



LOTTERY FUNDED
ARIENNIR GAN Y LOTERI

Sport

Sport can have an extremely positive impact on all of our lives by making us healthier and making us feel part of our community. When the country does well in international sports competition there is a sense of national pride: the amazing success of our Olympic athletes in Sydney was inspirational. Sport can also improve the quality of life for all and provide lasting benefits in areas such as education, health, the regeneration of communities and promoting social inclusion.

The Government has begun the process of ensuring that every young person has the opportunity to participate in sport and, by developing a clear and structured pathway, receive the help and support they need in order to reach their true sporting potential. The recently published documents A Sporting Future for All and Government Plan for Sport set out in detail how this can be achieved.

Our work in this area will be vital as we do more to help young people in schools and find ways of encouraging more people to continue in sport on leaving school by developing better links with local sports clubs. We shall also give more help to those in sport, in particular teachers, coaches and volunteers in local sports clubs, to help identify and develop sporting talent.

Lottery funding has produced dramatic improvements in sport by concentrating on providing equality of opportunity for everyone, whatever their circumstances, to take part in sport, and helping those with talent to fulfil their sporting potential.

- By September 2001 the Sports Councils across the United Kingdom had awarded nearly 17,000 grants worth nearly £1.6 billion.
- Lottery funding contributed to the success of the Great Britain teams who at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney won 28 medals, finishing tenth in the overall medal table, and at the Paralympic Games won 131 medals, finishing second in the overall medal table.
- More than 24,000 extra hours of sport are being played each week at new and improved Lottery-funded sports facilities in England.

Sporting opportunities for everyone

Sport in the United Kingdom has high levels of participation and probably a greater choice of activities than anywhere else in the world. However, many people in this country do not have equality of access to opportunities to participate. The Sports Councils have been committed to improving sporting opportunities for everyone, ensuring equal access to sport and the benefits it brings. Lottery money has achieved a range and quality of facility provision that might otherwise have remained a distant goal. We need top quality sports facilities if we are to encourage more people to participate in sport and support our top sportsmen and sportswomen in their quest for excellence.

In England, over £1 billion of Lottery money has been invested into over 3,300 community facilities so far. The benefits of this funding are starting to be seen with over 2,600 of these facilities now open. From the independent monitoring and evaluation carried out to date, Sport England has seen 77% of its schemes rated satisfactory or better and a 116% increase in facility usage².

2. Figures calculated from the monitoring reviews undertaken by a range of independent consultants commissioned by Sport England for the period 1997 to 2001.

For **sportscotland** the largest expenditure has been the Capital Programme with 519 awards totalling about £88 million and total project costs in the region of £251 million. Projects assisted under **sportscotland's** Capital Programme included 20 National Facilities, 14 Regional Facilities and 485 projects of local significance. The Sports Facilities Programme, launched in 1999 as a successor to the Capital Programme, has as its priority School and Community Projects. Projects supported under this strand include the provision of new or upgraded school sports facilities to allow wider community use as well as making improved facilities available to school pupils.

Since 1995 more than 3,500 awards have been made by the Sports Council for Wales, totalling more than £70 million. At the national level, the Sports Council for Wales has supported the United Kingdom's only purpose-built Indoor Athletics Centre, which has won design awards and been hailed as an example of good practice.

The increased sporting opportunities provided by Lottery money from the Sports Council for Northern Ireland can clearly be demonstrated by an independent study of the impact of capital funding. The study, which focused on clubs funded through the Council's capital awards programme, indicated that approximately 60% of clubs had successfully increased their membership since the development of Lottery-funded facilities. On average, membership increased by 17% in these funded clubs. In terms of excellence and coaching, 65% of clubs had increased their number of coaches since receiving Lottery funding. Three out of five clubs also stated that the number of coaching sessions they provided for members had increased³.

3. Sports Council for Northern Ireland Study of Lottery-Funded Clubs (MRC Ireland Ltd), July 1999.

Case Study

Gorbals Leisure Centre, Glasgow

Sportscotland invested £2.5 million in the Centre and another £225,000 in a three-year revenue award for a development programme which supports outreach work and subsidised sports sessions and classes. The Centre was opened in January 2001, providing the Gorbals with these facilities for the first time in 25 years.



Developing the sports stars of the future

Our future as a sporting nation depends on the continued involvement of young people in sport. The Sports Councils recognise that they need to retain their interest and commitment, whether they are girls or boys, whatever their background or their level of ability. The Lottery offers the opportunity to ensure that every young person has access as never before to high-quality sporting facilities. This will help turn young people with potential into the medal or cup winners of the future.

Sport England has awarded more than £2 million to the Active Sports Partnerships for facilities and equipment. Active Sports, a five-year development programme, targets nine of England's most popular sports, including athletics, rugby union and basketball. The programme aims to help young people get more from their involvement in sport. In addition to this, in August 2000, the Millennium Youth Games Grand Final took place in Southampton. Over 6,500 youngsters aged between 13 and 15, representing 52 teams from across the country, attended the event.

The Sports Council for Wales has introduced Dragon Sport, a new initiative to increase after-school clubs and opportunities for primary school children and to recruit parents to help organise after-school sport. After less than a year, the scheme has reached 229 schools, creating over 400 extracurricular clubs in schools and 98 community clubs running Dragon Sport activities.

Sport England and **sportscotland** have funded the School Sport Co-ordinator programme, which has organised and developed school sport and its links with local communities. So far, nearly £12 million has been awarded in England, which has enabled the establishment of 45 partnerships and the appointment of 239 co-ordinators. In Scotland, 312 schools now have co-ordinators in post, covering 75% of all secondary schools, and early feedback from the programme shows a 29% increase in the number of extracurricular activities provided and a 41% increase in the number of participants.

Staging major sporting events

UK Sport's World Class Events Programme makes Lottery money available to assist sports event organisers bid for and host top competitions. With an annual budget of £1.6 million of Lottery money, UK Sport has been involved in bringing over 25 World and European Championships to the United Kingdom since 1997. This programme is supported by Lottery-funded programmes in the home countries which bring events of particular relevance to those nations and ensure they are similarly organised and managed to high standards. For example, **sportscotland** has supported 24 events since 1997 with awards totalling over £1.1 million and covering sports as diverse as sailing, judo, gymnastics, cricket, squash, hockey, table tennis, orienteering, swimming, lacrosse, athletics, skiing, golf and bowling for blind people.

Supporting elite performers

National sporting success increases participation in sport, and increased participation improves the chances of future elite success. The Sports Councils strive to improve the chances of such success, by giving elite performers the support they need. UK Sport's Lottery Fund, which prior to October 2000 was administered by Sport England, aims to support the United Kingdom's best sportsmen and women to achieve at the highest possible level of competition.

The World Class Performance Programme directs Lottery money towards the country's top athletes and governing bodies of sport to help fund the often large and diverse costs of competing at the highest level. This programme should produce the elite medal-winners of today and tomorrow. Since 1997, when Lottery money was first targeted at high-performance sport, over £110 million has helped the nation's top athletes. In Sydney 2000 the performance of our Olympians, who won 28 medals, and our Paralympians, who won 131, highlighted the positive effect that Lottery funding is having on the performances of our elite athletes.

In England, £120 million of capital investment has been committed for the new English Institute of Sport, which will provide our elite athletes with the facilities they need to be winners. Many of these facilities are already open, such as the £32 million Commonwealth Pool in Manchester, which received £22 million from the Lottery. Others, such as the new 50-metre pool at Loughborough University and the sailing facilities at Hayling Island Sailing Club, are currently being built.

Sportscotland's Talented Athlete Programme provides financial support to top performers and to athletes with the potential to perform at the highest level; to date 2,308 awards have been made to talented athletes with a total value of over £9 million. Linked to this is the Junior Groups Programme, which provides support to groups of talented young people participating in a co-ordinated programme of coaching and competitive events; 80 awards have been made through this Programme to date at a total cost of over £2.5 million and nearly 5,000 young people have benefited from awards to date. Formed in late 1999, the Scottish Institute of Sport and the more recently formed six Area Institutes aim to deliver best practice in the co-ordination of a range of high-level sports services development programmes to Scottish athletes.

Through Elite Cymru, the Sports Council for Wales has supported over 150 top Welsh athletes. This had a significant impact on Wales' achievement at the Paralympic Games in Sydney, where 20% of the Great Britain team were Welsh athletes, who won 25% of the medals. A number of the British team members, including Tanni Grey-Thompson and David Roberts, were, or had been, supported by Elite Cymru. Lottery funding under the Sports Council for Northern Ireland's Talented Athlete programme has ensured that resources are getting to the right people at the right time, as the case study of Janet Gray shows.