

# Annual Report

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*Given at Conference May 2016*

- Derek Kent (Director of SCGB) welcomed everyone to the second SCGB conference and introduced Tone Sparby (General Secretary of the European Cheerleading Union) and Karl Olson (General Secretary of the International Cheerleading Union)
- He noted that there were 100 people participating in this year's conference — almost double the numbers who were in Nottingham last year — and thanked people for coming from all over the UK and Channel Islands. He noted that there was very wide representation of UK cheerleading.
- Derek thanked, on everyone's behalf, those who had worked hard for this conference: the workshop leaders, the working group and all who had contributed. He made special mention of Angela Green and Tori Rubin who had done such an exceptional job of leading the coaching for Team England, Rick Rodgers and Paracheer who had inspired so many with the demonstration at ICU Worlds this year and Chris Curtis who had worked behind the scenes for SCGB.
- Chris Curtis reminded everyone why we need a Governing Body. It is about Governance, which does not always mean control. SCGB is working for all organisations and individuals in UK cheerleading to:
  - Set standards
    - to make the sport fair, inclusive and open
    - for public reassurance and safety
  - Develop the Sport
    - Improving Performance
    - Increasing Participation
  - Represent the Sport
    - Publicly and with governments and organisations
    - through international competition
    - By building membership
- Chris went on to outline what SCGB has been doing since the last conference
  - Winning medals – Team England won two bronze medals at the ICU worlds

- Getting great teams to worlds. As well as Cheer, we had been delighted with great representation in Cheer-Dance (Pom and Hip-Hop). Teams are fully representative (drawn from a number of top clubs through open try-outs and coached through clear and inclusive arrangements)
- Building links and support for coaches especially through the online “coaches’ only” forum
- Working on official recognition
- Finalising coaching standards and recognition
- Developing constitution and structure for adoption today
- Tori spoke about the coaches’ forum (on Facebook). This is open to any UK cheerleading coach but NOT to cheerleaders, parents or event providers. The group is large and growing, is usually lively and is always open so that any views can be shared and commented by all. There were many expressions of how helpful this was.
- Tori, Angela and Dave spoke about Team England and showed off medals. It has been a thrill, and the fulfilment of a strong ambition, to win medals but it was clear there was the talent and organisation in England to do even better in future. A great deal had been learnt this year, especially in dance divisions, and work was already well under way for next year. Arrangements for open try-outs, with athletes welcome from any team, were explained.
- Emma and Pam spoke about Team Wales. There had not been a Team Wales team competing in 2016. There were fewer Welsh Clubs and athletes already at the required level which meant building a team and training it in order to compete internationally, but they were pleased to see a number of “level 5” athletes already coming forward for 2017 and looked forward to formal try-outs soon.
- Chris reported on a recent meeting with British Gymnastics following concerns from across cheerleading when BG offered cheerleading training courses. Chris reported that the meeting had been friendly and helpful, clarifying BG intentions and plans, which we had been reassured were not part of any ambition to “take over” cheerleading in the UK. A joint statement about the meeting had been proposed to BG and we were awaiting its approval by them.
- Karl Olson spoke about international developments including a longer worlds from 2017 (so there would be two rounds in most divisions), new opportunities for international university and schools competition. He

outlined work ICU is doing with the International Olympic Committee to win recognition and have cheerleading within the Olympics and other major multi-sport events. Tone Sparby spoke to encourage UK countries to participate in what was becoming a wider range of European events.

- Chris outlined work on recognition. In order for a governing body to be recognised for cheerleading it is necessary to show “predominance” (i.e. the majority within the sport recognise the governing body and its role and the governing body has authority within the sport.) Along with this, there has to be a sufficient level of organisation and stability to ensure that things are governed properly. Chris reported that SCGB has been addressing these issues systematically. There are still obstacles but we are determined to make a credible bid for recognition before the end of 2016.