

## Ipswich Disability Sport Forum

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2007  
Ipswich Gymnastics Centre

### Minutes

**Present** - David Finn, Mitzi Read, Liz Christian, Margaret Nicholls, Adam baker, Carolyn Shaw, Warner Duff, Gareth Moir

**Apologies** - Craig Forman, Mike Oakley

**Minutes of Last Meeting** - Agreed

### **Matters Arising**

- GB Special Olympics - no progress. DF to arrange a meeting between the Suffolk local authorities, Optua and Suffolk Sport to progress.
- Liz Christian has now met with Out and About and they have agreed to support the Team Ipswich Swimming Disability Swim Squad through referrals and advertising.
- Icen Warriors Wheelchair Basketball Club now up and running. An open day and training sessions have been held and numbers are gradually increasing.
- Fundraising - AB informed the group that there is a potential fundraising opportunity through linking to retailers through the internet. An example of how it works is available at the SuffolkBasketball.net website. Jon Garnham to follow-up.
- AB reported that the IDSF would be eligible to apply for funding through the Ipswich Borough Council Revenue Grants programme. AB to send application form to Jon Garnham to follow-up.

### **ITFC Community Football Trust Disability Development Plan**

ITFC Community Trust has been successful in securing funding for 5 years to increase football opportunities for people with disabilities both at a training and a competitive level, based on an individuals level of ability, across Suffolk. It focuses on 8 key objectives spearheaded by the appointment of a full-time disability officer. It is hoped that the post will be filled by the end of September. The disability officer will attend future IDSF meetings.

### **IDSF Website/Information Boards**

Information boards continue to be well received. All requested to keep feeding information to Jon Garnham for inclusion on the boards and website. ITFC board currently broken. The website is soon to have a link to the new Beacon Hill School website and will be included in the Ipswich Sports Club Guide. ITFC Community Trust will also include in publicity material in the future.

### **Active People Survey**

AB reported that Sport England had recently published the results of the Active People Survey into sports participation and volunteering in the adult population. Sports participation in Ipswich was poor when compared to other areas although satisfaction with sports provision in the town was very high. In terms of participation amongst people with a limiting disability about 1 in 20 Ipswich residents with a limiting disability engaged in regular moderate sport or physical activity, significantly lower than the regional or national figure. Zero participation was very high with over four of five Ipswich residents with a limiting disability reporting no activity. This is significantly higher than regional and national figures.

AB reported that potential funding opportunities exist through the Team Ipswich Community Sport Network in order to implement projects that impact on these figures. DF and ITFC Community Trust are both represented on the Team Ipswich Board. All to give consideration to possible projects. It should be noted that partnership funding is required for potential projects.

The need for more volunteers was highlighted as part of this discussion. The Suffolk College Freshers Fair on 12<sup>th</sup> September was highlighted as an opportunity. Anybody interested should liaise with DF or contact Trudy Sharman 01473 287282 [trudysharman@suffolk.ac.uk](mailto:trudysharman@suffolk.ac.uk). The Embrace Life project was also highlighted as a current project aimed at recruiting more volunteers in to sport and cultural opportunities. Details from Volunteer in Suffolk helpline on 08452 235 335 or via [www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk).

### **SYG Feedback**

The Suffolk Youth Games was discussed. 21 Ipswich youngsters with a disability took part in the Games and 22 in the Ipswich coaching programmes supporting the Games. The provisional date for next year is Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July in Ipswich. The general feedback was as follows:

- Recruitment of disabled athletes is still an issue especially in authorities bordering Ipswich.
- Rules need finalising earlier than this year.
- There should be more competitive sports for disabled youngsters in the Games.

- Closer involvement is needed with Optua in linking with their work around the Suffolk Disability Sport Academy.
- ITFC Disability Officer may have a role to play in disability football inclusion in the Games.
- Closer liaison needed on disability swimming trials to avoid clashes with other disability events.

The general consensus was that the event is of value but greater consideration needs to be given to widening participation by the disabled community.

**Danny Thorrington's Replacement** - Interviews scheduled for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July. Hopefully have somebody in place by September. The new employee will continue to have a remit for working with/supporting the IDSF.

### **AOB**

- 3 teams of disability footballers from ITFC will be attending the David Beckham Academy for the national finals on 21.07.07
- ITFC will be supporting the visually impaired sports day at Chantry Sports Centre on 20<sup>th</sup> August (details attached).
- Comic Relief has selected a local disabled footballer to feature in an appeal night broadcast.
- Team Ipswich Swimming Disability Squad has secured £5,677 from the Local Network Fund to host a squad awareness day, aquacise workouts, 2 additional swim sessions, CPD for helpers and 3 stroke specific training days for disabled swimmers. AB to ask Phil Lown to contact Liz Christian to discuss additional pool time.
- Team Ipswich Swimming Disability Squad gala was a big success.
- A Goalball Leaders course will take place on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September in Bury St Edmunds (details attached).

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 4.30pm to 6pm, Ipswich Gymnastics Centre.