



# The Monday Night Club

Registered Charity no: 1160646

## Annual Report

1 November 2015 - 31 October 2016

### Chair's Report

#### Structure, Governance and Management

The Monday Night Club is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and is governed by constitution. The CIO is a registered charity with The Charity Commission of England and Wales.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7pm. Trustees at this time were:

Miss Laura Gill, Chair  
Mrs Helen Gill, Treasurer  
Mrs Rosemary Hooper, Secretary  
Mrs Bethany Trueman  
Mrs Margaret Clarke – Barbourne Club representative  
Mr Joe Clarke – support staff representative  
Mrs Jennifer Hewitt – family carer representative

Mrs Rosemary Hooper resigned from the board of trustees for personal reasons on 29<sup>th</sup> April and Mr Joe Clarke resigned at the beginning of May. We elected a new trustee, Mr Max Chesterman, at the next meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

#### Policies and Procedures

The following Policies and Procedures are in place in the organisation and they are reviewed annually at the Trustee meetings.

- Health and Safety Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Procedure for dealing with an accident or emergency
- Financial Policies and Procedures
- Confidentiality Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Recruitment and training of volunteers

The adoption and review of policies is an on-going duty of the Board.

Our bank account is with the Charities Aid Foundation Bank and its operation is governed by our Financial Policies and Procedures.

Risk assessments are carried out for all activities in accordance with our Employers Liability Insurance. We have separate insurance to cover disco equipment, the mobile disco and the football club.

## **Objectives and Activities**

To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society through the provision of recreational and leisure activities and support to live a more independent life.

For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of being a member of a socially and economically deprived community but specifically for young people and adults with learning disabilities and autistic spectrum disorders in Worcestershire.

To further our objectives we continue to organise activities every Monday evening at Barbourne Ex-services Club.

This year our Monday night activities have included:

- Themed parties
- Birthday parties
- A talent show in a theatre
- Karaoke nights
- A pamper evening
- A barbeque
- Sports nights and mini-Olympics
- A football tournament
- Dance and keep fit evenings
- Guest DJs
- Guest entertainers
- Skittles matches
- An awards night

## **Day and evening trips**

We organised day trips to West Midlands Safari Park and to Barry Island, taking a full coach to each, and we visited Wild Goose Rural Training for a barbeque. In January we took 135 people, including support staff and families, to the pantomime at The Swan Theatre. These trips were partly funded by our fund-raising income and partly by ticket sales.

## **Special Events**

The Monday Night Club Has Got Talent was held at The Swan Theatre on Monday 24th October 2016. This was also our 5th birthday. Over 200 people came to see the show. We had invited judges from the Swan Theatre, Worcester Snoezelen and Croydon Adult Services. The event was covered on social media and was extremely well received.

## **Football Club**

To further our objectives of providing social activities to excluded groups, we continue to train our own football team. Once again we achieved FA Charter

Standard Adult Club status. One of our members with learning disabilities is a qualified FA (Level 1) coach.

The training of the team is kindly supported by Worcestershire FA and Disability Sport Worcester. 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, once again, made efforts to increase our connections within the community and therefore promote our service to more people. We have actively sought collaboration with the Daisychain Benevolent Fund, Mencap, Worcester Snoezelen, Speakeasy NOW, Barbourne Ex-Services Club, Disability Sport Worcester, Worcestershire FA, Worcester Wanderers Rugby Club, The Swan Theatre, Bromsgrove School, Wild Goose Rural Training, The City of Worcester, Worcester Lions and Worcester Cathedral. We have taken part in events organised by Worcestershire County Council to promote services to the LD community in Worcestershire. We have received donations from two WCC councillors from their Divisional Funds.

### **Income and Expenditure**

Our funds are generated by grants, donations and our £1 entrance fee. Our total income for the year was £12,040. Our entrance fee on the door amounted to £6,550, £742 more than the previous year.

Bromsgrove School raised £1,142 for us by their non-uniform day and we had a donation of £500 after we were mentioned by Robin Walker MP during the Autism debate in Parliament. We benefited from two WCC Divisional Funds to the sum of £900. We also have sponsorship of £80 per month from Barbourne Ex-Services Club for our football team and we had some smaller donations. We have had no restricted funds during this year.

The greatest proportion of our funds was spent on sessional activities on Monday nights – organising parties, paying entertainers and other sessional workers – and contributions towards the cost of day and evening trips. Our special event, the show at the theatre, cost £1,340. There were small costs for volunteers' expenses and printing and office expenses. We have carried forward £6,778 at the end of the year.

### **Recognition and Success**

Robin Walker MP mentioned The Monday Night Club (and our founder and Chair) as a successful project in Worcestershire, helping to reduce social isolation for people with autism, during the Autism debate in the House of Commons on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

I was honoured to receive two awards this year for my work with the organisation. I was given a 'Point of Light Award' from Prime Minister David Cameron in February and, during National Volunteer Week in June, I won

Health and Wellbeing Volunteer of the Year from Worcestershire County Council.

## **Outcomes**

Our average number attending on Monday nights this year was 136. The highest number on one night was 163 and the lowest 90.

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 and often feel socially excluded and isolated. Their parents, carers and families also benefit by mutual support and shared experiences.

We have 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.

Our members' confidence in their abilities has grown significantly. The Monday Night Club Has Got Talent gave them a wonderful sense of achievement and resulted in their talents and abilities being recognised by a wider audience across Worcestershire and beyond, and on social media.

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.

We continue to publicise the club and new members come from various sources, including word of mouth, recommendation by social workers and press coverage. We communicate by email newsletter, print, social media and keep our website up-to-date.

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

Signed

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Laura Gill

Chair, The Monday Night Club Trustees  
December 2016