

NOTES FROM A PARENTS MEETING 01/12/07

Present:

Sharron Taylor, Sally McLaughlin, Sam Green and husband, Helen Billingham, Ann Roberts, Tracy Wastenedge, Sue Wheeler, Jean Milne, and Russ and Gen Jackman.

Apologies:

Zora Flemming's mum, Nikki Ciciura, and Alison Edwards.

Those present were thanked for coming and Russ informed the meeting that we had several points to raise but would first like to hear anything that anyone wished to raise.

1. Helen raised the cost involved for her son Jez competing at grade 2 level. The competition entry fee, travel expenses, possible overnight stay, and the divided cost of a judge. The cost of membership to British Gymnastics has gone up again this year to £25.0p for full competitor. There is also the £2.50p for Eastern Region. Helen wanted both the club and individuals to investigate possible sponsorship for squad competitors.

Various ideas were discussed;

The Rotary club, MK Lions, Sainsbury's and Tesco's vouchers, the Quiz night at Shenley L.C. and seeking a sponsor through Horizon radio. In return, a sponsor would get free advertising on some of our kit.

Sponsored bounce, raffles, scrunchies for sale etc. were all looked at but target the same audience, namely the families of existing members.

In conclusion, we decided to each draft an appeal letter from which we could select the best format and content to produce a finished article, ready to send out to various firms, companies, charities etc.

Joanne Sullivan already has a sum of money donated for her son Hugh, and Penny Smith used to receive £500.0 per annum for Lorna, from Hugh Beaumont, a financial advisor.

2. This lead naturally to the wider issue of funding in general, the need for maintenance and repair, replacement and renewal, and other club costs involving major equipment.
We are in the process of applying to Awards for all, selling the raffle tickets for the Community Foundation MK, and any other grants that we come across.
3. At competitions we as a club are constantly under pressure to provide officials. We need parents to take up an interest in judging, otherwise we shall not be able to enter competitions at the current level, and will have to only enter those children whose parents are willing to offer themselves as officials. This also ties in with point 1 since expense is increased due to the necessity of paying Andrew Jones from Pegasus to judge for us, because we have no one qualified, or prepared to raise their existing qualification to be able to judge at that level. Sally said that she might be interested in going on a judging course.

4. Some parents were unaware that their children could do extra hours if they wished, and did not need to wait to be invited.
5. We will resurrect the use of a suggestions / ideas box.
6. Extra or replacement sessions for time missed MUST be pre-arranged in future as many of the existing hours are now full.
7. Periodic 'Open sessions' for parents will be adopted so that progress can be observed. Similarly we will hold Star Award days.
8. We should hold bi-annual meetings to remind parents of the supporting role needed from them at competitions. In this way we should adhere to our rules for development squad participation.
9. Various ideas were discussed about toilet arrangements, but none could solve all circumstances, so it is best if parents are available to take their own children to the toilet.
10. Casual guests and friends who drop in for a jump during school holiday periods present a risk to our duty of care. We MUST take their names, D.O.B. and a contact number.
11. It was suggested that we leave leaflets at the outdoor toy makers at Wicken, to go with their garden trampolines. This would involve a meeting.
12. We would like to make better use of our web-site, and keep information up to date. For example the new source we use for leotards – Glitz. Also a copy of a club registration form. Hopefully, some of this will be done this week.

Meeting closed at 4.0pm having started at 2.35pm.