



SPORT
NEWCASTLE

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-26

ANNUAL REPORT CONTENTS

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Welcome to the Sport Newcastle Annual Report 2025–2026.

This year we have continued to strengthen communities through sport. Our mission remains unchanged: supporting clubs, volunteers, coaches, officials and athletes, while creating opportunities for more people to enjoy the benefits of sport.

We have continued to invest in grassroots sport, celebrate achievements, recognise dedicated volunteers, and provide financial support to help local clubs and organisations thrive.

Through initiatives such as our grants programme, Rising Star Awards, Unsung Hero Awards, Annual Awards Dinner and partnerships, we aim to inspire participation, recognise excellence and strengthen sport across Newcastle and the wider North East.

None of this would be possible without the support of our trustees, volunteer committee, sponsors and all those who give their time and expertise.

As we approach our 60th anniversary, we remain committed to making a lasting difference and creating more opportunities for people to participate, compete and succeed.

Roger James

Chair of Trustees
Sport Newcastle



ABOUT SPORT NEWCASTLE

For almost 60 years, Sport Newcastle has been helping athletes, clubs and communities achieve more through sport.

As an independent registered charity, we invest in grassroots sport by awarding grants, recognising outstanding achievement and celebrating the volunteers who make participation possible. We work alongside athletes, clubs, coaches, officials, schools and community organisations to strengthen sport across Newcastle and the wider North East.

Every pound we raise helps create opportunities for people to participate, develop and succeed. Whether supporting an emerging international athlete, helping a local club purchase equipment or recognising volunteers through our awards, we are committed to making a lasting impact.

Today, Sport Newcastle continues to bring together businesses, sporting organisations and volunteers who share one vision: stronger communities through sport.



OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS



60

years of
supporting sport in
our region



£1.1m+

distributed
through grants and
awards



1,000+

grants awarded
to individuals and
clubs



40+

sports supported
across the North
East



98%

of funds raised
redistributed to
local sport

LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

Sport Newcastle is led by a dedicated team of volunteers, trustees and ambassadors whose experience, guidance and commitment help shape the charity and support its long-term success.

PATRONS

Sir John Hall

Alan Shearer CBE

Jonathan Edwards CBE

Sarah Hunter CBE

PRESIDENT

Alan Younger

VICE PRESIDENTS

Richard Appleby

Karen Chapman

Ian Elvin

John Gibson

Steve Harper

Glen McCrory

Mike McLeod

Ros Miller

Stephen Miller MBE

Victoria Pembleton CBE

Johnny Wilkinson CBE

OFFICERS

David Appleby (Treasurer)

Kingsley Hyland OBE (Secretary)

TRUSTEES

Roger Tames (Chair)

David Appleby

Mike Booth

Kingsley Hyland OBE

Amy Kirsopp

Simon Rushworth

Matthew Squires

Dawn Thewlis



SECRETARY'S UPDATE

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report and Accounts for the financial year 2025/26 which will form the basis of the Annual Return we are required to provide to the Charity Commission.

David Appleby as ever has provided a helpful review of the Accounts with his note. Once again we have managed to keep operating costs to a bare minimum thanks to the voluntary efforts of the officers, trustees, committee members and supporters.

Our two main committees have continued to meet on a regular basis with additional meetings added as necessary. For the time being we have reduced the number of occasions on which the Award Committee meets to consider grant applications from four to three. This is to reflect the challenge presented by an increased numbers of applications that have risen relative to the availability of funds to satisfy them, a trend which was identified in this report 12 months ago and which, if anything, has gathered pace this year.

This is not to detract from the outstanding work of the Fundraising Committee which despite the current rather negative economic environment has managed to increase the sums raised through sponsorship and running events. Further details of the work that the two main committees have undertaken can be found in the reports of the respective chairs.

The increased number of meritorious grant applications highlighted in the Awards Committee report has placed a growing burden on the Committee chair and as the Chair of Trustees sets out in Annual Overview this has prompted an urgent review into how that burden could be reduced or shared.

As we continue to raise the Charity's profile through hosting successful events and significantly increasing our social media 'presence' these challenges are likely to increase hence the urgent attention that the trustees will giving to succession planning and increasing our volunteer base.

Perhaps out of a misplaced sense of modesty Matthew Squires in his report has refrained from mentioning the assiduous efforts he has been making to seek out new funding streams which if successful will place further pressures on our volunteer base.

The new website is now firmly bedded in thanks to the efforts of Simon Rushworth and others and as had been hoped is seeing an increased number of 'visitors'.

This has been supplemented by the outstanding work that one our newer volunteer recruits, Jack Scudder, has been undertaking in maximising the opportunities to increase the usage of our social media platforms in his role as our first 'Social Media Manager'.

Last year's Report highlighted the need to harness the opportunities presented by artificial intelligence to streamline the grant application process. We hope to able to report significant progress on this within the coming months.



Sport Newcastle Patron Jonathan Edwards CBE pictured, with committee member Andy Naylor, receiving his special award marking the 30th anniversary of his world record triple jump, a record which has yet to be bettered.

Sport Newcastle will celebrate its 60th birthday in 2027 and this significant anniversary will be used as a springboard to increase revenue through a series of focused events and identifying potential new sponsors.

Finally, our grateful thanks and admiration as ever go to all those trustees, officers, patrons, vice-presidents, volunteers, sponsors, supporters and the North East sporting community for the part that they have played in another successful year for Sport Newcastle.

This Report is in five parts:

1. President's Report - In his third report since taking on the role the President has summarised the work of the Charity and provided useful background information for readers not yet familiar with Sport Newcastle.

2. Fundraising Report - A summary of the major income raising projects run by Sport Newcastle in the financial year ended 31 March 2026 along with details of the support provided by sponsors. He has quite properly highlighted the success of the two principal fundraising events.

3. Awards Report - A summary of the work undertaken and financial grants made by Sport Newcastle in the financial year ended 31 March 2026.

4. Annual Accounts - The Annual Accounts of Sport Newcastle Charity for the financial year ended 31 March 2026.

5. Trustees' Overview

Kingsley Hyland OBE
Secretary, Sport Newcastle



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sport Newcastle has had another positive year, endeavouring to provide support to athletes, sports clubs, community groups, disabled athletes and a broad swathe of disadvantaged young people. Sport continues to provide a major catalyst to improve mental and physical well-being, this focus is in keeping with the core principles of the Charity.

Thankfully, we continue to enjoy the support of a broad portfolio of corporate sponsors, philanthropic individuals and organisations. Treasurer David Appleby has marshalled all our finances for the last thirty years, advising us how best to invest in all our sporting activities with crucial grant aid. We remain grateful to Stephen Atwell for his time and expertise as our auditor.

Vice Chairman Mike Booth again organised the Annual Golf Day at Ponteland on the 3rd July. As always, an epic day enjoyed by competitors and observers alike. This is our main income stream together with the Annual Dinner and Awards Evening. Mike Booth's Award Report further indicates the wide range of awards made by the charity, which represent a fraction of the applications submitted to the charity. This highlights the need to develop other financial avenues if we wish to meet the growing demand for financial aid.

Matthew Squires, assisted by Amy Kirsopp, is the driving force behind all sponsorship and fundraising and again organised the Annual Dinner and Awards Evening on the 13th of November at the Newcastle Civic Centre. Chairman Roger Tames, assisted by Simon O'Rourke and Dawn Thewlis, hosted the evening with their usual professionalism. This was another extremely successful evening both financially and as a means of the spreading the word about what we do. Roger continues to Chair a strong independent board of Trustees and leads a Media group which actively promotes the work of the charity.

Kingsley Hyland OBE works rigorously as secretary of the charity; his legal expertise makes light of the daunting range of issues faced and allows future developments to be timetabled in a streamlined fashion.

Matthew Squires and Amy Kirsopp promoted a valuable "Succession Planning" day on June 18th at Tyneside Badminton Centre. The main thrust was to support future initiatives, encourage new members and fundraising opportunities all linked to the Charity's 60th anniversary year in 2027.

Officers' individual reports provide further details of each of these initiatives and the sponsorship opportunities explored by the Charity of which I remain proud to continue as a member.

Alan Younger
President, Sport Newcastle

Teams tee off at the Sport Newcastle Golf Day at Ponteland Golf Club, as businesses and supporters came together for a day of golf, networking and fundraising in support of sport across Newcastle.





FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT

The 2025 Sport Newcastle Annual Golf Day took place in early July at Ponteland Golf Club, once again proving to be a popular event with participants. Competitors praised the excellent condition of the course, alongside the professionalism and friendliness of the club staff.

The event, organised by Mike Booth and supported by the Fundraising Committee, was a sell-out success and raised over £6,917 for the Charity. The 2026 Golf Day is scheduled to take place at Ponteland Golf Club on 25th June 2026.

The Sport Newcastle Annual Awards Dinner was held in November 2025 at the Newcastle Civic Centre. The evening celebrated clubs and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to sport across the North East. Highlights of the evening included the presentation of the Wilkinson Sword award for Lifetime Achievement, alongside the Sporting Success of the Year and Outstanding Achievement awards, recognising exceptional performances and contributions across the region.

The event was hosted by Roger Tames, Dawn Thewlis and Simon O'Rourke and raised over £6,500. The Sport Newcastle Awards Dinner will return to the Newcastle Civic Centre on 5th November 2026.

During the year, we have continued to strengthen relationships with valued partners including Tier One Capital and SOS Group, while also developing new partnerships with organisations such as Central Employment, GLL, Graphic Packaging International, JC Events, Ward Hadaway and Wonderstuff. These collaborations provide vital support to our work and enable us to continue investing in grassroots sport across the region.

We are also grateful for the continued generosity of individuals and organisations who have supported Sport Newcastle through donations and fundraising initiatives. These contributions raised a total of £11,607.

We continue to develop our online presence to ensure that supporters and stakeholders are kept informed about our work and the impact of our grant funding across the North East.

Looking ahead, our focus will remain on expanding relationships with local businesses, charitable trusts and grant-making bodies. We will continue to prioritise funding opportunities that support grassroots sport, youth development and mental health initiatives—areas where we can maximise our impact. In addition, we are beginning to plan for our 60th Anniversary in 2027, which will provide an exciting opportunity to celebrate Sport Newcastle's legacy while engaging new partners and supporters to help shape the next chapter of our work.

Thanks go to all members of the Fundraising Committee for their continued support, time and commitment throughout the year.

Matthew Squires
Chair, Fundraising Committee

Shola Ameobi receives Sport Newcastle's Team of the Year Award on behalf of Newcastle United. Pictured here with Ian McElroy from Tier One Capital.



Sport Newcastle Awards Chairman Mike Booth with Bryan Beeson and the Wilkinson Sword for Lifetime Achievement.



AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

The increased demand for grants, amounting to almost three times the amount the Committee could allocate for awards, meant difficult decisions having to be made. Some worthy applications were rejected and many others had to be content with a grant below what might have been awarded given greater resources.

Despite this, in the year beginning 1st April 2025 we were still able to award a total of £22,275 in grants to the following.

- £6,525 to 11 clubs/organisations,
- £8,750 to 22 individuals in grants ranging from £250 to £500,
- £2,500 in total to 10 Rising Stars,
- £4,500 in total to our 3 platinum award winners.

This represents a 22% reduction compared to the £28,620 awarded as grants last year.

Due to the continued support of Tier One Capital and S.O.S. Group, along with a sizeable individual anonymous donation, proceeds from the Golf Day and the Annual Awards Dinner the grants that have been awarded continue to be a great help to the lives of many individuals, parents and local clubs. What we have failed to do this year is to award any individual a 'gold' award grant (£1,000), instead preferring to award more first time grants (bronze award) to the majority of applicants. The total number of awards to clubs has increased slightly (from 8 last year) but the same financial principle applied with £750 being the highest grant awarded.

Yet again we had an almost even 'split' of male (22) and female (21) grant recipients. They represented 32 different sports, with baseball, horse riding and weightlifting represented for the first time for several years, if ever.

Our support for North East Disability Forum continued with grants to Washington (Horse) Riding Centre and North East Warriors Wheelchair Basketball.

One of our longest committee debates in the last 12 months was whether 'Cheerleading' constituted a sport following a request for a grant. A quick look at Sport England's list of recognised sports confirmed it as being so. The club involved has a typical membership of 150+ per week, many of whom would not take part in any other sport. Coaches work on instilling teamwork, discipline and building self esteem. Our grant of £500 will go a long way to replace essential equipment. They were just one of the clubs who expressed delight with their grant.

The Annual Awards Dinner continues to get bigger and better. It is a momentous occasion for the Rising Stars to receive their trophies and a grant of £250. The standard of nominations was as high as ever and gave the Committee the hard task of deciding on the best 11 from 36 nominations.



The 2025 Sport Newcastle Rising Stars pictured after receiving their awards at the Sport Newcastle Annual Awards Night.

The 2025 Rising Stars were Robbie Bowman (Cricket), Henry Christer (Athletics), Joe Davis (Rugby Union), Jakub Hapurker (Gymnastics), Josh Hutton (Weightlifting), Harriet Joll (Hockey), Grace Rae (Basketball), Cody Sullivan (Netball), Kacee Sultman (Lawn Bowls), Aidan Turner (Swimming/Triathlon) and Lesecond Yeutembip (Football).

There was a surprise for multi-event athlete Luke Pichler who was presented as our third current Platinum Award recipient joining Lucy Dodd and Anya Hassan. We've supported all three of these young adults since the early years of their sporting careers. Each one has worked extremely hard to make tremendous progress in their chosen sport, and all three are brilliant examples of what can be achieved with the help they've received. We couldn't ask for better 'ambassadors' for Sport Newcastle.

Awards were also presented to the two most promising young footballers in the region. The Jack Hixon Award, awarded to the most promising female player, went to Charlotte Wardlow and the 'Wor Jackie' Trophy to Sean Neave, the stand out young male footballer. Both play for Newcastle United teams. Special Awards this year went to Jonathan Edwards CBE to commemorate his World Triple Jump record, which has not been bettered in over 30 years. We also recognised Sam Blake, CEO, Newcastle Eagles Basketball Club, for her longstanding contribution to Community Sport.

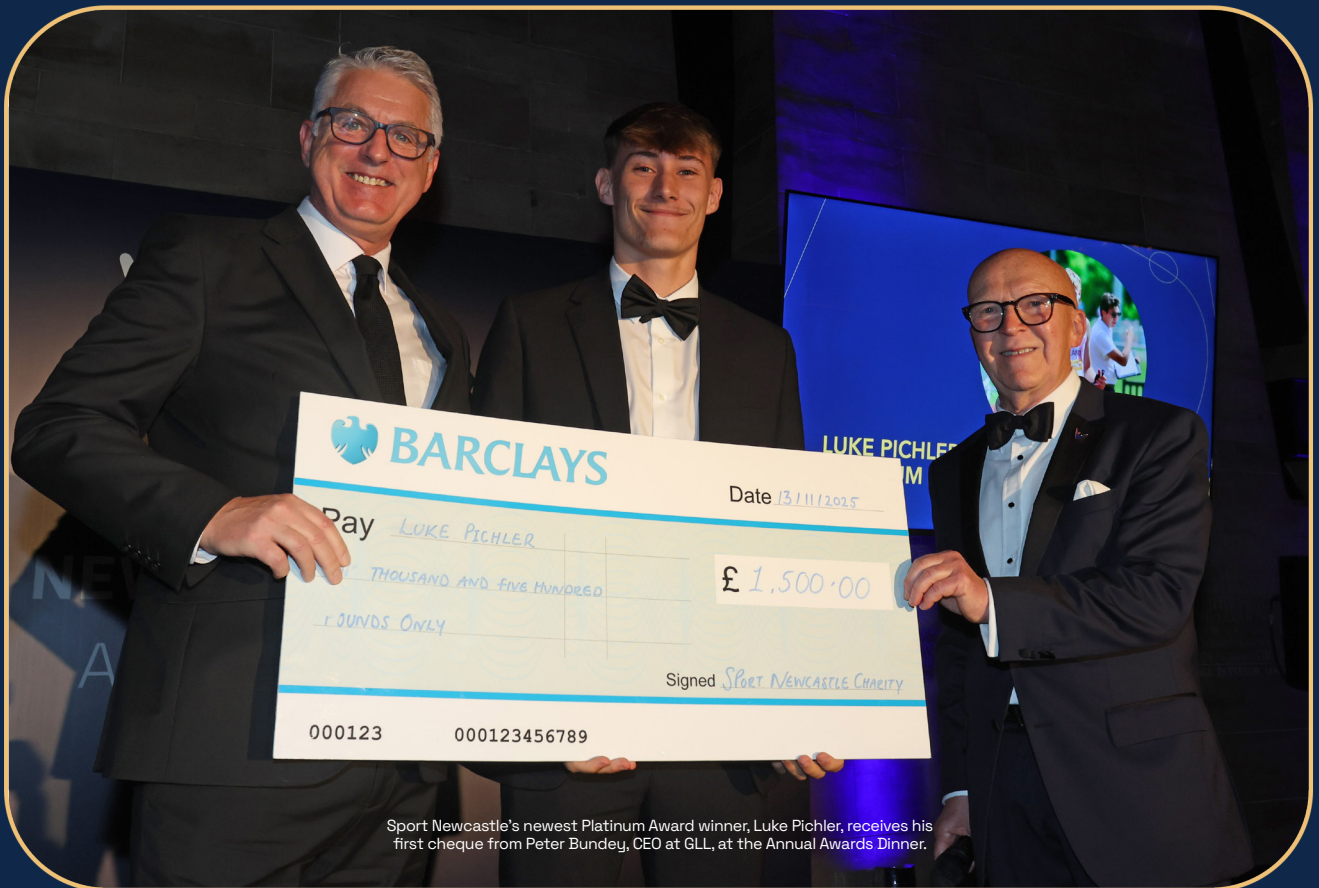
Our major awards went to:

- Joy Eze (Athlete) - Young Sporting Achievement of the Year
- Marc Steutel (Basketball) – Coach of the Year
- Newcastle United FC. – Team of the Year
- Bryan Beeson (Squash) – Wilkinson Sword - Lifetime Achievement Award
- Dan Burn – Sporting Achievement of the Year

Some things don't change, and so I end my report echoing comments I made 12 months ago. This year the Awards Committee members have been faced with several difficult decisions as to who should receive grants. It is testament to the Committee's professionalism that each application is discussed thoroughly and often debated at considerable length.

We look forward to increased revenue in the coming months to make the job of the Awards Committee members less taxing!

Mike Booth
Chair, Fundraising Committee



Sport Newcastle's newest Platinum Award winner, Luke Pichler, receives his first cheque from Peter Bunday, CEO at GLL, at the Annual Awards Dinner.



Sam Blake receives her special award recognising her outstanding contribution to community sport from John Beham at SOS Group.



Joy Eze receives her trophy for Young Sporting Achievement of the Year from Steve Hart at Central Employment.



TRUSTEES' OVERVIEW

I am pleased to be able to provide another relatively upbeat report on the work of Sport Newcastle Charity despite a growing number of challenges with which we have been confronted.

In last year's report I stated that the charity had found itself at a crossroads as a result of revenues failing to keep progress with the increased number of worthy grant applications which were seen as a consequence of our increased public profile. Those challenges have continued unabated but we have been able to face them head on without increasing our already tiny costs base through the voluntary efforts of our trustees, officers, committee members and supporters.

To enable us to continue to meet these challenges and grow the charity without significantly increasing costs the trustees, in addition to the important work they do as committee members, will focus in the coming months on reviewing the charity's structure to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

What is abundantly clear is that we do need to increase our supporter base by increasing the number of non-trustees participating in the work of the two main committees. The review will also look at succession planning and identifying deputies for the officers and main committee chairs with appropriate expertise and refreshing the trustee cohort.

Whilst the core business of the charity – raising funds to distribute to clubs, organisations and individuals actively involved in grassroots sport to help them pursue their sporting ambitions – has remained unchanged, we have also increased our efforts in promoting disability sport.

Trustee Amy Kirsopp has been particularly active in this regard with her work with the North East Disability Forum and is to be commended for having the forethought to utilise the unused balance from a grant to help organise a sport taster day for visually impaired children and young adults.

The reports of the main committee chairs have highlighted the success of the Annual Awards Dinner and the Golf Day thanks in no small part to the support from our sponsors which have enabled us to keep costs to a minimum.

In terms of further improving these events in the coming year the bar has been set very high but with the continued support of sponsors and volunteers I am confident that it can once again be overcome.

As we have seen, increased success presents its own challenges in terms of dealing with an enhanced public profile but as has been reported elsewhere we must not shy away from the opportunities presented by maximising our social media presence and the use of artificial intelligence.

Roger Tames
Chair of Trustees

LOOKING AHEAD

An exciting year ahead as we continue to celebrate achievement, raise vital funds and support sport across the North East.

11
JUNE 2026



UNSUNG HERO AWARDS

Kingston Park Stadium

25
JUNE 2026



CHARITY GOLF DAY

Ponteland Golf Club

5
NOVEMBER 2026



AWARDS NIGHT

Newcastle Civic Centre



GOVERNANCE CALENDAR

13 April 2026
Fundraising Committee

6 July 2026
Fundraising Committee

3 August 2026
Awards Committee
(Grants & Major Awards)

7 September 2026
Fundraising Committee

14 September 2026
Awards Committee
(Rising Stars)

5 October 2026
Fundraising Committee

5 November 2026
Annual Awards Dinner
Newcastle Civic Centre

16 November 2026
Fundraising Committee

7 December 2026
Awards Committee

29 March 2027
Awards Committee

Dan Burn with his trophy for Sporting Achievement marking his contribution to Newcastle United's Carabao Cup triumph.



Marc Steutel (far right) with members of his family after receiving his award as Coach of the Year at the Annual Awards Dinner.



SPORT
NEWCASTLE

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

2025-26

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS 2025-26

General

As previously reported, in the finance statements the Sport Newcastle Charity account would be utilised for the financial operation of the Charity. The general account is utilised solely as a holding account with a notional balance of £2,000 being held.

At the end of the 2025-2026 financial year on 31st March there was a total of £24,233 in the two accounts. The general account held £2,000 and the Charity account £22,233. The significant positive from the year is that we made awards totalling £20,913 in the form of Platinum awards, Grants, Club Sponsorship and Promotion from the accounts,

At the close of business on 31st March, we had £2,000 in the Community Account, with zero known commitments, debtors and liabilities this leaves us a useable balance of £2,000. In Charity account we had a balance of £22,233. We had known commitments of £3,000 in respect of the platinum awards initiative and £988 in respect of outstanding grant payments. This gives us a total useable resource across the two accounts of £20,245 for 2025-26 this represents an increase of £4,990 on the previous financial year.

Corporate Support

Sport Newcastle are fortunate to continue to be supported by long term partners SOS and Tier One Capital who have provided invaluable financial support over several years sponsoring the annual dinner and golf day. Dinner

The 2024-25 dinner accounts once again made a significant contribution to the organisation recording a surplus of £7,007.

Golf Day

The accounts show the Golf Day organised by Mike Booth and the Special Events team returned an excellent in-year profit of £7,067.

Donations

We have been fortunate to receive a number of donations from individuals, clubs and charitable foundations, totalling £14,185. This has been key to Sport Newcastle being able to support sport across the North-East,

Platinum Award Recipients

At the close of the financial year 2025-26 we were directly supporting three platinum award recipients at a total cost of £4,500.

The awards are administered through the committee on receipt of satisfactory progress reports and are reviewed quarterly at the committee meetings.

Expenditure

Grants and Financial Assistance

The expenditure within this category primarily includes applications for support from athletes and clubs which are considered by our trustees. Recipient sports in the year included football, swimming, cheerleading, cricket, karate, trampoline, lawn bowls, volleyball, netball, gymnastics. Excluding payments to platinum award recipients we made awards totalling £16,413.

Office Expenses

We have continued to drive down the overhead costs associated with the operation of the charity. In 2025-26 we spent a total of £280 which was in relation to the costs of the website domain hosting. This clearly demonstrates how efficiently we run the organisation.

Overview

The performance of Sport Newcastle in 2025-26 has, once again, been excellent, delivering almost £21,000 in support to clubs and athletes across the North-East operating with the absolute minimum of overhead costs ensuring that athletes and clubs can be supported as extensively as possible.

that our resources had been depleted compared to previous years. This has meant that we have had to make difficult decisions in respect of the number and value of awards that we could sustain.

We continue to deliver successful events to supplement our financial resources which are invaluable. We have also been fortunate to receive some significant donations from individuals, charitable foundations and local sports clubs. We will continue to work to generate revenue through our annual events programme with the potential to supplement this through applications to external funders, to supplement our resources and increase the levels of support we can provide to clubs and athletes in the region.

Notes

Figures quoted represent the actual amounts paid or received within the financial year. Any notional differences between the accounts and officer reports will be as a result of those reports potentially spanning financial years.

David Appleby
Treasurer, Sport Newcastle
21st May 2026

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR END 31ST MARCH 2026

<u>Income</u>	2026		2026	
	£	£	£	£
Dinner net proceeds		7,007		6,583
Golf Day net proceeds		7,067		3,897
Quiz Night		392		0
Donations		14,185		6,187
		28,651		16,667
 <u>Expenditure</u>				
Grants & Financial Assistance	16,413		23,370	
Platinum Awards	4,500		3,500	
Sponsorship & Promotion	0		0	
Presentations	0		654	
Office Expenses	0		0	
Room Hire & Refreshments	0		0	
Promotional Expenses	280		2,570	
	21,193		32,094	
 Surplus (deficit) for year transferred to balance sheet		7,428		-15,427

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST MARCH 2026

<u>Current Assets</u>	2026		2025	
	£	£	£	£
Cash at Bank				
Barclays Community Acc'	22,233	22,233	14,755	14,755
Debtors & Prepayments				
Income Due - Rates Debtors	0	0	0	0
Dinner Debtors	0	0	1,500	1,500
<u>Current Liabilities</u>				
Accruals				
Outstanding Grant Payments	988		0	0
Corporate Sports Scholarships	3,000	3,988	3,000	3,000
Creditors				
City Council for Rated	0		0	
City Council for Dinner	0		0	
Others - Cheques not presented	0	0	0	0
<u>Net Current Assets</u>		18,245		13,255

Accountants Report

I have examined the books and records of Sport Newcastle for the year ended 31 March 2026 and confirm they have been properly kept. I have also examined the above balance sheet and attached Income and Expenditure account and confirm that they are in accordance with those books and records, and information supplied.



**SPORT
NEWCASTLE**

**SUPPORTING SPORT.
INSPIRING COMMUNITIES.**

WWW.SPORTNEWCASTLE.ORG
REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1153011

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