



What was the project that you required funding for?

We had been in discussions with Newcastle Eagles Basketball Club who were building their own arena and were interested in having volleyball and netball included in their venue. This was of massive interest to our club but we knew we would have to raise funds somehow to finance our move. This was to be a 2 court venue therefore immediately doubling our costs. The hourly charge was also greater than we were currently paying, however we knew our membership would rise as it was also much closer to the city centre. After forming a new committee to oversee this new project and seeking guidance from various sources, we decided to apply for a Sport England bid to help finance the move and equip the new venue, as well as cope with the expansion of our club.

We had always been a very pro-active club taking up various local initiatives as well as working with Newcastle United Football with first the Premier League 4 Sport and now KICKS Programmes. However, we have always struggled through not being immediately linked to a school and being based so far from the city centre. This move would make us much more centrally based, close to the 2 universities and college in Newcastle and we would be able to use the kudos from being linked to the Eagles.

How did you apply for funding? Where did you start?

Myself, as Club Secretary, together with Lauri, our treasurer started the application process by arranging a meeting with our local Tyne and Wear Sport organisation as well as speaking to Volleyball England. We also had meetings with the financial representative for the Eagles to determine who was purchasing what as Sport England would not allow the money to be spent on anything 'fixed'. Initially, we were not sure whether to continue with our existing club and just changing the name, or setting up a brand new club. After several discussions, it was decided that we could apply to Sport England and as long as all changes were 'transparent', it would be better to keep our original club name.

We found the process of an application for a Sport England Small Grant quite a lengthy and detailed task. We read every piece of guidance we could find and kept returning to the application again and again. We found writing and completing the Delivery Plan to be a huge help and would advise anyone to do this if they are thinking of applying. Also to make sure you have ALL the necessary paperwork, sponsors and letters of support in place before you start the application. There are a lot of guidance notes provided and most councils and the governing body are experienced in the process.

Newcastle Panthers Volleyball Club
www.newcastlevolleyball.co.uk
facebook: newcastlevolleyball
twitter: newcastlevc
email: club@newcastlevolleyball.co.uk

Club Secretary
Sue Sowden
tel: 0191 387 1159
mob: 07749 780 283
email: sue@newcastlevolleyball.co.uk

Venue
Eagles Community Arena,
Scotswood Road,
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE4 7AF
tel: 0191 245 3880

What support was offered to you by Volleyball England staff?

We had help from Sam Jamieson, Victoria Carr and Rob Payne at Volleyball England. Sam had been involved from the beginning of our journey, as she was originally the Relationship Manager for the North East and was with us at our first meeting with the owners of the Eagles. Victoria and Rob helped with the process by providing advice and support with our application to try to ensure a successful end!

What was the outcome of your application?

Our application proved very successful as we were awarded the full amount of £9,125 for all elements of our Small Grants application. There were different areas of funding included in our bid: Promotion and Publicity, Facility hire, Equipment, Coaching and Refereeing course costs.



If you were applying again for funding would you do anything different?

We would suggest doing a lot of background reading to prepare beforehand. It is a very thorough application procedure and takes time to ensure all information provided is accurate and correct. We meticulously revisited sections of our application to ensure we provided enough information to support our bid and this is a process we would recommend to all. The Small Grants application focuses on the following questions, each requiring up to 500 words. We would urge any club to start researching facts and figures for the first question from local health journals and published government figures in your area to support your bid. Use the Delivery Plan provided by Volleyball England guidance to help with this.

- *Why is your project needed?*
- *What difference will your project make?*
- *How will you make your project happen?*
- *What will happen after this project ends?*
- *Will you work with anyone else to make your project happen?*



Post Funding

We have now been in the new venue since January 2019 and all is going well so far. We have a very good relationship with the owners of the arena, which is important as there were and are teething problems which go with a new build!

We have yet to do our final report back to Sport England to show where the money has been spent but have contacted our 'link' person a few times to slightly alter things. This is fine as long as you are totally clear with them and do not try to hide anything.

As expected, our numbers have risen in the time we have been in the arena, with 82 new members signing up to our club. This has then brought with it additional problems of accommodating extra players and teams, while still allowing training. We intend entering 5 teams into our local leagues – 2 Women's, 2 Men's and a Junior/Development team as compared to 3 last season.

New strips were therefore needed with our new name and for the additional teams.

I am also very pleased to announce that we have now found a sponsor to help us with this and who is purchasing all of our new kit – SOS (Smart Office Systems Ltd.) and DDB Worldwide. We hope that this is the start of a long and happy relationship.

These are extremely exciting times for the clubs which Keith and I started - Newcastle Volleyball Club in 2005 (originally Newburn) and also Team Sunderland in 2014, with the Men's promotion to the Super League and Women into Div.1 for season 2019-20

Anyone wishing to find out more about our club, please visit www.newcastlevolleyball.co.uk or our Facebook page – Newcastle Volleyball Club or email me at – sue@newcastlevolleyball.co.uk