



THE NICK WEBBER MEMORIAL TRUST FOR MALAWI

Trustees Report 2009

Preamble

The Nick Webber Memorial Trust for Malawi was founded in November 2004 by the family and friends of Nick Webber, who had recently died in a road accident while working in Malawi as a Legal Aid solicitor on a pro bono basis. The Trust became recognised as a charity at law in England and Wales on 30 May 2005, which would have been Nick's 29th birthday. Had Nick lived longer, we know that he would have done much more good in the world. Our aim is to do some of that good in his name.

The registered objectives of the Trust are:

The relief of poverty, hardship and distress and the relief of sickness, either generally or individually, among persons living in Malawi by the provision of financial assistance in obtaining goods, services or facilities, or at the discretion of the trustees by the provision of grants of money.

The charity also operates under the registered working name of: The Nick Webber Trust.

The address of the charity is: 1 Apple Tree Walk, Climping, West Sussex, BN17 5QN

The website of the charity is at: www.nickwebbertrust.org.uk

This document contains the Trustees' financial report for the financial year 2008-9.

Structure, governance and management

There are currently six Trustees:

Pauline Webber (chair), Jane Abood, Christopher Holmes, Jonathan Webber, Mary Webber, Timothy Webber.

Trustees are appointed by a resolution of existing Trustees, of which there cannot be fewer than three. There is a Board of Advisers, to which appointments are made by the Trustees. There are currently sixteen members of the Board.

The operation of the Trust is governed by the Trust deed, to which one Supplemental has been made, an Ethos document, and a policy on the selection of partner organisations. These can be downloaded from the Trust website.

Decisions are made by a majority of Trustees, with the Chair of Trustees having the casting vote in the case of an even split. Decisions are usually made at meetings, which are also attended by members of our Board of Advisers. There were two meetings in this financial year. Minutes of all meetings are circulated to all Trustees and Advisers.

No project is adopted without first being thoroughly researched by Trustees and Advisers.

Activities in the Financial Year 2008-2009

During this year, we spent money on four ongoing projects and on three new projects.

Fundraising

Most of the funds were raised through personal donations and proceeds of events organised in support of the Trust but not by the Trust itself. The Trust organised a Genuinely Fun Run and an Art Auction. We continued to sell our own Christmas cards, with the initial outlay covered and recouped from sales by one of the Trustees, and all profits going to the Trust. We also sold music CDs made by Temwa, one of our partner organisations, on the understanding that we keep half of the sale revenue and pass the other half on to Temwa.

Ongoing Projects

We continued our support of the Malawian health care charity Ndi Moyo by continuing to make “Nick’s Place” available rent-free for use by the Ndi Moyo clinic. In this financial year, “Nick’s Place” began to be used extensively to house volunteers and trainees at the clinic, which resulted in expenditure on domestic equipment and internal re-decoration.

We continued our support of the Tikondane centre, which works with street children in Lilongwe, by continuing to pay a school support allowance for fifteen children.

For our projects of stocking law libraries in Malawi, there was only one outlay this financial year, which covered the cost of moving boxes of books (destined ultimately for the University of Malawi library) from the donor's library in London to the home of one of the Trustees in Bristol.

We continued our Bursary scheme for law undergraduates at the University of Malawi. The academic year in Malawi runs from January to December, but the start of the academic year 2008 was delayed by strike action at the university. We make our payment only after the academic year has started, so this meant that the payment for that year fell in our financial year 2008-9. The academic year 2009 started on time, so our payment for that year was also made in this financial year. Therefore, this financial year included payments for two consecutive academic years.

These payments covered bursaries for three students. Our first student completed the third year of study in 2008 and began the fourth in 2009. Our second student completed second year in 2008 and began the third in 2009. Our third student completed the first year in 2008 and began the second in 2009.

During this year, the selection procedure for our students changed. Our third student was the first to be selected under the new procedure, which includes an interview involving one of our Trustees and a representative of the Legal Aid Department of Malawi's Department of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. Our fourth student was also selected in this way in 2009, but this and the relevant payment fell in the financial year 2009-10.

New projects

Our scheme to sponsor school students in the Usisya region, managed in Malawi by our UK-based partner organisation Temwa, began in this financial year. We made two sets of payments, one for the academic year 2008 and one for the academic year 2009. We also agreed with Temwa a scheme for calculating annual cost rises and for ensuring that reports are received before our next payments are made.

We committed to funding a new scheme of the Tikondane centre in Lilongwe, paying a school support allowance for twenty children considered by the centre to be at serious risk in their own communities, enabling them to go to a secondary boarding school. We made payments for two academic years during this financial year as we agreed to pay for the academic year that had already begun, as well as the academic year which started in January 2009.

We undertook a project with the villagers of Mbewa village in NkhotaKota district, the first time we had entered into partnership directly with a Malawian Community Based Organisation (CBO) rather than work through another charity. With the help of the locally based Peace Corps Volunteer, we financed the building by the villagers of a two-classroom block at the village primary school, and equipped it with new desks and benches. The project was completed in the following financial year.

These new projects were adopted in addition to, rather than instead of, a children's centre, which was agreed upon when the Trust was founded and upon which research is continuing.

Overheads

In pursuing its objects, the Trust makes no expenditure for travel, communication, staffing, office overheads, or other running costs. The costs incurred by the Genuinely Fun Run, the Art Auction, and public liability insurance were met by Trustees personally. We continued to have a page on the Justgiving website to assist donors, and the subscription for this too is met by a Trustee. This enables us to ensure that every penny donated is spent directly on our projects in Malawi.

The Trust records its gratitude to all who have supported it by making donations or by using their time and talents to further the objects of the Trust.

Risk Management

This financial year included the global financial crisis, which caused a rapid and severe devaluation of Sterling against the Malawi Kwacha. This made our ongoing projects more expensive in terms of pounds sterling.

Our strategy of retaining sufficient reserves to ensure that projects can be completed meant that we were able to absorb cost increases resulting from this devaluation. To protect against any future such alterations in the financial landscape, we adopted two further strategies. One is to cost all of our projects, both new and existing, directly in Malawi Kwacha and make all agreements in that currency. The other is to ensure that our reserves can cover all of our commitments for three years into the future before making any new commitments, taking account of our basic income from standing orders on the assumption that this will not decrease by more than 10% per year. (This latter clause is a worst-case scenario measure; we in fact expect our standing order income to increase or remain the same year on year.) Both of these strategies are now enacted.

Representatives of the Trust regularly visit Ndi Moyo clinic, the Tikondane centre, and the Legal Aid Department (which administers the funds for the Bursary scheme). One of the Trustees also regularly checks the Legal Aid Department's accounts for the scholarship fund. Similarly, we keep in regular contact with UK officials of Temwa. This year, representatives of the Trust also visited Temwa and the projects we funded in the Usisya district of Malawi.

With regard to our new partner, the CBO of Mbewa village, a representative of the Trust paid several visits before, during, and after construction and monitored all payments and receipts.

Financial Review

The Trust began the financial year with £54,108.94 in hand.

The total income for the year was £26,194.20, of which:

Donations received, including the proceeds of events organised by supporters, totalled £17,229.84

The Genuinely Fun Run produced £2825.11 in sponsorship.

The Gift Aid claim for the financial year 2007-8 gave us £3883.75

Bank interest was £1104.26

Profit from the sale of Christmas cards was £646.24

Profit from the Art Auction was £455

Profit from the Temwa CD sale was £50

Expenditure

The total expenditure for the year was £29,124.34:

Tikondane Centre school support allowances: £10,067

Law Student Bursaries: £7080

Expenditure on our library projects: £39.99

Temwa school scholarships: £3366.76

Construction of Mbewa Village school: £8080

Maintenance of Nick's Place: £490.59

Reserves

Reserves required to meet ongoing commitments until the end of 2012: £27,050

Reserves at end of financial year: £51,178.80

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the report set out above.

Signed on their behalf

Pauline Webber

(Chair of Trustees)

Date 29th December 2009

