

NI Knights Wheelchair Basketball club is a charity that aims to improve the physical health and wellbeing of people with disabilities and their families in Northern Ireland through the sport of wheelchair basketball



NI KNIGHTS WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CLUB ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by: Colin Davis
Position held: Hon. Treasurer
Address: 15 Kilbright Road, Carrowdore
Newtownards, BT22 2HQ
Mobile: 07768781357
Charity No. 103381
Date: Year Ending 31st August 2022

Governance:

Knights WBC are members of Disability Sport Northern Ireland (DSNI), Irish Wheelchair Association Sport (IWA) and British Wheelchair Basketball (BWB). All of the aforementioned organisations act as governing bodies for our various teams.

We have a nominated child protection officer (Mrs Mary McCabe), a policy covering child protection and all of our coaches and committee members have had Access NI enhanced checks.

The Club has obtained the Clubmark Scheme Award.

Committee for Year Ending 31st August 2022:

Chair: Mr Neil Carlisle
Hon. Treasurer: Rev Colin Davis
Hon. Secretary: Mr Mark Fenton
Members: Mrs Mary McCabe
Mr Luke Marshall
Mr Justin McIlroy
Mrs Sarah Beattie

Foundation & Charitable Aims:

The Knights WBC was founded in 1990 and officially became a registered charity in 2017. It was set up to provide opportunities for disabled people to get involved in team sport. The Club promotes a healthy lifestyle for disabled people and encourage social inclusion. The Club also welcomes participation and inclusion of able bodied members as well. Through the sport of wheelchair basketball we aim to improve the physical health and wellbeing of people with disabilities and their families in Northern Ireland.

Report for Year Ending 31st August 2022

Whilst fundraising takes place at a variety of times throughout the club's financial year, the actual playing season is usually September to May.

This past year we have continued where able to improve the physical health and mental wellbeing of our members by providing sporting and social opportunities. Following Covid-19 regular training restarted in a more normal way in Sept 2021 each week at the Hammer Youth Centre, Belfast on Thursdays. This consists of two sessions, the first for junior and developing members and also new members. Those who simply want to try it out are always welcome too. The second session on Thursday evenings is for senior players and those who are playing competitively. Following new requirements, the Club now has a Covid Officer and appropriate protocols need to be followed to minimise risk for Club members.

Being a disability sport club and given the nature of disabilities of our members, some are considered in the vulnerable category so it is imperative the Club takes this into account, whilst also providing every opportunity.

With one or two key members stepping down or moving away the Knights decided not to participate in the BWB GB League this season. This has significantly reduced the annual costs which can be seen in our accounts.

Following the decision during the 2019/20 season to withdraw from the IWA Irish League, this leaves the newly organised by DSNI, NI League as the main opportunity for competitive wheelchair basketball. That said, DSNI also run a performance training session on a separate evening which some of our members participate in and through this competed with great success at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, representing Northern Ireland.

This along with previous members who have competed at the Olympics with the GB squad, won a World Championship and even gone on to play wheelchair basketball professionally are great examples to inspire members and show what is possible, if people have the talent and the dedication and wish to pursue such goals.

In the past the Club has had various social events, including an End of Season Awards. Members have also been nominated for and sometimes won other sports awards (e.g. Belfast City Council and Mary Peter's Awards)

As members develop there is also the opportunity to enhance their own organisational and life skills by serving on our Club Committee or hoping to organise some of our activities.

Our playing membership has ranged from as young as 8 to 60 and come from all sides of the NI Community. Club benefits can be enjoyed by everyone, regardless of age, religion, ethnicity or disability.

The Knights works closely in partnership with Disability Sport NI as won of their flagship organisations to promote disability sport, most recently to help promote the disability hubs being set up in the different council areas. We are also helping them to promote other Wheelchair Basketball Clubs within Northern Ireland with a view to having our own national league and providing more opportunities for people to participate in the sport.

A number of our members have attained or are working towards their Level 1 Coaching Certificate and we also have some who are trained up through DSNI as Match Table Officials.

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Our fundraising events, whilst essential to enable the Club to run the teams and participate in the various competitions, also are very important in raising the profile of disability sport and wheelchair basketball in particular. This is very often our 'shop window' to attract new members, but also gives members a sense of responsibility and achievement away from the basketball court.

Over the years we have been fortunate enough to also have had various sponsors, whose generosity has helped with kit sponsorship, transport and tournament sponsorship.

During the past season the following companies and organisations have sponsored us in regard to both playing leisure kits:

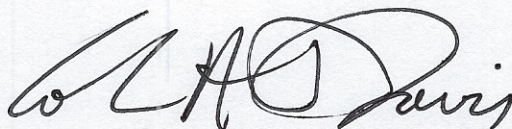
- People Playbook

Financial Statement

Due to a large donation six or seven years ago, the Knights has been in a secure financial situation and this continues to be the case. As previously mentioned, the withdrawal from the GB League has significantly reduced our annual expenditure and for the second year running income was higher than expenditure.

Club Income & Expenditure accounts can be seen on the Charity Commission NI website, along with the inspecting accountant's statement.

Signed:



Completed on behalf of the Trustees by Rev Colin Davis (Hon. Treasurer), Knights WBC