

Summary of Parliamentary Business Relating to the Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) Scheme: April-September 2007

1. House of Commons – Written Answer

Tami - Sports (Finance)

Date: Monday, 16 April 2007

Contents

Sports: Finance

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support her Department provides for sports at the grass roots level. [131514]

Mr. Caborn: Since 1997, the Government and national lottery distributing bodies have committed over £3 billion to grass-roots sport which includes over 4,000 new or refurbished facilities, 3,000 community sports coaches and tax relief to over 4,000 amateur sports clubs.

2. House of Commons – Finance Bill Committee

Finance Bill Committee (Day six)

Date: Thursday, 24 May 2007

Contents (relating to the Community Amateur Sports Club scheme)

Julia Goldsworthy: I do not intend to repeat the arguments that the hon. Gentleman has just made. I shall simply add my welcome to the extension of the benefits to community amateur sports clubs. I can think of many examples of clubs in my constituency that will benefit hugely from that. I have only one question. Is anything being done to make sure that such sports clubs are aware of their new entitlement? The people whom I have in mind will not necessarily be paying particularly close attention to the proceedings of this Bill.

[...]

Ed Balls: As hon. Members have said, the clause will increase the limits on the value of benefits that can be received by individuals and corporations who make qualifying donations to charity. The adjustments will increase the cap on the benefits that donors can receive in a year in response to gift aid donations from £250 to £500. In addition, the percentage limit for benefits received in return for donations over £1,000 will be increased from 2.5 per cent. to 5 per cent. Those benefit limits allow charities to build sustained relationships with donors by offering them a gesture of recognition.

The limits have been unchanged since the introduction of gift aid in 1990 and we believe that the changes in the Bill will help to encourage increased philanthropy, as appropriate levels of benefits can increase scope for institutions to build up lasting relationships with donors. As the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne highlighted, for the purpose of gift aid donations by individuals, community amateur sports clubs are treated as charities and so will also benefit from the increase in benefit limits.

[...]

On the point that the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne raised in passing about awareness, we have explicitly flagged the extra benefit limits to the Community Amateur Sports Clubs forum as well as the Central Council for Physical Recreation. We will endeavour to ensure the widest awareness.

3. House of Commons – Adjournment and General Debate

MPs debate Museums

Date: Wednesday, 06 June 2007

Contents (relating to the Community Amateur Sports Club scheme)

The Minister for Sport (Mr. Richard Caborn): I am keen for organisations to make the best use of existing tax breaks and the DCMS is working with Arts and Business to encourage wider take-up of existing reliefs. That is true of both the arts and sports: what we have been doing for community amateur sports clubs has not had the take-up that we wanted. We need to improve communication in the relevant area of the arts and in sport. There are great benefits to be had, and I am sure that contributions would be forthcoming if more people knew about them.

4. House of Lords – Bill Reading

Second Reading - Rating (Empty Properties) Bill

Date: Tuesday, 26 June 2007

Contents (relating to the Community Amateur Sports Club scheme)

Lord Davies of Oldham: The Bill provides a new zero rate for empty properties owned by charities or community amateur sports clubs, as announced by the Chancellor, as an economic boost to the voluntary and community sector. It provides a new power to reduce the empty property rate from the new level of 100 per cent of the basic occupied rate back to a minimum of 50 per cent of the occupied rate, which will ensure that the Government have the flexibility to adapt the unoccupied rate to reflect the prevailing market conditions.

5. House of Commons – Oral Question

Reed - Community Amateur Sports Club scheme

Date: Monday, 23 July 2007

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6. Mr. Andy Reed (Loughborough) (Lab/Co-op): What assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the community amateur sports club scheme; and if he will make a statement. [151100]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe): The community amateur sports club scheme has, since its introduction in 2002, seen 4,380 clubs register and Deloitte estimates that that has saved more than £19.7 million for community sport through mandatory rate relief and gift aid. However, I believe that this represents a small percentage of the clubs that are eligible for CASC status and I encourage hon. Members and local authorities to publicise the benefits of the scheme as widely as possible.

Mr. Reed: As my hon. Friend knows, I have taken a keen interest in the matter since I introduced my ten-minute Bill in 2000. The Government caved in two years later and included the provision in the Budget. It has been worth about £19 million, but is he aware-he hinted at this-that that probably involves only about 10 per cent. of the clubs that are eligible for the scheme? The form is probably one of the simplest that the Inland Revenue has ever produced. Will he work with local authorities, in particular-because they have the ability to push the message to sports clubs in their areas-to ensure that people know that there is a tax benefit, money is available and the process is easy to undertake? He should encourage everybody up and down the country to play their part. I encourage Members to try to write to every sports club in their area to achieve wider coverage.

Mr. Sutcliffe: I am grateful to my hon. Friend for supporting the initiative. He started the whole thing off with a ten-minute Bill. That has resulted in support for community sport. He is quite right: we think that there are about 40,000 clubs that could get involved and they could see savings of £60 million. There is a leaflet available in the Department and I hope that all right hon. and hon. Members will ask me for a copy. He is right that we need to speak to local authorities. My predecessor wrote to them, but we need to do that again. This is an opportunity for money to go back into sport very easily and quickly, and I hope that Members will support that.

6. House of Commons – Written Answer

Bayley - Sports Clubs and School Sports (Yorkshire and Humberside)

Date: Thursday, 26 July 2007

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Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assistance the Government has given to (a) amateur sports clubs and (b) sport in schools in York since 1997. [152187]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows.

Amateur sports clubs

Sport England advise that, since 1997, Government and the national lottery funding bodies have awarded £1,925,000 to amateur sports clubs.

In addition the following clubs in York have been registered as community amateur sports clubs to access the benefits of the scheme;

Acomb Sports Club

Alne Cricket Club

Appleton Roebuck Tennis Club

Bert Keech Bowls Club

Bishopthorpe Bowling Club

Bishopthorpe Tennis Club

Boroughbridge Sports Association

Dringhouses Bowling Club

Easingwold Haxby Robinson Bowling Club

Easingwold Lawn Tennis Club

Easingwold Rifle Club

Easingwold Town Association Football Club

Fulford Tennis Club

Hamilton Panthers Association Football Club

Heworth Amateur Rugby League Club

Heworth Golf Club

Heworth Tennis Club

Huby Bowling Club

Kingston Ice Dance Club

New Earswick and District Bowling Club

Osbalwick Sports Club

Shipton Bowls Club

Stillington Sports and Social Club

Strensall Bowling Club

White Rose Triathletes

York and District Indoor Bowling Club

York City Rowing Club

York Cricket and Rugby Union Club

York Cricket Club

York Gliding Centre
York Ladies Cricket Club
York Railway Institute
York Squash Rackets Club

School sport

As part of the National School Sport Strategy, all schools in York are part of a School Sport Partnership (a family of schools which work together to increase participation in PE and school sport). Some are part of the York High Partnership, which was established in 2003 and will have received funding of £927,488 in the five years to 2008. The other schools are in the Burnholme Partnership, which was established in 2005 and will have received £631,215 in the three years to 2008.

Lottery funding of £222,526 has been awarded for two Out of School Hours Learning/School Sports Coordinators in York at the York High School Sport Partnership and the Burnholme Community College School Sport Partnership.

Government and the national lottery funding bodies have awarded £1,461,065 for community sports facilities in schools through programmes such as Active England, New Opportunities for PE and Sport and the Community Projects Capital Fund.