



NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2015

WELCOME TO THE JANUARY 2015 EDITION OF THE BOYS CLUBHOUSE NEWSLETTER. IN THIS MONTHLY PUBLICATION WE HOPE TO SHARE WITH YOU INFORMATION ON OUR ACTIVITIES, COURSES AND PROJECTS.

A LETTER RECEIVED: Dear Rabbi Chissick,

I am absolutely delighted that you asked me to write an article for your newsletter, about how the Clubhouse has helped our family. You deserve recognition for the work that you do as you work tirelessly for the boys and your results are outstanding.

My son David, at the age of 16 after being excluded from school, was not accepted into any Yeshiva and this broke him. He became rebellious and angry. He started looking for outside interests and started mixing with wrong people. As a mother, I was losing hope. He was obviously very unhappy, and talking to him or consoling him was not working. He was spiralling downwards and I could not seem to catch him.

One day a friend of mine mentioned to me that Ari Leaman who works at the Clubhouse, might be able to help me. I contacted him as I had nothing to lose. It was worth a try. Ari got in touch with David and regularly met him for lunch. David liked him and the relationship got stronger and stronger. He then attended the Clubhouse regularly where he could chill out playing games and also attend educational programmes. It was a place he could hang out with the right people, whilst at the same time be watched by caring professionals. He felt safe there.

Whenever we had difficult moments, no matter what time of the day or night, Ari was always available to give support and advice. Ari kept our whole family going, encouraging us not to give up. David knew that Ari believed in him and worked hard with him on many areas of his life. Eventually, Ari was able to guide David back on his feet, teaching him to do things the correct way, until he was ready to attend Nooky Chissick's program. Once in the program, David built such a bond with Nooky, that he was able to encourage David to try, once again, to go to Yeshiva.

Today, years later, I am extremely grateful to both Ari Leaman and Nooky Chissick. Thank G-d my son has come back. He was accepted at a Yeshiva and is now a happy and fulfilled boy.

I and my family have learnt a tremendous amount from both of them. Never give up hope. There is always a light at the end of the tunnel. The work of Ari Leaman and Nooky Chissick is unique.

Words can never truly express my gratitude to 'the Clubhouse' for the tremendous encouragement that you give us through this very difficult time. May Hashem bless you with an abundance of strength to continue your amazing work and may you be merited to be further successful to all the boys your help.

Chanuka Party: Our annual Chanuka party was held this year at the home of Ari Leaman. It has become a favourite with the boys over the years, and over 25 attended. They were treated to a fully home-cooked supper, crossword puzzles and whiskey tasting competitions for the over 18's with the winners receiving gift vouchers. There was pin-drop silence in the room as Rabbi Moshe Levy inspired the boys with warm words. Dovid Kraus then entertained the boys with his guitar and a spontaneous kumzits broke out as the boys were filled with nostalgic memories of old songs. Some of the boys refused to leave till after 12am!

Special thanks to JPA Chair Inspector Tim Williams for taking time out from his busy schedule to pop in for a fresh piece of home-cooked open fried chicken.

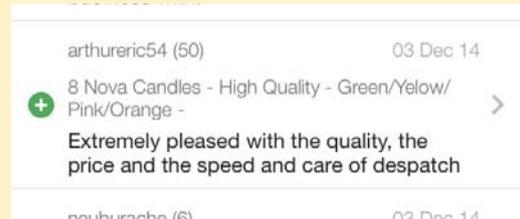
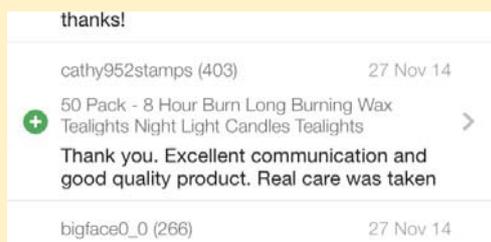


Chanuka party band at Scotland Yard: At the annual JPA Chanuka Party, Musical entertainment filled the function room at New Scotland Yard. Our boys proudly put together a band including drums guitars and keyboard. Initially the plan was to have people tapping feet alongside some tunes, but the audience got carried away with the lively music and dancing and singing was enjoyed by all.

Clubhouse Business Enterprise - The Ebay Project : What started at humble beginnings has now blossomed into a full time company, demanding the full-time and efforts of 4 of our clients at any one time! With professional recognition from Ebay, the in-house Ebay project has really taken off! The boys have now hit 3,000 positive feedbacks. Due to the high volume of orders, the boys who work full time train additional boys to sell part time on Ebay. All boys receive accredited training and qualifications in the skills for online customer service. To date we have seen alumni move full-time into estate agency, marketing, PR, bookkeeping, sales, computing and one as a full-time e-bayer.

Grants: We won a prestigious award from Santander Bank for the work that we undertake at Clubhouse Business Enterprise. The award was accompanied by a cheque for £2,500! Grant income continues to be received from long-term funders. We are grateful for this as it provides a degree of security to our cashflow.

Mention must also be given to the Cambridge Reunion Society, which is closing after 60 years activity. Over the years, it has given us and other groups a number of grants for equipment. We are ever-grateful to the trustees.



Poland Trip: We are in the middle of finalising a fantastic Poland trip with the inspirational Jroots team BE”H. The plan is to go in the middle of March, taking around 20 of the more focused clients with us. We are putting together a team of mentors, educators and inspirational speakers to maximize the potential of this trip. More to follow

Employment & Education: The Boys’ Clubhouse is thrilled to welcome a new member of staff to the team. Chaim Evers has joined to lead the “employment and education” department. With many of our clients in desperate need for guidance in these fields, Chaim is an inspirational role model to the boys. Chaim’s drive and passion for productivity is coupled with a wealth of knowledge and business contacts with whom to network. Chaim’s aim is to have no more teenagers hanging around doing nothing. He will build a specific target and plan for each individual.

Programmes: There are 4 main programmes that we run on a weekly basis .

Monday night learning at Bridge Lane Synagogue - is a programme where volunteers from the wider community come to learn with the boys. This is followed by a shiur from a variety of guest speakers whilst the boys enjoy some takeaway food.

Thursday night discussion is at our HQ - this gives the younger boys a chance to discuss whatever is on their minds with a keyworker in attendance. Held alongside cholent and kugel, the atmosphere is relaxed and conducive to good discussion. This is then followed by a pool tournament.

Thursday late night shiur at Rabbi Nooky Chissick’s home - is for the older boys and those returning from programs in Israel. This enables the older clients, some of whom have moved on with their lives, to maintain contact and receive guidance where needed.

Newly launched NA (Narcotics Anonymous) Meeting. This is being run alongside Drugline (Norwood) and takes place every Thursday night. For boys who have been through the cycle of drugs and sincerely want to get their lives back, this programme, which is organised with complete confidentiality is ideal. A professional drugs counsellor chairs the meetings and we are hopeful to see genuine progress.