



The Greenbank PROJECT

ISSUE 1 JAN 2025

Who We Are

A charity that provides an invaluable service for the local community. The Greenbank Project services the needs of disabled people in education and sport. The Project is a registered charity established in 1983, offers services to people in Liverpool and surrounding areas with a particular focus on providing fully inclusive and relevant opportunities for disabled people and other disadvantaged groups. Our mission is **supporting people to achieve their potential through inclusive education, sport and leisure activities**. As an organisation run by and for disabled people, we understand the issues faced by people with a disability and work hard to offer relevant opportunities, which make a real difference to people's lives. The services offered by the charity are provided by the Greenbank Sports Academy and Greenbank College.



A Specialist Academy — Like No Other

The photo on the left shows 22 sports electric wheelchairs all lined up and being charged. The chairs are used for our Power Hockey and Power Football clubs that happen every week. Each player has their name above the chair that they use, it's ready for them to use every week. Our Power Hockey team are British Champions and our Power Football team are currently top of the English Championship.

Liam (pictured below, left) describes it best – “I tried out Power Hockey for the first time in 2012 at Greenbank after being told

about it from my neurologist at the hospital. It was the start of my love for hockey. One of the things I love about Power Hockey is that the rules are so quick and easy to understand that nearly anyone can play it. This means I am able to play with my friends who do not have a disability. It allows everyone to be equal and I can have the same physical ability as them when playing it”.

The sport was invented at the Academy by Gerry Kinsella. It is now being played all over England and Wales.



Our History — “A Paralympian’s Dream”



Gerry Kinsella MBE (pictured left) departed the Children’s School of Rest & Recovery with the expectancy that he would become a lift operator. In 1983 he acquired the school from the Rathbone Charity and started the Greenbank Project charity. The Greenbank College was formed and it has been providing education and employment opportunities for disabled people ever since.

Gerry loves sport and describes how, in his eyes, wheelchair basketball turned him from an ugly duckling into swan. He played for Great Britain in two Paralympics and because of this love of sport he built the Greenbank Sports Academy in 1999. Sir Phillip Craven, Ex-President of the International Paralympic movement, described the Academy as a “Jewel in the crown of the Paralympic movement”. At 77 years old, Gerry, though retired, still coaches our Power Hockey and Power Football teams.



A Provider of Health and Wellbeing JULIA’S STORY

I had a stroke 20 years ago, this transformed my life in one moment and left me with some permanent disabilities. Fortunately I have now been able to come to terms with these disabilities and can now lead a reasonably active and happy life. I was lucky in the fact that I live close to The Greenbank Sports Academy. Without this facility I am sure I would not have made anything like the progress I have done.

I was in hospital for 10 months after my stroke and once I returned home there was no physiotherapy available through the NHS (only one session for 30 mins per week). However, The Greenbank Sports Academy was open 7 days a week. With the help of my brother, a local Physio, and the trained Greenbank staff, we worked out a set of daily exercises which could benefit me. I was in a wheelchair at the time but thanks to these daily sessions my mobility improved greatly and I found myself able to walk again with the aid of a walking stick. It still remains a great source of exercise and enjoyment to me and I still attend 2 or 3 times a week. The highly trained staff always help me with the equipment and look after my needs.

The Greenbank Sports Academy run cycle sessions on Saturday mornings, it was with the help from the staff and volunteers that I was able to learn and ride a tricycle. My life has now been completely changed thanks to Greenbank helping out with the purchase of a specially designed tricycle for me. I can now ride on this trike from my flat to the Greenbank Centre without any assistance, giving me independence and some self-confidence once again.

Julia’s story outlines how the Academy has affected people’s lives to the point where it has changed them. In Julia’s case improving her health and giving her independence back.



A Builder of Champions

NATHAN'S STORY

Nathan trains at the Greenbank Sports Academy every Saturday morning, pushing over 13 miles round Sefton Park. He is coached by an employee of the Greenbank Sports Academy and also did his Foundation Degree in Inclusive Sports Development at Greenbank.

Nathan is the current Commonwealth Games 1500m Champion and won a silver medal in the relay at the Tokyo Paralympics. The Academy has provided him with the support he needs to excel on the international stage. He is so supportive of the aims and ambitions of the Greenbank Project that he has recently become a member of the board.

A message from the CEO...

Dear Greenbank Supporter,

I have had the honour of being the CEO of the Greenbank Project since 2017, when I took over from Gerry Kinsella MBE, the founder of our great charity.

From our beginnings in 1983 the Greenbank Project as not lost its heart or its purpose and as the season unfolds, we find ourselves reflecting on the incredible journey we embarked upon. We are humbled by the unwavering support of individuals like you who have been a beacon of hope for our cause and at this holiday time I would like to thank you.

We are excited to share the remarkable accounts of achievements we have taken towards helping disabled people become more independent. We have gone through challenging times during the last seven years, none more so than the impact of the COVID pandemic, which meant that our sports academy facilities remained closed to service users. With your support however, the charity has continued to evolve. We have seen the power hockey game grow, with hubs set up across the country and the sport being recognised as a national governing body sport.

I am inviting you to join us once again in making a profound difference to the lives we touch. Your generosity and support have been instrumental in helping keep the power hockey game alive. You have helped keep the sports hall open. Staff, with the right skills are available to support disabled people when they attend clubs, and the power hockey wheelchairs are always charged and ready for use.

As another year begins, I am once again asking you for your support; please consider donating to the Greenbank Project. Your gift, no matter the size, will help us to continue to maintain our building, ensuring we remain open and able to continue to offer wheelchair power sports and other sporting facilities that enable disabled athletes and the community to continue to train at Greenbank during these tough economic times.

We are deeply grateful for your commitment, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a prosperous 2025.

Yours sincerely,
Mary Beaumont

HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

- Just Giving** <https://www.justgiving.com/greenbankproject1>
CAF <https://www.cafonline.org/home/donate> – Search: 'The Greenbank Project'
Phone Call us on **0151 733 7255** to donate over the phone
Email If you are a large organisation and would like to discuss a partnership with The Greenbank Project, please contact **Pete Wyman** – peter.wyman@greenbank.org.uk