



20th May 2017

Dear Members of Denbigh Gymnastics Club - Llangollen Division

We are writing to all the members of our satellite club at Llangollen following the Denbigh Gymnastic Club – (incorporating Llangollen) Annual General Meeting held today on Saturday 20th May 2017, which was advertised in session and Llangollen members invited to attend.

Alongside other agenda matters, Llangollen staffing was discussed and we wanted to communicate the outcome of this to our members at the earliest opportunity, as it may affect your child's Membership in the coming year (2017-2018).

### History of Llangollen

The history of Llangollen gymnastics provision was provided to all at the meeting. Llangollen opened in 2011 with full capacity and provided an appropriate classroom facility as a base for our Academy Programme for Coaches. Both Llangollen and Ruthin & Denbigh members have benefitted greatly from the platform that the Academy has provided and the competent roll out of coaches over the last 6 years with sufficient confidence to take on a Head Leader role and the responsibility that carries. We are very proud and also very humbled that the commitment of those Academy members has facilitated our growth as a club and enhanced the quality of provision to our gymnasts and this model will continue to be nurtured as the club expands into its permanent facility this summer.

At the Denbigh club's Annual Meeting over the last 2 years, it has become a regular agenda item to discuss the staffing for the forthcoming year in Llangollen. We have benefitted from a longer than average commitment from those Coaches qualified and sufficiently experienced to take on a Head Leader role without the attendance of the Head Coach in each session. Bethan, Anona, Elen, Sarah and currently Eleanor have all greatly benefitted from the experience and life skills that running the Llangollen club has provided and it has supported their pathways into University and full time employment.

The committee agreed that we are indeed lucky as a Club across our three sites to have extremely dedicated coaches who, even when leaving us to go to university, commit to travel back weekly to ensure that they continue their coaching support. This unexpected element of the Academy has enabled the Club to grow year in year out, above what was originally projected in a 5 year development plan. Chloe, who works full-time during the day, is one of those original Academy students and has been fully committed, enabling the Club to continue in Llangollen and on many occasions has been a key player, supporting a new Head Leader coming into their role.

### Staffing Llangollen – 3 year period

Tamsin Jones (Head Coach) reminded those present that it was acknowledged in the Club's Development Plan (and raised at the last two AGM 's) that those suitably qualified and more importantly, sufficiently experienced coaches who are in a position to travel and commit to Llangollen weekly, will become fewer over the following 3 years. This has been the case and Tamsin indicated that as a Club the response to this in 2015 was to encourage take up of the 90 minute pathway to the Ruthin Club. However, it was reported that 50% of those concerned returned to Llangollen or moved to closer clubs offering a similar extension of hours for the gymnast. Whilst it was great that those gymnasts continued in the sport, it demonstrated a reluctance to want to travel to a venue that was similarly set up, even if that offered extension and development. Llangollen members seemed happy to remain on the pathways that Llangollen offered.

### Remaining open in Llangollen and adapting

Tamsin also indicated that the Club amended its training day last year from a Monday to a Thursday to offer this high standard of Coach (Eleanor Roberts) and to ensure that adequate cover could be maintained by the Head Coach should the Head Leader be sick, so that the Club wouldn't find itself in the position of having to cancel the session. The 6pm class also moved onto Standing Order to support Eleanor in having to manage administration duties in the later class. Both of these changes were fully supported by parents and Tamsin asked to minute a vote of thanks to them for that. The Club was happy that these decisions had supported Eleanor in her first year and that Eleanor had had a fantastic year with great success in her key steps competition entrants and Christmas production. It was noted that there had been very few leavers within the period of Eleanor fulfilling the Head Leader role.

It was reported that the commitment to the annual competition from Llangollen continues to grow annually and the results from that competition are comparable to the other clubs, reflecting the quality of coaching that Llangollen members continue to receive.

It was noted that the Club always provides Llangollen members with the same programme of events as Ruthin and Denbigh. They follow the same scheme of work, rewards and the same Spooktacular and Xmas shows. The Club accepted that the Christmas show event was on a smaller scale to the "Winter Wonderland" event in Denbigh this year, but that was reflective of the number of coaches available within the training session (the other clubs benefit from a greater number of year 1 leaders). Feedback from the Llangollen club has demonstrated that the gymnasts have great experiences and much enjoyment. The Club is therefore happy that Llangollen has, over the last 6 years - even with the more recent predicted staffing shortages, received a high quality of coaching and a good events programme from suitably qualified staff within the child protection, health and safety and teaching ratios guidelines set out by British Gymnastics.

### Llangollen Membership 2017-2018

The Club takes its child protection and standards of care very seriously (outlined by British Gymnastics) and therefore it is with deep regret that we are writing to inform you that at the AGM on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017 it was unanimously agreed that for 2017-2018 we will have insufficient qualified level 2 staff who are in a position to travel weekly to Llangollen and no back up should there be illness of staff coaching that session.

Whilst we could foresee a potential issue to the staffing of our 2017-2018 delivery in Llangollen, we have waited until the AGM to report this to Llangollen members, as previously, when circumstances have seemed difficult, we have been pleasantly surprised that Coaches have juggled what seemed like the unachievable and somehow managed to provide the offer of a full year of coaching and commitment for the next year's programme. In those instances we were glad to not have reported earlier to parents!

### Guiding our members

We are very committed to ensuring that gymnasts complete their awards programme and Eleanor, Chloe and Lowri have shared their ideas to ensure that the enjoyment of the programme is maximised in this last summer term.

It is our intention to continue our provision in Llangollen to the end of the membership year 2016-2017 with a Happy Face Awards Session for both classes now planned to take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017. This differs to the clubs planner, due to Denbighshire closing the centre for works on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

We hope that communicating the content of the AGM held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017, goes someway to offering insight into both the history, growth, success and also the reason for the termination of the current Llangollen provision.

We understand that this is a very upsetting time for gymnasts and that parents will want to share this news with them before we begin to take questions from the children and try to nurture them through this process.

We understand you may require guidance about alternative gymnastics that the local area can provide or that we ourselves will be offering at our other venues. We also understand that some may wish to take up those places immediately if they are on offer and not continue to the end of the Summer 2 term with ourselves.

To provide parents with as much flexibility as possible we are offering a variety of options for this next term and we hope will go some way to help as parents make different and difficult decisions.

### Summer 2 bookings

#### 5pm class

1. 5pm class rebook 6 weeks @ £33 to term end and attend Happy Face Awards session at term end.
2. 5pm class rebook 3 weeks @ £16.50 and continue to train their next award. If in week 4 you still wish to continue to attend you must pay for the remainder of that term @ £16.50 and your child's award have sufficient time to be completed and ordered.
3. All above options also have the option to attend free trial sessions during summer 2 term in our Ruthin or Denbigh Venues or in Denbigh during August.

#### 6pm class

6pm class standing order is a payment of fees over a 12 month period to enable monthly payments to stay the same and 4<sup>th</sup> May payment is the payment in arrears for April currently.

We have been advised by Denbighshire that the double session we were to provide on the Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017 is unable to take place for this class due to the sports centre closing for building works, this therefore reduces the annual term to 37 sessions from 39. To account for this:

4. Members that continue in May needs to pay 4<sup>th</sup> June standing order.
5. Members that continue in June need to pay 4<sup>th</sup> July standing order
6. Members that continue in July need to cancel 4<sup>th</sup> August standing order.

The club accepts that stopping the members 4<sup>th</sup> August payment will actually refund the equivalent of 3 sessions free of charge rather than just the two that are being cancelled.

7. Members have also the above option to attend free trial sessions during summer 2 term in our Ruthin or Denbigh Venues or in Denbigh during August.

### Message from the Committee

The committee asks that parents take the opportunity to speak to Tamsin for any information on receipt of this letter in May 25<sup>th</sup> Session or in the Happy Session following half term (8<sup>th</sup> June), so that any new opportunities or pathways can be offered at the earliest opportunity. Should further help be needed Tamsin will be available by email [headcoach@ruthin-denbighgymnasticsclub.co.uk](mailto:headcoach@ruthin-denbighgymnasticsclub.co.uk) or by telephone 07779 079 838, including during half term. The Registrar will be able to process your Summer 2 payment option when you rebook in the Happy Face Session on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

We will ensure then that your child departs with their sticker card to enable them to continue their award should they take up a place at another BG or WG affiliated club which participates in the scheme.

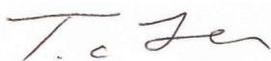
The Club hope very much that the gymnasts continue in their great sport and will support and guide as much as is possible to nurture them through this difficult period. We will also be contacting those on the waiting list to inform them of the Club's decision to not offer membership for 2017-2018 in Llangollen but offer alternatives should they wish to travel out of Llangollen to the "Join us" section of our website.

May we take this opportunity as we will repeat over the next few weeks to thank Llangollen parents for their fantastic support and commitment to the gymnastics club and all those who deliver your programme both now and over the last 6 years.

The Coaches have always felt great support from the Llangollen community and great passion from parents for their children to join and take part in every aspect our programme in Llangollen over the last 6 successful years. Should the Club ever be able to facilitate a satellite there again in the future, we will have great assurance in knowing that our Head Leaders will always be positively embraced by the Llangollen Community.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this information and we look forward to having the opportunity to chat through how we can help you and your child continue in our great sport of gymnastics.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'T. Jones', written in dark ink.

Tamsin Jones & Ailsa Humphreys on behalf of the

Denbigh Gymnastics Club (Incorporating Llangollen Division ) Committee