

How to Generate Extra Cash for Your Sports Club

Sports clubs in the District are benefiting from Government cash rebates by registering under the Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) Scheme. This scheme was introduced in April 2002 to encourage grass roots sport and has already provided around £92.7m of cash to the 5,953 clubs that have registered nationally (average of approximately £15,500 per club).

The cash rebates come mainly from two sources:

- 80% mandatory business rate relief.
- Gift Aid on donations made to the club.

Rate relief which has to be given by the local authority to a registered CASC is worth on average £2,000 per annum (Government estimate but in practice can be much more). Many clubs in the District already get some form of discretionary rate relief; registration as a CASC will increase the relief to 80% of the total annual charge and provide greater certainty for those clubs. Gift Aid works in the same way as for charities; for every £10 donated by an individual taxpayer to the club HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) will add a further £2.50 income tax rebate.

Conditions have to be satisfied for CASC registration which ensure that the club is open to the community, is run on an amateur basis and promotes sport at the grass roots. Thus for example players generally cannot be paid and club members cannot receive any income from the club, specifically if it is wound up. Registration is simple and registration forms can be accessed from HMRC's website (<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/casc/register.htm>). The Sport and Recreation Alliance (S+RA) which represents voluntary sport at a national level has established a dedicated website on the CASC Scheme which can be found at www.cascinfo.co.uk. HMRC will provide telephone guidance to clubs thinking of registering.

Nationally only around 10% of all eligible clubs have registered and in this District the figure is around [provide details of registered clubs in district]

Registered clubs are to be congratulated on taking the initiative and getting cash back from the Government. Others should have a good look at the CASC scheme in detail – they may find it a useful source of cash!

And who knows what help this little bit of extra cash may mean for budding local Olympic champions?

For more information contact [Rates/Sports Development Officer at District]

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