

The Squad Trustees Annual Report 2022 - 2023

This report is designed to supplement the legal and financial information contained in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 by providing a summary of the activities and achievements of The Squad Club during this period.

The Squad provides people with learning disabilities access to a fun and social environment, whilst supporting them towards fulfilling their true potential. It is an organisation with a difference, embracing and promoting social inclusion and choice. Our beneficiaries (known as 'Members') are encouraged to try new activities and learn new skills, helping them to be better equipped to tackle life's challenges. We believe our members are The Squad's greatest assets, we encourage them to help run the clubs and support them in having a voice, both within the organisation and in their local communities.

Overview for the year

The Squad has been successful in efforts to generate fundraising revenue through various channels, namely grant funding and corporate fundraising, against a backdrop of challenging circumstances across the charity sector following the end of the pandemic. This has enabled the charity to operate with a stable financial platform for the immediate term and continue to build our reserves while continuing to deliver valuable services to our members. The Trustees and all of our team continue to work hard to ensure that this can continue.

Whilst this annual report only covers the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, we think it's important to report on the ongoing impact to The Squad following the coronavirus pandemic and how we have responded as restrictions were lifted in the UK. Despite social distancing and test and trace restrictions being lifted across the UK, our members and their families and carers are still at greater risk than the general public with regards to which continues to concern our members and their families. To address these concerns, we have continued to put the safety of our members, staff and volunteers, as well as the wider community, first in everything we do as a charity.

We have worked to ensure we maintain the best experience possible for our members and volunteers, whilst being proactive in advertising our sessions to new members and volunteers who may benefit from becoming part of The Squad.

Overall, FY22-23 has seen the charity return closer to pre-pandemic operations as we work with our members to help them become more confident and for the charity to continue offering our members as many diverse and beneficial experiences and services as possible.

The charity would not be able to operate without our incredible staff and volunteers, who go above and beyond to ensure our members have a consistently beneficial experience and enjoy every moment of their time with The Squad.

Squad Juniors Club

Juniors Club is for young people aged 13-25. During this period we ran 41 sessions with an average of 21 young people attending each session, supported by a core group of 7 volunteers.

The purpose of the club is to meet the needs of young people and ensure there are activities that they want to be involved and engage with.

We organise three different activities for each weekly session each with a different focus, such as health, creativity and discussion-based activities.

The development we saw this year was the continued focus on members having their voices heard and being able to impact their club. This is demonstrated by our development programme and activities throughout the year.

Our creative sessions focus on arts and crafts, and STEAM activities, these sessions focus on young people's development as outlined by The Young Foundation Framework of Outcomes. We have seen increased development in their ability to think and be creative, their confidence and determination with their work and what they are doing as well as the ability to manage their feelings when struggling to understand or work together. Some of the activities include creating photo frames, candles, calming jars and flower arranging. These activities are very much enjoyed by our members.

Health sessions have a mix of activities such as cooking, meal planning, sports, exercise and life skills development. This year we have had some tutor led sessions, which have been a hit with the young people, with over 90% wanting the drama/dance teacher to return. This year we asked our members how many of them engage in over 2 hours a week of exercise and we found only 50% of the group engage in this, which is a reminder of the importance of ensuring we have sports and training as a regular session.

Our focus will continue to ensure our members' voices are heard, their opinions listened to and action being taken based on what they want. We have run sessions which have reviewed previous terms, planned the next term, created social media posts, and discussed the progress of the club and where we see it going.

Sense Charity found that 7 in 10 young people with disabilities suffer from loneliness. The importance of our club nights is seen in the relationships that are developed during our youth club. It extends beyond our Thursday evenings, to friendships in school, meeting on the weekends with parents and having someone to speak to. Knowing they have a strong friendship group at the club is extremely important. Alongside this, it also provides respite support for carers and parents.

This year has been a great year and we look forward to the coming year, with some new members joining and some new activities coming up.

Squad Vets Club

The Vets Club is for members aged 25+ and is a well-established and supportive service for its members, which aims to create opportunities for members to socialise in the community and with their peers.

The Vets Club Leader, supported by a team of volunteers, continued to create opportunities for its members to socialise with peers in a welcoming environment. We believe that living with a learning disability should not stop anyone from leading an active and enjoyable life. Therefore our programme contains a great mix of activities, and we ensure that each club night provides members with an opportunity to experience or to learn something meaningful. With sessions fully in-person during this financial year, the Vets were able to return to carefully tailored activities in the community much more frequently, which we know provides significant benefits to our members, enabling them to experience new things and feel more independent. The activities were tailored to provide a balance of recreational, but also

educational and culturally enriching activities.

Spring term 2022 included a London river boat tour, flower arranging and food tasting, plus a weekend day trip to RHS Wisley Gardens.

Activities in the Autumn 2022 term included a cultural/educational visit to the Shree Ghanaphathy Temple in Wimbledon Village, a tea tasting evening, and football themed physical and artistic sessions.

The Winter 2022 term included FIFA World Cup themed activities and quizzes, a group concert, Winter arts & crafts, and a group Christmas dinner.

Activities in the Spring 2023 term included supported visits to the Whitechapel Gallery, The Wellcome Collection 'In Plain Sight' exhibition, Open Mic Night at a local Merton pub, and a visit to the cinema. The Vets also celebrated Shrove Tuesday and learned how to make their own pancakes alongside volunteers, as well as visiting Battersea Power Station and participating in a group Zumba class.

The Squad would not be able to exist without the support from the dedicated volunteer teams. We want to say an enormous thank you to our Vets volunteers who make the Squad so special, giving everything to ensure our members have the best experience in every interaction with the charity and creating a unique community for our members that empowers them to be confident, independent, and to have fun.

Finances

The Board of Trustees takes its obligations to responsibly manage our finances very seriously.

During the 2022- 23 financial year our plans around income generation continue to suffer post covid and with the subsequent cost of living crisis, as such, both these scenarios create a very challenging environment for charities of all types and have impacted both our ability to fundraise.

However, we have been successful in securing income via charitable grants and through a corporate partnership where The Squad was nominated as corporate charity for a business whose employees fundraised for us throughout the year. We are immensely grateful to all those who have supported us during this very challenging period.

Conclusion

More than anything else, we are delighted to see The Squad's membership continue to enjoy the services that we provide and to give continued excellent feedback regarding the impact that the charity has on their lives and wellbeing.

We would like to take this opportunity to formally thank the Club Leaders of the Juniors and Vets Clubs and our dedicated volunteers, for their continued hard work and support. Finally and most importantly, to our members, who continue to provide the inspiration and motivation to help us grow and succeed.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Squad Club

1094398

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------|----|------------|
| For the period from | 01/04/2022 | To | 31/03/2023 |
|------------------------|------------|----|------------|

Section A Receipts and payments

| | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Endowment funds to the nearest £ | Total funds to the nearest £ | Last year to the nearest £ |
|---|---|---|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A1 Receipts | | | | | |
| Grants - Juniors Restricted | - | 17,500 | - | 17,500 | 10,000 |
| Grants - Vets Restricted | - | 5,115 | - | 5,115 | - |
| Grants - Unrestricted | - | - | - | - | 6,500 |
| Membership Subscriptions | 1,347 | - | - | 1,347 | 1,069 |
| Donations | 9,443 | - | - | 9,443 | 3,673 |
| Giftaid | 1,276 | - | - | 1,276 | - |
| Interest Income | 253 | - | - | 253 | 6 |
| Other | 131 | - | - | 131 | 219 |
| Sub total (Gross income for AR) | 12,450 | 22,615 | - | 35,065 | 21,467 |
| A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table). | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total receipts | 12,450 | 22,615 | - | 35,065 | 21,467 |
| A3 Payments | | | | | |
| Overheads (Legal, accounting & insurance) | 3,010 | - | - | 3,010 | 3,137 |
| Memberships & Marketing | 207 | - | - | 207 | 203 |
| Rent | 1,053 | 1,053 | - | 2,106 | 1,782 |
| Salaries - Juniors Club | - | 6,605 | - | 6,605 | 6,656 |
| Salaries - Vets Club | 1,490 | 5,115 | - | 6,605 | 6,656 |
| Salaries - General | - | - | - | - | - |
| Juniors Club Expenses (inc Bus) | - | 2,647 | - | 2,647 | 2,824 |
| Vets Club Expenses | 833 | - | - | 833 | 308 |
| Other Expenses | 727 | - | - | 727 | 478 |
| Sub total | 7,320 | 15,420 | - | 22,740 | 22,044 |
| A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table) | | | | | |
| Security Safe | 582 | - | - | 582 | 290 |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | 582 | - | - | 582 | 290 |
| Total payments | 7,902 | 15,420 | - | 23,322 | 22,334 |
| Net of receipts/(payments) | 4,548 | 7,195 | - | 11,743 | - 867 |
| A5 Transfers between funds | - | - | - | - | - |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | 29,763 | 4,617 | - | 34,380 | 35,247 |
| Cash funds this year end | 34,311 | 11,812 | - | 46,123 | 34,380 |

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

| Categories | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B1 Cash funds | CAF Accounts | 30,263 | 11,812 | - |
| | Paypal | 3,440 | - | - |
| | Petty Cash | 608 | - | - |
| | Total cash funds | 34,311 | 11,812 | - |
| | (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) | OK | OK | OK |
| B2 Other monetary assets | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
| | Giftaid unclaimed | 960 | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| B3 Investment assets | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
| | None | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
| | None | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| B5 Liabilities | Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
| | PAYE/NIC Payable | | 660 | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees | Signature | Print Name | Date of approval | |
| | <i>P Catt</i> | Philip Catt | 30-Jan-24 | |
| | <i>R Isman</i> | Renaud Isman | 30-Jan-24 | |



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

The Squad Club

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1094398

Set out on pages

Included in the CC16a accounts pages and the Trustees annual report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2023.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Martin Davies

Date: 30 January 2024

Name: Martin Davies

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

FCA
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)

Address:

A3 Broomsleigh Business Park
Worsley Bridge Road
Luton SE26 5BN

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

N/A