

Babergh Disability Sport and Leisure Forum

9th December 2009

10am

Venue: Babergh District Council Offices

Attending: Louise Pennell, Stephanie Lloyd, Gemma Bennett

1) Future Projects

Louise has liaised with Sudbury Rugby Club and they are happy to provide their new venue for tag rugby sessions on a weekly basis. These will start on 8th April and run every Thursday throughout the summer and finish the Thursday within the October half term. Sessions will be from 2-4pm and posters will be available at the beginning of February at the latest.

Brantham are also happy to accommodate a similar session for Football and Louise is hoping to set this up on a similar time frame which the club are happy with in principle and ITFC ability counts program have always said they would be keen to be involved with this. The day and time are yet to be decided as is the start and finish date but this is hopefully to be settled within the next few weeks and posters also available at the beginning of February.

Louise has also spoken with Strikes in Sudbury and they are happy to accommodate regular supported sessions. Louise will put together a timetable of sessions for ten pin bowling and again this is likely to start around Easter time and run on a monthly basis.

Action: Louise to forward posters once available and will appreciate partners promoting where possible

2) 2012 Day and plans to celebrate

The Suffolk Spartans Powerlifting Club will be holding a competition/training event open to everyone to attend at East Bergholt Sports Centre from 10am. Original plans were to have this as a wider day of Olympic and Paralympic activity however the mainstream sports team are now unable to attend and as a result the event has been scaled back to just powerlifting now as there are not other people available to support the day.

The chief executive and development officer from the NGB are attending and hopefully the chairman of the International Paralympic Committee as well as a number of National and International athletes within both disabled and able bodied powerlifting. Louise is working to coordinate this and a number of local councillors have also been invited to attend so we are expecting a reasonable turn out for the day.

3) Summer 09 Activity

The summer was a reasonable success in the fact that BeActive hosted 28 sessions specifically aimed at people of all ages with an additional needs and this turned out to be 97 supported hours provided. Figures of attendances are difficult as the play sessions were run alongside mainstream and registers were not taken. We had 24 people attend the Football and Tag Rugby Festival and 24 people attend the Summer Festival filled with music, arts and crafts as well as sports.

During the summer we worked with the ability counts program at ITFC and the Suffolk Golf Partnership and these relationships were very successful. We also found that the Suffolk Befriending Scheme were vital in their support of the football and tag rugby training sessions. Advertising and publicity was incredibly slow during the summer and this was not helped because there was a lack of support from the PR team at Babergh but publicity was pushed continuously from the Suffolk Disability Sports Academy and this was important.

Word will definitely spread and Louise is already finding that people are beginning to ask what is available during a holiday which means that we should have a much more successful summer program next year as word continues to spread and Louise is beginning to identify links with schools and SEN coordinators for the future. Activities Unlimited are keen to promote the work and Louise is working on funding from them for next year's activities.

Holbrook was a weak area within the summer program but it is important to keep some activities within this side of the district and it is expected that numbers will increase in the future. Next years activities will be promoted at the Optua Games in Holbrook which is on 1st July so hopefully this will increase numbers.

Action: A similar program to be run again next year as word is spreading within the community of the scheme and so numbers will be higher. Preliminary plans to be available for next meeting.

4) Schools Programme

Steph covered the current schools programme which is being aligned with the competition framework that exists in Suffolk. Babergh are currently supporting sessions in Ipswich schools as well at this time to ensure sufficient numbers for festivals however with future changes and the focus of the playground to podium we may have to restrict activity to Babergh schools only but will try to continue to work with Ipswich if at all possible.

A festival was held last week that was a huge success and the coaching and festivals are arranged on a term basis i.e. 3 per year and this latest including skills such as speed stacking and sports such as sitting volleyball.

Action: Steph to continue with program and update

5) Club Success

Louise gave the highlights from the recent trip to the IWAS World Games in India and Zoe managed to lift double her own bodyweight to secure not only a new British Junior and Senior Record but she also secured the European Junior Record. Overall Zoe placed second in both the junior and senior world championships. This was a big test for Zoe as the competition was tough and with the heat, travel and change in diet all playing a part as well. A big thank you needs to go to Optua for assisting financially and making this trip possible.

Suffolk Spartans have also been profiled by Sport England Clubmark for it's successes and a report from the website can be found at <http://www.clubmark.org.uk/resources/case-studies> the club are extremely proud to be given this national recognition.

A discussion was held over the lack of local recognition for Zoe and the club unfortunately Babergh PR team are often not available to support raising the local profile and don't realise the importance of such a successful club within their midst. Louise was advised that Zoe is unable to be put forward for Community Achievement Awards in Babergh because she received one previously as part of East Bergholt High School and despite numerous nominations has not been able to win at sports awards either in Ipswich or Suffolk. Zoe and the club do receive national recognition for the work they have done and Zoe won the best newcomer award for Wheelpower in 2008 which selects people throughout the nation and the club receive recognition from Sport England and EFDS as well as the IPC.

SportsAid are launching a new project called Destination Gold on 10th December and Zoe has been asked to provide a demonstration at the event to be held at the Mansion in Wherstead Park. In addition to being an athlete that should benefit financially from Destination Gold Zoe has also been given a high level SportsAid grant which will go towards supporting her next year in her numerous overseas competitions that will make the start of qualification for London 2012.

Action: Louise will make an attempt to raise the profile within the local press and celebrate the success seen over the past year

Since the meeting Louise has received contact from the National Press with a view to speaking to Zoe and doing an interview with her and so this will be pursued ahead of local press.

6) Wider Update

Activities Unlimited

A long discussion was held around Activities Unlimited as they have funds available for local projects. Much of the summer programme was advertised on their website however they have upgraded the forms that need to be completed and this has made them far more onerous for providers to complete especially as one needs to be completed for every activity. They are looking to work more within Sudbury but after trying to arrange a provider event the uptake was so low they cancelled this. They

have a good website and people should take some time to look over this seeing what is available. They can provide funding for one to one support where this is needed but as a pilot project they are relying on the next couple of years being successfully to ensure it can be sustained in the future.

This project is open to projects aimed at those under 25 and the biggest challenge is now to those that provide activities for those over 25 as this scheme is raising the expectation level of people and families as to what is currently and what should be available. Further updates will follow on this in the future. www.activities-unlimited.co.uk

Suffolk Disability Sports Academy

There was an SDSA meeting on 8th December there was very little in the way of updates that are definitely taking place. A Big Splash coordinator was announced and this is Louise Pennell who will run the project 3 days a week for the next year and will start in the new year. Funding is still being sought for the Special Olympics in Suffolk. Coaching course are hopefully being arranged for Boccia but not is finalised there as yet.

Events for the Diary in and around Babergh

19 th June	Great East Swim at Alton Water
1 st July	Optua Games at RHS in Holbrook
24 th July	Optua Showcase Day at Northgate, Ipswich
23 rd – 25 th July	London 2012 Open Weekend

There is funding available for people that want to organise something to coincide with the open weekend and there are leaflets detailing any conditions that can be forward to people but I only have on paper so cannot email I'm afraid.

Next Meeting

Thursday 4th March 2010
10am @ Great Cornard Sports Centre