



The Monday Night Club

Registered Charity no: 1160646

Annual Report

1 November 2021 - 31 October 2022

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 Trustees on 31st October 2022 were:

Ms Laura Gill, Chair
Mr Stephen Gipson, Treasurer
Mr Max Dean
Ms Rachel Betteridge
Mr Richard Kenyon
Mr Ashanti Brazier Olatunde
Alison Rankin Frost

Charitable Objectives

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.

Our Mission

To provide social and recreational activities for people with learning disabilities and autistic people, aiming to improve their health and well-being, and support them to lead more independent lives.

Our Vision

To live in a society where people with learning disabilities and autistic people are treated equally, given respect, recognised for their achievements and welcomed everywhere in the community.

We Believe

Staying connected, keeping active, finding friendship, being creative and being recognised are all part of a happy and healthy life. We strive to prevent our members from being isolated and enable them to keep in touch with their friends.

Core Values

Our core values are Respect, Dignity, Health, Happiness, Inclusion and Recognition.

These values are embedded in the four themes we build on to achieve our objectives and our Vision.

1. We respect all our members, staff and volunteers as individuals. We respect their choices, beliefs and values and uphold their Human Rights.
2. We strive to improve the health and happiness of our members, staff and volunteers in everything we do. Our activities are designed to improve physical and mental health and promote healthy lifestyles.
3. We listen to and inform our members. We listen to what they want and involve them in future planning. We communicate with them in ways they understand, adhering to the Accessible Information Standard, and provide any communication support they need.
4. We recognise and reward achievement. We promote the charity in the public domain and highlight the successes and achievements of our members and volunteers. We reward individual and group success.

Policies and Procedures

Copies of all MNC Policies and Procedures are published on our website. The adoption and annual 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.

The Board keeps a Risk Register, reviewed and updated at every Board meeting. 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 FA-affiliated football club.

Presentation of the Annual Accounts

This year we have changed the format of our annual accounts to better reflect the activities and projects of the charity. A full breakdown of these activities can be found on Page 11 of the accounts. We have extended our activities and created a new part-time staff position, Administrative Assistant, to closely monitor expenditure and income. Our bespoke financial monitoring system allows us to make management decisions in advance and budget effectively.

2021-22 The Year in Review

I am delighted to present the annual report for our small charity, The Monday Night Club, which has been dedicated to providing social opportunities for adults with learning disabilities and autistic people for over 10 years. It brings me great joy to share the remarkable progress we have made over the past year, as our activities and projects have expanded, funding has been secured, and we have reached an increasing number of individuals.

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to our dedicated team of volunteers, whose unwavering commitment has been instrumental in our success. Through their tireless efforts, we have been able to organize an array of engaging and inclusive activities that have enriched the lives of our beneficiaries. From gaining new qualifications and skill-building sessions to recreational outings and social gatherings, our diverse range of initiatives has fostered a sense of belonging and empowerment among our members. Our volunteering programme has been funded for another year by the #iwill Youth Social Action Fund.

I am thrilled to report that our charity has experienced significant growth in the past year, both in terms of impact and reach. We have successfully secured additional funding through various grants and partnerships, enabling us to expand our services and develop new projects tailored to the specific needs and interests of those we serve. At the end of this financial year we secured, in partnership with a local drama and technology company C&T, three years of funding from The National Lottery Community Fund. We have also just received a grant from the Co-op Local Community Fund that will support MNC Saturday Kitchen for another year and, from the Commonwealth Games Small Grants, support to continue with our Wednesday Sports Club until April 23. This increased financial support has allowed us to enhance the quality and accessibility of our programmes, ensuring that individuals with learning disabilities and autism have access to vital opportunities for personal growth and social interaction.

Community Connections

I am proud to share that our efforts to raise awareness and expand our network have yielded remarkable results. By actively engaging with local schools, community centres, and other organisations, we have broadened our reach and touched the lives of an ever-growing number of individuals. Our collaborative approach has fostered meaningful connections and forged partnerships that have further strengthened our ability to create positive change in the lives of those we support.

We have actively sought collaboration with Age UK, Worcester Royal Porcelain Works, The Bransford Trust, The Museum of Royal Worcester, Christopher Whitehead Language College, Worcester Community Trust, Speakeasy N.O.W., Disability Sport Worcestershire, Worcestershire FA, LTA England, NHS Integrated Care Board for Herefordshire and Worcestershire, Red Cross Training, Vamos Theatre, Worcester Theatres, Worcester Festivals, Dancefest and Worcester Cathedral. Our volunteers and CEO received High Sheriff of Worcestershire Volunteer Awards for their work with our charity.

Moving Forward

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, we also acknowledge the challenges we have faced. The COVID-19 pandemic presented unforeseen obstacles, requiring us to adapt our activities to comply with health and safety guidelines. Despite these adversities, our members' resilience and determination prevailed, and we successfully navigated two difficult years. I believe that we emerged as a stronger, more active, and more focused organisation.

Looking ahead, we are filled with optimism and determination to build upon the foundation we have established. With the continued support of our community and the dedication of our volunteers, we are confident in our ability to make an even greater impact in the coming year. Together, we will continue to provide a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment for adults with learning disabilities and autism, empowering them to thrive and achieve their full potential.

We will continue to uphold our core values of Respect, Dignity, Health, Happiness, Inclusion and Recognition. This coming year, 2022-23 our theme will be 'Happy Confident Me', continuing to promote healthy lifestyles and concentrating on good mental health and resilience.

It is through the collective efforts of our CEO, Trustees, staff, volunteers, members, their families and support staff, and all our supporters that we can create a more inclusive society and transform lives.

Income and Expenditure

Our funds are generated by grants, donations and entrance fees. Our total income for the year was £25,256.

We received grants from The National Lottery Awards for All and the Co-op Community Fund. We also received two generous donations from private donors. This year we made £8,708 from our activities – twice as much as last year.

Expenses incurred include staff and office costs, venue hire, sessional staff and football club costs. Our total expenditure for the year was £47,803.

The net income at the end of the year was -£22,547. This is because we continued to make use of funds unspent in 2021 because of the pandemic, and funds allocated to 2021-22, but received before the previous year end. We have £28,933 in total funds at the end of the financial year.

Outcomes

Our theme for this year was 'Health & Happiness' and we hoped to raise awareness of healthy lifestyles among our members.

Our members include people with mild learning disabilities, older autistic people and individuals with behaviour that can challenge. They are not supported by the social care adult services and are learning to live independently on very low incomes, 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. We have found that, once given responsibility, these young people are very dedicated and loyal volunteers. They have a sense of ownership of our club and our motto, Run By Us, For Us.

At the end of October 2022 we have 160 active members, 25 registered in our football club, 23 volunteers, and 9 hours of activities each week, attended regularly by 80 people with learning disabilities and / or autism. This results in approximately 140 contact hours per week.

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.

The football club continues to improve the health and well-being outcomes for our members, and MNC Saturday Kitchen and our new Wednesday Sports Club continue to support our theme of Health & Happiness.

Signed

Laura Gill

Chair, The Monday Night Club Trustees