



Registered charity number: 1134544

Patron: Laura Hamilton

It's Ability not Disability that Matters

INDEX

Proposed Changes	Page 1
Trustee Report	Page 2
Christmas Party 2009	Page 3
Ally's Golfing Success	Page 4
2010 Family Weekend	Page 5
Loudon Castle	Page 5
Christmas Party 2010	Page 5
Time to Go	Page 6
Committee	Page 6
Face Book	Page 6
Well Done	Page 6
Thank you's	Page 6
Reply slips attached	

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Proposed Changes

As some of you may be aware there are some changes on the cards for how branches are run. These changes are due to the fact that Reach has become an incorporate company. This will result in the Scottish Branch being affected in various ways. Below is an extract from an email from Michael Moran, Reach Trustee regarding the proposed changes to Reach and the effects this will have on the Scottish branch.

What can the Reach Trustees and Reach Head Office do for the Scottish Branch? Can you have a think about this and let me know please?

The Headers and Footers on the Reach letters will now have to be the same as the Head Office paperwork. This is now an issue as Reach has become a registered company.

The fact that we are a registered company places new constraints on Reach accounts. We may be looking to move to a new accountancy package and potentially centralising the bank accounts with each branch having a separate balance etc. Moneys raised specifically for the Scottish Branch would have to be identified specifically.

Disclosure Checks. I know that the Scottish Branch are ahead of the game here, thanks to the leadership displayed by Yourself and Carl. As discussed all Committee Members should be disclosed and the information provided to me to pass to Sue. If we go down the route of asking the older Reach children to become mentors etc. we will then have to think about measures we need to take

Reach are looking to formalise the training for mentors etc. I have been asked to review an NSPCC package for Reach and feed back.

We have not been involved with these proposals at any stage so if you have any questions or queries please contact Michael Moran michael@reach.org.uk or Sue Stokes at the Head Office. I am sure they will be able to help to clarify any concerns you may have.

Trustee Report

By Michael Moran

I have now been a Trustee of Reach since October 2008. A lot has happened in that time to help take Reach from strength to strength.

Until the AGM vote in October 2009 Reach has been an unincorporated charity. In brief, this meant it was registered with the Charity Commission but all liabilities, contracts and agreements were with the trustees as the charity had no legal entity of its own. Therefore, the trustees were personally or as a whole liable for any financial commitments or costs incurred as a result of court action.

During the past year the trustee board took Reach forward to become an incorporated charity. This creates a legal entity for Reach and therefore protects the Trustees, who are normal members of the charity who wish to do a bit more, and Reach which will continue to grow as a charity. For further information please have a look at the Reach website www.Reach.org.uk, log in, go to 'about Reach' then click on 'Governance'.

We were all extremely happy and relieved that the vision the Trustee Board had was shared by the members and the motion to become incorporated was approved during the vote at the AGM. This was the culmination of many hours of work by the Trustee board prior to my joining, under the leadership of Gary Philips as Chairperson.

My first dealing with Gary was on a cold and rainy late October evening, in 2008, when he phoned me to welcome me as a Trustee. We discussed the strategic importance of the Trustee Board for taking Reach forward. I was very nervous about becoming a Trustee but wanted to give even more back to Reach. For those of you who know do not know me I am not normally a shy or nervous person, but I think the enormity of becoming a Trustee slightly overwhelmed me at first.

I have been a Reach Scottish Branch Committee Member for several years, and continue to be one, and felt that I could help bring a 'Scottish' view to the Trustee Board. I had tried and failed to become a Trustee in October 2007 but I am not one to be easily put off and have a bit of a stubborn streak,

so tried again and was successful.

My work within the Trustee Board is firstly to help ensure the continuation of what I can only describe as a wonderful charity that provides support, not only to my son and my family, but to many, many families in Scotland, England, Ireland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In fact we help families all over the world.

Secondly I wanted to help bring the benefits of being involved in the Scottish Branch to the Trustee Board and benefits from being involved with the Trustee Board also back to the Scottish Branch. I had felt that there was a lack of connection between 'us up here' and 'them down there'! I am happy to say that I put the case for Scotland where it is needed and also ensure where there are different legal entities in Scotland the Board are made aware of them. A prime example is the disclosure system which is a devolved legal issue.

I have enjoyed my time this year and look forward to the next two years as a Trustee.

Talking of which, I have secured the AGM for Scotland in October 2011. I have been a member for eight years, since my son Adam was born, and have no memory of an AGM being in Scotland. The AGM in Dublin will be a hard act to follow. They had Irish Dancers who completely blew us away. Unfortunately my wife, Karen, and our two boys Craig and Adam, were the only Scottish members who made it over, but we had a great, if exhausting, time. I hope that we will have a massive turn out in October 2011 but I will remind you all nearer the time.

I would like to take this opportunity to point you in the direction of Within Reach, autumn 2009 number 111, for an article on the AGM for 2009.

I would also like to let you know that if you have any issues which you want me to take to the Trustee Board then please feel free to e-mail me on Michael@reach.org.uk. We cover strategic issues affecting Reach but I can always ask for advice etc. from the other Trustee Board members who I have found to be very welcoming and helpful.

Christmas Party 2009

By Michael Moran

This year we again had our Christmas Party and Tobogganing at Snozone in Braehead. It was another snowy and cold forty five minutes of Tobogganing which was enjoyed by all of the adults and children alike. A great time was had by all and we caught some of the moments of fun on camera.

After the Tobogganing we met up in a new and Christmas songs and we were surprised by a visit from Santa, who had previously been seen out on the snow, who brought some Christmas presents for the boys and girls. Luckily no-one was on the naughty list and no lumps of coal bigger party room (and as many pointed out, much warmer). The children feasted on pizza, chicken nuggets, burgers and chips (Some of us dads nicked some chips. I hope we are not on the naughty list) with orange juice, blackcurrant juice or water. For the adults (definitely not grown ups!) we had sandwiches, wraps and biscuits with tea and coffee. The food did not last long but the room was at its quietest at that time.

After food we played some party games. We played pass the parcel, musical hats and a Snowman craft game with the best snowman being awarded a prize for the winning team We started singing some were handed out. We all thanked Santa for the lovely presents and Santa left to go to see other boys and girls who were having a Christmas party. We left exhausted but everyone enjoyed themselves.

Can't wait until next year.



Ally's Golfing Success

UK Disabled Golfers to compete in inaugural Home International Series at 2010 Ryder Cup venue_

Monty's men may be taking on Celtic Manor later this year in the Ryder Cup, but disabled golfers from across the UK have decided to show them the way in their brand new Four Nations Cup competition Golfers to compete in inaugural Home International Series at 2010 Ryder Cup venue

Squads from Scotland, Ireland, England and Wales have just been announced to take part in this inaugural event and will travel to Wales next month to play at this prestigious golfing venue.

Monday 15 March is the first day for the match play competition and Steve Bramwell, the Scottish Captain, said, "It is a great honour to lead your country at any time, but to be able to play in a brand new event and at such a great golf course, does give you a great buzz. We'll travel down the day before the match starts, to get settled in and get a little practise, before battle commences on Monday".

The Scottish Squad, which has been selected from the 2009 Scottish Order of Merit Championship and some Captain's wild-card choices, will travel from various parts of Scotland, including Ayrshire, Fife, Edinburgh and Glasgow and the event is the first ever team international that involves numerous disabilities, including amputees, those with sensory loss, cerebral palsy, stroke victims and other serious health conditions.

TEAM SCOTLAND

Mark Belcher-Edinburgh
Alisdair Berry-Ayrshire
Steve Bramwell (Captain)-Johnstone
John Copland-Johnstone
Jim Gales (Vice Captain)-Cupar
Duncan Hamilton-Martin-Weybridge
Scott Kerr-Glasgow
William McEwan-Glenrothes

(Extract from golfblogger.co.uk)



AYRSHIRE JUNIOR GOLF LEAGUE - Berry named as Junior Golfer of the Year at Annual Dinner

Alasdair Berry (Irvine Ravenspark) was named as the 2009 winner of the Macrobert Thistle Trophy and the title of Ayrshire Junior Golfer Of The Year at the 41st Annual Dinner & Presentation Of Trophies of The Ayrshire Junior Golf League, held at Irvine Ravenspark on Monday 9th November Berry, who has been a member of the Ravenspark junior club for a number of years and presently plays off a handicap of 7, won the category 1 nett trophy at the inaugural Disabled Open Golf Championship earlier this year. Members of the Ravenspark club who were in attendance were visibly moved when the winner In Trust (Formerly The National Playing Fields was announced by David Reynolds of Fields Association).

Above - David Reynolds with Alasdair Berry

(Extract from ayrshiregolf.blogspot.com)

2010 Family Weekend

This year's family weekend will once again be held at Ardeonaig, by Killin. The weekend will run from the 25th-27th of July and this year as well as the usual excitement (canoeing, rafting, high ropes etc.). Reach's Patron and star of kid's television Laura Hamilton will be attending. As usual places go very fast so please confirm your place by returning the enclosed reply slip and £25 deposit by the 01st of May 2010. The cost for a family of 3 and under will be £75 and families of 4 and over £100. The actual cost of the weekend is £97 per person, so thanks to the healthy branch funds we are once again able to subsidise the event.

Accommodation, all meals and activities are included. Should you wish to attend but see the cost as an obstacle please contact me as soon as possible and the Scottish Branch will try to assist. The weekend is a very popular event and gives families a chance to have fun, experience challenges and push boundaries, as well as having a chance to meet similar families.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me. The event is open to all the family and we strive to make it accessible and fun for all, no matter what age or ability. For more information please visit www.abernethy.org.uk



Patron: Laura Hamilton

Loudon Castle



There will be a fun day at Loudon Castle on Saturday 22nd of May 2010. Loudon Castle is a theme park packed full of fun for all the family. There is a huge variety of rides and attractions plus much more for all to enjoy. This event will be free for the whole family and will include an entrance wrist band and a tasty lunch plus a chance to meet Rory the Lion.

If you want to come along and join the fun please return the attached form to myself by the 01st of May to confirm your place. I look forward to seeing you there.

For more information please visit www.loudoncastle-online.co.uk

Christmas Party 2010

Michael has made a provisional booking with SnoZone! Xscape, Breahead for a tobogganing party on Saturday the 04th of December. More details will follow in due course but keep a space in your diary for some festive fun and frolics and maybe a surprise visit from a man in red.

For more information please visit www.snozone.co.uk



Time to Go

Due to the proposed changes by Reach Head Office and the Trustees I no longer feel I should represent Reach as the Scottish Branch co-ordinator. Unfortunately I have conflicting views with some of their decisions and therefore think it is time I called it a day. I will of course continue to help Stacy run the Scottish Branch should she need any assistance and attend various outings but other than that I will have no role within the Scottish Branch.

I would like to take this final opportunity to say thank you to the many families I have met within the Scottish Branch over the last seven and a half years. Besides becoming good friends you have continuously offered support and assistance through out my time as the Scottish Branch coordinator. It truly has been a pleasure meeting all of you and I look forward to meeting you at an event in the future.

Committee

Due to the proposed changes I feel this would be a good time to reorganise the Scottish branch Committee. If you are a serving committee member who wants to continue/stand down or would be keen to become involved please let me know and I will arrange for disclosure checks to be put in place. At the moment the committee is made up of parents who are keen to support the branch and attend/help out and organise events. Other duties involve agreeing on the distribution of funds and any other business that arises. To be a committee member you must be a guardian of a reach member. However this may alter in line with any proposed changes.

Teenage Committee

This has never really got off the ground due to poor response. If you would like to become involved in the teenage committee, have a say in how your branch works, help organise and plan events or do a little fund raising please get in touch in the first instance. You must be the Reach member (sorry no siblings) and between 13 and 19 years old.

Face Book

We are now on Face book! Thanks very much to Karen Cloney for her help in setting this up and for continually maintaining the website for free. To become a member of the Reach Scottish Branch group visit www.reachscottishbranch.co.uk

Well Done

- Ally Berry on your continuing golfing success (see page 4)
- Andrew Mullen on your swimming accomplishments and the dedication to your training.
- Ciara Roulston on passing UKA Grade 1 ballet and all your dancing achievements over the past 4 years.
- Emma Carr for a very good audition for Cbeebies.
Hopefully we will all see you on the TV soon.

Thank You

- Moira Bruce for a £50 donation.
- Hazel Hamilton and the 69 curling club for a donation of £100.
- Andy Roncone for a donation of £50.
- Claire Owens who raised £217 and her Employer (Morgan Stanley Int. Foundation) who matched the donation.
- Thank to everyone else who helps in the running and maintaining of the Scottish Branch.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Reach and are not intended to reflect or constitute Reach policy or in any way portray an official view.

Family Weekend Reply Slip

We would love to attend the family weekend on the 25th – 27th of June at Ardeonaig, Killin.

Name of Those attending

Date of Birth

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I enclose the non-refundable deposit of £25.

Name : _____ (Signed)

Name: _____ (Print)

Return to 55 Cortachy Crescent, Northmuir, Kirriemuir, Angus, Scotland, DD8 4TP

Loudon Castle Reply Slip

We would love to join the fun at Loudon Castle on Saturday May 22nd, meeting at 11am in the car park.

Name of Those attending

Date of Birth

Medical/Dietary Requirements

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please provide a contact number for on the day. _____

Name : _____ (Signed)

Name: _____ (Print)

Return to 55 Cortachy Crescent, Northmuir, Kirriemuir, Angus, Scotland, DD8 4TP