CASC NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2011-12

£10 MILLION IN GIFT AID FOR CASCS

Sports clubs registered as CASCs have received a total of £10 million in gift aid repayments since the scheme was introduced in 2002. This is a major milestone highlighting the importance of Gift Aid as a benefit of registering as a CASC which can receive an extra 25p from HM Treasury for every £1 donated. An excellent way of reducing administration and obtaining quicker Gift Aid repayments is by using an online giving.

The number of new CASCs registered in the six month period ended 31st January 2012 fell by approximately one third compared to the previous six month period ended 31st July 2011. This is disappointing considering the active promotion of the scheme by the four major sports. It is hoped that the Government will relax its position on the technical issues it is currently considering which may act as a stimulus for new applications.

Proposals are in the pipeline for CASCs to receive Gift Aid on junior membership subscriptions. This may only be available on the portion of the fees juniors pay for annual membership of the club, not match or coaching fees. HM Treasury is being lobbied in the hope that this will come into force before the Olympics.

The Charity Tax Forum is currently being consulted on the proposed small donations scheme which, if introduced, will remove the need by the club to obtain gift aid declarations for small donations under £10, with a maximum of £5,000 per year per CASC. This would significantly reduce the administrative burden for CASCs.

HMRC is **revising** its guidance for filling in the CASC registration form, charity registration form, change of details form and gift aid repayment form. HMRC is currently consulting on the content with the aim of making the forms easier for clubs to complete and reducing delays in registration caused by an incomplete application.

CASCs may be eligible for grants up to £25,000 for facility improvement from Fields in Trust (FiT). FiT are delivering the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge (www.qe2fields.com) which aims to create 2,012 permanently protected green spaces in 2012. CASCs who sign up could potentially benefit from funding from the QE2 Fields Fund (www.sitatrust.org.uk/qe2-fields).

More online tax filing for CASCs. A reminder to all VAT registered CASCs that they will be required to file VAT returns online from 1st April 2012 otherwise they may have to pay a penalty (www.hmrc.gov.uk/vat/vat-online/moving.htm). CASCs which have employees will also be required to implement the online Real Time Information PAYE system from 1st April 2013 (www.hmrc.gov.uk/rti/index.htm).

For further information contact your CASC Champion (dayestubley@rfu.com), visit www.rfu.com/ManagingRugby/ClubDevelopment/LegalAndAdmin/CommunityAmateurS portsClubs.aspx or HMRC's website at www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/casc/index.htm.