



NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2018

WELCOME TO THE APRIL 2018 EDITION OF THE BOYS CLUBHOUSE NEWSLETTER. THERE HAVE BEEN SO MANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS THAT WE HAVE BARELY HAD A CHANCE TO CATCH OUR BREATH, BUT LET US GIVE YOU A BRIEF PEAK INTO SOME RECENT MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS.

HOMELESS PROJECT: The Boys Clubhouse teamed up with 'Light up a life' project run by Tikkun. 10 boys with staff, trekked out on a cold wintery night to deliver duvets, pillow, chocolates, wafers and most importantly – some humanity and care - to homeless people in London. The temperature outside was -2 degrees Celsius, so these basic necessities provided the homeless with some much needed cheer. The boys took the time to speak to the homeless people and try to understand the depth of their plight and how much they are suffering. The whole experience was a real eye-opener for our boys with many of them commenting afterwards that it made them appreciate their own lives and put their daily challenges into perspective.



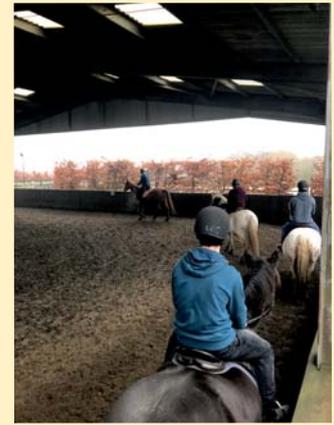
BUILDING PROJECT AND FUNDING: The past few months have been very encouraging. Support for our building project came through the London Borough of Barnet's Area Committee alongside some funding for equipment from a well-received mailshot. Funders were very enthused, particularly by our activity range, including horse therapy, krav maga and our own training programmes. Support has come in from the Lottery's "Awards for All" programme, The Shosh Charitable Trust, the Jewish Youth Fund and Jewish Childs Day. Continued funding was received from the Kirsh Foundation for our employment and business training project. Ari Leaman was invited by Interlink to deliver a presentation to the BBC Children in Need.

KRAV MAGA: During the winter holidays, 2 of our boys travelled to Israel to complete their Krav Maga training under Dori from the Krav Maga Institute and to receive an official instructor license to be able to train others in Krav Maga. They returned after an intensive, gruelling but equally fulfilling 10 days, with the certificate under their belts. They are already putting it to good use, by helping to train 5 of the new faces who have recently joined our London Krav Maga programme.



EBAY PROJECT: Since its inception about 3 years ago, the Clubhouse Ebay Project (known as the Clubhouse Business Enterprise – CBE) has been a tremendous success. With many of our boys having now moved on, starting their own Ebay companies, the project is doing exactly what it set out to do, to give youngsters the skills and confidence to succeed in the wider world. In the last 2 months alone 5 of our Ebay staff have moved on, 3 to run their own Ebay businesses and 2 to other employment. As a result we have been able to take on 3 new clients and plans are underway to expand and take the Enterprise up a level. To this end we are actively looking to employ a business manager who will help us achieve that.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES: In addition to our long-standing, weekly Monday night learning Programme and Thursday night snooker tournament, we have now begun taking a number of clients on weekly horse riding lessons, where the boys learn the basics in horsemanship skills, tacking up, grooming and riding horses. The boys are gradually growing in confidence around the animals, finding it to be a very therapeutic experience. One boy said "I cannot believe we are actually in busy London, it doesn't seem real, it is so calm out here". Another said, "Thursdays are my favourite day of the week, I can't wait to get up in the morning to be picked up by Lollu. My friends don't believe me that my work place pays for my riding lessons!!" The grant we received from Jewish Childs Day and Jewish Youth Fund has enabled us to continue this valuable activity and we now have plans to engage specific clients - who have been through trauma - to equine facilitated therapy, where the strong bond formed with the horses, helps the troubled teenager to move forward in their life development.



CST-CADET COURSE: The Boys Clubhouse teamed up with CST to offer cadet training to our clients. With classes held weekly throughout the winter, 3 out of the 6 boys who started the course, have already completed it and qualified. The benefit of having our boys give something positive back to the community cannot be understated and it is hoped that more boys will follow suit.

EMPLOYMENT & APPRENTICESHIPS: Congratulations to 2 of our boys who have recently secured well-paid apprenticeships in the construction sector. Their skills and work ethic were recognized by local building entrepreneurs and they were offered an opportunity of a lifetime to master the trade and earn money at the same time – we wish them every success.

NEW IN ISRAEL – THE CAVE: Our Israeli branch run by the innovative Hillel Frickers has just secured a new HQ - “The Cave” in downtown Jerusalem. As the name suggests, the location is just that - a cave hollowed out of rock that needs a lot of work done to it, before it can be used as a centre. The plan is for our boys in the Israel department to get to work and turn this site into a functioning “drop in and activity” centre, similar to what we already have in London. Hopefully the boys will take pride in this project and put their hearts and souls into it.

