



Irish Gymnastics

Affiliated to F.I.G., U.E.G. and O.C.I.



PRESIDENTS REPORT for A.G.M July 2009

Dear Friends In Sport.

I would like to welcome you to our 2009 Annual General Meeting .I have had the honour and privilege to serve as President for over a decade now and I am immensely proud of Irish Gymnastics as we know it today.I must express my gratitude to Pat Hickey and the Olympic Council of Ireland and John Treacy and the Irish Sports Council and their Staff for all their encouragement and support over the years.

At this time I would like to give a fond mention to Shay McDonald our former Administrator who served us so well over the years and achieved the position of 2nd Vice President of th O.C.I and was Chef de Mission at the Atlanta Olympic Games where his son Barry McDonald became our first Gymnastic Olympian.

As I come to the end of my term as President I would like to thank our I.G.Staff. Cieran Gallagher.our C.E.O.Delrdre Farren .Administrator.Sarah Lowe Admin Assistant,Sally Filmer Coaching Development Manager.Garret Bucklei Coaching Development Officer.Dermot Howlin Policy and Welfare Officer Alme Baker Springboard Development Officer and Johnny Kivlehan our Accountant for all their hard work during last year.They have worked tirelessly to achieve the Goals we set for them and we are in a good position as we present our work to this A.G.M.

I also express my gratitude to my colleagues on the Board of Management Ger Reilles our General Secretary/VP Finance and Pauric Dooley our Vice President along with Cieran our C.E.O.The amount of work and the number of meetings that we got through and still remain the best of friends was remarkable.

In this current financial climate it is prudent to have a sound business plan and Irish Gymnastics has never been in a stronger position to generate finance from within our own structures.The development of our Coaching Programmes has and will be into the future a good source of revenue for us.It has always been our aim to produce income to match Government funding and with our current initiatives we are well on our way to achieving this.Our new Gymstart and IG Springboard programmes should be very attractive to all our Members and Hopefully will encourage the startup of many new Clubs.

The newly adopted Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Gymnastics is fully compliant with both th I.S.C and Sport Northern Ireland requirments and with our Garda vetting procedures on the way we have made a giant step forward in this area.

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My dearest wish for Irish Gymnastics is that we have our own dedicated National Training Centre and we are included in phase one of the Sports Campus Ireland project. How it develops depends on the Government's willingness to invest in Sport. Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to step through the doors of such a facility.

I came from an Acrobatics Gymnastics background and had the pleasure to work with some very dedicated people over the years. I served as President of The Irish Sports Acrobatics Federation and was part of the team that secured the amalgamation of Sports Acrobatics and the old Irish Amateur Gymnastics Association. The team included my dear friend the late Mary Hughes, Nial Sheehan, Pauric Rooney. Our former Secretary General the late Charles Appenzeler, Shay McDonald and our former President Pat O'Brien. How our Gymnastics family has developed since is truly remarkable and we now are a very professional rapidly developing NGB with fantastic growth potential.

I am extremely confident of the future of Irish Gymnastics and we have some brilliant people to take us along. I have not mentioned any of the disciplines in my report as this will be extensively covered by the VPS in their reports.

I would like to thank all the Regional Committees and the Disciplines Committees for their outstanding work and of course the Volunteers of Irish Gymnastics who are the lifeblood of our organization.

I wish the Incoming Officer Board every success for the future and in particular my successor as President.

I wish you all good health and happiness for the future.

Yours In Sport.


Jim O'Leary.
President Irish Gymnastics

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