

Ken Black



Profile (July 2019)

Current main roles

Founding Director, The Inclusion Club (www.theinclusionclub.com)

Independent Advisor, Inclusive Physical Activity & Disability Sport

Background

Ken has worked as a practitioner in the area of inclusive physical activity and disability sport for almost 40 years. This has included 10 years working in special education, 2 years for a disability sport organisation (UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disability), 6 years as a disability sports development officer for Leeds City Council sports development team, 6 years as the Inclusive Sport Officer with the Youth Sport Trust (the UK-based national youth sport agency), 3 years as Sports Consultant with the Australian Sports Commission, (working in the Disability Sport Unit), and 2 years setting-up a research and development centre on disability sport at Loughborough University.

He works independently as an advisor and consultant (previously in this role from 2008-2013). His most recent position was as inclusion advisor & senior lecturer at University of Worcester (2013-2018). During this time, he chaired the Organising Group which planned and hosted the European Congress of Adapted Physical Activity at the university in July 2018.

Ken has just authored (January-March 2019) some new video and activity resources for both Youth Sport Trust and LimbPower for use on their websites.

Ken was a Trustee of the Board of the Activity Alliance (formerly English Federation of Disability Sport) from 2011-2018.

He is a Scot, originally from Clydebank, near Glasgow.

Wider experience

Ken has also delivered inclusive sport workshops, lectures and seminars on every continent (except Antarctica!). Current and recent work includes the development of online inclusion resources with the *Youth Sport Trust* TOP Sportsability and Inclusive PE (2011 – ongoing) and the Active Kids Paralympic Challenges in conjunction with Sainsbury's (2015-16).

He also developed an inclusive training resource (Active Ability) for community play and sport leaders for the *British Heart Foundation* national centre on physical activity & health.

He is currently advising on a legacy programme linked to the Para-Pan American Games on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and British Embassy (Lima).

Overseas sports inclusive activity projects in Ethiopia (through International Inspiration and Comic Relief), Bangladesh & Zambia (*UK Sport*), Peru & Sudan, (via local Embassies & the *Foreign and Commonwealth Office*), Malaysia & India (the *British Council*) and the Pacific Region – Fiji, PNG, Samoa & Tonga (*Australian Sports Commission*).

Work in India specifically included development of new coach education standards in partnership with the British Council (India) and Special Olympics Bharat.

Ken has also worked on an inclusive physical activity and disability sport programme through the *United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs* (Colombia) and the *Singapore Disability Sports Council*. In a new role with *Youth Sport Trust International* he conducted inclusive activities training for local NGOs and a teacher training college in Malaysia in 2014, 2015 and 2016 and with the CARA Adapted Physical Activity centre in Tralee, Ireland where he has supported their tutor training programme.

Ken is a current member of both the International and European Federations of Adapted Physical Activity and has presented at their conferences in Brasil (2007), Paris (2011), Ireland (2012), Istanbul (2013) Israel (2015) and Charlottesville, USA (2019). He spoke on behalf of IFAPA at ICSEMIS 2016 (Brasil).

The Inclusion Club

In 2011, with Australian-based colleague Peter Downs, Ken launched *The Inclusion Club* at the International Symposium on Adapted Physical Activity in Paris, a website for practitioners working in inclusive physical activity (www.theinclusionclub.com). The site now attracts almost 2000 regular users from 35 countries.

Publications (selection)

Design for Sport (2011); co-ed & contributions listed below; Gower

- *Equipment Design in Inclusive Physical Activity* - with George Torrens
- *Designing Inclusive Physical Activities and Games* - with Doug Williamson

Physical Education for Children with Moderate to Severe Disabilities (2018), M. Grenier & L. Lieberman (Eds), Human Kinetics – Contributor

The Inclusion Spectrum framework and STEP adaptation tool in The Worcester Way – An Inclusive Approach to Physical Education and Sport (2017) – University of Worcester – plus author of 10 accompanying inclusive activity cards

When Sitting is Not Resting: Sitting volleyball (2012), Kwok Ng, AuthorHouse UK - Contributor

Coaching Disabled Children in Sport in *Coaching Children in Sport* (2011); I. Stafford (Ed); Routledge

Inclusive Coaching in *Beginning Coaching* (3rd Edition); with Peter Downs; Australian Sports Commission

Online resources:

For Youth Sport Trust / LimbPower: *Video resource on amputee sport* (2019) – see TOP Sportsability online (Sports Adaptations)

For Youth Sport Trust: *TOP Sportsability online* (2011 – present) – author; this resource consists of 5 sections: *User Manual (how to navigate the resource)*; *Disability Sport & Adapted Games*; *Sports Adaptations (modifications to a wide range of mainstream sports)*; *Wheelchair Skills for Sport (including basic and sports-specific skills)*; and *Elements (activities for young people who have profound and complex needs)* – also includes component on the *Special Olympics Motor Activity Training Program*.

For Sainsbury's/Youth Sport Trust: *Paralympic Challenges* (2016) - author

The Inclusion Club online platform (Webmaster, Peter Downs); launched 2011 – ongoing; www.theinclusionclub.com

Numerous inclusive sport and education resources & activity cards
for example:

Learning & Discovery Festival activity cards (2019) – Youth Sport Trust

Participation, Recreation and Inclusion through Martial Arts Education (PRIME) (2018) – PRIME partnership, supported by European Union Erasmus + programme – contributor and author of 10 activity cards

Different. Just Like You (2015 - contributor); ICSSPE

Active Ability (2014); British Heart Foundation

Disability Education Program (2004); Australian Sports Commission

- DEP activity cards
- DEP Presenter Toolkit (with Peter Downs)

TOP Sport (inclusion contributor); TOP Sportsability – original version (author); TOP Skill (co-author with Brenda Read); TOP Outdoors (inclusion contributor); TOP Dance (inclusion contributor); Fit for TOPs (inclusion contributor) - (1996-2002); Youth Sport Trust

Teaching interests

Adapted physical activity, sport and disability including:

- Inclusion in physical activity
- Inclusive sport for development
 - sport as a vehicle for inclusion and education in emerging and developed economies
- Inclusive sport as an intervention in post-crisis/post-disaster settings
- Special educational needs & PE

Research interests

- Empowering the voice of young disabled people
- Physical activity and young people who have profound and complex needs

Contact

General

kenblackemail@gmail.com

The Inclusion Club

Email: ken@theinclusionclub.com

Web: www.theinclusionclub.com

See also LinkedIn profile