



The Paul Hunter Foundation
Report on activities
1st August 2014 to 31st July 2015



During this season the Paul Hunter Foundation team have been working in specific areas to fulfil Paul's wishes and the mission statement of his charity.

“The aim of the Foundation is to give disadvantaged, able bodied and disabled youngsters an opportunity to play free snooker across the UK and Ireland.”

The two hour sessions delivered by qualified WPBSA World Snooker coaches on a weekly basis have proved successful in targeted ten hour programmes of delivery. Young people take part in fun bite sized games with the opportunity to be awarded certificates for success or for participation, together with medals and trophies. Every participant receives a good quality snooker cue and case branded with the Foundation's logo and the areas where the sessions are running receive a pull up stand to promote the Foundation.

A summary of the Foundation areas for the 2014/15 season

- 1 – Yorkshire - David Horrix
- 2 – South West - Bob Hill
- 3 – Westbury - Duncan Ashman
- 4 – Cambridge - Danielle Findlay
- 5 – London - John Woods
- 6 – North East - Steve Rutter
- 7 – Nottinghamshire and Worksop – Steve Mallender
- 8 – Wales - Lee Walker
- 9 – Fylde Coast - Mandy and Steve Robinson
- 10 – Midlands (1) – Andrew Highfield and Lee Edwards
- 11 – Midlands (2) – Brent Welland
- 12 – Midlands (3) – John McGraner
- 13 – Nottinghamshire – Carlton Youth Centre
- 14 – West Norfolk – Phillip Wellham
- 15 – Chorley and South Ribble – NLTG team

Full size tables have been donated to four schools in Sheffield together with the Carlton Youth Centre in Worksop.

Two WPBSA World Snooker Community Coach Scholarships have been awarded to areas in the Midlands and Ilkley.

Representatives from all the programmes attended the Paul Hunter day together with Paul's family on the middle Sunday of the World Championships where they took part in a roadshow event with six times World Snooker Champion Steve Davis and then watched the afternoon's session of play at the Crucible. The highlight of the afternoon was the BBC televising the round of applause for Paul shortly before the start of the afternoon's play led by the BBC's Jason Mohammed.

What some of our areas say....

Nottinghamshire and Worksop

The Paul Hunter Foundation in North Notts just keeps going from strength to strength and is becoming one of the most eagerly awaited nights of the week for many disadvantaged and able bodied juniors.

At Notts Arena Worksop is now well into its second year and is still attracting between 20 and 30 juniors each week.

We have now had over 100 juniors from all backgrounds taking part in snooker thanks to the PHF.

The nights are now mainly run through our recently qualified level 1 coach Macauley Croft, with me over seeing the nights and his development. Macauley has come through the PHF and the junior snooker academy since the age of 12 and is now taking on the different challenge now he is 19.

Also in the last year we have had new sessions held at Carlton Youth Centre in Costhorpe.

CYC provides a safe environment for juniors to go in the evenings and has many activities to take part in.

Most of the juniors that go there have had difficult times both at home and school but completely respect Steve Scothorne who runs the centre. Most of this is all done on a voluntary basis.

They used to have 2 snooker tables but thanks to the PHF they now have a third which was greatly received by all.

The sessions was a hit with upto 40 juniors taking part at the different challenges coaching sessions and competitions throughout the ten week period. The PHF cues were given out as prizes to the lucky winners which we couldn't have received more thanks for.

On completion of the sessions during the presentation ceremony I was presented with a thank you card made personally by all the juniors which means a lot and just shows the impact the PHF had on them.

For me personally it's an absolute pleasure to be able to run these events and see just how much joy it brings to kids that probably may never be able to partake in our sport.

I have also been lucky to deliver the PHF roadshows down South. That is an honour in its self but the feeling at the end of the night when your thanked by everyone can not be described.

I would also like to thank Chris Lovell for all his help in keeping the foundation running. He does a truly fantastic job and is always there for any help or support that you may ever need.

Steve Mallender

Cambridge

Since the start the club has had an eventful year with PHF.

PHF ran their roadshow at the club and presented the children with cues and cases to keep. One parent commented "Ryan had an absolutely fabulous time and was delighted to receive his very own PHF cue". Izzy aged 8yrs commented "wow, we get to keep them?"

Other parents said, "It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and a fantastic opportunity for the kids."

"Reece rushes home now to get his homework done so that he can go to play snooker"

At the World Championship as guests of PHF. They were thrilled to meet former World Champion Steve Davis as he presented them with medals and signed their programmes. Then watched the snooker live in the Crucible. The children and their parents all were so grateful for this opportunity.

The junior club is going strong and growing. We now have 12 members 9 boys and 3 girls. We are very grateful for the help and continued support from Chris Lovell and PHF, it has been invaluable!

Danielle Findlay

Yorkshire

Menstone Snooker Club in West Yorkshire has recently hosted coaching sessions for boys and girls aged 6 to 16, funded by the Paul Hunter Foundation.

There has been a great response with over 40 juniors taking part and enjoying this introduction to the game which involves some coaching and lots of fun games.

Paul Hunter used to play snooker within a couple of miles of the club so it's very apt that the sessions should take part at Menstone and I'm sure Paul would have been delighted by the enjoyment that the youngsters have had playing snooker.

World Snooker came to Menstone Club when on 21st March the club was deeply honoured with the presence of Chris Lovell, Neil Ormerod and Chris "the Magician" Melling (pro player). Chris Lovell and Neil Ormerod put on a great event and presented all of the juniors with superb cues and cases plus polo shirts to mark their participation in the sessions.

Running the Paul Hunter Foundation sessions from Menstone Club has been a really great step forward for the club and in addition to increasing junior participation which will in time strengthen the game in the area.

Menstone Club is set to become the place for juniors to play snooker in the area and much of this will be down to Paul Hunter who continues to inspire and support juniors to play the game that he loved.

Quotes

"The staff and directors of Menstone Club are delighted with the success of the Paul Hunter Foundation programme and look forward to a continuation of the programme in the future"

Josh (Manager of Menstone Club)

"It's been great fun and I intend to continue playing snooker in the future".

Ben (14 years old)

"My dad plays and I intend to beat him soon"!

Aimee (12 years old)

"It's a great programme and gets the kids off their computers - well done!"

Walter (parent of Liam)

"Can I have another go please"!

Harry (7 year old)



"As well as the youngsters enjoying themselves there has also been some good play and a few of the juniors have great potential to play at a high standard. All clubs that are serious about their long term sustainability should run a Paul Hunter Foundation programme as this is the most effective way to include juniors, increase membership and strengthen the game in the area".

David Horrix

Midlands

The Midlands Paul Hunter Foundation had a visit to the Champion of Champions event at The Ricoh Arena, Coventry in November. Around 20 kids had a backstage tour, including seeing the ITV studio and saw a semi final match on the afternoon.

Steve Davis visited the Golden Cue Snooker Club in March 2015 where he played 6 kids from the Paul Hunter Foundation and did a trick shot routine. A donation was made to the Foundation after the event. Also the road show came to the club recently where around 30 kids took part and all received medals and certificates.

The team in the Staffordshire and West Midlands league did the Foundation proud by winning their division. This team is made up of all kids from the Foundation. They attended the annual presentation night and had their trophies presented to them by Joe Perry.

Andrew Highfield

North East

Guisborough Conservative Club in North Yorkshire opened its doors to the town's young people in November 2014 with the support from The Paul Hunter Foundation.

World Snooker Coach, Steve Rutter, and lifelong friend, Mike King, had worked on a long term plan to ensure that the youngsters of Guisborough would have the opportunity to play snooker on full size tables without having to travel miles from their homes.

After approaching the PHF and accessing funding a meeting was set up between Steve and the clubs committee. The outcome of the meeting was fantastic and it was agreed that the club would open early on a Sunday morning to accommodate the snooker sessions.

Steve and Mike, along with the club produced leaflets and distributed them to the nearby schools.

The first week's session attracted two boys but through word of mouth and more advertising by week four we had ten boys all ready to enjoy their Sunday morning with their new found mates.

All the boys were given polo shirts and brand new cues. This continued right through to the final and competition week where the boys competed in the 6 red challenge, the 60 second challenge and technical cueing challenges. The winners collected trophies whilst all were presented with certificates and medals.

The boys, who are aged between 8 and 12, are now attending every week as part of the Guisborough Cons Snooker Academy extremely proud to be seen in their PHF polo shirts.

On 26th April 2015, all 8 young people along with their parents and carers made trip down to Sheffield to take part in the Paul Hunter Foundation Day at the World Championships. They all took part in the day, competing in the individual and team events on the day. One young man, Fletcher Brown, got to play Steve Davis in a frame and enjoyed every minute. The parents, carers and boys took it in turn to go into the Crucible to enjoy an afternoon of snooker.

To bring things right up to date, we now have 9 young people attending every Sunday including a 12 year old young lady. Being the only girl does not faze her at all, in fact when I spoke to them all about getting tickets to go and see Shaun Murphy at the local Working Men's she was first to put her hand up.

Due to the summer school holidays I approached the club to see if I could offer some more sessions on a morning during the week. The club were fantastic about this and a group of the young people now join me at 9am on a Friday morning for more snooker!

Thanks to Chris Lovell and the PHF the future of snooker in Guisborough North Yorkshire looks to be good hands and that can only be a massive positive.





Quotes

“The committee fully endorses the setting up of the snooker academy through the initial ten week Paul Hunter Foundation sessions. The club is pleased to give youngsters a chance to try something different and keep them off computers/x boxes. The club benefits both in the short term and hopefully the long term if kids keep enjoying the game as they have been doing so far. We are also pleased to be able to offer this facility to children in the town.”

Judd White (Chairman Guisborough Conservative Club)

“Jamie has thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of the snooker sessions. He got involved through a friend and it has given him a fun new reason to bounce out of bed on a Sunday morning! He loves being part of the Guisborough Cons Snooker Academy, and is proud to wear his Paul Hunter Foundation t shirt! This opportunity has given our kids a chance to progress in something they are passionate about, and without Steve Rutter and his team, this is something Guisborough couldn't have otherwise offered.”

Phill and Sarah Cresswell (parents)

“We became involved with the club when we received a leaflet through my son's school asking if he would be interested in joining the Paul Hunter Foundation. When we went Steve and Michael the coaches were brilliant and made my son feel confident to play, he was provided with a polo shirt and a snooker cue; he went for 10 weeks then became part of the snooker academy. Dylan thoroughly enjoys going and he received a new snooker cue. My husband is in the process of joining the conservative club to take Dylan to practice.”

Claire Moore (parent)

"My son Jack has been coming to the Paul Hunter Foundation Snooker sessions with Steve Rutter from day one. Jack and all the other young boys are really enjoying the sessions. In fact his dad and I are joining the club where they play so that he can get more and more experience of the game. Other parents and I are really pleased for the opportunity that you

have given them because I don't know of any other clubs like this in the area that offer such a great experience. I can see my son growing up and always enjoying playing a game of snooker either in a team or just socialising."

Louise Claypole (parent)

"If it wasn't for the PHF and Steve Rutter setting the snooker sessions up in Guisborough, Fletcher may not have got into snooker and not given the opportunity to progress further in this sport that he thoroughly enjoys. Hopefully one day he may go as far as Paul Hunter did."

Louise Matthews (parent)

Steve Rutter

West Norfolk

We started Coaching in early April for an initial 10 week period and over this time have attracted 21 players to the regular Tuesday afternoon group. Numbers have averaged around 10-12 players per week, with a regular 'hard core' group of around 7-8 players developing. We combine each session with fun coaching exercises, 60 second challenges etc. and then League matches. We found that a League structure was the best way to get the best out of our players.

As with all beginners our standard has been low, however one of our players has now made a 32 break while another has achieved a 44 in a line-up. This in itself for total beginners is pleasing.

We will be encouraging 4 of our players to support the EASB regional Junior Tour next season and 8 of our players to support the EASB Junior Billiards Tour.

We played 2 friendlies against our neighbouring PHF group from Newton (Cambridge), and had 2 very enjoyable afternoons (at Newton and Kings Lynn). Danielle and my groups played their matches in the right spirit and many new friendships were made during these 2 games.



We have just attained funding to continue the group until Christmas and over these 15 weeks I will be assisted by new WPBSA Level 1 Coaches Rochelle Woods and Jack Easter.

Quotes

"The PHF is a great way of learning snooker because any way to make learning interesting and fun can only help a young person's educational development.
To see snooker taught like this and contributing to a young person's life skills is truly rewarding for everyone involved."

Jack Easter - Coach & player

Westbury

A thoroughly enjoyable 10 weeks and I believe we have met our objectives with the following activity.

An average of just over 8 kids per Saturday morning over the 10 weeks with 10 kids being the record on weeks 2 and 5. 13 different kids attended over the period of time. 7 being their first time on a full size with 2 girls attending. This has led to us now seeing 8 regulars who attend most Saturdays.

We have played, Speed Snooker, 60 Second Challenge, the Snooker relay (very popular) and Killer! We carried out a series of individual coaching setting the Paul Hunter challenges to the more advanced player.

During the ten weeks 15 year old Callum Browne certainly received some inspiration by recording his highest break of 83 during tournament play, only missing what seemed a certain maiden century by rattling the brown in the jaws

Nik Browne (Callum's Dad) remarked how 'good it was to see young kids playing Snooker again, something we haven't seen for a few years'

Jack's Dad, Phil said how much 'Jack looked forward to going to the PHF events, refusing opportunities to play other sports'

Duncan Ashman

South West

Over the 2014-15 season the PHF Cue Zone Snooker Club in Bristol for adults with learning disabilities has enjoyed much success and development.

The Paul Hunter Foundation has continued to give great support, including a sponsored trip to the Welsh Open. For many of the players this was their first experience of professional snooker and the group gained real inspiration from the trip.

In addition to the snooker skills learnt, new friendships have been formed. A number of players have developed greater independence in getting to and from the sessions and more social confidence within the club - this is all down to the power of snooker bringing people together. More than 25 adults with learning disabilities have now taken part in sessions and the members wear their PHF polo tops with great pride.

The group is now firmly established, led by a local World Snooker coach and two volunteers. New players continue to join and an additional group looks set to form in future to meet the growing demand.

Thanks so much to the Paul Hunter Foundation!



Quotes

Jamie (player - picture below): "The snooker group is awesome. I've made friends and improved my game. I've also been practising snooker on the Ipad!"

Adam, player: "It's fun. I've met new people. I look forward to it and really enjoy the trick shots."

Phillip, player: "I enjoy the help and coaching. It was good to see top players too. We want Steve Davis to come down!"

Debs, parent: "A fantastic group. Connor really enjoys coming to the sessions. His confidence has grown. The group gives each member loads of support and there's lots of cheering, helping to encourage everyone. A big thank you to the Paul Hunter Foundation in supporting the group."

Jo, support worker: "Everyone enjoys these sessions, learning new skills and meeting up. The trip to the Welsh Open was enjoyed by all. An awesome group!"

Bob Hill, coach: "This is my favourite group. It's a privilege to coach every player here. The peer support is fantastic and they have all taken on the coaching advice really well to develop their games. The format works brilliantly too. We're so thankful that the Paul Hunter Foundation offered us its support, which has started, developed and established something that is valued locally and fulfils a need in the lives of these new snooker stars!"

Bob Hill

On behalf of the trustees we would like to thank all the team involved in the delivering the sessions to all the young people together with the support of Barry Hearn, World Snooker, Jim Harkness MBE and the team at NLTG, Graham Fry, Alison Witcover, the team at IMG, the BBC, Strachen Cloths, Sovereign Leisure, Mike Ganley, Jason Ferguson and the WPBSA.

Chris Lovell – August 2015