# Announcement

London Trampoline Academy was formed 40 years ago as “Elthorne Trampoline Club” so this is, although many of you will be unaware of this, our 40th anniversary.

The club has grown from 7 members with 1 trampoline, to over 150 members with state-of-the-art equipment in both trampolining and Double Mini Trampoline (we were London’s first DMT Club!)

During this period of time I, in conjunction for many years with Sheila and Nicola A’Bear, have managed the club from very small beginnings, to being what it is today: London’s most successful Trampoline and Double Mini Trampoline Club, with, over the years, numerous British Champions, podium places both in British Championships and League Finals, and in International club events, Full and Youth/Junior representative internationals, and many other honours.

We include amongst our coaching staff, London’s most experienced and Highly Qualified coaches, Sheila is a London Gymnastics recognised Master Coach, we have had numerous London Trampolining Coach of the Year awards and London Gymnastics Awards of Merit. Sheila was awarded the inaugural Welfare officer of the year award from British Gymnastics’ and the same year Ealing Woman of the Year (Sport). Most recently She gained recognition from Ealing for with an award for her Outstanding Contribution to Sport in the Borough.

Nicola has jumped, and coached, consistently at the club for many, many years until her work commitments have prevented her attending. She has been a brilliant coach and club member and is sorely missed.

Throughout all the above, Sheila, Nicola and myself have been the mainstay of the club carrying out the roles of Chairman/Woman, Treasurer, Secretary, Head Coach, Performance Director, Director of Coaching and, in general, doing everything necessary as required to run the club both strategically and operationally.

Notwithstanding all the above, Sheila, Nicola and I have been, for the past year, looking at succession planning. We are in agreement that the time has come to pass the running of the club over to others, and on a purely personal note, younger enthusiastic people with a view to ensuring the continued existence of the club over the next 40 years.

Therefore, I am pleased to announce that from January 1st, we will be standing down from our management positions and leading coach positions at the club and handing over to a new management team.

From January the management of the Academies will be as follows:

* Chairman (2019) – John Wotherspoon
* Vice Chair (2019) – Sheila A’Bear
* Head Coach - Beeshman Sivakumaran
* Club Manager – Harriet Curtis
* Treasurer - John Wotherspoon
* Performance and Talent Director (Talent Identification) - Sheila A’Bear
* Competition Manager – Rebecca Hylton
* Lead Coach (Saturday/Osterley) - – Rebecca Hylton
* Coach Development – Dan James
* Safeguarding/Welfare - John Wotherspoon/Sheila A’Bear

It is further anticipated that over the course of 2019, Sheila and I will gradually relinquish many of these positions where we are still currently involved.

For club members who are unfamiliar with Beeshman and Harriet, Beeshman Sivakumaran has been involved in trampoline gymnastics for 17 years, as a competitor, coach and judge. He has been coaching for 10 years, mostly at Harrow Trampoline Club as well as Run DMT and London Trampoline/DMT Academy. He is currently a full Level 3 coach in both Trampoline and Double Mini Trampoline, and he is currently working for his Performance Coach qualification.

Harriet has been involved in trampoline gymnastics for nearly 20 years now starting off as a gymnast at Crystal Palace before becoming a judge and finally a coach at London Trampoline Academy. Currently, she is a level 3 coach, regional judge and on the London Gymnastics Trampoline Technical Committee as Competition Organiser.

She has a huge passion for trampolining, spending a week every summer for the past couple of years coaching at the residential Somerset Trampoline Camp. She has been able to work alongside and gain insights from some of the very best coaches in the country.

From a coaching point of view there will be no immediate changes. Nevertheless, I am convinced that this is the right action to ensure the club continues to expand, strengthen and to ensure that the club remains competitive and successful now and in the future.

There will be a short meeting at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 8th January where those members who are not familiar with Beeshman and Harriet will have the opportunity to meet them and have any questions addressed.

I have been supported by many people over the years and I would like to thank all of them for their commitment and support during the last 40 years. However, I need to pay special tribute to both Sheila and Nicola. Without these two wonderful people the club would not be the club it is today, and I will be eternally grateful to them for everything they have done for me and for the club.

Looking forward to an exciting future.

Yours in sport.

**John**