



# The Monday Night Club

Registered Charity no: 1160646

## Annual Report

1 November 2017 - 31 October 2018

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Trustees at this time were:

Miss Laura Gill, Chair  
Mrs Helen Gill, Treasurer  
Mrs Margaret Clarke – Barbourne Club representative  
Mr Max Chesterman – parent carer  
Mr Richard Kenyon – volunteer representative  
Mrs Beverley Alldrett - Secretary

The Chair, Treasurer, Richard Kenyon, Max Chesterman and Margaret Clarke were re-elected to their positions.

### 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 and Risk Assessment procedure
- First Aid Policy and accident reporting procedure
- Procedure for dealing with an accident or emergency
- Procedure for emergency evacuation
- 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 insurances 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 and organise a football club on Thursday evenings.

This year our Monday night activities have included:

- Themed parties
- Birthday parties
- A talent show in a theatre
- Karaoke nights
- A summer barbeque
- Sports and Games nights
- A football tournament
- Dance and keep fit evenings
- Guest DJs and live music
- 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 (49) to each, and we took a smaller group (15) to the theatre in June. In January we took 113 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 8th October 2018. This was also our 7th birthday. Over 230 people came to see the show. We had invited judges from the local community and friends of The Monday Night Club. 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 supported by Worcestershire FA and Disability Sport Worcester. We belong to the Three Counties Ability Counts League, a disability football league, and play in six tournaments across three counties during the season. We also 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. The manager and coaches have achieved FA qualifications.

This year we applied for and received a 'Grow The Game' Football Foundation Grant to start a women's disability football team.

### **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, Worcester Snoezelen, Speakeasy NOW, Barbourne Ex-Services Club, Disability Sport Worcester, Worcestershire FA, Worcester Rugby Club, The Swan Theatre, Wild Goose Rural Training, The City of Worcester, Worcester Lions and Worcester Cathedral.

### **The RespectAbility Awards**

We have instigated our own Award call the RespectAbility Awards and applied for funding from The Big Lottery, Awards 4 All fund. The aim is to bring the learning disability community into the public eye.

We will be locating permanent commemorative plaques around Worcestershire to celebrate the achievements of people with learning disabilities who have been successful in local and national politics, art, fund-raising, sport, writing and publishing, leadership, independence and employment. The plaques will be unveiled in public ceremonies attended by prominent people including Mayors, MPs, sports stars and councillors. A short film has been made about each winner and published online.

### **Income and Expenditure**

Our funds are generated by grants, donations and our £1 entrance fee. Our total income for the year was £..... Our entrance fee on the door amounted to £.....

We benefited from a restricted grant from The Football Foundation of £700. We also just received (at the end of the last financial year) an Awards 4 All grant from The Big Lottery of £9050 for our project RespectAbility. We have had sponsorship of £80 per month from Barbourne Ex-Services Club for our football team.

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. There were small costs for volunteers' expenses, printing and office expenses. Our total expenditure for the year was £.....

We have carried forward £..... at the end of the year.

## **Recognition and Success**

Our Chair, Laura Gill, was invited to the wedding of HRH Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in May 2018 as a recognition of her service to the community and the work she has done with The Monday Night Club. She was one of only six people invited from Worcestershire. The Club and our volunteers received the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in June 2018 and our Chair and Treasurer were invited to a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in June as representatives of The Monday Night Club..

## **Outcomes**

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 are extremely proud that the club received national recognition this year by winning the Queen's Award and delighted by the personal note of praise sent by the judges. We received an engraved glass award and a signed letter from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. All our volunteers are now entitled to wear the special Queen's Award for Volunteering badge, recognised as the MBE for groups.

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 have attracted a number of care leavers, who may have mild learning disabilities and behavioural challenges. They are not supported by the social care services and are learning to live independently, some with no support at all. We try to make them feel a valued part of our community and they are often chosen as volunteers.

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. Additional challenges have been created for our volunteers in meeting the training requirements of the FA.

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, special college, or care homes to live independently.

We hope to find a more suitable and community-friendly venue for the club next year, where our members could take part in other activities and volunteering roles offered on other days besides Mondays. We want to continue to grow, to offer more activities, forge more links to the wider community and to be a positive influence on as many socially excluded people as possible in the coming year.

Signed

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Laura Gill

Chair, The Monday Night Club Trustees  
December 2018