

# INCORPORATION OF CORDINERS IN GLASGOW

Body and Sole Prospectus and Annual Report 2019/20



## CONTENTS

About the Cordiners  
Aims and objectives of Body and Sole  
Annual Report for 2019/20  
COVID-19—Challenges for the Cordiners

## ABOUT THE CORDINERS

A Cordiner is a worker in fine leather, especially shoes, in Scotland. The name derives from Cordoba in Spain, where the finest leather was produced. As some of the leather workers migrated northwards through Europe in mediaeval times, they became known as Cordouaniers in France, Cordwainers in England and Cordiners once they reached Scotland.

The Incorporation of Cordiners in Glasgow, one of the fourteen incorporated Crafts within the Trades House of Glasgow, was founded officially in 1558, although the Deacon of the Cordiners is believed to have held charitable responsibilities in Glasgow since the twelfth century. In the early years, the Craft acted as a trading standards and training organisation, ensuring that Craftsmen selling leather footwear were producing goods of a suitable quality, as well as supporting members of the Craft, or their dependants, who fell on hard times.

Over the centuries, leather footwear production by Cordiners has disappeared in Scotland, most recently with the influx of cheap footwear from overseas. For nearly two centuries, since the changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution made the purely trade-related functions of the Incorporation redundant, the Cordiners have been a purely charitable organisation, providing grants to Glasgow-based organisations and individuals, as well as sponsoring educational prizes at Glasgow Caledonian University, Glasgow School of Art, and Glasgow Clyde College, for practical projects using leather.

Each of our grants is usually in the region of £1000, and our preference is to support small organisations, based in the Glasgow area, rather than large charities. In recent years, we have given grants to numerous local charities including the Glasgow Disabled Scouts, the Thomas Lipton Foundation, and Glasgow City Mission.

We also support charitable and educational activity within the Trades House of Glasgow each year, including sponsorship of the CRAFTEX exhibition which showcases the work of college students, the Modern Apprentice of the Year (MAYA) award and social functions for our pensioners and beneficiaries. Our total charitable donations in 2019/20 totaled some £ . . .

Our newest charitable initiative is  
BODY AND SOLE



## **Aims and Objectives**

**Body and Sole** was established in 2017 with the primary aim of providing sports footwear (in line with our shoemaking heritage), for children and young people from disadvantaged areas of Glasgow, to encourage participation in sport and outdoor activities generally, with attendant benefits to both physical and mental health over the longer term.

To facilitate this, an association has been established with PEPASS (Physical Education, Physical Activity and School Sports), a division of Glasgow City Council Education Department, which administers the scheme with funding provided by the Cordiners. The footwear remains the property of the school, rather than the individual child, and is issued out to the participants on a pool basis for use during sports and outdoor activities.

In January each year, letters inviting bids for sports footwear are sent out in to heads of PE in deprived area schools across Glasgow, and to managers of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in Glasgow, and the Glasgow Outdoor Resource Centre. Bidders are asked to demonstrate how they will benefit from provision of sports footwear to their school or organisation. Some of the responses have made harrowing reading, with some children having only one pair of shoes, precluding participation in outdoor sport on a muddy field, and having to sit out the activity, thus being severely stigmatized in the eyes of their peers as well as missing out on an important component of the educational curriculum. With some 37,000 children in Glasgow living in poverty, the need cannot be under-estimated.

## PROGRESS REPORTS

### Year 1 2018-2019

The Cordiners were able to support all the school bids, providing 680 pairs of assorted sports shoes, and establishing a pool of 150 pairs of walking boots for the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, which will allow large numbers of pupils to participate in the various activities required for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. We awarded grants in total of around £11,000 to Body & Sole **projects in this, the scheme's pilot year.**

The funding assisted young people in 6 different secondary schools in Glasgow where the percentage of the school population living in the most deprived areas is over 75%.

### Year 2 2019-2020

#### Glasgow Schools

Looking forward to the 2019-2020 financial year, we anticipated a need for significantly more sports footwear, and our predictions proved correct when we received bids from 40 schools, totalling £33,000. As this sum was beyond our means, it was going to be necessary to reduce the awards to a number of schools. However the award of a grant of £20,000 from the Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust has meant that in the event we were able to meet all the bids, providing funding for sports footwear worth £12,000 to Glasgow schools, £5,000 to the Glasgow Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, and £5,000 to Glasgow City Council Social Work Department between April and October 2019, to provide footwear for the Glasgow Outdoor Centre. A further donation £8,332 was made to Glasgow City Council Schools in December 2019, and as the year came to a close, the Master Court approved a donation of £6,600 to the **Glasgow school 'hubs' providing essential facilities to the most deprived children, and children of key workers, to purchase play equipment suitable for 'socially distanced' outdoor play, to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on pupils' mental health.**

Despite substantially increasing our donations in 2019/20, there remains much unmet need within Glasgow schools, perhaps even more so as schools adapt to the challenges of the post-COVID world, and we have made a direct appeal to our members to support this project. We will greatly appreciate the continued support of the Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust.



**Deacon Bergman presents a supplementary cheque to pupils of St Bernard's Primary School**  
December 2019

The children are proudly wearing new navy blue wellingtons, matching their school uniforms

## Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme 2019-20

Report from Andy McCann

Duke of Edinburgh Development Officer, Glasgow City Council

A high proportion of young people live in SIMD 1-3 (most deprived) households. Your continued support and encouragement is vital to reducing the gaps in attainment. Our partnership work in the past, present and hopefully in the future will ensure that Glasgow will meet its target to 'Close the Gap' through the 'Glasgow Improvement Challenge'. The provision of Physical Education, Physical Activity, School Sport (PEPASS) and the Duke of Edinburgh Award, with your help, will continue to be a vehicle to this end.

Across the three levels of award (Bronze, Silver, Gold) I estimate that we will have approximately 1341 participants registered between Nov 19 and Oct 20. If I apply the corrections to mitigate against the COVID effect, then I would expect there to be 1788 participants this year.

The number of hours of completed activity is calculated using the general requirements of the Award. That is, each participant has to complete a three,

six or twelve month period of activity in each section depending on the level of award. Young people are required to participate in a minimum of one hours activity each week, for each of the three sections. The total number of hours completed for each section at all levels of the award is 95,376 hours. Again, adding in for the COVID impact would increase this to 127,168 hours

The Expedition section is made up of a Practice and Qualifying expedition. The length of expedition is dependent on the level of award. Expeditions are two, three or four days in length. To complete this section you will have done four, six or eight days on expedition. The total number of days on expedition expected this year will be approximately 6656 days across all levels. Again, after correcting for the COVID registration issues this number could increase to 8875 days.

The Gold Award has an additional requirement that participants complete a five day residential experience. When we account for this section, we would need to add another 640 days or 853 days (corrected). Therefore, the Cordiners are supporting 127,168 hours of activity to complete the three sections (physical, skills and volunteering). In addition, the Cordiners are also facilitating 9728 days of expeditions and residential experience over the year.

Testimonial from a senior teacher at an East Glasgow School:

It would not have been possible to run The Duke of Edinburgh's Award here over the past few years without the **Cordiners' donation**. Our young people in the east end of Glasgow suffer hugely from deprivation. Engaging with awards such as D.of E. will benefit our young people but due to financial hardship, and with no support network to call on, most of our students would never have the opportunity. The **Cordiners' donation has allowed us to create an equipment** store which pupils use when they go on expedition, allowing all pupils the opportunity to participate. To date we have had over 60 pupils complete Bronze and a further 30 their Silver Awards.

## Glasgow Outdoor Centre Report by the Project Manager

The Outdoor Resource Centre (ORC) is a project based within the Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership (Social Work Services). The ORC provides a range of Adventurous Outdoor Activities to young people across **the city, who are “Looked After” or “Looked After and Accommodated”**. These activities include Mountaineering, Rock Climbing, Kayaking, Canoeing, Mountain Biking and Coastal Sailing. The purpose of delivering these activities is to support some of the most vulnerable young people in our City. These young people either need additional support to stay at home or have to live away from home, either in a Foster Placement, a Kinship Care **Placement or in one of our Residential Children’s Units**.

There is a significant body of evidence to show that Looked After young people in Scotland have poorer physical health outcomes (Scottish Government report: Guidance on Health Assessments for Looked After Children in Scotland) and poorer mental health outcomes, (Scottish Government: Mental Health Strategy for Scotland: 2012-2015). For these reasons, it is very important that these young people have the opportunity to take part in adventurous outdoor activities as a means of contributing to improving these outcomes. There is one other very important reason. They are fun. Spending time outside, getting dirty, absorbing the environment and **experiencing challenge is fun, and should be part of all of Scotland’s young people’s experience**. For those young people who are looked after; these experiences can compensate for some of the positive life experiences that they may have missed out on.

Delivering a programme of activities as outlined above is complex, requiring access to sound organisation and resources. Providing a service, even for a relatively small number of young people, requires a significant store of specialist clothing and particularly shoes. Having a good selection of sizes of high quality footwear available is costly. Many of the benefits mentioned **above can be compromised by a day’s activity with ill-fitting, leaking or inappropriate footwear**. A good supply of good quality mountain boots, sailing wellies, rock climbing boots and watersports shoes contribute immensely to the quality of the experience of the young people taking part in our programmes.

**Last year’s Cordiners grant was used to purchase new rock climbing boots.**

This came just at a perfect time as most of the old boots came to the end of

their useful life a bit sooner than we had expected. It was great to see them being well used, but you can only glue them back together so many times. The new boots have already been put to great use and have allowed us to continue offering rock climbing indoors and outdoors as an activity.

The work of the Outdoor Resource Centre will increase this year with a planned development of the service. This will allow us to support more young people on the edge of care and to support care experienced young people with their education.

A Cordiners grant of £5,000 in 2019 allowed the purchase of high quality pairs of mountaineering, water sports and sailing boots for use by looked after and accommodated young people from Glasgow. Supporting the service in this way contributes to enabling us to offer more young people from Glasgow, who have experienced care, positive experiences that will contribute to their education.

#### FUND RAISING - COVID-19 CHALLENGES

A major profile and fund-raising effort was planned for April 2020, with the Cordiners participating in the Glasgow Kiltwalk, an annual mass walking event raising large sums of money for assorted charities. This, along with so many events worldwide, was cancelled.

**As part of our preparation for this, a separate Body and Sole ‘Just Giving ‘** web page was set up, and promotional material for participants designed. Unfortunately this major fundraiser has been put on hold by the pandemic. All schools since March 2020 are closed until at least the new academic year. As a result, all school sporting activities have ceased for the current session, and the bidding process for footwear for 2020 been suspended. However, a number of primary school hubs have been established for vulnerable children and children of key workers, and we are making a substantial donation for outdoor play equipment such as balance bikes, scooters and hula hoops - items which can be easily wiped down after individual use, maintaining the ethos of Body & Sole in these challenging times. We fully anticipate the need for our support to continue, and perhaps even increase, as schools reconfigure their outdoor activities in the changed and challenging world ahead.

In Conclusion: **The Cordiners’ Body and Sole initiative has expanded rapidly** since its inception in 2017. There remains considerable unmet need in the City of Glasgow. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our programme, the adverse economic consequences will undoubtedly be felt most severely by the most disadvantaged groups in our society, and as we reconfigure to meet the new requirements, the need for our support will be greater than ever.