

Want to
make a difference
to community sport?



PARLIAMENTARY SPORTS
FELLOWSHIP SCHEME
IN ASSOCIATION WITH SPORT ENGLAND



**SPORT
ENGLAND**

The Parliamentary Sports Fellowship Scheme offers MPs and peers the chance to make a real difference to grassroots sport in England, both in their community and at a national level.

Sport England is working with sports organisations up and down the country to get more people doing more sport. By bringing together parliamentarians and sports organisations, the Parliamentary Sports Fellowship Scheme aims to build a better understanding of sport within Parliament, and a stronger partnership between the worlds of sport and politics.

What is the Parliamentary Sports Fellowship Scheme?

Sport England set up the Parliamentary Sports Fellowship Scheme in 2005 following a recommendation by Derek Wyatt MP that the worlds of sport and politics needed to better understand each other and work more closely together.

The scheme helps parliamentarians develop a greater understanding of the sporting landscape by matching them with a sporting organisation for a two-year period. MPs and peers spend seven days over the course of their fellowship with their partner organisation to gain real insight into their work and learn how sport can enrich communities.

How can parliamentarians make a difference to community sport?

By taking part in the scheme, MPs and peers can play an active role in helping sports get more people taking part. By partnering with a sports organisation, learning about its people and its

programmes, by providing expertise on Westminster, and by taking part in activities and media events organised by the sports, parliamentarians can contribute to the success of a sport. Previous fellows have raised the profile of their sports, and helped them navigate complex issues in the political sphere.

How does the scheme work?

Over the two-year scheme, fellows spend a minimum of seven days with their partner organisation. They will experience all aspects of the sport from shadowing their media team at big international events, to taking part in a community coaching session with children in their constituency. The aim is to provide a real insider's view into the day-to-day working of a sports organisation and the challenges they face, and help them develop and improve the delivery of their sport.

In return, employees from the partnered organisation spend three days shadowing the parliamentarian to gain a better understanding and appreciation of Parliament, and how to effect change.

How do I take part in the fellowship scheme?

Parliamentarians are invited to attend the Sport England

Parliamentary Fellowship reception on **Wednesday 5 June, 2013**, where they can meet a wide variety of sports organisations looking for a parliamentary fellow for the 2013-15 scheme. Each sports organisation there will promote their fellowship 'offer' to MPs and peers, and representatives will be on hand to talk to potential fellows about their planned activity programmes.

At this event, and in the weeks following, fellowships will be discussed and eventually these will become formal agreements between MPs/peers and sports to work together on the fellowship. The new two-year partnerships will begin from there.

Anyone wishing to join the scheme, but is unable to attend the reception on Wednesday 5 June, should contact Sport England and alternative arrangements can be made for finding a suitable organisation to work with.

Why take part in a fellowship?

In the afterglow of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the level of public and political interest in sport has never been higher. This year presents a unique opportunity to create a lasting and tangible legacy in community

Alumni include the Minister for Sport and Tourism, the Rt Hon Hugh Robertson MP, the former Chair of the FA, Lord Triesman; Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, Stephen Hammond MP; and many more.



Lord Rosser spent the day with British Rowing; Angela Smith MP climbed Plas Y Brenin with the British Mountaineering Council; and Peter Bottomley MP went kayaking at Leaside Canoe Centre with the British Canoe Union.



sport. With nearly half a billion pounds of Sport England investment going directly into sports organisations between now and 2017 to get more people doing more sport more regularly, fellows will have the chance not only to see first-hand how sports are driving up participation, but also to play a real part the success we expect to see over the next few years.

Fellows who have graduated from the scheme have expressed how rewarding and fulfilling the experience has been for them. For many it is a way of supporting sporting opportunities in their constituency, and for others it has been an opportunity to debate the issues affecting sport in the House.

Participating sports organisations have been very positive about the benefits of working more closely with parliamentarians:

“Our fellow went above and beyond the activities we had initially planned. We couldn’t have hoped for a more enthusiastic advocate for our sport in Westminster.”

What can you expect to do on your fellowship?

Fellows can expect to experience from top to bottom how the sport is run. You may spend a day with the international team, learning more about coaching and officiating, and finding out how the sport is delivered in your constituency. You can see state of the art sporting facilities, and see how the sport works with schools and local communities.

When it is your turn to host we ask that you explain to your partner sports organisation how Parliament works, inviting them to Westminster to gain first-hand experience of the workings of the Houses.

Which sports organisations can parliamentarians work with on the scheme?

A wide range of national governing bodies, representing the larger and smaller sports, and national partners of Sport England are registered with the scheme. We also have sporting

charities, trusts and private companies involved.

Parliamentarians wanting to work with a particular organisation should contact Sport England (andrew.lewis@sportengland.org) and a meeting can be arranged to discuss a potential fellowship with them.

Helping you get the most out of the fellowship scheme

Sport England administrates the overall running of the scheme, facilitates the recruitment of new fellows, and supports the sports in developing their activity programmes. We also run events and actively promote fellows in the media, in Parliament and to other stakeholders for the duration of the scheme to help parliamentarians and sports organisations get the most out of their fellowship. The host sports organisations are responsible for setting up and organising their fellows’ activity days, and will often be keen to promote these events as they provide good publicity opportunities for those involved.

Can’t commit to seven days? Is there another option?

There is an option of becoming a ‘Friend’ of the scheme with parliamentarians only having to commit to three days with a sports organisation, and reciprocally host their partnered organisation for one day.

For more information contact Andrew Lewis at:

andrew.lewis@sportengland.org

“Our Fellow went above and beyond the activities we had initially planned. We couldn’t have hoped for a more enthusiastic advocate for our sport in Westminster.”

Derek Wyatt MP

I set up the Parliamentary Sports Fellowship Scheme with Sport England back in 2004-5 as I felt there was a real gulf between the worlds of Parliament and sport. Sport still has no professional think tank and does not have same the clout in Parliament compared to health, foreign affairs or IT. The Sports Fellowship scheme is a starter in this direction as it gives sports the chance to have quality time with an MP or peer and vice versa. Not enough parliamentarians know about sports policy in terms of the outcomes, participation, or improving facilities, and so here was a real opportunity to learn about the challenges our leading sports administrators face.

Sport makes an invaluable contribution to our local communities – it enriches lives and creates aspiration and opportunities in some of the toughest areas in England. Spending time on the Fellowship scheme has really reinforced how important sport is, from reducing demands on the National Health Service, to improving schools and strengthening community relations.

National governing bodies of sport and sports organisations need champions to help deliver strategic and political advice and support. The Fellowship has given Parliamentarians from all three of the main political parties an

eye-opening experience into the world of sport – it has created parliamentary ambassadors who can address some of the legislative and regulatory burdens which affect sport. It also ensures that lesser known sports can generate a greater profile and exposure.

On a personal level, as an avid sports fan and former rugby international, the scheme has given me a well rounded knowledge of the sports marketing landscape and the pressures which our sports face in transforming the nation and creating a world leading community sports environment.

The Fellowship provides a fantastic way for Parliamentarians to learn

about all different kinds of sport and how it helps enrich communities, and so I urge all Parliamentarians to consider joining this scheme.



2010 -12 Parliamentary Sports Fellows:

Charlotte Leslie MP
Amateur Boxing Association of England

Alison McGovern MP
Amateur Swimming Association

Huw Irranca-Davies MP
Archery GB

Philip Davies MP
British Olympic Association

Ian Austin MP
British Cycling

Lilian Greenwood MP
British Mountaineering Council

Angela Smith MP
British Rowing

Brandon Lewis MP
British Triathlon Federation

Lisa Nandy MP
British Wrestling Association

Jason McCartney MP
England and Wales Cricket Board

Lord Rosser
England Golf Partnership

Stephen Hammond MP
England Hockey

Caroline Dineage MP
England Netball

Lord Addington
English Institute of Sport

Graham Brady MP
English Lacrosse Association

Dr Phillip Lee MP
Football Foundation

Justin Tomlinson MP
Football League Trust

Gareth Thomas MP
Lawn Tennis Association

Andrew George MP
Rugby Football Union

Andrew Bingham MP
Snowsport England

Rehman Chishti MP
Sport England

Mary Macleod MP
Sporting Equals

Dr Therese Coffey MP
The Football Association

John Mann MP
UK Athletics

Nicky Morgan MP
UK Sport

Barbara Keeley MP
Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation

Building a better understanding of sport in Parliament

What does Sport England do?

Sport England is focused on helping people and communities across the country create a sporting habit for life.

We will invest over £1 billion of National Lottery and Exchequer funding between 2012 and 2017 in organisations and projects that will:

- Help more people have a sporting habit for life
- Create more opportunities for young people to play sport
- Nurture and develop talent
- Provide the right facilities in the right places
- Support local authorities and unlock local funding
- Ensure real opportunities for communities

Find out more about our strategy and our structure at www.sportengland.org

We are accountable to Parliament through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.



More information

If you would like more information about the Parliamentary Sports Fellowship Scheme, please contact **Andy Lewis** on 020 7273 1866, send an email to andrew.lewis@sportengland.org or visit our website www.sportengland.org