

GBDSC Funding Report

As someone with experience of securing funding for a registered charity I was recently asked to investigate possible funding streams for the GB Deaf Swimming Club. I have started this process but a funding strategy will need to be established so that we are ready to react as new funding opportunities appear. There are numerous grants and trust funds available but each has strict guidelines and criteria.

At present, GBDSC are not in a position to apply for any significant grants because of the following reasons:

- We do not have up to date audited accounts
- We have not achieved Swim 21 Clubmark status
- We are not a registered charity or CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club)
- We do not have an agreed funding strategy

Each funding application that is made will need to identify the aims and objectives of the project, number of beneficiaries, outcomes of the project and sustainability. In addition to this, if we are successful in securing a grant we will need to show evidence that we have achieved what we set out to do, failure to do so may result in funds being withdrawn.

This said, the GBDSC committee are moving swiftly ahead addressing these important issues and I feel that we will soon be in a position to take GBDSC to the next level. It is better to wait until everything is in order before rushing into grant applications, bids that are rejected may preclude us from reapplying for a period of time, often a year.

The grants for which we meet the criteria at present are:

Cash4Clubs (£250 - £1000) (in progress)
Mars Refuel (up to £1000) (in progress)
Kellogg's Swim Active (no minimum or maximum amount) (planning stage)

In addition to applying for grant funding I would suggest the following:

- Once we have established GBDSC as either as a CASC or registered charity we can apply for gift aid, which will enable us to recoup 28% of some of our income. We can also set up 'Just Giving' free of charge which will encourage online giving
- Target prospective donors via our brilliant new website. Using similar strategies to major charities to encourage giving
- Register for a recycling project ie Jewelleryrecycling.org. For this to work we would need the support of all swimmers and their families however it is easy money

I will continue to look for funding sources and work with the GBDSC to establish a funding strategy.

Amanda Kenny
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