**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE BRANCH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION 2022/2023**

The South Yorkshire Branch of the MNDA continues to be very active and successful in fundraising to support people living with MND (plwmnd) in the region. It has, as you will read elsewhere in the reports below, been a particularly challenging year and this is likely to continue for some time to come. However, despite the challenges that we all have faced the South Yorkshire Branch continues to be able to fully support financially those plwmnd who ask for our help, which is a remarkable feat in the economic climate we find ourselves in. The current economic climate is unlikely to change drastically in the next twelve months.

In 2022-23 we have consolidated our three-year action plan which aims, amongst other things, to ensure that the branch is placed on a sustainable footing in the years ahead and to that end we have recently been joined by Julie Ward in a capacity as Deputy Chair. Julie is a highly skilled former NHS senior manager who will bring huge experience to the branch. We plan to extend the principle of deputies to other roles within the branch as part of our sustainability vision. We also continue to seek more volunteers to help the branch deliver support to plwmnd.

The rest of the annual report focuses on four main areas of finance, care delivery, communication and fundraising all of which is coordinated and implemented by a group of highly dedicated branch committee members and association volunteers. Without everyone’s dedication the branch simply would cease to be able to deliver its core function and I thank them all for their work over this last incredibly challenging year.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Our income for the financial year to 31st December 2022 amounted to £45,969 (2021 £58,265), the second year in a row that income has fallen. Income from fundraising did recover a little after COVID rules were relaxed, but is not yet back to normal levels. There were events that were not run in 2022 due to weather or COVID implications, but 2023 should see a return to normality. Donations were at a six-year low, probably due to the current economic climate, and this is of concern.

Expenditure on Care, Equipment and Support was at an all-time high of £47,265 (2021 £28,708). The current economic climate means people need more support, but we are also trying hard, and succeeding, to reach and help as many people as possible. We support not just the person with MND, but the whole family, and do make grants to young people. If we can help in whatever way is needed, we will.

I suspect 2023 will be the most challenging year in our history due to the pressures on everyone’s income and the increased support that people living with MND will inevitably need. I remain positive, however, that we will continue to be able to meet the demands for grants as and when they occur. The Committee is exploring new avenues to restore income back to the usual level, but we do need all the help from our supporters that we can get. We are grateful to our supporters who make a regular donation by standing order. Unfortunately, these are few. It would really help us in these difficult times if more people contributed regularly or sent us a donation when they were able to.

**Care Report**

As well as providing grants to people affected by MND, our Association Visitors have continued supporting them with face-to-face visits and by Zoom, e-mail and telephone calls. The South Yorkshire Branch has increased its numbers of AVs thanks to Jayne Thompson, Area Support Co-ordinator, who is an MNDA staff member.

Complementary Therapies funded by the branch are available to people with MND and their main Carer. The branch works in partnership with centres in Sheffield and Doncaster and details of these can be found by contacting Ann Quinn, our Branch Contact. The Branch held a very successful Family Fun Day in September at Gulliver’s Valley. Nine families took part with 16 children enjoying the various rides. This event is to be repeated on Saturday, June 17 this year.

**Communication Report**

The Communication Sub Committee have continued to raise awareness by publicising the Branch as widely as possible and to contribute articles of interest, fund raisers’ experiences and up to date information about latest news relating to MND in the Branch Newsletter and on social media. As part of the Branch’s Action Plan, the Committee have managed to recruit volunteers to the Communication Sub Committee to handle our Facebook/Twitter/Website and latterly someone to assist the Secretary with the production of the Branch Newsletter who, with forward planning in mind, is keen to shadow the Branch Secretary.

**Fundraising Report**

Our fundraising team, led by Geoff Bland, Dave Booker and Trevor Peacock continued throughout 2022 to plan events with reliability, energy and enthusiasm to raise much needed funds to enable us to continue to support plwmnd in the area.

The events began on the 26th June with Stannington Brass Band at the Niagara, Sheffield, followed by Denby Folk Day on the 24th July, Hallowes Golf Day on the 5th August, SMH Golf Day on the 2nd of September, Gulliver’s Valley Children and Family Fun Day 17th September, Sheffield 10k on 25th September, a Folk Night on the 6th November at Crookes Working Men’s club, Maxwell Thorpe Concert at the Niagara on the 13th of November, and Doncaster 10k on the 27th of November. There was also a quiz night at Tapton Hall. Despite these events being well supported, fund-raising income was down in 2022 which was likely to be due in part to the current economic climate. However, thanks to the hard work of the fund-raising team and others, the Branch were able to meet all requests for help and support.

There are six dates confirmed for 2023 starting with Unite the Union Brass Band at the Niagara on 26th of March. Following the success of Gulliver’s Valley Children and Family Fun Day this will take place once again on 17th June. Stannington Brass Band will entertain us at the Niagara on the 2nd of July, and there will be a repeat of the Upper Denby Folk Day on the 23rd of July, and Hallowes Golf Day on the 4th of August. A new event, Julian Jones and Friends in Concert at the Niagara Centre is scheduled for 8th of October.

Other dates yet to be confirmed are a Golf Day, sponsored by Sutton McGrath Hartley, Walk to D’Feat at Lakeside, Doncaster, and Soak a Scientist in support of SiTraN. It is hoped to arrange a Murder Mystery Night, venue to be decided, and a Treasure Hunt at Cannon Hall.

I am pleased to confirm that all members of the Branch Committee will continue in their current roles and with the help of the recently appointed Deputy Chair and four new volunteers will work together to raise awareness, fund-raise, and support people living with MND and the Association as a whole.



Dr Andrew Gibson

Chair

MNDA South Yorkshire

March 2023