

Welcome to
AIM's bi-monthly
newsletter

Directors pictured left to right
Andy Reid,
Jackie Palmer &
Stephen Cruse



Newsletter

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Welcome to AIM's

first Newsletter of 2016.

We hope you all had a wonderful
Christmas break and wish you all the
best for what AIM are expecting
to be there best year so far.

What will you achieve in 2016?
Set your goals and AIM high!

What AIM hope to achieve in 2016

- 1 Extending our office
- 2 Improving facilities for our members
- 3 Running employment related courses
- 4 Running PIP and ESA assessment preparation courses
- 5 Develop regional mentoring
- 6 Train amputees in public speaking
- 7 Hold coffee mornings in NHS prosthetic centres
- 8 Develop our buddy-buddy system.
- 9 Have full benefits advice and appeal service for all members

Advertising

AIM would like to offer advertising space to corporate businesses that provide specific services for amputees, rates will vary depending on the size, nature of business and the frequency of using the advertising space, please contact marketing@weareaim.org for more information.

The Newsletter

If you would like to receive your own copy every other month then please contact our office with your name and address or email address and you will be placed on our mailing list. Phone: **01744 808 100** or email: info@weareaim.org

Past newsletters and all future editions can be found on our website www.weareaim.org. This newsletter is created for your benefit, your comments and ideas will always be welcomed.

Coffee Mornings: Free Coffee, Sandwiches, Cakes and Information. Sponsored by Kevin Edwards Costs until May 2016

Everyone is welcome to attend the coffee mornings for tea coffee cakes and a chat. These are held at Ruskin Leisure St Helens WA10 6RP. If you a business and would like to talk / present at one of our coffee mornings, please contact us to arrange.

Coffee Morning

Everyone Welcome



NEXT COFFEE MORNINGS -

Friday 26th February @ 10:30

Please note the coffee morning in March will be held on-
Thursday 24th March @ 10:30 as Friday is Good Friday.

AIM endeavour to have a really useful information session at each of our coffee mornings, these cannot always be confirmed before the newsletter goes to print, but please do attend if you are able too, as each month will be completely different.

Superhero Calendar 2016:



Thank you to all 12 amputees for taking part in this project, also a huge thanks to Jacquie Yates for taking the photographs, and thanks to Neil Pearson at Print-Solutions for putting the artwork together and printing.

These calendars really have been great for a number of reasons, firstly giving amputees confidence by taking part, giving AIM publicity and also being able to raise some funds for AIM.

We still have some calendars available at our office, and if you would like a copy then please do get in touch, these will not be available from the end of February as any remaining copies will be distributed to schools and colleges that support AIM.

If you have any ideas for next years calendar then please do get in touch, also if you would like to take part in next years calendar, please do get in touch.

Lets get these into shops next year, and really raise the profile of AIM, build confidence and self-esteem.
If you can help with this, please do get in touch.

Dance Show:

On Sunday 24th January, Jackie was invited to The St Helens Theatre Royal to watch a performance by The Jeanette McCulloch Dance School.

This fundraiser was the idea of two daughters of amputee Stuart Lanham, who sadly lost his arm and sight in both eyes due to a horrific infection. Any proceeds from the 3 day show will kindly be donated to AIM.

We would like to thank the dance school, parents, the dancers and all involved in the fantastic day. It was an amazing afternoon.

Full write up and pictures to be in the next edition of the newsletter.



An Evening of Ice Hockey: by Paul Chisholm



What a night we had at the Sheffield Steelers on January 2nd, especially after not knowing what to expect as I have never been to an Ice Hockey match before, I'd never even seen it on TV.

It all started when I got a phone call from AIM several days before the event, asking me if I was available to go to Sheffield on the 2nd, and come home on the 3rd, I was intrigued as to what was going on, AIM then told me they would like to take me with them to an Ice Hockey game and stay over as it will be a late night, I agreed to go and geared myself up for this night out, it was tough for me as Christmas had been quite tough and I wasn't feeling at my best.

Andy picked me and the others up on the 2nd and off we headed for Sheffield, AIM had sorted everything out, we arrived at a hotel that was close to the Sheffield Steelers Arena, after checking in, we got ready and headed to the Arena.

When we arrived, we were given a tour of the arena, it was great, we seen everything that goes on behind the scenes and got to meet many of the players, when the arena was full, we went on to the ice and had our photos taken with the team, Andy also said a touching speech about AIM and the people AIM works with, we then had a standing ovation from a crowd of over 5000 people, it was amazing, I felt like a celebrity.

During the game, it was just what you would expect watching an American show on TV, there was people dressed up in the crowd, dancing and getting the crowd going, there was even a Sheffield Steeler Mascot dancing non-stop for the duration of the game.

Strangers in the crowd made us all so welcome, and helping us understand the rules of the game, as they knew it was our first time at Ice Hockey.



After the game, the Steve Owen (the guy who had arranged everything for us) took us in to the players lounge, were we had time to chat with some of the players and enjoy a couple of pints.

This evening will stay with me for many, many years to come, it was great, they have also said AIM can bring along more amputees and their families to watch more games in the future, this truly was an amazing event that all the family would of thoroughly enjoyed. A massive thank you to AIM, Steve Owen, Sheffield Steelers, and the amazing crowd of supporters that made me so welcome and made me feel special.

Thank you Paul for writing this article, were glad you enjoyed the night and we hope to take more amputees to the Ice Hockey in Sheffield in 2016.

If any amputee and their family would like to attend a match in Sheffield, please do keep an eye out on our facebook page and newsletter as we are hoping to take a coach load down to a future match.

Thanks again to the Sheffield Steelers for such a great night.

My Story: by Gary Abdullah

In 2002, at the young age of only 28, I was in a car travelling towards Islington in Liverpool City Centre, when I was involved in a motor vehicle collision, and as a result of this collision I was admitted to the Royal Liverpool University Hospital, with a minor injury to my right lower limb.

During my 3 week stay in hospital for the recovery of my injury, I was informed by a member of staff that I had contracted MRSA which then resulted in Osteo-Myelitis, finding this hard enough to come to terms with I then found out that due to the Osteo-Myelitis I will need to have my right leg amputated, which I believed to be below the knee, but when I woke from surgery, I had had the amputation above the knee.

As you can imagine, this news was completely devastating to me, not only having part of my leg amputated, I lost more than what I expected. I didn't know where to turn, what to do, how to come to terms with this news, and how my friends, my family, and even the general public were going to react to this, I had a large part of me missing. Luckily for me I had a huge amount of friends, a great family network and plenty of people to help me and aid my recovery.

I didn't let this stop me, I was moving forward with my life, pushing myself at every opportunity, working hard with my prosthetic limb to get the most out of it.

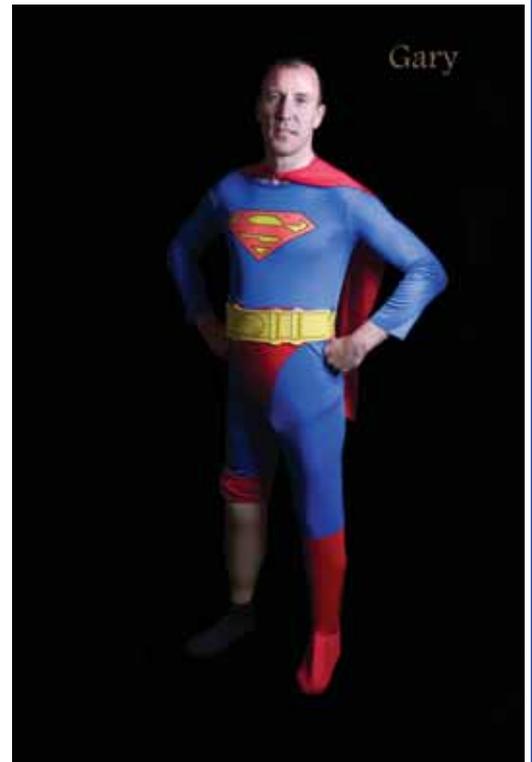
I continued on with my life for the next 12 years, sometimes feeling frustrated that people just don't understand how I'm feeling, also feeling like I don't completely fit in as I'm slightly different to others, I have restrictions in my ability to do things and limitations with daily living tasks.

After many years, I met up with a friend (Paul Chisholm), and we both realised that we had both had a very similar amputation, both right leg, both above the knee, and both with a positive attitude, after speaking with my old friend, he introduced me to a group of other amputees, this was AIM, these people have changed my outlook on life, I didn't know that there was so many people in the same situation as me.

Since becoming a member of AIM, my confidence has grown. I even found it in myself to get dressed up as Superman for their fantastic calendar.

This picture of me as Superman, is the first time I have been able to show the public my prosthetic leg, AIM have taught me to be proud of my leg, not to be ashamed of my difference, and to help others do the same.

In the short time I have been involved with AIM, I have been at every coffee morning, just recently been to watch Ice Hockey (which was amazing) went on the Coronation St tour, and been to the Christmas party (where I took my mum along with me), and the Christmas Panto (with my daughter), being part of this group of amputees and carers of mixed ages and mixed amputations, has been a massive comfort to me and my family, and a great place to find out about dealing with amputation, and finding ways of adapting things that I used to do, so I am able to do them again.



To have your story here in this newsletter, please do feel free to send it to AIM. These stories are great for others to seek inspiration, to gain guidance, to focus on the future, and to feel more confident with their amputation.

2016 Challenge



This exciting event held in August 2016 will be a great way for people to raise money for AIM, and also a great way to get in shape for the summer.

There will be a 10k event with 30 obstacles through a mud course, and a 5k with 20 Obstacles through a mud course, and a smaller easier 2k course with 10 obstacles that is suitable for children aged 8 and up.

13th August 10k - early bird entry £44

14th August 5k - early bird entry £29

14th August 2k - early bird entry £15

Entry through AIM is FREE*

Check out www.rhinogladiator.com for details, and contact AIM for your free entry forms.



SUPER LEAGUE 2016, SAINTS RLFC SEASON TICKET:

AIM has purchased a St Helens RLFC Season ticket for our members to use. The ticket is for one member plus a career to attend the Premier Lounge at home games at Langtree Park St Helens.

Please contact us if you would like to attend a game. We would like as many members as possible to benefit from this ticket so please do get in touch and we will do our best to accommodate your wishes.



UnparaLLeled Fitness

UnparaLLeled Fitness is a new business venture started recently by the amazing, young, inspirational amputee Lyndon Longhorne.

The business is a unique brand of sports and fitness clothing, please check out the facebook page.

[Facebook.com/UnparaLLeled-Fitness](https://www.facebook.com/UnparaLLeled-Fitness)

Sales & Marketing Person

As you may be aware AIM raises money through Motivational Presentations in schools, colleges and businesses.

A part time sales position has become available in our office, approximately 24 hours per week, to start immediately, selling and marketing our presentations to the above mentioned organisations.

The candidate must be fully experienced in sales, be able to use own initiative, adaptable to situations, hard working and passionate, and have an excellent telephone manner, and basic computer skills.

A full job description is available on request. Please email your CV to, info@weareaim.org

LIMB POWER SURVEY:

Limb Power are conducting a research project which will give us insight into which activities amputees and people with limb impairments are currently taking part in, what they would like to take part in and what is stopping them. We want to know how we can help get more amputees and individuals with limb impairments of all ages and all abilities active. We need your help to do this:

This research project aims to:

- a) Find out which activities amputees and people with limb impairments are currently taking part in, as well what they would like to take part in the future.
- b) Gain an understanding of the impact wearing prosthesis (false limb) has on an individual's likelihood to take part in sport and physical activity.

We are looking to consult with as many amputees and people with limb loss/difference as possible regardless of current activity levels.

This online survey will take around 10 to 15 minutes to complete; each person that completes it will be sent a **£5 Amazon e-voucher as a thank you**.

Here is the link to the online survey <http://www.surveymoz.com/s3/2483725/011ed7c79797>
Please note that hard copies of the survey are available from Andy Brittles.

Thank you for your support, If you have any questions then please contact Andy Brittles on 07503 030702 or email andy@limbpower.com



THANK YOU:

This month we would like to thank:

- Alisha Butler
- Burd Ward Solicitors
- Kevin Edwards Costs
- Print Solutions
- United Amputees
- Richard Zacharzewski
- Jacquie Yates
- Stephen & Elizabeth Flaherty
- Andy Woods
- Clare Webster
- Neil Davies
- Katya Halsall
- Sue and Alan Bibby
- Paul Chisholm
- Gary Abdullah
- Paul Bolan
- Sarah Welsby
- Sharon Stone
- Barbara Duval
- Mandy Mcspirit-Dazely
- Stephen Cruse
- Romeo Hadley
- Max Lamb
- Kerry Cowan
- Reds Café
- Ruskin Leisure



United Amputees Personal Independence Payments Briefing January 2016

Hello Aim Supporters,

Once again we at “United Amputees” gratefully accept the invitation of “Amputation Inspiration and Motivation” to provide an update of the issues facing not only our peer amputee individuals and communities, but in this particular case a most serious issue of reducing disabled persons incomes, based upon and Economic Ideology as opposed to the need of society to support those in greatest need through disability?

On 10th December 2015 DWP launched a truncated Consultation aimed at slashing the number of people eligible for the daily living component of personal independence payment (PIP) by up to 35%. The cuts will be aimed at claimants who qualify for PIP because of their use of aids and appliances and may include replacing awards with discretionary voucher payments.

Truncated simply because this consultation ends on January 29th 2016, a period of just 7 weeks, when Government Consultation Principles stipulate a default timescale of 12 weeks as a minimum. To get around this anomaly the Government changed the principles just this month to say “Consultations should last for a proportionate amount of time “. However the footnote of the document states “This document does not have legal force and is subject to statutory and other legal requirements”.

The press release and consultation document claim that 35% of all daily living allowance awards are based solely on the claimant’s need to use aids and appliances.

In addition, the DWP points out that recent upper tribunal decisions have found that a bed, for example, can count as an aid or appliance if a claimant needs to sit on it in order to get dressed.

The DWP argues that the use of readily available or low cost items as aids or appliances isn’t a reliable guide as to whether a person has to meet additional costs because of their disability.

The Consultation offers five possible options

Five possible options for change are listed in the document as:

- 1, A lump sum paid to claimants who score all their daily living points from aids and appliances. This could be discretionary and its use limited through the use of vouchers. The awards could be periodic, in order to cover the cost of replacing aids or appliances. It would not passport to other benefits or premiums and would not exempt claimants from the benefits cap. Claimants scoring at least some points from other descriptors would be paid at the relevant weekly rate, as now.
- 2, A lower monthly payment for claimants who score all their daily living points from aids and appliances. It would not passport to other benefits or premiums and would not exempt claimants from the benefits cap. Claimants scoring at least some points from other descriptors would be paid at the relevant weekly rate, as now.
- 3, A new condition of entitlement that claimants must score some points from a descriptor that does not relate to aids and appliances. Claimants scoring at least some points from other descriptors would be paid at the relevant weekly rate, as now.
- 4, A change to the definition of aids and appliances to exclude any that the DWP does not consider are a good indicator of additional cost and need. Claimants who use aids and appliances that are a good indicator of extra costs would be paid at the relevant weekly rate, as now.
- 5, Halving the number of points that can be scored for the use of aids or appliances from 2 to 1 for some or all daily living activities.

Continued on next page...

Current claimants

The current PIP eligibility rules will continue to apply until any changes are made. The consultation document also states that current claimants will not be affected immediately. However, when their award comes up for review or a change of circumstances is reported, then they will be covered by any new rules.

In addition, the DWP have made it clear that they intend to regularly review and cut eligibility to PIP to ensure that it is 'financially sustainable' in the future.

How to take part

If you wish to take part in the consultation, you can send your response to:

PIP.consultationfeedback@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Or write to:

PIP Policy Team Department for Work and Pensions Ground floor, Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1H 9NA

Your response needs to reach the DWP by 5pm on 29 January 2016.

Finally Comment from United Amputees:

Yet another DWP consultation they're hoping we won't notice. As ever a consultation that aims to take even more away from us, this time it is the daily living component of PIP if we use aids or/and appliances.

They mean they want to reduce support, yet again, if people use aids and appliances.

We need to let them know what we think about this. TELL THEM NO, NOW

As far as we are concerned the "Status Quo" should be maintained, after all, Personal Independence Payment Regulations only came into being on April 8th 2013. That's less than 2 years ago. Are we to face a change in the definition of disability every time the Government ideologically wish to reduce the welfare bill for the most vulnerable, disabled and sick members of our so called society?

The Document states "that current claimants will not be affected immediately. However, when their award comes up for review or a change of circumstances is reported, then they will be covered by any new rules.

In addition, the DWP have made it clear that they intend to regularly review and cut eligibility to PIP to ensure that it is 'financially sustainable' in the future".

Gordon McFadden

United Amputees Chairman

Really what they intend to do is change the Regulations and then all those who have been successful in an Award of PIP will be called in for review and then fail, Get it folks PLEASE, this is a cost cutting exercise on the backs of the disabled population. In another two or three years we will be undergoing a similar exercise by Government to further reduce the welfare Bill and we the disabled population will again be the Target.

WE MUST RESPOND AND SAY NO, NOW!



Thanks again Gordon for your really valuable information, we are most certainly looking forward to hearing more from you in future editions of this newsletter.

I do apologise to all our members that this is too late for us to take action against but it is really important that we know what the government are doing to the vulnerable people of this country.

AMPUTATION, INSPIRATION AND MOTIVATION CIC

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