CHEERLEADING CLUB 2016/2017

This has been one of the most successful years for the cheerleading club, growing in membership and successfully competing in four competitions: Legacy Stand Strong, Future Cheer University Nationals, BCA University Nationals, and the BCA Allstar Nationals.

Semester One Highlights

From May until August, the committee worked tirelessly with a new uniform supplier to upgrade our previous uniforms to a more comfortable fabric and modern, sparkly look.

Our year officially began with our pre-season week in which 19 athletes took part. This allowed us to host daily practices, preparing our athletes to train our new recruits in the weeks to come. In addition, we took a trip to the McTaggart Centre in Dundee, using the sprung floor and specialist tumbling equipment to hone in our skills.

In Freshers week, we hosted our most attended give-it-a-go to date, attended the sports fayre and
Sinners, as well as carrying out fundraising PR work for our sponsors, Sophie Butler Hairdressing and the St Andrews Brewing Co. Pub. In September we hosted our Saints and Sinners welcome party and carried out tryouts for the competition squad. This year we took on our largest number of competitive athletes, with 31 athletes selected to take part across the main team and group stunt categories. We were also excited to be invited to take part in the Scottish Varsity events, with a select group of athletes performing a full routine in Murrayfield Stadium before the women’s rugby final!

In October we began to bond and train as a team, as well as holding weekly skills focussed recreational practices. We continued our fundraising with late night bake sales outside the VIC, hosted a Halloween practice which our athletes attended in costume, as well as taking part in Netball’s charity Sports Stripped calendar. We also ordered our custom uniforms this month, preparing for the competition season ahead.

For November, we began a partnership with Coppafeel, hosting a charity fundraising ‘pink practice’, continued with our own fundraising through PR work and bake sales, as well as finishing the semester with our annual Christmas Dinner, this year hosted at the Vic.

Semester Two Highlights

Over the Christmas break, our captains provided the team with a stretching and work-out plan to make sure all our athletes were in shape and ready to compete. The club hosted a mid-season week in January, with daily practices focussed on different skill sets, another trip to the gymnasium in Dundee to prepare our tumbling and jumps for competition, as well as our first dress rehearsal with our new uniforms. In the first week of the semester, the team attended our first competition of the season, Legacy Stand Strong, at Northumbria University, Newcastle. Here we placed:

- Open Co-Ed Level 3: 2nd
- Open Stunt Group Level 2: 3rd
- Open Co-Ed Stunt Group Level 4: 1st
- Open Stunt Group Level 3 (stealth): 2nd
In February we hosted another give-it-a-go session and held an EGM, electing Emily as our Outreach Coordinator. This month we collaborated with the Men’s Football Club, hosting joint socials and a joint ‘Strictly Come Dancing’ themed fundraiser. This month we attended our second competition in Birmingham, where the team placed 6th, all girl level 2 placed 6th, all girl level 3 (strikeforce) placed 5th, and our co-ed level 4 became national champions winning first place.

In March, our president ran for AU President 2017-18, just missing out on holding this sabbatical position. Within the club, we held our AGM and elected our new committee, as well as voting to elect a Liaison Officer through an EGM in September. We successfully won £500 from the student activities fund this month to help us cover the costs of competing at the BCA nationals in April.

April saw the club wynd down for the year. We made our final fundraising push, running the Sitara cloakroom and a bake sale in the Physics building. We attended our final two competitions of the season at the BCA nationals in Telford. Here all of our group stunts performed exceptionally, all placing in the top five, and one of our all girl level three groups crowned national champions, and
each with zero deductions. In the team we performed our best of the season, improving our score between the first and second competitions, and hitting zero deductions at British All-star Nationals. This marked the end of the year for our 2016-17 committee, handing over after BCA nationals. We ended the month with our end of year dinner at Bibi’s Café and hosted several alumni members this weekend.