

PRESS RELEASE: 22ND MAY 2020

£1500 to help Stroud Squash Club during the current COVID-19 pandemic

Stroud Squash Racquets Club based at Stroud Rugby Ground has been awarded £1558.00 of National Lottery funding from Sport England's Community Emergency Fund towards the running costs of the Club during the on-going Covid-19 pandemic.

The outbreak of the virus and the consequent shutdown of businesses as of March 23 has left the sport and physical activity sector facing a period of uncertainty.

In response, on March 31 Sport England announced a £195m package to help the sport and physical activity sector through covid-19. Within the package is a £20m Community Emergency Fund, of National Lottery money to deliver immediate funding to those who have a role in supporting the nation to be active but are experiencing short-term financial hardship or the ceasing of operations due to the impact of coronavirus.

The grant will allow Stroud Squash Club to cover its operating costs for rent and maintenance during the Covid -19 lock down when it is not possible for the club to operate safely on a normal basis. The grant will be used to cover rent, maintenance and other operating costs during the period so that the courts can be maintained ready for use when members are again able to play.

Ewen Denning, Chairman of Stroud Squash Clubs, said:

"We are extremely grateful for Sport England for the grant which provides invaluable help to the club during this difficult period of the Covid-19 lockdown. We are a very active club offering Squash and Racketball to players in the Stroud Area; this money will ensure that the club is able to continue operating for our members once the current pandemic passes."

Tim Hollingsworth, Sport England's Chief Executive, said:

"As the body responsible for the growth of sport and physical activity participation, we want the vital grassroots organisations that make sport and physical activity happen in this country to not just to come through this crisis but to be in a position to thrive again in the future. The £20m Community Emergency fund, made possible by National Lottery players is part of a multimillion pound package of support we are providing to ease the pressure on a huge number of the organisations who are central to the nation's health and wellbeing.

"We are proud to be able to provide vital funding to Stroud Squash Club to help it through these extremely challenging times."

*****ENDS *****

Notes to Editors

For more details about the Stroud Squash please contact:

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About your organisation

Stroud Squash Club was formed in 1972 and has been playing on courts located at Stroud Rugby Ground ever since then. The club has an active playing membership with 3 teams playing the Gloucestershire County League at level up to the Premier league. Membership is open to all with both adult and junior members

About the Sport England Community Emergency Fund

Part of [Sport England's overall £195m support package](#) to help the sport and physical activity sector through COVID-19, the £20m Community Emergency Fund aims to deliver immediate funding to those most in need. It's specifically targeted at organisations, including those not currently supported by us, who have a role in supporting the nation to be active but who are experiencing short term financial hardship or the ceasing of operations due to the ongoing crisis.

Awards will be between £300 and £10,000, and in exceptional circumstances we'll consider awards of more than £10,000. The types of organisations eligible include local sports clubs forced to close at short notice but who are facing ongoing costs around maintenance and utility bills, and voluntary and community sector organisations who deliver or enable sport and physical activity.

This £20 million fund of National Lottery money is designed to complement other sources of funding from the government, such as funds targeted at small businesses.

Further information on the Community Emergency Fund – including seeing if your organisation is eligible and the application process - can be found via <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/our-funds/community-emergency-fund>.

About National Lottery

National Lottery players raise £30m every week for good causes, funding arts, heritage, sports, voluntary and charity projects around the UK. For more information on good causes in your area go to www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk

About Sport England

Sport England is a public body and invests up to £300 million National Lottery and government money each year in projects and programmes that help people get active and play sport.

It wants everyone in England, regardless of age, background, or level of ability, to feel able to engage in sport and physical activity. That's why a lot of its work is specifically focused on helping people who do no, or very little, physical activity and groups who are typically less active - like women, disabled people and people on lower incomes.

www.sportengland.org