



Patrons

UPDATE

SPRING UPDATE
FOR BLGC PATRONS
AND SUPPORTERS



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EMMA



YOU BELIEVED AND TOGETHER WE DID THIS.

As 2026 begins, I wanted to take a moment to share the positive impact BLGC has made over the past year for children, young people and families across Bolton. It's been another busy and challenging year, with demand for our services continuing to grow, but thanks to your support we have risen to that challenge and supported thousands of young people over the last 12 months. While 2026 is set to bring even greater pressures and increased demand, I am incredibly grateful for your ongoing commitment, belief and enthusiasm. Your support makes a real difference, and I hope you'll continue to stand with us as we work together to shape brighter futures for children and young people in Bolton.

Emma Hutchinson - CEO



2025 IN NUMBERS

4263

Young People are Members of BLGC

389

Young People accessed out Targeted Services

135

Young Carers were supported

80%

Of our members said they felt healthier

14K

Nutritious Meals provided to BLGC Members

166

Members of our Groups for SEND

900

Accessed our Grass Rcoots Sport offer

74

Young People were given Bereavement Support



PATRON NEWS ROUNDUP

NETWORK LUNCH

We kicked off 2026 in style with our first business lunch of the year, bringing together an inspiring group of local businesses. Huge thanks to Clever IT (Cloud Clever Ltd) for coming on board as our headline sponsor — it's always great to hear from Ben and benefit from his insights. A big shout-out to Carrs Pasties Ltd for generously providing lunch, and a massive thank you to Will Guerry from Ajar Technology for hosting the panel and steering such engaging conversation. It was fantastic to see so many local organisations in one room, connecting, sharing ideas and supporting one another.

WELLNESS EVENT

Last month, we hosted our very first wellness retreat at Burnden Park Fitness Academy, and it was the perfect way to start the day. The morning was filled with calm, motivation and positive energy — a true reset for everyone who attended. Huge thanks to Amanda Brown for generously donating her time to deliver an inspiring masterclass, with her online version launching very soon. We're also grateful to Victoria Hozaifeh from Awoke Yoga for leading a beautiful yoga session, to Donna for an unforgettable sound bath experience, and to Simon at Burnden Park Fitness Academy for opening up his stunning yoga studio for the event. Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a special and uplifting morning.

FIGHT AT THE CLUB

Ready to step into the ring? Follow in the footsteps of BLGC boxing legends Amir Khan and Cindy Ngamba and sign up for the ultimate white collar boxing experience! Whether you're a complete beginner or just fancy a new challenge, you'll get 8 weeks of FREE professional training to build your skills, confidence and fitness, all leading up to fight night where you'll give it everything across three adrenaline-filled two-minute rounds. It's more than just boxing; it's about pushing yourself, being part of something big, and raising vital funds for young people at BLGC. Spots won't hang around, so now's the time to sign up, lace up the gloves, and make your mark.

NEW PATRONS HUB

We're excited to introduce our new Patrons Hub a dedicated area on the BLGC website created especially for our Patrons. The Hub brings together everything you need in one place, including ready-to-use social media assets, the latest news and updates, upcoming events, and inspiring Patron stories. You can also book a Patron Video, giving you the opportunity to share your story and your connection with BLGC, with our team filming and capturing your journey. It's all designed to make it easier to stay connected, celebrate your support, and share the impact we're creating together.



MENTORING MATTERS

JAKES STORY...

Jake was referred while isolated, withdrawn, and not engaging with education. He rarely left his room. He had low confidence and poor health.

Support started slowly. Trust came first.

Over time, Jake re-engaged. He attended appointments. He enrolled in college. He learned to budget, shop independently, and manage daily routines. He now leaves the house regularly.

Jake described mentoring as

“It helps you get better at things you struggle with so you can do them by yourself.”

His family and social worker reported visible change. This progress happened because someone showed up consistently.

THE ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers remain central to Aspirations Mentoring.

If you want to give time, share skills, and see the impact of your involvement, we want to hear from you.

Email volunteering@blgc.co.uk

Call 01204 574100



JAKES STORY

“IT HELPS YOU GET BETTER AT THINGS YOU STRUGGLE WITH SO YOU CAN DO THEM BY YOURSELF.”



OPERATION SLEIGHBELLS

LAST CHRISTMAS YOU DELIVERED...

As we look back on Operation Sleighbells 2025, we want to pause and say one simple but heartfelt thank you to our patrons and supporters. We genuinely could not have done this without you. Once again, we have been humbled by the generosity, kindness and belief you continue to show in Bolton Lads and Girls Club and the families we support.

This year, you gave in so many ways.

You brought presents, donated food, gave financially and sponsored baubles and stars.

And because of you, more children woke up to joy on Christmas morning. More families experienced warmth, comfort and reassurance. And at a time when hope was running low for many, you helped restore it.

Operation Sleighbells has never been just about Christmas. It's about dignity. It's

about reassurance. It's about knowing that someone cares enough to show up. This year, you showed up in the most incredible way.

One family shared with us just how much your support meant to them:

“My own mental health has taken a recent dip given the challenges I am facing, but that knock yesterday was more than gifts and food. It showed me people do care, and it's given me the strength to carry on in this battle.”

These words capture the true impact of your generosity far better than any statistic ever could.

From everyone at BLGC, thank you for standing with us, for backing our community, and for helping us create brighter Christmases for children, young people and families who needed it most. We truly couldn't have done it without you.



CHRISTMAS APPEAL

“MY OWN MENTAL HEALTH HAS TAKEN A RECENT DIP GIVEN THE CHALLENGES I AM FACING BUT THAT KNOCK YESTERDAY WAS MORE THAN GIFTS AND FOOD. IT SHOWED ME PEOPLE DO CARE AND IT'S GIVEN ME THE STRENGTH TO CARRY ON IN THIS BATTLE. .”



Take a look at our upcoming Patron events, a great opportunity to support our work while enjoying time with like-minded people. From networking to social events, it's all about making a difference and having a great time along the way what's not to like? If you'd like to book onto an event or find out more about sponsorship opportunities, drop Alice an email at alice.brierley@blgc.co.uk

NEXT NEW EVENTS

20
MAR

PADEL WITH A PURPOSE

Join us for the first ever BLGC Padel Tournament! play the hottest new sport while making a real difference. Fast, fun and fiercely competitive, every rally supports the vital work of BLGC Email Alice now to secure your team: alice.brierley@blgc.co.uk

30
APR

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Women in Business is for anyone in business wanting to grow, network and develop together with other women from all walks of business and points in their career journey. Email Alice now to secure your place: alice.brierley@blgc.co.uk

15
MAY

FIGHT AT THE CLUB

Follow in the footsteps of BLGC boxing legends Amir Khan and Cindy Ngamba & sign up for the ultimate white collar boxing experience - 8 weeks free training then give it everything in three two minute rounds.

12
JUN

BLGC GOLF CLASSIC

Hosted by Bolton legend 'Big Sam' Allardyce! Join us to enjoy a fantastic round of golf with evening entertainment, food, and auction. Limited spaces are available to enter a team.



SIGN UP



8 WEEKS OF FREE BOXING TRAINING



8 WEEKS OF FREE BOXING TRAINING
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED
RAISE MONEY FOR BLGC
BE PART OF A MASSIVE LIVE EVENT

TRAIN. FIGHT. CHANGE LIVES. READY?

15
MAY

SCAN THE QR
CODE FOR MORE
INFORMATION
OR TO SIGN UP





BLGC NEWS ROUNDUP

NEW SENSORY ROOM

Earlier this month we were delighted to open our new sensory room at Bolton Lads and Girls Club, based at our award-winning BLGC Infinity facility on Spa Road.

Funded by Social Investment Business (SIB), the room is a huge step forward for inclusive SEND provision in Bolton. It will support our Connect Group, a Monday evening club for young people with SEND that has grown to 100+ members since launching in 2024.

Even better, the young people helped design the space themselves, choosing colours and shaping a room that feels calm, welcoming and truly theirs.

CRUYFF COURT OPENS

We're delighted to be looking ahead to the official opening of our new Cruyff Court on 25 February at BLGC Infinity — a major milestone for the club and the community.

Made possible thanks to the generous support of the Cruyff Foundation, The Clothworkers' Foundation and SUEZ Communities Fund, the new Cruyff Court will provide an inclusive, high-quality sports space for children and young people for years to come.

We're pleased to warmly invite all our Patrons to attend the opening event, which promises

to be a fantastic celebration, with the Cruyff Foundation and Dutch international players in attendance. If you'd like to join us on the day, please email alice.brierley@blgc.co.uk we'd love to see you there and share this special moment together.

ALFIE'S SQUAD PARTNERSHIP

We're delighted to see Alfie's Squad Bolton quickly becoming a valued and embedded part of the Bolton Lads & Girls Club community. These weekly sessions provide a safe, welcoming space where young people who have experienced loss can connect with others, build friendships, enjoy activities and feel less alone in their grief. At the same time, parents and carers have the opportunity to meet others facing similar challenges, share advice and access support in a relaxed, understanding environment. It's a powerful reminder of how important it is for every child and family to have a place where they feel seen, supported and safe.

For more information about Alfie's Squad, visit <https://alfiessquad.org/>



ENRICHING YOUNG LIVES

If you want to give time, share skills, and see the impact of your involvement, we want to hear from you.

Email volunteering@blgc.co.uk

Call 01204 574100

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