that had caused problems with the judges allocations.

The Committee confirmed that they agreed to the change to officials quota for competitions.

**Points from the competitions**

**Judges**

The Committee noted complaints regarding the use of only 3 judges on some NDP panels. The Committee briefly discussed the problems noting that as there are only two competitions, the competitions are likely to be larger than previous years and Clubs will need to provide the correct number of officials for their competitors. It was noted that judging courses would be taking place in May and September. It was agreed that the issue would need to be reviewed again before the next NDP season.

### **Ladies Kit**

The Committee noted a complaint from a competitor to BG regarding the new rule that shorts could not be worn at any level of NDP competition. The competitor had yet to receive a reply from BG. It was suggested that BG should also clarify their rules regarding writing on trampoline shoes and socks.

### **Merging Groups for Competition**

The Committee agreed that merging certain small groups for the competition was fine, but in order to help the judging panel it would help to make sure that certain NDP Levels were merged rather than ages, as it was a cause for confusion.

### **Regional Grade D – 20% rule**

After a brief discussion regarding the 20% rule for the Regional Grade D, it was agreed that this was not relevant and detrimental to the competitors. However, where there is concern that a competitor is not ready to compete at 'C', the Chair of the panel could determine whether to let the competitor continue with the competition or refer it to the Technical Committee.

### **Regional Grades and qualifying scores**

The Committee agreed that all open competitions in the region can be counted as gradings, giving competitors an opportunity to work through the grades.

### **Open Competitions**

Fenland Flyers Open – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Brentwood Open – September 2015?

Dragons Open – October 2015?

The Committee noted that the Clubs hosting the open competitions will determine the officials/judging requirements and deadlines for competition entries.

### **DMT Competition**

The Committee noted problems in the DMT competition with the recording the results. It was agreed that each panel must have an experienced DMT computer and manual recorder in order for the competition to run smoothly.

#### **DMT squad report**

Phil reiterated Emma's comments regarding the numbers of competitors taking part in the DMT competitions in the region. He explained there were 15 competitors eligible for an inter-regional team and he hoped to organise a DMT squad day on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

The DMT course would be running on 25/26<sup>th</sup> April as the course was now full.

Phil reported that Rhys Norden had been called up to the Junior National DMT Squad.



○ **Feedback from performance pathway day**

The Committee discussed the performance pathway day noting that overall it had been a positive day, addressing a number of concerns in a quite candid discussion. There was some issues regarding performers and progression that would still need to be addressed, but the tutor was objective and understood the concerns raised.

[To include? – Members of the Committee were disappointed with the ECGA Secretary as she appeared unsupportive to the members concerns regarding the NDP system.]

○ **National Trampoline League**

The support of the National Trampoline League was discussed, noting the potential conflict of interest for the Committee in appearing to support a non-BG League. As discussions are ongoing between the National Trampoline League and British Gymnastics regarding the possibility of sanctioning the League competitions, it was agreed that the Committee should not actively promote the League. As such, it was suggested that Graham Williams is asked to be the point of contact for the National Trampoline League and Clubs in the region. This position is not on behalf of the Committee, but as someone interested in the league.

The Committee agreed to the suggestion and that Stuart should email Andrew Wood to inform him of the decision.

○ **Regional Championships - Open/NDP routines discussion**

The Committee discussed the criteria for the Regional Championships and how the NDP Levels and regional grades could be successfully mapped to accommodate all competitors.

It was noted that Dave had already started to map the two systems based on tariff boundaries rather than grade/level and it was agreed to use this work as a basis for the competition.

It was agreed that Dave would email the Committee with his proposed mapping and if the Committee agreed by the end of the week, the mapping would be used going forward. If an agreement could not be made in this time, the competition would not go ahead.

○ **Regional NDP Final**

Stuart reported that Pat has offered to be the Team Manager for the forthcoming Regional NDP Finals.

It was agreed that:

- Nikki and Alex will assist Pat by ordering the leotards
- Pat will be Floor manager for East region

It was noted that:

- the region would need to propose judges for the competition
- floor passes will be given to the region not individual clubs which will limit the number of coaches allowed in the competition area

The Committee discussed purchasing t-shirts for all of the region's competitors, although it was thought that there may not be enough money to buy both the t-shirt and leotard for everyone.

It was suggested and agreed that a Regional Final squad session could be run at Hitchin on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2015 for both the NDP and DMT competitors, in order to meet the coaches who will supporting them at the competition.

○ **Trampoline funding futures (squad could be generating a surplus, do we want to give it to ECGA?)**

The Committee briefly discussed the surplus funds generated from the squad days and the options for using the money. It was suggested that the fees for the next three squad sessions should be a fixed cost and the fourth session could be subsidised (or free) to squad members, using the surplus funds. It was agreed not to give the money to the ECGA, but to ask Brentwood to ring-fence the money generated from the squad to use the funds as discussed.

○ **NTC discussion**

The Committee discussed the possibility of a member from the NTC attending a Q&A session to address concerns with the competition structure, possibly at the Committee's AGM.

It was agreed that Clubs should be asked to devise and send questions to the Committee for discussion at the AGM.

○ **Regional Representatives**

- Cambridgeshire – *no business*
- Hertfordshire - *no business*

○ **AOB**

**Regional Competition – venue**

Stuart reported that the ECGA would prefer the two NDP regional trampoline competitions to take place in just one venue, as there safety issues in certain venues due to the number of competitors.

It was suggested that a central venue – such as Cambridge University Sports Centre – is used for all competitions, and that equipment is purchased and stored at the venue for use by all clubs in the region. The equipment and/or venue could also be hired by clubs in the region to hold their own competitions or regional squad days.

The Committee agreed to investigate using Cambridge University Sports Centre as its central venue for competitions and to develop a contract with the University as required.

**Regional Competitions – late payments**

The Committee briefly reviewed the system for late payments, agreeing that it had worked well. It was agreed that if payment had not been received by the competition date, the club/competitors should be refused entry.

**National Performance Review Group – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015**

Stuart reported that he had been invited to the National Performance Review Group which is due to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Nikki will be attending in his place.

**AGM Date**

It was agreed to hold the AGM on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2015 – possibly after the Regional Championships competition.

○ **Next Meeting date - tbc**