



news release

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FUNDING BOOST TO CITY POWERCHAIR FOOTBALL CLUB

Norwich City Powerchair Football Club, has received a £2,000 grant from Bernard Matthews to go towards supporting the team on premier league away matches, ensuring they have travel provision to these games and are able to stay in suitable accommodation. The grant was awarded as part of the eighth round of donations from The Bernard Matthews Fund.

Norwich City Powerchair Football Club provides sporting opportunities for powered wheelchair users, who typically have severe disabilities. The number of sports open to powered wheelchair users is extremely limited and participation provides an unique experience of competition and team work.

The league season takes place over a number of weekend tournaments, all of which are based in Nottingham meaning that the costs for participation require accessible accommodation and transport for members, all of whom are full-time power wheelchair users and their carers.

Mark Womersley from Norwich City Powerchair Football Club said:

“The support of the Bernard Matthews Fund will allow the Club to continue to participate in the Nottingham matches and to generate more interest and subsequently increase the numbers of participant in the Club.

“Our first season in the Premier League, last year, was a very steep learning curve but we managed to hang on in there, albeit by way of the play-offs! We are only just halfway through this season, but already have matched last season's total points tally, which signifies a marked improvement! Therefore, we aim to consolidate ourselves in the league this season and then push for a higher place next year. However such participation in the National League tournaments would not be possible without the help of such donations as that of the Bernard Matthews Fund!”

Launched in October 2009 to help a wide range of rural charities and voluntary initiatives across Norfolk, north Suffolk and Lincolnshire, the fund has already provided over £55,000 in grants. It is administered by the Norfolk Community Foundation.

Andrew Sherwood, Human Resources Director at Bernard Matthews, commented: “Supporting groups located in the heart of our communities has always been important to Bernard Matthews and the fund is just one aspect of our commitment to corporate responsibility.

“The fund aims to give at a truly local level and make a real difference to community support projects such as Norwich City Powerchair Football Club. This is a worthy project for power wheelchair users across Norwich, fulfilling a vital role within the community and plugging a gap in sporting activities for groups with these requirements.”

The Bernard Matthews Fund awards grants of up to £2,000 to support community groups working in Norfolk, north Suffolk, and Lincolnshire. To find out more information about the fund or how to apply for grants, visit www.norfolkfoundation.com/Bernard-Matthews-Fund.htm.

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Notes for editors

- Details of the Bernard Matthews Fund can be found on The Norfolk Community Foundation website at: www.norfolkfoundation.com/Bernard-Matthews-Fund.htm