



The Rob George Foundation

ANNUAL REVIEW 2016/17

OUR THIRD YEAR OF OPERATION



249

Applications for grants



£114,171

total funds raised

2/3rds
of applications
successful



CYCLE TRIP TO LE MANS



SOME
£12,000
RAISED

205 GUESTS



ANNIVERSARY
BALL



AWARDS
TALLING

£104,580

MADE



TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the period from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017. The accounts comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, RGF's Trust Deed dated 16th January 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRSSE).

Talented dancer

The RGF is delighted to support talented dancer, Jorgia Vaughan, who is just back from a trip to LA. She says: "Thank you so much for the opportunity of a life time. From the minute I landed in LA my schedule was jam packed with everything from classes with top choreographers, feedback sessions, one to one chats with mentors, audition technic sessions, and photography and filmography advice. The experience was life changing for me and I am already trying to get further training. Sessions that inspired the teachers were filmed and I managed to be selected for a few of these, which was not only a personal goal of mine but also something that I can put into a showreel and use to enhance my future".



Jorgia Vaughan. Don't try this at home!

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Warren Clark takes 2nd in Macau Masters

Having achieved considerable success across the UK, including the Special Olympics in August 2016, RGF grantee Warren Clark, aged 16, set his sights on competing at the Macau Masters in China, only to find funding the trip a huge obstacle. The RGF recognised his considerable ability and made a significant contribution towards the trip earlier this year.

Warren's parents have fed back to us that without the support of the RGF his trip to China would not have been possible – big RGF congratulations to Warren!



making a difference

one individual at a time



CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW

The Charity continued to be extraordinarily busy in its third year of operation. The number of applications for grants was 249, a similar number to the previous year (2015-2016: 269). Approximately two-thirds of the applications were successful, and awards totalling £104,580 were made, again similar to the previous year (2015-2016: £115,672).

£114,171

total funds raised

	2015-2016	2016-2017
Applications	269	249
Awards Made	£ 115,672	£ 104,580
Total Funds Raised	£ 194,844	£ 114,171

I would like to offer my special thanks to the board of Trustees who give their time freely and unpaid to guide RGF and ensure that we are run on sound lines with excellent financial control and with strong governance and to Wendy Smith, our hard-working Grants Officer. I also express my heartfelt thanks to all of those who have contributed to RGF in numerous ways during the year, whether as volunteers, fundraisers or donors. Without them, RGF would not be in a position to continue into the future.

Philip George, Chairman

The Charity is once again indebted to a number of trusts and organizations who have kindly made significant donations during the year – for instance, Walter Farthing (Trust) Limited, Care UK Wellbeing Foundation, 65 Roses Trust, Persimmon Homes, Kent Blaxill & Co Limited, LSH Investment Management Limited and Notcutts Limited – and to some generous individuals who wish to remain anonymous. We are also grateful to Birkett Long Solicitors, St Andrews University Cricket Club, Tiger Recruitment, Hatfields of Colchester, Essex County Cricket Club, Colchester Round Table, the Wrinch family and Smith & Watts Printers for their continuing support.



Getting a life back on track

Matthew, aged 20, from Liverpool, successfully applied to the RGF for a grant to purchase a Samsung S8 with an Android App that operates his prosthetic leg. He says: "A big thank you to the RGF for the Samsung S8, which gives me the opportunity to use a leg like my brother's C Leg to help me get my life back on track. It's a lovely thing to know that when bad things happen there are people out there to help get you back to where you once were. Thank you again for your generosity."





OBJECTIVES

RGF was established under a Trust Deed dated 5th March 2014 and is a registered UK Charity (Registered Number 1156026). RGF's registered address is 4 Henry Villa Close Colchester Essex CO4 5XP.

RGF's objectives are:-

- ★ To prevent or relieve poverty and to promote the advancement of health by providing practical and/or financial support to young people with life threatening or terminal illnesses; and
- ★ To promote the advancement of amateur sport and the arts by providing financial support to young people who demonstrate exceptional commitment and/or ability in the worlds of sport or the performing arts but may be held back by their financial situation from pursuing their goals.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

The Trustees will willingly work in partnership with other organisations to fund initiatives beyond the financial scope of a single organisation, but will not normally approve the use of RGF's funds for medical research, postgraduate study, or purposes for which the government has a statutory responsibility to provide. Applications introduced to us by other charities such as Macmillan Cancer Support, CLIC Sargent and Teenage Cancer Trust continue to be welcomed.

HOW OUR SERVICES DELIVER PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees are aware that the Charities Act 2011 requires charities to demonstrate that their work is of direct benefit to the public. They pay due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding which grants RGF should make, focusing particularly on the prevention or relief of poverty, and the promotion of the advancement of health, amateur sport and the arts. In addition, they consider that RGF itself gives added public benefit by its rapid and flexible responses to applications from potential grantees.

save the date

6 January 2018

Don't miss this spectacular evening, which will be held at The Hurlingham Club in London. Tickets are for sale online at www.therobgeorgefoundation.org.

ANNIVERSARY
BALL 2018





ACTIVITIES

The Charity's Anniversary Ball, held at the Hurlingham Club in London on January 7th 2017, was again the highlight of the year. The event was attended by 205 guests, who together raised some £12,000. The Charity's Patron, Graham Gooch, was in attendance, and the Foundation was thrilled to announce the appointment of a second Patron, the entertainer and magician Michael J. Fitch. Once again, Loughborough University, Rob's alma mater, showed that they had not forgotten Rob by attending in great numbers.

During the year, the University's Cricket Club again raised significant funds by hosting a Dinner as well as highly successful Golf and Cricket Days.

A number of supporters took on amazing physical challenges for the Charity. These included Jack Stevens (Paris Marathon), Jacob Roach (London Marathon), Jimmy Collins (Loughborough Half Marathon), Henry Foster (Leeds Half Marathon), Gillian Whittle (Tromso Half Marathon), Lara and Grace Swan (Langham 5 km), Chris Collins (Tough Mudder), Debs Kennedy (Great North Run), and Gina Davies (University of Essex Pole-a-thon).

A second highly successful RGF Golf Day was held in June, and thanks are due to Andrew Duley and his wonderful team for their brilliant organisation, and once again to the members of Colchester Golf Club (where Rob had been Junior Captain) for their welcome and support.

The Charity was thrilled to be one of the five charities chosen by the 2016/17 Mayor of Colchester, Councillor Julie Young. It was also selected for support by the famous Maldon Mud Race, by



NEW RGF PATRON

We were delighted when Michael J Fitch, the renowned magician, accepted our invitation to become a Patron of the Rob George Foundation. Michael joins Graham Gooch, the distinguished cricketer, who has lent his support as a Patron since the Foundation's early days.

SOME
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ANNIVERSARY
BALL

Karen Ainley for her Masonic Ladies Night, by Linda Milne for her Inner Wheel Soiree and by Fiducia Wealth Management for the Annual Fiducia Challenge. The Charity was once again generously supported by the Shepherd Neame Essex League at its Annual Dinner. Nikki Spelling organised a Ladies Lunch, Declan Flannery and Fraser Morgan, past and present Colchester Institute students, arranged musical evenings and we were also supported by events organised by music students at The Brit School and (at their reunion gig) by the band Armstrong.

Nigel Hughes and Elizabeth Horning hosted the first RGF Swim-a-thon in their beautiful pool, as well as accompanying Philip and Lorraine George, David and Julie Cant and Mark and Cameron Lister on the Le Mans 24-Hour Sportive Cycle Race.



ACTIVITIES...continued

Mary Waylett once again organised a very successful Bridge morning, and Greg and Amy de Silva gave the Charity generous support at their big birthday bash, whilst Neil and Sarah Harvey hosted another very successful (and riotous!) cocktail evening.

The Charity continues to work for a change in the law to recognise that students who are forced to take a temporary break in their studies as result of life-threatening illnesses should qualify to receive State benefits.

The Charity is enormously grateful to all of those mentioned above and to the numerous others who have contributed in a variety of ways during the year, whether as volunteers, fundraisers or donors without which the charity would not be in a position to continue into the future.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

RGF's financial position is reconciled and reviewed at least monthly before decisions relating to grant-making are taken. The Trustees consider that the strong position of RGF's finances at the end of its financial year is satisfactory, enabling RGF not only to meet its present objectives, but also to continue its activities for several years to come. It is the current objective of the Trustees to disburse as much as possible of the funds received by RGF by way of grants, and not to set up any permanent endowment. With the financial control of charities quite rightly coming under closer and closer scrutiny, the RGF is very proud that it has no paid staff, no expensive premises and minimal other overheads.

Right: Swimmer,
Oliver Saunders
Left: The RGF
2016 Golf Day



INVESTMENT POLICY

With the current low levels of inflation, RGF can meet its objectives whilst keeping its funds in liquid form. Approximately 40% of its funds are held in the COIF Charities Investment Fund (which is rated AAA/V1 by Fitch Ratings and which aims to provide the strongest level of security together with daily liquidity and a good level of interest) with the remainder being invested by way of bank deposits. The current policy is to maintain this proportion.



HOT OFF THE PRESS 2017/18

the new RGF year to date

ASPIRING TAEKWONDO OLYMPIAN

The RGF has provided a second grant for an aspiring Taekwondo Olympian. Holly Kelly, from Cheadle, Greater Manchester, is a member of the GB Taekwondo Junior Team. At just 15 she is a double National Champion, winner of multiple international titles and was GB Taekwondo's Cadet Athlete of the year 2016. Her goal is to represent GB at the Olympics. Junior taekwondo athletes are self-funded and the financial burden of travelling to various international competitions and selection events can put a strain on her family. Holly represented GB at the European Champions in Cyprus in November 2016 and the award from the RGF went a long way towards her competition and travel costs.



THE RGF BACKS PROMISING YOUNG ESSEX CRICKETER

Nineteen year old Kashif Ali currently attends the Essex County Cricket Club Academy and is a regular member of the Essex 2nd XI team. Kashif's ambition is to become a professional cricketer and the grant awarded to him from the RGF will fund some of his travelling, gym membership and vital kit. Without the support of the RGF Kashif would struggle to meet the costs involved in participating at this level. The picture of Kashif is at Lord's wearing his MCC kit - he was 12th man v Afghanistan in July - and proudly displaying his RGF Grant Letter. We wish him a successful cricket career!



RISING SQUASH STAR

Essex and England International squash player, Alice Green, has been playing squash competitively since the age of 12 quickly climbing the English squash rankings to reached #1 in both the U15 and U17 age category. Alice has won major titles and has played for England on several occasions, captaining the winning U17 England team in Prague in May. Alice's success has earned her a place on the Girls U19 England team who travelled to New Zealand in July to compete in the World Junior Squash Championships, not a bad achievement for a girl who has just turned 16! Alice is wholly committed to her squash and has the support of her coach and parent, but support from the RGF allows Alice to compete on an international level, which otherwise would be impossible.





PREVIEWING 2017/18 EVENTS

UNITE & BIKE AGAINST CANCER

Rob's parents and RGF trustees Lorraine and Pip George are about to embark with six friends upon a new cycling challenge. This challenge will take them on a wonderful journey starting at the ancestral lands of the Native American Navajo Nation in the iconic Grand Canyon – one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Cycling through high desert, forested plateaus, canyon rims, historic towns, and unforgettable landmarks they will ride through parts of the famous Route 66 highway, finishing their amazing challenge in the spectacular city of Las Vegas. They will experience the Wild West frontier and dive deep into its past culture to discover the beauty and grandeur the southwestern US is famous for, as well as experiencing the glitz and glamour of the famous Las Vegas strip.

People from all walks of life will be taking part to raise funds for their chosen cancer-related charity. For obvious reasons, the intrepid eight will be raising money for the RGF.

The ride will begin on 7th October and end on 15th October.



THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE

Nick Griffith treks 300 miles for the RGF

Care UK's Nick Griffith is preparing for the biggest challenge of his life – the Yukon Arctic Ultra – a 300 mile trek across the Arctic.

Nick is an ex-Royal Marine and the Yukon Arctic Ultra is far from his first challenge. As well as several marathons and ironman events, in 2013 Nick was part of a four man team who rowed across the Atlantic Ocean. Four years on and Nick is ready for a new adventure - The Yukon Arctic Ultra - billed as the world's coldest and toughest ultra-challenge. Competitors must complete the 300 mile race in 8 days which will involve walking solo through ice and snow in temperatures as low as -50°C. Nick will have to drag a heavy sled carrying his tent and supplies needed for the 8-day journey and will be walking for over 18 hours a day.

Nick will be raising money for the RGF. He said: "I met with Rob's parents, Lorraine and Philip, and was touched by their story. I've always had a passion for sport, in my case extreme sports, and am delighted to be supporting a charity that helps young people to pursue their love of sporting activities." Nick starts his challenge on 1 February 2018.





RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees have not undertaken any long-term funding commitments, have not considered, nor had to consider, the creation of a permanent endowment, and have taken no decision concerning the likely life cycle of RGF. They do not consider that a reserves policy is necessary at this stage.



*We are proud to have
'Made a Difference'*

GOVERNANCE

The management and oversight of the charity's affairs are under the direct supervision of the Trustees, one of whom is a partner in and another is a consultant to, the firm Birkett Long, solicitors to the charity. None of the trustees receives remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity, and in the current year there are no related party transactions to be reported.

The Trustees regularly examine the major risks that the charity is likely to face, and believe that they have in place robust systems to mitigate them. They also have regard to, and regularly review, the Charity Commission's Internal Financial Controls for Charities Checklist.

TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

The Trustees and officers who served during the year were:

Mr D M Cant
Mrs L George
Mr P W George
Mr S J E George
Mr A Kennedy
Mr J O'Connor

Mr O'Connor also serves as Treasurer, and Mrs W Smith as Grants Officer. The Charity's Patrons are the cricketer and former Essex and England captain Graham Gooch OBE DL, and the magician and entertainer Michael J Fitch.

ADVISERS

Bankers:

Handelsbanken
Greenwood House, 90/92 New London Road
Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0PP

Solicitors:

Birkett Long LLP
1 Amphora Place, Sheepen Road
Colchester, Essex CO3 3WG

Independent examiner:

BAS Accountants
No 1 The Courtyard, Balls Farm, Tye Road
Elmstead Market, Colchester, Essex CO7 7BB

www.therobgeorgefoundation.org
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