

What have we been getting up to?

Gemma, Kevin and Blair took on the KiltWalk at the end of April. They managed to complete an incredible amount of miles over the three days and raised lots of money for the club and Dundee City Disability Sport!



A few days ago we announced that Frank, Ellie and Shayne have been selected to be part of the Project 21 Young Influencers programme! The three young Dragons will work with our coordinator and committee to help improve the club and the opportunities we provide. They will also take part in personal development tasks and activity days with young people from other sports clubs across the city. We could not be prouder of them and know they will do great in their new roles!



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Dundee Dragons Wheelchair Sports Club

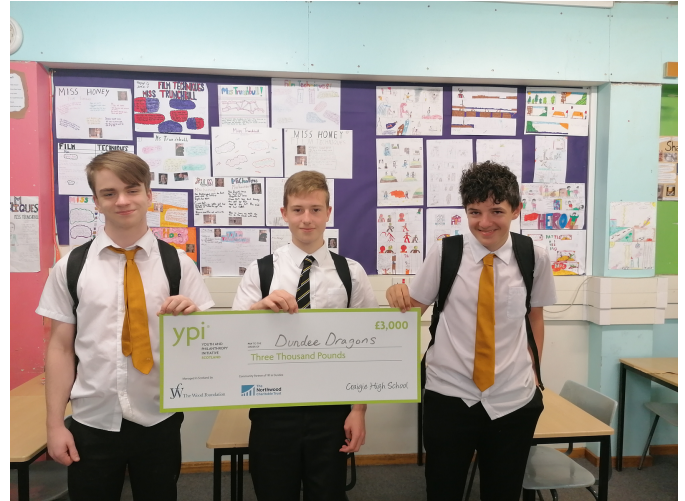
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The Dragons were back in action at the Wheelchair Rugby League Trophy Event in Sheffield on the 5th June!

This was a fantastic opportunity for the Wheelchair Rugby League players to get back on court after 15 months away due to Covid-19.

The team played seven 15 minute matches which meant everyone got lots of game time and experience. As always the Dragons gave it their all and had lots of fun which is the most important thing! A shout out must go to Cadyn who played his first ever game of wheelchair rugby league!



Shayne Humphries and his S3 Craigie High classmates took part in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) which aims to empower young people to support their local community. This project involves students presenting on a charity of their choice in an effort to win £3,000 for their chosen charity. Shayne and his peers chose to present about the Dundee Dragons and guess what?! They came in first place which means they've secured £3,000 for the club! We cannot thank the boys enough for their hard work, these funds will help us to continue providing sporting opportunities, pay for facilities and replace and repair our sports chairs!

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Dragons Can Surf!

On Saturday the 12th of June the Dragons headed to Hopeman for a day of surfing and land based activities. The majority of the Dragons met first thing in the morning at Gardyne to travel in the Dragons Wagon. The journey was pretty long but according to Cadyn Kevin's banter kept everyone going!



The sense of freedom we experienced was incredible, many of our members had never been in open water before so this was a truly special moment. As well as having a sense of freedom there was a real feeling of excitement when a wave was on the way. Everyone definitely felt a rush of adrenaline when the waves were underneath us and sometimes on top of us when we wiped out, (safely of course!!) Once everyone was back on dry land we tucked into an amazing lunch before finishing off the day with some tai chi and boxing!

Once everyone had arrived we enjoyed breakfast rolls, introductions and a brief from Kev Anderson about the day. Then for probably the biggest challenge of the day... getting the wetsuits on



After we had tackled the wetsuits it was time to hit the waves. We transferred into some special designed beach wheelchairs and then onto our surf boards! There were different types of surf boards which meant everyone could get involved!



We had the most incredible day, thank you SurfAble Scotland, Surfability UK and Pamis for making this all possible!



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Chat corner: Brian McArtney

We sat down with Club Trustee and Scottish Curling President Brian McArtney to find out more about his involvement with the club

Q: Can you tell us a little bit about your background?

A: I retired as a teacher in 2010 allowing me time to devote to helping with sports administration and development. In the 2019-2020 season I became President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. I have always been interested in sports and have played many different sports throughout my life. Presently my main sport is curling and I usually play in Forfar for Letham Grange Curling Club. As well as playing I am also a qualified coach with an additional coaching qualification for wheelchair curling, allowing me to coach Dragons at Dundee Ice Arena.



Q: How did you become a Dundee Dragons trustee?

A part 1: It was perhaps by accident that I first became involved with Dragons when my neighbours Sally and her daughter Gemma were looking for a minibus to take a team to Gillingham to play in a wheelchair rugby international. My son's Boys' Brigade had just bought a minibus and were prepared to let Dragons use it with me driving. This was my first experience of wheelchair rugby and I was asked if I could help with fixing punctures. I was surprised at the damage that occurred to wheels during a game due to the commitment of the players.

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Q: What are your roles and responsibilities?

A: Unofficially, I see my role as being a sounding board for any of the members at Dundee Dragons and also to ensure that the club is run efficiently and fairly. I hope that I give an independent viewpoint.

Q: How did you become a Dundee Dragons trustee?

A Part 2: Elizabeth was also in Gillingham and we discussed many things about the running of the club and I expressed an independent view on these since I was not close to the practical aspects of running a wheelchair club. I was then asked if I would be a Dundee Dragons trustee when its charitable status was granted from OSCR.



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Q: Why do you think Dundee Dragons is unique?

A: I think that Dundee Dragons is so unique because of the variety of the sports it offers along with the diversity of the member and supporters who play these sports.

There is a great camaraderie amongst the members who also support the management of the club in all that they do. The club officials run the club very well and are prepared to listen to concerns of the members and are open to try new sports/events in a safe way within appropriate regulations and guidelines.

The ethos of the club allows every member to achieve their full potential whatever this might be.

Q:What have you learned from being involved in the club?

A: This is a club like any other club and they do not feel they should have any restrictions placed on it just because Dundee Dragons is a wheelchair club. They have been creative in how they handle situations, never more so than the recent lockdown, when they kept members fit by power lifting tins of beans, etc. Everyone is very supportive towards one another. I have been inspired by the amount effort members put in to achieve their potential at whatever level and the work they do in the community to promote a better understanding of wheelchair sport. In particular I must mention Kevin as I have not met anyone like him in his ability to generate funds from such a wide variety of external funders.

It has been a privilege and honour to be involved with such a great club - DUNDEE DRAGONS.

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As always thanks to our partner groups for their continued support!

