

Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) - Why Bother?

The CASC scheme is designed specifically to offer local sports clubs significant tax breaks and the possibility of claiming rate relief from their local authorities. The measures are designed to help keep money in the grassroots sport sector and to help community sport and recreation clubs secure the financial health of their organisations.

This is a hard won scheme based on the best part of 10 years' work by the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR) together with many stakeholders and other individuals.

Gliding Clubs should consider carefully the opportunities and benefits on offer under the scheme.

The following Gliding Clubs have already registered with the Inland Revenue:

- Bath, Wilts & North Dorset Gliding Club
- Booker Gliding Club
- Borders Gliding Club
- Bristol & Gloucester Gliding Club
- Buckminster Gliding Club
- Cambridge Gliding Club
- Cotswold Gliding Club
- Darlton Gliding Club
- Dartmoor Gliding Club
- Dorset Gliding Club
- East Sussex Gliding Club
- Essex & Suffolk Gliding Club
- Herefordshire Gliding Club
- Kent Gliding Club
- Mendip Gliding Club
- Needwood Forest Gliding Club
- Northumbria Gliding Club
- Peterborough & Spalding Gliding Club
- Rattlesden Gliding Club
- Shalbourne Soaring Society
- Sherington Gliding Club
- Southdown Gliding Club
- South Wales Gliding Club
- Staffordshire Gliding Club
- Surrey Hills Gliding Club
- Stratford-upon-Avon Gliding Club
- Windrushers Gliding Club
- York Gliding Centre
- Yorkshire Gliding Club

Community Amateur Sports Clubs

Forms, Inland Revenue, Constitution – all words that consistently fail to inspire a proactive approach. Indeed there are some clubs who have found discussions with the Inland Revenue about their Constitution to be interminable. However, most clubs report that although the process of becoming a CASC did take a while to complete, it was reasonably straightforward.

So why bother? Quite simply it will save your club money by creating real opportunities to maximise available money. The multiple benefits of becoming a CASC include:

- Registered clubs will receive at least 80% mandatory business rate relief. Local authorities can offer up to 100% relief to clubs at their discretion.
- CASCs can raise funds from individuals under GiftAid. A registered CASC can reclaim £28 in tax from the Inland Revenue for every £100 donated by individuals. Thus a club can claim GiftAid on any donation from an individual or any fund raising it undertakes. Clubs do not have to own/lease their own land to significantly benefit from the scheme.
- complete exemption from corporation tax on:
 - interest
 - gift-aid income
 - capital gains
- limited exemption from corporation tax on:
 - profits from trading and fund-raising (where gross trading income is less than £30,000 per annum)
 - income from property (where the gross property income is less than £20,000 per annum)
- CASCs whose income does not exceed the above thresholds will no longer be required to complete a corporate tax return on an annual basis.
- Individuals can obtain relief from Inheritance Tax for gifts to CASCs.
- Businesses, that give goods or equipment to a club, can obtain tax relief for the cost

To become a Community Amateur Sports Club, clubs must meet a few simple requirements. They must be open to the community and not discriminate in their membership policy. Clubs must have a core purpose to promote the sport(s) that they offer. Clubs must be non-profit making and any profits should be re-invested within the organisation. Finally, clubs should stipulate that, in the event that a club is wound up, any remaining assets be distributed to either the governing body of the sport, another CASC or a charity.

Eligibility to Register as a Community Amateur Sports Club

Clubs must:

- be open to the whole community
- be organised on an amateur basis – i.e. be non-profit-making
- main purpose must be to provide facilities for, and promote participation in an eligible sport (such as gliding)
- be open to pilots of all levels of ability
- not discriminate on grounds of ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or beliefs, or on grounds of sex, age or disability (except as essential for safety or other acceptable reasons)

The club's constitution must fit the requirements.

In the event of dissolution, assets must be applied for:

- the purposes of another CASC; or
- the purposes of the BGA for use in related community sport; or
- the purposes of a charity

The scheme is administered by the Inland Revenue and there is a simple application process. Clubs wishing to gain registration on the scheme should fill in the short application form and send to the Inland Revenue Sports Club Unit, along with a copy of the club's constitutional document (constitution, club rules or memorandum and articles) and a copy of the latest accounts. Once a club has been successfully registered, it will be sent a registration number by the Inland Revenue and will then be eligible to claim rate relief, and a range of tax reliefs. Full details of how to apply are available on the CASC and HMRC websites:

www.cascinfo.co.uk and
<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/casc/>