

MACCABI GB ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Maccabi GB is Britain's leading Anglo-Jewish Sport, Health and Wellbeing Charity. Part of a global movement operating in over 70 countries, our mission is to support the long term future of British Jewry by engaging and developing the entire Jewish Community with a broad range of sporting, educational, social and health and wellbeing activities, whilst promoting Jewish Identity and the centrality of Israel.

As the only Jewish Charity operating in the recreational arena, Maccabi GB is reaching more people today than at any time in our history.

Each year, via 250 targeted projects, programmes and events, Maccabi GB reaches over 50,000 people nationally. A dedicated team of professionals and volunteers, based in both London and the North, achieves this.

The annual programme we create is to engage as many members of the Community as possible via a diverse range of opportunities. From operating in every Jewish School in Britain, to the elite of the Community and the Maccabiah Games; from 7,500 people attending the Maccabi GB Community Fun Run, to the Elliott Simmons Challenge Israel Tour for young people with mild to moderate learning difficulties. No matter how old you are, what ability or religious observance you hold, Maccabi GB strives in all that it does 'for an active Jewish Community'.

SPORT

Maccabi GB continues to be recognised as a leading organisation providing exceptional sporting opportunities for the entire Community.

We have always believed that every child deserves a quality physical education and our engagement starts with our School Sports Programme. In 2019, we continued to engage an incredible 4,000 young people each week at 17 Jewish schools through our PE Curriculum Lessons and School Sports Clubs. Our Schools Sports Tournaments remain the only time the Jewish schools come together and during 2019, there were an incredible 32 Tournaments, engaging 4,000 young people in 16 different sports.

As part of our commitment to offer sports provision to all ages and to all abilities 2019 saw us host a wide range of Community Events, running everything from Badminton and Table Tennis to Spinning and Walking Groups. By offering such a wide variety of sports, we are aiming to maximise the number of people we engage throughout the Community.

Our biggest of these Community Sports Days, and the biggest community event on the calendar, is the annual Maccabi GB Community Fun Run. Now in its 13th year it surpassed previous records engaging 85 Communal Charities and Schools and 7,500 people. The 2018 event saw the total raised since its inception go over £2 million and 2019 saw a further £200,000 raised. The event had a number of highlights, but the new addition of the Colour Run as well as the 1km run being started by five holocaust survivors along with Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis made the event truly memorable.

International Games are of paramount importance to Maccabi GB and cater for both the elite athletes of the Community as well as for young people to experience their first taste of representing Great Britain abroad. In 2019, three International Maccabi Games took place.

The Pan American Games took place in Mexico and Maccabi GB sent a 75-person delegation taking part in football (over 35's, over 45's and over 55's), tennis and padel tennis. Whilst the football didn't

go our way, our Assistant Head of Delegation, Sam Cohen, won a gold in the tennis. Most importantly, the group shared a unique Maccabi Friday Night with athletes from all over the world, which takes place at all Maccabiot and regional International Games. This highlighted what we have in common as Jewish people no matter where we come from around the world. There was no greater example of this than just before one of the football matches Maccabi GB were involved in, when both teams spontaneously burst into traditional Jewish song and dance, just before kick-off.

The 2019 JCC Maccabi Games saw our young athletes compete and make friendships with their counterparts from across North America. The Great Britain delegation of 35 athletes and managers visited Detroit, bringing home 23 medals and most importantly memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

2019 also saw the 15th European Maccabi Games take place in Budapest. Maccabi GB took a 215-strong delegation to the Games, competing in eight sports and bringing home an unbelievable 94 medals. Once again, the most inspirational part of the Games was the Jewish Identity Programme. Through this programme, the participants were able to learn about the history and understand the connection between Hungarian Jewry and our own customs, traditions and identities. Through its guided tours and educational sessions around the city of Budapest, we believe the Jewish Identity Programme truly enhanced our athletes' Jewish identity and their sense of pride in representing Great Britain and the Jewish community as a whole.

EDUCATION

The Education department of Maccabi GB continues to go from strength to strength. From the continued growth in reach and programming of Streetwise, run in partnership with the CST, to the development of Stand Up! Education Against Discrimination, we continue to educate the community on a number of different topics.

In 2019, Streetwise engaged over 25,000 young people at Primary and Secondary Schools across the Jewish Community. Through its extensive programming on the topics of anti-bullying, internet safety, relationships and sex education (RSE), antisemitism and discrimination and personal safety, Streetwise is a recognised brand in over 65 Jewish Primary and Secondary schools nationally.

Streetwise strives to develop new and exciting initiatives in line with the societal changes that affect young people. We have developed a broad provision of mental health programmes alongside the JLC's Wellbeing Taskforce, which includes a number of programmes aimed at different stages within young people's personal development. These are interlinked with many of the other programmes Streetwise has been delivering in schools for a number of years. With the Government's announcement of the implementation of mandatory PSHE & RSE in all Primary and Secondary schools from 2020, Streetwise has been developing – in partnership with other communal organisations and supported by national education charities – an RSE curriculum for Jewish schools.

The Leadership by Streetwise Sports Leadership programme, accredited by Sports Leaders UK, is a four-year programme, which in 2019 engaged 200 young people. Leadership participants receive qualifications and skills needed to lead sports sessions, coach teams and run sporting events, inspiring the Community through their passion for sport. The programme comprises of two residential weekends, the first in November/December and the second in March. The Residential Weekends are a fantastic opportunity for the participants to meet new people and make friends from all over the UK, learn about Israel and Judaism, enjoy a vibrant Shabbat atmosphere and have an amazing time away.

As part of our efforts to engage participants of all ages, Maccabi GB monitors engagement across our educational and sporting events. The Leadership programme is the main catalyst for this 'Conveyer belt' system, with over 60% of participants being involved in International Games as athletes or Sports managers. On top of this, 90% of participants become volunteers for Maccabi GB or the CST.

Our 'Stand Up! Education Against Discrimination' programme engages thousands of young people and is making a considerable mark in the field of anti-discrimination education. Stand Up! offers a proactive approach in providing the tools to young people to challenge discrimination; it engages youth in meaningful conversations and creates a safe space where students are able to share their views. The Stand Up! project is also used as a reactive response to incidents of hate in school settings, where a non-judgemental educational intervention can be more appropriate and constructive than punitive measures or even criminal escalations.

Stand Up! reached 10,500 students in 2019, an increase of almost 25%, across 62 schools (41 in 2018) and we hope to double this figure in the next couple of years.

In 2019 Stand Up! formed a partnership with Facebook that was launched in Parliament in October 2019 supported by a number of MPs. This partnership will include creating a joint resource focused on guidelines for young people and online reporting.

Stand Up! also manages the Alan Senitt Upstanders Leadership Programme, an interfaith leadership course that in 2019 saw 100 students creating their own social action anti-discrimination projects.

2019 also saw Maccabi GB take over the managing and distribution of the Yellow Candle Project in the UK. Yellow Candle is a practical and informal educational tool to remember those murdered during the Holocaust. Candles are lit on the eve of Yom Hashoah and every candle comes in a bag with a small card that carries the name of someone who perished in the Shoah, many of them children.

This was the third year of the initiative, which in year one saw 3,000 candles distributed and last year 13,000. This year with Maccabi GB now handling the supply chain and distribution we managed to distribute 30,000 candles via over 150 cross-communal organisations. People across the UK and beyond took part in the initiative by posting a photo of their lit Yellow Candle on social media using the #yellowcandle (it was the number 4 trending topic across the UK during the evening) and tagging the page Yellow Candle UK. Yellow Candles were also lit by leading figures in politics, sport and entertainment including: Prime Minister Theresa May; Leader of the Opposition Jeremy Corbyn; Home Secretary Sajid Javid; Minister for Faith Lord Bourne; Luciana Berger MP; Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks; Lord Alan Sugar; Ambassador of Israel Mark Regev; Matt Lucas; Martin Lewis and Stacey Solomon.

The Yellow Candle Project also gives families the opportunity to speak about the Holocaust and raise awareness of what can happen if antisemitism goes unchallenged.

SOCIAL

Maccabi GB believes that a Community that plays together stays together and our programming reflects this.

The Maccabi GB Community Fun Run, as mentioned previously, is now the biggest community event on the calendar and epitomises the Maccabi ethos by continuing to engage thousands of people, of all ages, abilities and religious denominations.

The Maccabi GB Young Professional committee was setup at the beginning of 2019 to put on social events aimed at engaging the young professional demographic. The committee is comprised of previous participants from our Leadership and sports programmes and delivered two sold out events: a Quiz Night and a Comedy Bingo Night. These events are a way of connecting with an age group that has historically always been difficult to connect with whilst also providing an opportunity for these young people to connect with friends, teammates and Maccabi GB in a social setting.

Through all the Community Sports Days organised, the social fabric of the events is constant throughout and there are many stories and anecdotes, which confirm this. The Community Netball sees international Maccabiah netball players compete with those who haven't played since school and the Community Badminton sees families come together and enjoy an afternoon of fun and competitive action.

The annual Maccabi GB Inter-Charity Quiz Night continues to be a highlight on the community's social calendar and the 2019 event was no exception, with over 90 members of staff from 10 leading communal organisations taking part.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Health and Wellbeing has become increasingly important to the mainstream within the Community. Those who are 'good' at sport, have many avenues to fulfil their passions.

It is important to Maccabi GB is to work with as many partners as possible in order to reach as wide an audience as possible. With over 100 different partners, 2019 saw us launch the Play On Programme. This programme is specifically for members of the community aged 60 and over and engaged 175 people across 45 sessions and programmes.

JEWISH IDENTITY

Maccabi GB has a significant role to play in enhancing the Community's Jewish Identity. The 'Leadership by Streetwise' programme, allows Maccabi GB to promote Jewish Identity, culture and traditions for the young participants; from Shabbat services to Havdalah, to conversations about Jewish practice and Israel; 'Leadership' is a unique blend of sport and Judaism and is a truly enriching experience for participants and leaders alike.

As previously mentioned a significant part of the European Maccabi Games was the Jewish Identity Programme where participants were able to learn about the history and understand the connection between Hungarian Jewry and our own customs, traditions and identities.

Whether it through the Community Fun Run or our Jewish Identity Programmes, Maccabi GB isn't simply a sports organisation; our ultimate aim is of Jewish continuity and as such Jewish identity is the DNA, which runs throughout our project and programmes.

ISRAEL

With the Maccabi headquarters in Israel, the centrality of Israel is an important part of the work carried out by Maccabi GB. We are committed to engaging the Community with Israel, strengthening their identity to the Jewish homeland and taking as many participants as we can to experience Israel themselves.

In February 2019, we welcomed Israel Netball for their first ever Junior Training Camp in the UK. The delegation had competed against Maccabi GB at the proceeding year's Maccabi Youth Games in Israel, so it was an excellent idea to host the Israeli team in GB. Twenty girls plus three coaches took part in a weekend of training as well as a trip to the Copperbox Arena (the venue that hosted Netball at the 2012 Summer Olympics, located in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London) to watch a Netball Superleague game and meet the England Netball captain. Hosted by UK families, the Israel Netball squad were given this great opportunity to meet with other Jewish netball players and experience a Shabbat with the Jewish Community in the UK. The trip was a big success with future trips planned.

The Maccabi GB Chanukah Torch Relay consists of a delegation from Maccabi Tzair (Maccabi World Union's youth movement) travelling across the country spreading the message of Maccabi and teaching the story of Chanukah.

Throughout their time in the UK, the Delegation engaged 2,200 members of the Community and visited schools, synagogues, retirement residences, Jewish Care homes and communal organisations. They started their journey across the UK at Edgware and Hendon Reform Synagogue moving on to the Anita Dorfman Jewish Care home in Stanmore. Having delivered a number of great sessions the group moved on to Leeds at Brodetsky Primary School then travelled to King David Primary School in Manchester before returning to London and finishing the week off with a Friday Night Dinner at Chabad.

2019 was another incredible year for Maccabi GB as we continue to develop and engage more members of the community than ever. As we move into 2020, we look forward to providing the community with more ways to engage with each other.