

WOKING BLACKHAWKS BASKETBALL CLUB – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary

The Woking Blackhawks Basketball Club was formed in 1982 and is comprised of three sections: Seniors, Youths and Wheelchair Basketball. The Wheelchair Basketball section is entirely self-funded with the costs of training, playing league games and payment of match officials being met by those participating. Many of the players have disabilities, as is the nature of wheelchair basketball, and many are not in employment and with low incomes. The Club prides itself in seeing young people develop into valuable members of the society and providing them with happy memories and lifelong skills.

The Club currently enters two mixed-sex teams in the British Wheelchair Basketball National League, currently in division 1 and division 3. Blackhawks also enters a team into the British Wheelchair Basketball Women's League, providing the administration and coaching support to a group of female players from mixed-sex clubs in the country unable to enter their own women's teams.

The Club has applied for revenue funding of £6,000 towards the costs of its wheelchair basketball section, to cover the costs of court hire and enable the training of two further coaches to Level 2 standard. Last year, the Club was awarded capital support of £7,500 from the Community Grants Scheme towards the redevelopment of its website.

It is noted that the Club provides a service which is very valued to its users, and that players travel from the entire County and beyond due to the limited opportunities to play Wheelchair Basketball in the South of England. Whilst the vast majority of players have a disability, the number of players residing in the Borough at the time of the Club's application was stated to be one. The grants budget remains tight and there is also the possibility that the application would become an annual funding request. In light of this and the funding awarded last year towards the redevelopment of the Group's website, it is recommended that the application should not be supported.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:

RESOLVE That no grant be awarded.

Reason for Decision

The Group has not provided sufficient justification in its application for a grant award.

The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendations.

Background Papers:

2020/21 Application Form.

Reporting Person:

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1.0 Summary of Application	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>The Woking Blackhawks Basketball Club was formed in 1982. The Youth section was formed in 1999 and there are pathways into senior teams, regional, national and academies for progression into professional basketball.</p> <p>Affiliated to British Wheelchair Basketball, the wheelchair basketball section of the Woking Blackhawks was established in 2013. Opportunities are provided for people with and without disabilities to play wheelchair basketball recreationally and competitively with two teams in the British Wheelchair Basketball National League, and a team in the separate Women's league. Taking players from the age of 12, weekly training sessions are provided for players at Woking College.</p>
1.2 Employees	None.
1.3 Volunteers	<p>40, whose activities include the Chairman, Secretary, Head of Youth, Head of Senior Men, Head of Senior Ladies, Head of Girls, coaches at various levels, team managers, table officials, referees and statisticians.</p> <p>Four volunteers are involved in the running of the wheelchair basketball, carrying out roles such as providing administration, arranging training sessions, coaching, officiating and playing.</p>
1.4 Clients/Users	None.
1.5 Members	<p>The overall club has over 200 members, the following are the members of the wheelchair basketball section:</p> <p>18, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 male 4 female 16 disabled 1 ethnic minority 1 resident in Woking 2 aged 11-18 16 aged 19-65 <p>Subscriptions are set at £35 per month with the exception of some who volunteer in roles within the Club and do not play in the teams. Due to the limited availability of wheelchair basketball clubs, players can travel considerable distances to take part.</p>
1.6 Sum Requested	£6,000 (Revenue)
1.7 Project	<p>A grant is being sought to help cover the costs of the court hire at Woking College (elsewhere in Woking when the college uses the sports hall for examination). The funding would provide the Club with opportunities to hire basketball courts for training sessions and league matches, whilst offering more people the opportunity to play the sport recreationally for health and fitness reasons.</p>

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	<p>Currently there is only one level 2 coach in the Club, although there are a number of level 1 wheelchair basketball coaches. The Club would like to reduce the reliance upon the only level 2 coach (which is the level required for cover by British Wheelchair Basketballs' Insurance). Funding from the grant would also be allocated to support two additional members with the costs of the course.</p>
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<p><u>Court hire</u></p> <p>Court hire £33/hour, therefore Training 3 hours / week for 46 weeks @ £99 / week = £4,554</p> <p>14 league games per season, at 2 hours court hire per game, 28 hours at £33/hr = £924</p> <p>Total cost: £5,478</p> <p><u>Coaching Course</u></p> <p>£200 per candidate x 2 = £400.</p>
1.9 Community Benefit	<p>The Club provides local people with the opportunity to play Wheelchair Basketball, be it competitively or recreationally. Around 18 people participate regularly in the team. Due to the limited availability of Wheelchair Basketball teams in the South of England in comparison with other sports, players can often travel considerable distances to take part. The vast majority of the players have a disability, although at the time of application just one players was stated to reside in Woking.</p>

2.0 Financial Background	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Woking Blackhawks wheelchair basketball section held £850 in the bank.</p> <p>The Group has advised that it does not operate a budget for the wheelchair basketball team or for the group as a whole, although expects the accounts for 2020/21 to be similar to the current year.</p>
2.2 Accounts	<p>The Group has submitted accounts for the wheelchair section of Woking Blackhawks in 2018/19 which show an income of £7,648 against expenditure of £8,040, resulting in a deficit of £391. The sum of £1,055 was carried forward at the end of the 2018/19 year.</p>
2.3 Support over the past five years	<p>2019/20 – £7,500 capital grant (100% of costs) towards the redevelopment of the Club's website.</p>

3.0 Assessment of Application		
3.1 Key Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Constitution ○ Registered Charity ○ VAT Registered 	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Equal Opportunities Policy ○ Safeguarding Policy ○ Reserves Policy ○ Quality Mark ○ Other funding sources pursued ○ Other support by the Council ○ Fundraising ○ Two quotes ○ Regular monitoring provided previously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes N/A N/A
<p>3.2 Consultee Comments</p>	<p><u>Elsbeth Andrews, Development Manager for Volunteer Woking</u></p> <p>Woking Blackhawks are a competitive basketball club which provides a space in which young people (boys and girls from age 7 to 17) can build skills, fitness, judgement, intellectual and emotional intelligence through sport.</p> <p>Although this is a very worthwhile club for this year's grant we feel that Woking Blackhawks could find funding from other sources. The coaching course fees they are requesting the Sports Officer at Woking Borough Council has access to a personal development bursary through Active Surrey with up to £500 available each year to further coach development which they might be interested in.</p> <p>In this instance I do not recommended that Woking Blackhawks Basketball Club grant be supported financially, however I would recommend that the group engage with the Council's Sport Officer and Funding Officer to see if any form of support or specific funding is available.</p>	
<p>3.3 Assessment</p>	<p>The Woking Blackhawks Basketball Club was formed in 1982. The Wheelchair Basketball section is entirely self-funded with costs of training, playing league games and payment of match officials being met by those participating. Many of the players have disabilities, as is the nature of wheelchair basketball, and many are not in employment and with low incomes.</p> <p>The Club currently enters two mixed-sex teams in the British Wheelchair Basketball National League, currently in division 1 and division 3. Blackhawks also enters a team into the British Wheelchair Basketball Women's League, providing the administration and coaching support to a group of female players made up of those in other mixed-sex clubs in the country but which are not able to enter their own women's teams.</p> <p>Occasional opportunities to secure funding through sponsorship, combined with some years where player numbers supported profit, has provided some capacity to cover recent years where expenditure has exceeded income. However, this capacity is stated to have been exhausted and the costs of running the Club are now met by the people participating in the sport.</p> <p>The Club has applied for revenue funding of £6,000 towards the costs of its wheelchair basketball section, to cover the costs of court hire and enable the training of two further coaches to Level 2 standard.</p>	

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Last year, the Club was awarded capital support of £7,500 towards the redevelopment of its website, which was approved on a 100% basis as opposed to the Council's usual policy of awarding 50% of the total costs, due to the strong benefits of the Club on the local community.

The Club prides itself in seeing young people develop into valuable members of the society and providing them with happy memories and lifelong skills. The three sections of the Club are Seniors, Youths and Wheelchair Basketball. It is noted that the Club provides a service which is very valued to its users, and that the Wheelchair Basketball team attracts players from the entire County and beyond.

However whilst the vast majority of players have a disability, the number of players residing in the Borough at the time of the Club's application was stated to be one. The grants budget remains tight and there is also the possibility that the application would become an annual funding request. In light of this and the funding awarded last year towards the redevelopment of the Group's website, it is recommended that the application should not be supported.

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