

How CASC status has benefited Dorchester Sailing Club



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Out of all sports, sailing has the eighth largest number of CASC registered clubs. As a result, a large number of sailing clubs have benefited from CASC status, the benefits ranging from mandatory rate relief, which is particularly important at a time when many local authorities are withdrawing discretionary rate relief, through to Gift Aid. The RYA provides help to sailing clubs that wish to register.

Mandy Peters,
RYA Legal Adviser

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Club Profile

Club Name	Dorchester on Thames Sailing Club
County	Oxfordshire
Number of members	185
Number of volunteers	40
Number of paid staff	0
Year club established	1962
Year club became a CASC	2006
Length of CASC application	It was straightforward to apply, but took time to get the club members on board. In total it took around six months.
Use of facilities	Own facilities – water/lake (previously a gravel pit), club house, boat shed and boat park

Club Finances for 2009/10

Total annual income	£42,000
Annual income from trade and fundraising	Approx £800 donations, no trade
Total income received from Gift Aid on donations	Approx £200 per year
Total income received from Gift Aid on donations since becoming a CASC	Approx £800
Annual rate costs before CASC status achieved	£4000 (in 2006 when became CASC, now would be £6000)
Annual rate costs after CASC status achieved	£600

Interviewee: Leslie Martins, Treasurer

Business rates

How has the 80% mandatory rate relief helped your club?

We've recently built a new club house. In addition we received a 40% grant, but had to fund the remaining 60% ourselves, which wouldn't have been possible without the relief we get from our rates. Now that the club house is built, we're saving for a new fleet of boats for training.

Does your local authority top up the 80% mandatory rate relief that you get from being a CASC?

Our local authority tops it up with an additional 10%, so we just have to pay 10% of the rates (£600).

How simple is it for your club to claim the 80% mandatory rate relief?

It's straightforward to claim. We simply wrote a letter to the rating office of South Oxfordshire District Council enclosing a copy of the letter from HMRC confirming our CASC registration, and the rate relief has been applied since.

Corporation tax

Does your club have an exemption from corporation tax on trade income and fund-raising?

Yes, we are automatically exempt from paying corporation tax. Our accountants deal with the paperwork, but as we hardly have any income on which corporation tax would be payable, our savings from the exemption are very little.

Property income

Does your club have an exemption on corporation tax from property income?

This isn't applicable as we don't receive any income from property. If we did, though, we know we would enjoy relief if our rent was no more than £20,000 per year.



What is the best thing about being a CASC?

The main reason we became a CASC was to benefit from the rates savings (prior to 2006 our local authority gave us 80% relief on our rates, but they were phasing out the rate relief over a three year period), but it also makes us eligible to apply for grants that require clubs to have CASC status. This includes:

- a £110,000 grant from our local authority towards building our club house
- a £10,000 grant from the Low Carbon Buildings Programme to install a pump that removes heat from the lake to heat our club house
- an £8000 grant from WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Limited) to install solar panels on our roof.

How runningsports can help you achieve CASC status

Interested in becoming a CASC? Get face-to-face support from sport specialists by attending the practical runningsports CASC workshop.

Attending will:

- give you **everything you need** to find out if applying for CASC is right for your club
- increase your chances of a **successful CASC application**
- help your club save money!

Make sure your club doesn't miss out and can spend more of its cash on things that matter!

Check the Workshop Calendar at

www.runningsports.org

to find out when the nearest CASC workshop is running near you.