

Introduction

Raising the money to carry out your plans is without doubt the most challenging task faced by cricket club committees and members.

Through this publication the ECB has set out to help steer you through many of the grant aid and development funding agencies which exist and to give you an insight into their respective funding criteria. You will also find a number of ideas and issues to consider when preparing applications.

Your County Cricket Development Officer (CDO) can also offer you valuable advice on development planning and funding. The contact address for your CDO can be found on section 25 of this booklet.

Also listed for your convenience are all the addresses of the Regional Offices of Sport England.

For further advice concerning grant aid or funding you may also contact Mike Turner MBE, ECB Consultant, on (0116) 283 1615. There is no charge as this advisory service is provided by the England & Wales Cricket Board.

If you require information about technical specifications or wish to make a general enquiry about facility development telephone the ECB on 020 7432 1234 or email: facilities@ecb.co.uk

Putting Your Application Together

1. Planning

Careful planning to ensure your ambitions are realistic and right for your club is critical. ECB's model development plan booklet provides a format and procedure, approved by the main Grant Aid providers, to help you do this.

Your plan forms a statement of your future intentions and will demonstrate to funding agencies how your plans will satisfy their requirements adding to the cricket provision in your area.

It is also important at this stage to identify a timescale outlining when you intend to implement each element of your plans.

Contact ECB by email at facilities@ecb.co.uk or phone 0207 432 1234

2. Costing Your Plan

Once you have assessed what you currently have, and decided upon your chosen future direction, it is vital you then put some detailed costing to your plans. These can be in the form of quotations from contractors and/or suppliers or costs in 'man hours.'

This will help you assess what financial support you will need and allow you to chart your best possible route to obtain the funds your proposed developments require.

3. Approaching the Relevant Fund Organisations

It is important that you choose the correct funding agency(s) for your respective plan/elements within your plan.

Each organisation has its own particular criteria and requirements. It is therefore vital that you make contact with the individual organisation and match your plans to its respective criteria before you compile an application.

Tips to Achieving a Successful Application

1. Prepare Your Application

- Make sure your plans are thorough, have been costed and have an identified timescale.
- Ensure you have, and can identify, the people and resources available to you to run the project after it has been built, installed or set up.
- Where relevant, your application should outline how your plans provide for Women, People with Disabilities and other 'minority' groups.
- Where relevant, demonstrate how your plans have strategic relevance - refer to the County, Regional and/or National Cricket/Sport Development Plans.
- Consult as widely as possible before submitting your application(s).
- Ensure the timescale of your plans is in line with that of the funding agency(s).
- Plan your cash flow thoroughly as some funding agencies will only release funds upon completion of works.
- Demonstrate the benefits of your plans to an identified local or wider community.
- Emphasise the benefit to the local community of your plans. Where necessary identify how many hours a week your facility or project will be available for community use.
- Make provisions for junior usage, quality coaching and supervised activity of juniors, if necessary make plans to start a junior section.
- Ensure, where necessary, you have the relevant planning permission or written confirmation that it is not required.
- Any equipment purchases or facilities you install should meet certain design and/or performance criteria. For guidance please refer to relevant Sport England Guidance Notes and ECB technical specifications (contact your CDO for details).
- Utilise all the help that is available from ECB, the respective funding agency, consultants and Sport England.

2. Cost Your Plan

- You should demonstrate how your project represents value for money.
- Emphasise your level of need for financial support (based on your annual accounts).
- Make sure your application is honest and you request only funds you require.
- Be prepared to undergo a process of monitoring by funding agencies. Some agencies reserve the right to reclaim funding if they are not satisfied with its use.
- Demonstrate a degree of 'self help' - whether in cash or kind (labour, expertise etc.) Most Funding agencies set a minimum portion as 'self help.'
- Have contingency plans in the event of a rejected application or a reduced award.

3. Approach the Relevant Funding Organisations

- Your application must demonstrate clear plans in accordance with the criteria or the respective funding agency.
 - Where necessary forward any consultation forms as required by the funding agency.
 - Submit your application ahead of deadlines set by respective funding agencies.
 - Apply to the number of funding organisations you need to ensure the funding you require.
 - Identify, where necessary in your application(s) other sources of partnership funding.
 - Include details of other confirmed awards and, where not confirmed when you expect to hear a decision.
 - Check how much you are eligible for. Some funding agencies make provision in certain urban and rural areas for additional support.
 - Ensure your chosen funding organisations are complementary. Some agencies will not commit to funding if certain others have been applied to.
 - Ensure the tenure of your ground is of sufficient length as set by the respective funding agency. Most funding agencies require a minimum of ten years lease, freehold, or other security of tenure.
-
- Do not start any projects or plans before you receive official written notice of award or permission to go ahead. Most funding agencies will not fund retrospectively.
 - Consider every possible option available including sponsorship, Sportsmatch, donations, loans, fund raising activities etc.
 - You should give the funding agency full recognition for any support – letters of thanks, plaques, local publicity etc., should be considered to recognise their generosity.

You should now be in a position to complete and submit a strong application for funding. There are many organisations, which have money available. The following pages offer details of the many agencies you may consider applying to. Your CDO is a vital source of information. Contact details are given on section 25

National Lottery

Sport England Lottery Fund

Sport England is one of the bodies with responsibility for distributing National Lottery money to sport in England.

The aim is to encourage everyone - regardless of age, gender, disability, ethnicity, income or level of ability - to take part in sport. Sport can improve the quality of life for all and provides measurable benefits in areas such as education, health, the regeneration of communities and the promotion of social inclusion.

The Sport England Lottery Fund is divided into two core funds:

- Community Projects Fund - for local projects that everyone can access
- World Class Fund - aimed at producing the medal winners of tomorrow

Community Projects Fund

This fund is the most relevant to cricket. The Community Projects Fund comprises three elements:

Small projects

Community capital projects

Community revenue projects

In relation to the Community Projects Fund, there are a number of key target groups:

- Areas of socio-economic deprivation
- Young People
- Ethnic minorities
- People with disabilities
- Women and girls.

Small Projects - Awards for All Projects requiring a Grant between £500-£5000

As from April 2002 Awards for All England will merge its existing budgets from Sport England, New Opportunities Fund, Heritage, Arts and the Community Fund into one joint fund. This arrangement has been confirmed for three years.

What is Awards for All ?

- National Lottery Small Grants Scheme
- Simple quick and straightforward process

When can applications be made ?

- Applications can be submitted at any time
- Decision within 12 weeks of application
- Money must be spent within 12 months of award

Who can apply ?

- Applications invited from Cricket Clubs, schools and local voluntary groups that have a constitution and annual accounts.
- Clubs with an income of less than £20,000 p.a. will be given priority.

Where is Awards for All running ?

- Project is now operational throughout England
- All Clubs in England are eligible for funding but priority will be given to clubs in deprived areas who are seeking to develop programmes for young people (in particular girls, people with disabilities and ethnic minority groups).

How much can we apply for ?

- Minimum grant of £500, maximum grant of £5,000
- No direct financial partnership funding is required
- Contributions in 'kind' must be demonstrated. These can be in the form of volunteer time, venue hire or materials.

How do we apply ?

- Complete a simple Club Development Plan (refer to ECB Model Club Development Plan booklet).
- Call 0845 600 2040 for an application form
- Contact your Cricket Development Officer (CDO) for advice.

Note

- ECB Technical Specifications, where relevant, should be referred to.
- Clubs with an income of over £20,000 are eligible but must demonstrate a clear financial need.
- Applicants should have the support of their County Cricket Board.

Preferred projects for Cricket.

Pitch Preparation

- New and/or upgraded equipment. For example, mowers, rollers, scarifiers etc., to provide more safe playing surfaces particularly for Junior Clubs or Clubs with Junior Sections.
- Advice, for example - Pitch advice, assessment and maintenance programmes
- Materials, for example - Grass seeds, soils and fertilisers
- Training, for example - ECB/loG Groundmanship courses

Training & Education

- Course fee payment/subsidy. For example
- National Coaching Scheme
- ECB/loG Groundmanship Scheme
- ACUS Umpire/Scorer courses
- Sport England Running Sport Programme
- Other Relevant Training courses (Team Manager etc)

Activity Programmes (Club/School Link Projects)

Start up and/or running costs. For example :

- Holiday coaching courses
- Kwik cricket and/or Proficiency Award Courses
- Local festivals/competitions
- New Junior and Women's sections/teams

Small Capital Projects

- Upgrades. For example:
- Wheelchair access, showers, toilets

NB: Capital projects will only be funded where planning permission is not needed and the direct benefit to development for priority groups (juniors) can be clearly demonstrated.

Other suitable projects

- Non turf match and/or practice pitches (only for ECB approved pitch systems).
Non turf cricket pitches are eligible as match play pitches or practice pitches and batting and bowling ends.
- Playground Marking Schemes are also eligible for grant aid.

Cash contributions from the applicant are not essential towards the project, although applicants must contribute something in terms of time, materials, venue etc. Priority will be given to projects catering for the following groups:

- Ethnic minorities
- People with disabilities
- Women and girls

Community Capital Projects

This programme provides funding for community capital facilities requiring grants over £5,000

Organisations Eligible to Apply

Organisations eligible to apply for funding from this programme include

- Voluntary Clubs
- National Governing Bodies of sport recognised by Sport England, Local Authorities and other public bodies
- Schools, Universities and Colleges
- Charitable Trusts
- Playing Fields Associations
- Youth and uniformed organisations
- Commercial associations and other public sector bodies
- Commercial organisations
- Professional sports clubs

Usually a maximum of 65% of the cost of capital projects can be financed by the Lottery. However, there are two exceptions: the Priority Areas Initiative and the Schools Community Sport Initiative.

Priority Areas Initiative (PAI)

Special provision for areas of urban and rural deprivation is available through the Priority Areas Initiative (PAI). For projects that meet the criteria, up to 90% of the cost of new capital facilities can be met by the fund. Geographically, the PAI now incorporates the 1,683 most deprived local authority wards.

Potential Projects

- Should fit in with the priorities of England and Wales Cricket Board plans, County Cricket Board plans, and local authority plans, particularly those projects likely to cost more than £100,000.
- Must support actual participation in sport.
- That benefit people from areas of social or recreational deprivation will be a priority.

- Must show a partnership between different organisations.
- Which significantly benefit young people, and show strong involvement with schools, will be a priority.
- Must demonstrate that the facility will be well used, is not over-elaborate and too costly and will be well managed including not running into debt over the long term.
- That make an outstanding effort raising funds to put towards the project will be a priority, although awards are available up to 90% for deprived communities, 80% for education sites and 65% for others.
- Must show how they meet with ECB technical specifications.
- Smaller, straightforward projects (e.g. non-turf pitch or equipment purchase) will be quickly assessed in less than 16 weeks.
- Larger projects will be assessed on a two-stage process.
- Applicants will be notified within 16 weeks as to whether they have been rejected or chosen to go on to the second stage.
- Cricket clubs are encouraged to be affiliated to the England and Wales Cricket Board.

School Community Sport Initiative

The School Community Sport Initiative (SCSI) provides enhanced funding (80%) to schools and other educational establishments that make new and upgraded sports facilities to the community.

If you wish to apply, or if you just want more information about the Community Capital Projects Fund, please call the **Sport England Lottery Line On 0845 764 9649**.

Playing Fields and Community Green Spaces

The Playing Fields and Community Green Spaces Programme identifies and funds projects that help communities gain access to playing fields, green spaces, school playgrounds and community play areas.

Specifically, the programme helps:

- Preserve playing fields and open spaces
- Purchase new playing fields
- Bring disused playing fields back into use
- Improve the condition of sports pitches
- Improve the use, design and management of school playgrounds, in partnership with Learning through Landscapes

Sport England administers the £31.5m programme on behalf of the New Opportunities Fund. This money has been divided into £22.3m of funding for playing fields and £9.2m for school playgrounds and community play areas.

The programme operates across England, with each Sport England region allocated funding to its population and level of deprivation. The programme runs for four years from May 2001 to April 2005.

This is not an open application programme. Areas are targeted using evidence of deficiencies in quantity and quality of playing pitches: open spaces and community play areas from relevant strategic documents, for example playing pitch assessments, open spaces strategies and local plans. All projects will be required to identify an appropriate level of partnership funding. Applicants in certain identified priority areas and Sport Action Zones will be eligible to apply for up to 95% funding. All others will be eligible to apply for up to 65% funding.

The Programme Guidance Notes provide further information on the initiative, and can be obtained from the Sport England Lottery Line on 0845 764 9649.

Community Revenue Projects

Active Communities Development Fund

The Active Communities Development Fund is a new programme designed to increase and sustain participation in sport and recreation. It is also committed to improving the delivery of sporting opportunities and services for the whole community. Its overall aims are to:

- Increase the number of adults taking part in sport;
- Reduce the current level of sporting drop-out as people in our communities grow older;
- Maintain the percentage of adults in the professional and employer social groups who participate in sport and are members of a sports club; and
- Increase the percentage of adults in all the other social groups who participate in sport.

For further information and an application form please contact your local Sport England Regional Office.

School Sports Coordinators

The aims of the School Sport Coordinator Programme, which was launched in September 2000, are to:

- Develop PE and sport in primary schools
- Develop links between schools and local sports clubs
- Establish and support after-school and inter-school sport programmes
- Develop leadership and coaching programmes for senior students

Sport England is working in partnership with the DfES, DCMS and NOF to deliver the programme.

Although the School Sport Coordinator Programme is, on the whole, based on an open application process, there have been a number of solicited applications across every LEA.

Active Sports

Active Sports is a development that aims to give young people, regardless of their background, structured access to organised sport so that they can develop their skills and achieve more from their chosen sport.

Active Sports will:

- Co-ordinate and improve coaching and competitive opportunities for young people, including the staging of Area Youth Games.
- Create and support local assessment and development squads in targeted sports
- Develop opportunities for young people to join sports clubs nationwide
- Increase the number and quality of coaches, officials and volunteer helpers working with young people
- Ensure that the benefits of the programme are equally accessible to all young people with the ability and desire to progress in sport.

Applications are only accepted from the 45 Active Sports Partnerships set up across the county. For further information on your local partnership please contact your local Sport England Regional office and also contact ECB for Sport Specific Guidance Notes on the programme 0207 432 1234.

World Class Fund

The purpose of the World Class Fund is to provide the support and facilities our elite athletes need to achieve international sporting success.

It incorporates:

- English Institute of Sport (EIS) network
- Capital support for specialist national facilities, other than the EIS sites
- Revenue support through the World Class programmes
- World Class Events programme to support the bidding for and staging of major international competitions in England.

The fund is only accessible to the ECB in its role as the National Governing Body of Cricket.

More information about all sources of grant aid through National Lottery Sports Fund may be obtained through your Regional Sport England Office - the addresses and telephone numbers are listed below.

Sport England Regional Offices East

Crescent House, 19 The Crescent
Bedford MK40 2QP
Tel: 01234 345222
Fax: 01234 359046

East Midlands

Grove House, Bridgford Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham NG2 6AP
Tel: 0115 982 1887/2586
Fax: 0115 945 5236

London

Crystal Palace National Sports Centre
P O Box 480,
Jubilee Stand
London SE19 2BQ
Tel: 020 8778 8600
Fax: 020 8676 9812

North East

Aykley Heads
Durham DH1 5UU
Tel: 0191 384 9595
Fax: 0191 384 5807

North West

Astley House
Quay Street
Manchester M3 4AE
Tel: 0161 834 0338
Fax: 0161 835 3678

South East

51a Church Street
Caversham
Reading RG4 8AX
Tel: 0118 948 3311
Fax: 0118 947 5935

South West

Ashlands House
Ashlands, Crewkerne
Somerset TA18 7LQ
Tel: 01460 73491
Fax: 01460 77263

West Midlands

1 Hagley Road
Five Ways
Birmingham B16 8TT
Tel: 0121 456 3444
Fax: 0121 456 1583

Yorkshire

4th Floor, Minerva House
East Parade
Leeds LS1 5PS
Tel: 0113 243 6443
Fax: 0113 242 2189

Sport England Headquarters

16 Upper Woburn Place
London WC1H 0QP
Tel: 020 7273 1500
Fax: 020 7383 5740

New Opportunities Fund (NOF)

Is the newest 'good cause' of the National Lottery. The fund is responsible for distributing grants for health, education and environment initiatives determined by the Government.

The key objectives are :

- To improve the quality for life of people and communities across the UK
- Address the needs of those who are most disadvantaged in society.
- Encourage community participation and ownership.
- Compliment relevant local and national strategies and programmes.

The NOF supports a range of programmes in connection with Sport and cricket will benefit from the following Schemes:

Out of School Hours Learning

Though grants for this programme have now closed it is funding projects in around half of all secondary and quarter of all primary schools that will continue for another two to three years.

Nearly all programmes involve sporting activities of some nature. If you are not already involved in a programme it may be worth contacting your Local Education Authority to see if they have a scheme running, and if there is still an opportunity for new activities to be added to the programme.

School Sport Co-ordinators

The fund is contributing £25m over the next three years to supplement funding from Sport England. Our funding will provide costs for activities organised by 1000 co-ordinators in England and was launched in February 2002.

Greenspaces and Sustainable Communities

The Fund has appointed Sport England as an Award partner to deliver £31.5m of funding to create new and upgrade existing playing fields and fund innovative childrens play projects under this programme.

New Opportunities for PE and Sport in Schools

This is NOF's largest programme to date - £750m across the UK. Though the money will build new sports facilities at schools, the programme aims to help improve both sport and educational standards, promote healthy lifestyles and assist in regenerating communities. The money is being allocated by local authority (LEA) areas and is weighted for deprivation. Each LEA will have appointed a project co-ordinator whose job is to draw up a plan for spending the money.

More information about the NOF is available from:

The New Opportunities Fund 1, Plough Place, London, EC4A 1DE, Tel: 020 7211 1800

The Cricket Foundation

The Cricket Foundation, originally established as a registered charity in 1982, was reconstituted in 1996 as part of the re-organisation of cricket.

The Foundation receives funding from the ECB in the order of £2.45m annually for the development of the game at grass roots level. In addition, the Foundation is required by the Charities Commission to seek funding from other sources and in 2001 embarked on a policy of approaching the business sector and Trust Funds.

The bulk of Cricket Foundation awards go to County Boards on an annual basis upon submission of applications each June.

These development funding awards are focused on:

- County Development Officer employment
- County Age Range match and coaching programmes
- Cricket in schools
- Club development
- Support of candidates on courses for coaches, groundsmen, umpires, teachers, administrators, parents.

The Cricket Foundation Trustees, ever mindful of the need to support local cricket clubs, operate a 'Small Grants' scheme for clubs (maximum £250) via County Boards. In 2002 for the first time, the National Grand Draw for Clubs will allow clubs to retain 100% of their ticket sales that hitherto had been 50%. In addition, the Foundation is supporting the ECB Coach Education 'in county' seminars and workshops in a sum of £132,000 over a three year period. Since the improvement of club pitches is the game's highest facility priority a further sum of £80,000 has been allocated to the Pitch Advisory Service.

Contact ECB by email at facilities@ecb.co.uk or phone 0207 432 1234

Further details of how you can benefit from Foundation funding contact should be made with your County Development Officer.

**Full details of the Foundation's annual development funding awards may be obtained from:
Terry N Bates, Director, Cricket Foundation, ECB Offices, Lord's Cricket Ground, London NW8 8QZ.**

County Cricket Boards - Small Grants

Each County Cricket Board is allocated a small sum each year from the Cricket Foundation for the distribution of small grants direct to organisations and clubs within their County. Applications should be made direct to the CDO.

The Foundation For Sport and The Arts

The Foundation for Sport and the Arts is an independent discretionary Trust funded by the Football Pools. It has provided significant funding for cricket and other sports in recent years.

The Foundation's basic objective is:

- To seek through encouragement and funding of sport and the arts at every level to enhance the quality of life for the community generally.
- The pursuit of excellence is not ignored, however, priority is given to measures to increase participation in and enjoyment of sport and the arts by the whole community.
- Grants made up to £75,000, however, the great majority are in the £1,000 to £30,000 range.
- Of particular interest to Cricket Clubs will be the number of grants for sums of under £10,000 for projects such as pavilions and non turf pitches/practice facilities.
- Capital and revenue funding is available.

**For further details please contact your CDO. Application forms from:
The Foundation for Sport and the Arts, PO Box 20, Liverpool L13 1HB. Tel: 0151 259 5505.**

The Lord's Taverners

Grant aid is available for clubs with junior sections, and for schools, for non-turf pitches, netting; junior (Under 13) and youth (Under 16) equipment bags; Kwik Cricket and Inter Cricket bags, from time to time special projects involving coaching or competitions are approved.

Application forms are available from all County Board Cricket Development Officers. For further details please contact your CDO.

The Taverners also fund sports equipment for young people with special needs and, each year, provide a number of specially adapted minibuses to organisations looking after young people with disabilities.

**Applications for these should be made directly to The Lord's Taverners. Contact details are to be found on www.lordstaverners.org or alternatively write to:
The Lord's Taverners, 10 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HX. Tel: 020 7821 2828.**

Institute of Sports Sponsorship - Sportsmatch

Sportsmatch is the government's business incentive scheme for sport. Through the sponsorship of grass roots sporting events and activities the scheme aims to encourage participation and the development of skills. By matching the sponsor's investment on a £ for £ basis it also offers businesses the chance to double the impact of investment in sports sponsorship.

More than 10 million people have participated in Sportsmatch-backed projects bringing sports provision to groups and areas where it is most needed.

To date, Sportsmatch has generated more than £55 million for 3,300 grass roots projects in 72 different sports and more than 3,000 companies have been motivated to sponsor.

If approved by the Awards Panel, Sportsmatch will match commercial sponsorship from a minimum of £1,000, to a maximum of £50,000. For schools the minimum award is £500.

For further information and an application pack please contact Sportsmatch on the following: Telephone: 020 7233 7747, Fax: 020 7828 7099, Email: info@sportsmatch.co.uk
Website: www.sportsmatch.co.uk, Sportsmatch Scheme Manager, 4th Floor, Warwick House , 25-27 Buckingham Palace Road London , SW1W 0PP

Sports Aid

SportsAid the Charity for Sport provides direct financial assistance to young people - usually between 12 and 18 with proven ability so that they can meet the ever increasing costs of their sporting development. The money SportsAid distributes is raised from the private sector through donations, promotions and participation events.

SportsAid works with the ECB to identify suitable applicants for grant aid, with the ECB responsible for the distribution and collection of application forms. Young cricketers can be nominated by the ECB for a SportsAid grant if they are members of national junior squads or outstanding young cricketers and do not receive any assistance from the Lottery Sports Fund.

Anyone who feels that they qualify for a SportsAid grant should first contact Hugh Morris at the ECB on 020 7432 1200.

For further information, please contact SportsAid on 020 7387 9380 or log on to www.sportsaid.org.uk .

Alternatively you can write to SportsAid at 15 Pratt Mews, Camden, London NW1 0AD

Local Authorities

Local Authorities (including County, City, Borough, District and Parish Councils)

Nearly all Local Authorities have departments dealing with the development of recreation and leisure. Substantial grants can be available through County Councils or City Councils. There are general guidelines for grant aid through Local Authority sources and the following types of grants are often available:

Grants and loans to help capital projects such as developing buildings, pitches and land purchase.

Revenue grants for improving or restoring existing property, purchasing equipment or running major sports development initiatives or participating in sports kite marking schemes.

Grants for talented performers to help towards the cost of competition or training

Grants for Governing Bodies to help run major sporting events.

Sometimes, these grants are administered through a local agency such as the County Playing Fields Association and the general guidelines are:

There should be no reasonable restriction on the use of a facility.

The facility or project should meet a real and significant need and have the support of the County Cricket Board.

If property is leasehold there has to be security of tenure and facilities should have long term usage.

Applicants must demonstrate that financial support is needed and show that the rest of the cost of the project can be funded.

In all instances contact with the relevant authority is essential.

Your CDO will be able to offer assistance.

Most District Councils have grant funds for sports facilities and community centres and some will help with equipment and administrative costs. Details of schemes vary and contact with the relevant District Council is essential to determine grant aid procedures. As well as, or instead of grants, District Councils, may give rate relief to registered charities and, in some instances, special clubs.

Parish Councils may give financial assistance under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976; section 19.1 for recreation projects in their areas and may provide facilities at subsidised cost.

Details can be obtained from the relevant Parish/District Council Clerk.

Rate Reductions and Relief

Although not strictly grant aid or development funding, success in reducing the burden of non-domestic rates can be equally effective in easing a Club's financial position.

Rating Assessment

Your annual rates bill is calculated by multiplying together the annual rate poundage (fixed in England and Wales by central government) and the rateable value for the property (fixed by the Inland Revenue Valuation Office). Whilst you can do nothing about the former, you can challenge the latter if you consider it to be excessive. Before you do so, compare your rateable value with those of other voluntary sports clubs in your local area. Remember that buildings are far more valuable pro rata than land, modern buildings (usually) more valuable than older ones, and permanent structures more valuable than temporary ones.

If you decide to appeal, this is easily initiated by completing a form obtainable from the Valuation Office which deals with your area (the back of your rates bill should give the details of where to apply). If your assessment is large or the property complex, you may wish to consider engaging a qualified and suitably experienced rating surveyor to act on the Club's behalf.

Rate Relief

Local billing authorities have discretionary powers to reduce rate bills for non profit making organisations if they fulfil certain criteria. Whilst relief of up to 100% can be allowed a 50% allowance is more usual in cases where the authority approves an application. Remember that the relief is entirely discretionary and is not available as of right, so you will need to persuade the local authority that yours is a meritorious case.

Approach the finance department of your local authority for details of how to make an approach and what supporting documentation and information will be needed (often audited accounts and membership statistics and profiles are requested). If you already receive relief but a low level (perhaps only 25%) consider whether to ask for an increase in allowance.

Relief of this nature is reviewable each year and applications cannot usually be backdated so do not delay lodging your claim. Once granted, check each year that it is to continue.

It should be noted that in the April 2002 Budget the Chancellor announced that amateur sports clubs can now obtain significant financial benefits by applying for registered charitable status. These benefits include:

- 80% mandatory Rate Relief.
- tax exemption for fund raising income.
- Payroll giving, Gift aid and the other tax reliefs for individual and corporate donations.

It is possible for clubs to apply to the Charity Commission now to seek charitable status, however, the department for Culture, Media and Sport will shortly be issuing a leaflet for clubs giving details of the scheme and listing named contacts at each of the Sport England Regional Offices.

Furthermore, at the time of writing (May 2002) the Government is considering a proposal to give 50% mandatory rate relief to voluntary non-profit making sports clubs but, if it happens, it will be sometime before this becomes law. The advice above holds good in the meantime and providing you are recorded by the billing authority as a qualifying club, mandatory relief should be granted automatically if your club decides to become a charity. Local authorities will still have discretion to increase the relief to up to 100% if they consider it appropriate and clubs should hence maintain regular contact with them to ensure the most favourable treatment is received.

**This section was written after consultation with Humberts Leisure with Fleury Merico,
12 Bolton Street, London W1J 8BD, Tel: 020 7629 6700.**

National Playing Fields Association (NPFA)

The National Playing Fields Association is the only national organisation which has specific responsibility for acquiring protecting and improving playing fields, playgrounds or places where they are most needed. The NPFA is an independent charity which relies on donations from the public, the generosity of its supporters and the sales of its publications and technical advice.

For the present time, grants are only available for developing facilities on fields owned by the NPFA.

The County Playing Fields Associations are all independent of the National Association and offer small grants and low interest loans to clubs for providing and improving sports facilities. Sports equipment loan schemes are also available. In some Counties the local Playing Fields Association are also used by the Local Authorities as a grant processing organisation.

**Further information may be obtained from NPFA, Stanley House, St Chad's Place,
London WC1X 9HH, Tel: 020 7833 5360, Email: npfa@npfa.co.uk, Website: www.npfa.co.uk**

Landfill Tax

This is a relatively new source of grant aid which is available for community based recreational projects arising from Landfill Tax, a new tax introduced in 1996.

The aim was to ensure as far as practicable that the cost of landfill properly reflected the impact it had on the environment.

The Government has decided that some of the tax that is raised can be used to support environmental aims by allowing a credit of landfill tax to operators of landfill sites who make contributions to environmental bodies for spending on certain environmental objectives.

The environmental bodies will be existing or newly created non profit distributing organisation which register with ENTRUST the landfill tax credit scheme regulator.

Once enrolled, such Environment Trusts may spend the contributions they received from landfill operators on approved objectives.

The Approved Objectives Are

- a) The reclamation, remediation and restoration of land in a degraded state.
- b) The reduction, or prevention of pollution of land which was caused by a previous activity
- c) Research and development, education or collection and dissemination of information about waste management practices.
- d) The provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park or other public amenity in the vicinity of a landfill site (i.e about a 10 mile radius)
- e) The maintenance, repair or restoration of a building or other structure which is a place of worship or of historical architectural interest.

Clubs will usually qualify through objectives (d) whilst they may be able to register with ENTRUST as environment bodies there are a number of 'Distributive Environmental Bodies' (D-Ebs) who may consider applications for grant support. However, it should be noted that objective (d) sites must be open to general public, which may be achieved through an appropriate administration or open membership policy.

Contact ENTRUST direct on 0161 972 0044.

Women's Sports Foundation

The Women's Sports Foundation provides information to women in sport and can help find sources of sponsorship.

**Further details from: 305-315 Hither Green Lane, Lewisham, London SE13 6TJ.
Tel: 020 8697 5370. Web Site www.wsf.org.uk**

Football Foundation

The Football Foundation is a partnership of the FA Premier League, the Football Association the Government and Sport England and £60 million pounds is invested each year into the development of soccer. The Trust provides financial support and help for football at all levels from Premier League Clubs down to the grass roots of the game. Cricket Clubs can benefit from this source of funding where the ground is shared with a football club or is part of a multi Sports club.

**Details about these grant aid schemes may be obtained from The Football Foundation
25 Soho Square, London W1D 4FF. Web Site: www.footballfoundation.org.uk**

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is an independent grant making body registered with the Charity Commissioners and dedicated to the regeneration of the coalfield communities. Since its launch in 1999 the Trust has become a key agency promoting and achieving social and economic regeneration and supports initiative which help to restore healthy and prosperous communities.

The Trust wants to improve community facilities - including the up grade of recreational facilities - and grants are available to voluntary organisations (including Clubs) and the normal maximum limit in England is £200,000. In Wales and Scotland the limit is £100,000.

Training/Coaching and Summer Camps are also eligible for grant aid.

Details from: The Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Silkstone House, Pioneer Close, Manvers Way Wath Upon Dearne, Rotherham S63 7JZ. Tel: 01709 760272.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Community Chests

The Community Chests programme is part of the Government's National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal and will provide funding (from £50-£500) to support projects which stimulate and support community activity in deprived areas. Grants are available to Sports Clubs, social clubs, youth clubs and other young peoples' organisations as part of the community regeneration programme.

More information is available from the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit, Eland House, 4/A4 Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU - Tel: 020 7944 8383

Regeneration and Rural Development Agencies

The Government has a programme of Regional devolution and eight Regional Development Agencies have been created to bring together a wide range of organisations concerned with economic, development, planning, training, regeneration and community issues.

A Cultural Forum has been established and there are officers from the Department of Culture Media and Sport based in each Regional Government Office. Regional Sports Boards have also been created in each region.

Clubs should contact the Government Office in their Region for advice about grants through any local regeneration schemes.

The Countryside Agency is a body working to conserve and enhance the countryside and rural areas and for advice on countryside funding programmes telephone 01949 876200.

European Social Fund

The European Social Fund (ESF) is one of the three structural funds set up to help European Union (EU) Member States combat unemployment and regenerate areas of industrial or rural decline. The ESF is an employment, training and retraining fund. There are no specific schemes for sport. However, the ESF has assisted vocational training schemes with a sporting element. For further information contact the Government Office in your region, the telephone number of which can be found in your local Yellow Pages.

Charitable Trusts

There are many Charitable Trusts through the country, which have funds to allocate to worthy projects. There are a wide range of organisations from National Charities to local trusts each with their own specific criteria and budgets. Sport related applications may be considered by particular trusts or foundations if they also meet the organisations and interim for financial aid. For example, the Prince's Trust funds projects that benefit young people.

Breweries

Many breweries are willing to give substantial loans or even grants towards the cost of improving social facilities in clubhouses and community centres. If an existing supplier cannot help, it may well be worth trying rival companies. Contact the relevant Brewery or other supplier for details.

Funderfinder

FunderFinder doesn't make grants itself. It is a small national charity that produces software that helps groups identify charitable trusts that might give them a grant. You may be able to use it for free at a library or local development agency near you.

Ring FunderFinder on 0113 243 3008 to find out where.

FunderFinder also provides a free bit of software called Apply Yourself which helps groups write effective funding applications. You can download it from FunderFinder's website: www.funderfinder.org.uk. From April 2002 you should be able to download the next in the series, Budget Yourself as well. As its name suggests, this software helps voluntary groups create and use budgets.

Publications on Fund Raising

The following publication is a standard reference work which may be purchased from the publisher or should be available at any large public library.

**Charities Aid Foundation, Directory of Grant Making Trusts 2000-2001,
Tonbridge CAF Publication Limited, 1999, ISBN 1-859-34078-4.**

Details are given of the objectives of each trust, its finances, the type of grants and target beneficiaries.

CCPR

The Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) publishes Search for Sports Sponsorship a booklet advising sports clubs and individuals on approaching organisations for sponsorship. It also produces Financing and Sponsorship for Clubs and Individuals a booklet designed to assist both groups and individuals in identifying sources of funding in the local community.

**Both of these are available from: Francis House, Francis Street, London SW1P 1DE
Tel: 020 7565 6272. Fax: 020 7834 8501. Email: info@ccpr.org.uk. Website: www.ccpr.org.uk**

Directory of Social Change

The Directory of Social Change (DSC) publishes a number of useful general guides to fundraising including the following:

- Central Government Grants Guide
- The Complete Fundraising Handbook
- The Educational Grants Directory
- A Guide to Company Giving
- A guide to Grants for Individuals in Needs
- A Guide to the Major Trusts
- Major Companies and their Charitable Giving
- Raising Money from Government
- Raising Money from Industry
- Raising Money from Local Government
- Raising Money from Trusts
- Sports Funding Guide

**A full DSC publication list, together with costs and an order form, can be obtained from:
The Directory of Social Change, 24 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2DP, Tel: 020 7391 4800.
Fax: 020 7209 5049. Email: info@d-s-c.demon.co.uk. Website: www.d-s-c.demon.co.uk**

National Council For Voluntary Organisations

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations is another source of publications on fundraising, including Finding Funds, which is priced at £7.50.

**A full catalogue is available from: National Council for Voluntary Organisations, Regent's Wharf
8 All saints Street, London N1 9RL, Tel: 020 7565 6272. Fax: 020 7834 8501.
Website: www.vois.org.uk/ncvo**

Sport England

Sport England has published the following guides to fund raising:

Financing Projects, London, Sports Council, 1995. Price £3

Funding & Promoting Your Club, Sport England, 2002. Price £12

Raising Money, London, English Sports Council 1997. Price £2

These guides may be ordered from Sport England Publications. All orders are subject to a minimum of £2.50 postage, packing and delivery charge. In addition, a catalogue listing all Sport England publications available to the general public may be ordered from Sport England Publications, or via website: www.sportengland.org.

**For Further information contact: Sport England Publications,
P O Box 255, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 7LZ
Tel: 0870 521 0255. Fax: 0870 521 0266. Minicom: 0870 1207 405**

Sportlink UK

Sportlink UK provides a service that can help individual sports men and women and clubs to find sponsorship. For small fee, information sent in is produced on a web site and this gives exposure to companies that could be potential sponsors.

**Further details from: Sportlink UK, Orchard House, Lower Street, Pulborough,
West Sussex RH20 2BL. Tel: 01798 872 555. Useful Website: www.splinkuk.com**