



The Monday Night Club

Registered Charity no: 1160646

Annual Report

1 November 2014 - 31 October 2015

Chair's Report

Structure, Governance and Management

We were registered by The Charity Commission of England and Wales on 15th February 2015 and adopted a new constitution as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. We formally changed the name of the organisation to the name it is generally referred to: The Monday Night Club.

We changed the objectives of the charity in the new constitution to include all people in Worcestershire that are socially excluded, and we exist as an organisation to assist them to integrate into society through the provision of recreational and leisure activities, and support to live a more independent life.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 20th January 2015 at 6.30pm and it was agreed that the first trustees of the new organisation would be:

Miss Laura Gill, Chair (for 2 years)

Mrs Helen Gill, Treasurer (for 2 years)

Mrs Rosemary Hooper (for 2 years)

and Mrs Bethany Truman (for 2 years)

There was an early objective to add to the Trustees to increase the experience and expertise of the board. On 30th September 2015 we elected three new trustees:

Margaret Clarke – Barbourne Club representative

Joe Clarke – support staff representative

Jenny Hewitt – family carer representative

We opened a new bank account with Charities Aid Foundation Bank on 13th March 2015. New policies for the organisation were adopted at the AGM and subsequent Trustee meetings. The adoption and review of policies is an on-going duty of the Board.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the new organisation were amended to reflect the requirements of becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and were approved by The Charity Commission. Our objectives are stated in the Constitution document.

To further our objectives we continue to meet every Monday night at Barbourne Ex-services Club.

This year our Monday night activities have included:

- Themed parties
- Birthday parties
- Talent shows
- Karaoke nights
- Barbeques
- Sports nights
- Dance and keep fit evenings
- Guest DJs
- Guest entertainers
- Skittles matches
- An awards night

Day and evening trips

We also organised a day trip to Barry Island for 49 people. We took 20 members to see a play, The Trial of Peter Pan, at Stourbridge in June and 121 people, including support staff and some families, to the pantomime at The Swan Theatre in December. These trips were partly funded by income.

Music Video Project

We planned, and completed, a major inclusive project this year. Our intention was to show how talented our members are, and to showcase those talents to the wider community of Worcester. We applied for an 'Awards for All' grant from the Big Lottery Fund to make three music videos, with the City of Worcester as a location.

The project, Beat Street, involved collaboration with C&T (educational film makers), Drum Love a drum therapy collective and a dance therapist, Cat O'Connell. We premiered our videos, and performed the music and dance live, in October 2015 at Worcester's Swan Theatre. The videos were shared on social media and the events covered by Worcester News. One of the videos had a hard-hitting message concerning how few people with learning disabilities are in paid work. This raised the profile of the charity and greatly increased the well-being, self-worth and confidence of our members.

Football Club

To further our objectives of providing social activities to excluded groups, we started our own football team. We have been training together weekly since October 2014. We achieved FA Charter Standard Club status in our first three months, and one of our members with learning disabilities has qualified as a FA Level 1 coach. This may be a unique achievement.

We are kindly supported by Worcestershire FA and Disability Sport Worcester. At present we are a development squad, but are ambitious to join the Three Counties Ability Counts League. We play friendly matches with other disability teams and welcome players of all levels, from beginners. The training sessions and friendly matches are open to men and women.

Community Connections

During this year we have made efforts to increase our connections within the community and therefore promote our service to more people. We have taken part in events organised by Worcestershire County Council to promote services to the LD community in Worcestershire. We have actively sought collaboration with Mencap, Worcester Snoezelen, Barbourne Ex-Services Club, Disability Sport Worcester, Worcestershire FA, The City of Worcester, Worcester Cathedral, Worcester City and University Library (The Hive).

Income and Expenditure

Our funds are generated by grants, donations and our £1 entrance fee. Our total income for the year was £23,287.

We had a major project grant from The Big Lottery of £9,950 to make music videos. We received a development grant from Worcestershire FA of £700 to start the football team. We also have sponsorship of £80 per month from Barbourne Ex-Services Club for our football team.

We had an unrestricted donation from Share Gift for £5,000. Our door takings amounted to £5,808 and we had some smaller donations of £207.69.

We spend all the restricted funds allocated for the music video project and the football team. The rest of our funds were spend on sessional activities on Monday nights – organising parties, paying entertainers and other sessional workers, plus contributions towards the cost of day and evening trips. (Some of these costs were met by ticket prices.) There were small costs for volunteers expenses (£203) and printing and office expenses. We have a surplus of £5,188 at the year end.

Outcomes

Our average number attending every Monday night this year was 119. The highest was 154 and the lowest 87.

Strong bonds of friendship have formed amongst the members, and are continued outside the club. This is particularly important to learning disabled and autistic people who find it difficult to make, and keep, friends. Their parents, carers and families also benefited by mutual support and shared experiences.

The football club has added an opportunity to improve the health and well-being outcomes for our members, and significant improvements can be seen in the players in the last year.

Our members' confidence in their abilities has grown significantly. The music video project, Beat Street, gave them a wonderful sense of achievement and resulted in their talents and abilities being recognised by a wider audience across Worcestershire and on social media.

We continue to publicise the club and new members come from various sources, including word of mouth and press coverage. We have up-dated the appearance of our website and now send a monthly newsletter by email.

Personal success stories include our FA Level 1 Coach, and a strong group of volunteers who have come from amongst the members of the club. They now take a large part in the organisation of club activities themselves. Several members have gained paid employment, apprenticeships, or other rewarding voluntary work this year. Others have moved out of the family home to live independently.

We hope to continue to grow and to be a positive influence on as many socially excluded people as possible next year.

Signed

Laura Gill

Chair, The Monday Night Club

December 2015