



RAF CENTRAL FUND IMPACT REPORT

2025



RAF SPORTS LOTTERY

THE VITAL LIFELINE FOR RAF SPORT

DID YOU KNOW? Your membership helps to provide the majority of the much needed funding for sport in the RAF.

RAF personnel can support by joining the lottery:

www.rafcf.org.uk

- 1ST PRIZE: £10,000
- 2ND PRIZE: £3,000
- 3RD PRIZE: £2,000
- 4TH PRIZE: £1,000
- 5TH PRIZE: £500
- PLUS 15xPRIZES: £100



BeGambleAware.org

The RAF Sports Lottery operates as a society lottery within the Royal Air Force Central Fund and is licensed and regulated by the Gambling Commission (www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk) under account number 5199.

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

It is my privilege to present the RAF Central Fund's 2025 Impact Report — a reflection of a year defined by progress, collaboration and our commitment to ensuring all serving RAF personnel can benefit from sport and physical activity.

2025 marked a year of consolidation and forward momentum. We advanced the merger of RAF Sport Associations into the Central Fund structure which simplifies governance and strengthens the sustainability of RAF Sport. Eight more Associations completed their transition this year.

Our external partnerships reached new heights. The launch of our strategic collaboration with Menzies Aviation is already delivering meaningful support across multiple sports and demonstrates the impact of strong, purpose-driven partnerships.

Our Sport Grants programme continues to be a cornerstone of our work, enabling thousands of personnel worldwide to participate in everything from grassroots activity to elite competition.

Beyond subsidising participation, these grants help individuals reconnect with sport, improve wellbeing and strengthen team cohesion — all vital to operational effectiveness.

Inclusion remains a priority. Through targeted initiatives, we expanded opportunities for those who face barriers due to location, deployment or personal circumstances, ensuring the physical and social benefits of sport are truly for everyone.

As we look to 2026, we will continue to listen closely to the RAF community and refine our support around emerging needs. Our purpose remains clear: to back those who serve with effective, inclusive and sustainable support.

None of this is possible without the dedication of our team, the leadership of our Trustees, collaboration with the RAF Sports Board and the generosity of our partners and donors. Together, we are helping RAF personnel thrive through the power of sport and physical activity.



Ross Perriam
RAF Central Fund, Chief Executive Officer



**“OUR PURPOSE
REMAINS CLEAR: TO
BACK THOSE WHO
SERVE WITH
EFFECTIVE, INCLUSIVE
AND SUSTAINABLE
SUPPORT”**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF

It is an honour to introduce the 2025 Impact Report for the RAF Central Fund – an organisation that continues to play a vital role in sustaining the health, resilience, and spirit of our people through sport and physical activity.

As Chief of the Air Staff, I see first-hand the demands placed on our personnel and their families. The Royal Air Force operates in complex and fast-moving environments that call for agility, composure, and teamwork at every level. To meet these challenges, the wellbeing of our people must remain at the heart of our operational capability. Sport and physical activity are fundamental to achieving this – they strengthen body and mind, reinforce camaraderie and teamwork, and nurture the resilience that defines the RAF ethos.

Over the past year, the RAF Central Fund has continued to demonstrate its impact, supporting initiatives that reach across our global community – from those stationed at home bases to those serving on deployment. The continued integration of our Sport Associations and the development of new partnerships reflect a growing momentum that benefits every corner of RAF Sport.

The Fund's work is about far more than sporting ability and physical fitness; it is about building the qualities that underpin our success as an Air Force – teamwork, determination, leadership, and trust. These attributes are forged on playing fields, in gyms, and during shared moments of challenge and achievement, all against a backdrop of humility and respect. They translate directly into our operational effectiveness and our collective strength as a force.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ross Perriam, the Trustees, and everyone involved with the RAF Central Fund for their unwavering dedication. Their work ensures that the benefits of sport and physical activity remain accessible to all who serve, regardless of role, rank, or location.

As we look to the future, I am confident that the RAF Central Fund will continue to be a rock solid cornerstone of our community – empowering our people, enriching our culture, and ensuring that we remain a force defined by resilience, excellence, and unity.



Air Chief Marshal Harv Smyth
Chief of the Air Staff



“FAR MORE THAN SPORTING ABILITY AND PHYSICAL FITNESS; IT IS ABOUT BUILDING THE QUALITIES THAT UNDERPIN OUR SUCCESS AS AN AIR FORCE”

VALUE OF SPORT THROUGH STRATEGY

Investment in sport and physical activity significantly improves the wellbeing of serving RAF personnel. From grassroots to elite competition, the RAF Central Fund empowers personnel to engage at every level.



MISSION

To enable serving RAF personnel to access sporting opportunities and physical activities.



HOW?

Through grant funding programmes that empower people, engage communities, and improve facilities.



VISION

To develop the full potential of serving RAF personnel through sport and physical activity.



WHY?

To enhance the mental, social, and physical wellbeing of serving RAF personnel.

WE DELIVERED OVER

£2.8M

IN SUPPORT TO EMPOWER PERSONNEL TO THRIVE, DEVELOP ATHLETIC ABILITY, BUILD CONNECTIONS, AND STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE



CHARITABLE IMPACT OF SPORT IN THE RAF

Sport and physical activity provide a positive outlet for personnel to manage the pressures of a life in service and are powerful tools that develop individuals on a personal and professional level.

In careers that offer dynamic and varied experiences with regular relocations, communities for sport provide consistent social connection, fostering teamwork and a sense of belonging, building morale and reducing loneliness and isolation through enduring friendships.



FACING CHALLENGES



BUILDING RESILIENCE



FORMING CONNECTIONS

Physical challenge builds more than fitness. Training and competition expose individuals to successes, setbacks and uncertainty that develop resilience, boost confidence and put perseverance into practice, facilitating complex and varied challenges in effective mission rehearsal.

Sport and physical activity deliver significant social value and charitable impact, supporting long-term wellbeing, enhancing quality of life, and creating lasting positive change beyond the activity itself.

GROWING GRASSROOTS

RAF Central Fund Sport Grants provide direct financial support to personnel, enabling participation in sport and physical activity at every level – from everyday fitness and grassroots engagement through to elite competition.

For many the impact extends far beyond physical health. Personnel spoke of improved mental wellbeing, renewed confidence and a sense of belonging outside the workplace. Our grants not only subsidise equipment and entry fees, but also unlock identity, connection and purpose.

CPL WILL DRUMMEE: SKATEBOARDING

"Thanks to a Central Fund Sport Grant, I was able to buy a skateboard and all the safety gear I needed to get back into a sport I loved growing up. Skateboarding is suitable for all ages and helps to build confidence, balance, and resilience, within a supportive community."



SGT PETER TODD: FUNCTIONAL FITNESS

"Functional Fitness, CrossFit, Fitness Racing/Hyrox is accessible to absolutely anybody at any level of ability and fitness. It promotes health, fitness and longevity regardless of if you compete or not, the community is the difference and the support you receive is unparalleled."



**OUR SPORT GRANTS
SUPPORT ENGAGEMENT
ACROSS A HUGE VARIETY OF
PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES, NOT
JUST THOSE OFFICIALLY
RECOGNISED BY THE RAF**

**WE FINANCIALLY
EMPOWERED
2,882**

**SERVING RAF PERSONNEL
IN OVER 100 LOCATIONS
THROUGH INDIVIDUAL
SPORT GRANTS**

**71%
OF GRANTS
SUPPORTED
DEVELOPMENT
AND GRASSROOTS
SPORT**



ATHLETES OF THE RAF

Through our Individual Sport Grants, 29% of supported personnel were empowered to represent the RAF in high level competition.

Our High Performing and Elite Athlete Programme – delivered in partnership with the Directorate of RAF Sport and made possible through the continued generosity of BAE Systems – supported 31 athletes across 20 sports in 2025.

Athletes competed at Home Nations, European, Commonwealth and World Championship level, representing the UK and the RAF on the international stage.

CPL NATALIE TAYLOR: WATER POLO

Cpl Taylor reached her fifth consecutive year of selection for the Welsh National Team for Women's Water Polo and was supported to compete in the Czech Republic in 2025. As a qualified coach, Natalie actively shares her knowledge and experience with those engaged in RAF Sport.



FLT LT HARRIET HAYWOOD: TRIATHLON

Competing in challenging natural environments around the globe, Flt Lt Haywood achieved XTERRA Off-Road Triathlon Elite status in 2025 and our support to offset the considerable costs of international travel enabled her first professional World Championship top 25 finish.



SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

Corporal Sarah Toms

847

PERSONNEL
SUPPORTED TO
REPRESENT THE RAF
IN COMPETITION



ENRICHING STATIONS TO DELIVER ACTIVITY

Our Station Grants enrich RAF Stations/Units by funding projects that create or improve facilities for sport and physical activity, develop station sport clubs, and enhance community events with active elements. 2025 saw a full programme supporting projects that will directly impact the lived experience of a third of the Royal Air Force.



GYM EQUIPMENT

In 2025 we invested £118,925 across seven stations to enhance strength and conditioning suites and expand gym accessibility.



NEW DUGOUTS

Upgrades to field sports shelters with six new dugouts funded at Northolt and Marham, benefiting 400+ personnel for many years to come.



SCUBA

Essential equipment and boat safety upgrades were delivered for Scuba clubs across the RAF including Akrotiri, Brize Norton and Cosford.

24 STATIONS AND UNITS SUPPORTED

46 GRANTS AWARDED

11,500+ PERSONNEL REACHED

£318,667 TOTAL STATION GRANT FUNDING



FUNDING IN ACTION

JSSU CYPRUS - NEW PADEL COURT

Installation of a new padel court at JSSU Cyprus has produced a vibrant new hub for sport. This standout project, supported by a £26,500 station grant in 2024, transformed a disused basketball court to create a fresh modern facility. The court was opened in March 2025 and, now home to its own league, is a fantastic and lasting asset to engage local personnel in sport.



BEFORE



AFTER



Improving Morale



Enhancing the stations offer by creating fresh spaces to stay active whilst posted overseas.

Investing in Community



Saving the community more than £24,000 in court hire fees.

Increasing Participation in Sport



Since opening, the court has been used over 700 times, hosting multiple tournaments across the year.

“

None of this would have been possible without the support of the RAF Central Fund. Thank you!

**FLT LT WALMSLEY
JSSU CYPRUS**

”

POWERING RAF SPORT

Working in partnership with the Directorate of RAF Sport, the RAF Central Fund supports RAF Sport Associations through regular funding, governance and financial services that enable delivery of a huge cross section of sport.

These communities unite personnel through combined passions, providing a range of engagement opportunities from our volunteers at the heart of sport administration, to those training, coaching and competing either for the first time or as a seasoned competitor.

Through Sport Association funding, the RAF Central Fund ensures these opportunities are not incidental - they are structured, sustainable and strategically supported.

THANKS FROM RAF POLO

"A huge thank you for the Central Fund's ongoing support of RAF Polo. With a decent number of development players coming through that provide resilience to the senior team, many empowered to do so by individual grants, the Fund's support has played a key part in the RAF being inter-service champions in 2025.

We have seen lifelong friendships born and grown through polo, people building confidence through sport to apply for their commission, to travel and experience new things."



THE RAF
CENTRAL FUND
PROVIDES OVER
£1M
ANNUALLY TO
RAF SPORTS

SUPPORT OF
54
SPORTS IN 2025
ENGAGED OVER
11,650
RAF SERVING
PERSONNEL

COLLABORATING FOR THE WIN

Partnerships with mission-aligned charities and organisations enhance delivery and extend the reach of our programmes to further equip individuals, communities for sport, and key locations across the RAF with the resources to engage and empower at a greater scale.

RESOURCED TO DELIVER - RAF MICROLIGHT ASSOCIATION

In 2025, the Nuffield Trust for the Forces of the Crown supported the RAF Microlight Association with a large grant to purchase a Ninja Microlight to enhance operations at RAF Cosford's Microlight Club.

The new aircraft supports continued delivery of Air Experience Flights - a programme supporting engagement by trainees at RAF Cosford and Halton, completing over 4,000 flights in the last 10 years.

Delivered through an introductory ground briefing and a structured flying lesson, the programme strengthens airmindedness, confidence and personal resilience at a formative stage of training.

The RAF Central Fund renewed its support to Air Experience Flights in 2025 with a grant from our Mechanics Endowment Fund assuring future engagement with a further 100 personnel in Phase 2 training, keeping costs low to make for an inclusive programme, accessible to trainees regardless of personal circumstance.



**COSFORD
MICROLIGHT CLUB
HAS SEEN OVER
1,200
TRAINEES ENGAGE
IN AIR EXPERIENCE
FLIGHTS**



SUSTAINING SPORT IN THE RAF

Through strategic partnerships, sponsorships and commercial initiatives, the Central Fund directs revenue back into programmes to support athletes, enhance facilities and widen access to sport.

A key focus is developing a range of offers that make it more affordable for RAF personnel to take part in sport and physical activity – ensuring cost is never a barrier to participation.

This approach reduces reliance on public funding, future proofs existing programmes and keeps opportunities open to individuals at every rank and role.

Every commercial venture is designed with purpose: to benefit the RAF sporting community, build belonging and support the operational advantages of active, engaged personnel.

WINMAU TOM LONG, PARTNERSHIPS MARKETING MANAGER

"At Winmau, we're incredibly proud to support RAF Darts and the brilliant work they do. Our partnership is about more than just sponsorship, it's about helping the game grow from the grassroots up, creating opportunities for players, and supporting a community that lives and breathes darts. Seeing the RAF Darts team engage with members of the public at events like the RIAT Airshow in the 6-dart challenge really brings home what this is all about: connecting people through the sport we all love. The dedication, teamwork, and passion within RAFDA perfectly reflect the values we hold at Winmau, and we're honoured to be part of their journey as the game continues to grow and inspire."



£324,458

**SUPPORTER
INCOME FOR
SPORT IN 2025**

**44%
GROWTH**



NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN 2025

Joining the RAF Central Fund family of partners supporting sport were:

Amey

Capita



6030
SIXTY THIRTY SPORTS LTD

Skyrail

tImNexus

VX3

ULTRA MARITIME

WINMAU®
THE FORCE BEHIND DARTS™

PARTNERSHIPS WITH PURPOSE SPORTSHOTELS.COM

At the RAF Central Fund we are determined to identify opportunities which provide tangible benefits to our beneficiaries.

An example of this is our wonderful new collaboration with SportsHotels.com which provides a fantastic booking service for affordable accommodation to enable sporting fixtures to take place.

Serving personnel are based across the UK and abroad but come together to enjoy their sport for training and the all-important competitions – accommodation is vital to making this possible.



CASE STUDY: MENZIES AVIATION

Menzies Aviation partners with us to champion sport in the RAF, gaining meaningful brand alignment, enhanced visibility and engagement with service personnel, and the opportunity to support wellbeing, community and performance across a committed and high-impact audience.

The first non-MOD contractor to support RAF Sport. Their objectives were to:



Grow awareness of Menzies and what they do



Enhance employee wellbeing



Demonstrate Menzies' commitment to sustainability



Increase diversity of their work force

“ Our partnership with the RAF Central Fund continues to showcase the power of sport to build resilience, teamwork and wellbeing – qualities that sit at the heart of both the RAF and our organisation.

It's a privilege to stand alongside the RAF we help service personnel thrive on the field, and in their careers beyond service.

**JULIET THOMSON, CHIEF PEOPLE OFFICER
MENZIES AVIATION**

”



M
MENZIES
AVIATION
Menzies Aviation
is proud to support
RAF Sport



86%
**INCREASE IN
 NUMBER OF SPORT
 ASSOCIATIONS WITH
 A SPONSOR**

£17.3M
**IN SOCIAL VALUE
 GENERATED BY
 RAF SPORT**

INSTANT IMPACT



Rugby League

The 2025 Tri-Nations Tournament hosted by RAF Rugby League was made possible thanks to sponsors: NG Bailey IT Services, RBL and Menzies Aviation.



Hockey

Caps were presented to representative RAF Hockey players for the first time thanks to Babcock's support. Caps can now be awarded to players who make their debut for the RAF.



Darts

Winmau are furnishing each RAF Station with their own kit to enable clubs to thrive and develop RAF representative teams ready to face the British Army and Royal Navy.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

5 GENDER EQUALITY

13 CLIMATE ACTION

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We are committed to partnering with providers who share our values and support our Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) credentials aligned with our key focus Sustainable Development Goals.

PROUD SUPPORTERS

Amey



Babcock

BAE SYSTEMS

Capita

CGI

FUJITSU

GRC



inzipire

JEWERS
The Mark of Excellence & Innovation

KX

LEONARDO



NAAFI

NG Bailey

VX3



RDC

serco

6030
SIXTY THIRTY SPORTS LTD

SIXworks
an IBM Company

Skyral

tImNexus

ULTRA MARITIME

WINMAU®
THE FORCE BEHIND DARTS™

"IT HAS BEEN AN ABSOLUTE PLEASURE FOR NG BAILEY IT SERVICES TO SPONSOR THE RAF RUGBY LEAGUE OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS AND TO WATCH HOW THE WOMEN'S GAME HAS DEVELOPED IN THE MANNER THAT IT HAS."

Kelly Tedesco
Managing Director at
NG Bailey IT Services



RAF SPORTS LOTTERY

THE SPORTS LOTTERY IS OUR CHARITY'S PRINCIPLE FUNDRAISING TOOL AND GENERATES VITAL FUNDING SO THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE RAF.



**THANKS TO OUR
LOTTERY PLAYERS OVER**

£1.8M

**WAS RAISED TO INVEST
BACK INTO SPORT
IN 2025**

**£10,000
WEEKLY
JACKPOT**

**1,040
CASH PRIZE
WINNERS
IN 2025**

WINNING TESTIMONIALS

“ The timing of my win coincided with my 25th wedding anniversary, so we booked a trip to India and the Maldives to celebrate! It was a phenomenal experience, absorbing local cultures and traditions as well as amazing food and wildlife. I have been playing the Sports Lottery for over 20 years and never won anything before but the work that the Fund does to support RAF Sport makes it a very good cause, improving the lived experience of our personnel. ”

“ None of the financial assistance would be possible without the RAF Sports Lottery, and I've been fortunate enough to win the £10,000 top prize! Confirmation of the win came as a huge surprise, and I was able to put my winnings towards the deposit on my new home. ”

BRINGING OUR SUPPORT TO THE HEART OF STATION LIFE

The 2025 RAF Central Fund Summer Roadshow marked a significant and positive shift in how we connect with RAF stations, personnel and partners.

Throughout the summer, the Roadshow visited RAF Leeming, Waddington, Cosford and Benson, delivering high-energy, sport-led events that enhanced existing station activity and created moments of connection that combined participation, conversation and visibility.

Crucially, it initiated valuable face-to-face opportunities with Station Commanders, SWOs, PT staff and station leadership teams to discuss how our charitable mission comes to life through real examples of impact and what support could be provided moving forward.

TOTAL WIPEOUT AT RAF LEEMING

In July 2025, RAF Leeming Physical Education Flight capitalised on the generosity of the Central Fund by hosting a Total Wipeout CO's Cup competition for the entire Station – attracting over 175 Service Personnel, along with RAFA KIDZ, industry partners, and civil servants for a summer showdown of competing and spectating!

RAF Leeming sports clubs also took the opportunity to showcase their individual offerings. Teams set up 'give it a go' workshops around the main event to advertise and recruit new members.



**OVER 600
PERSONNEL
ENGAGED WITH
SPORT THROUGH
OUR EVENTS**

**“AN OUTSTANDING
INITIATIVE WHICH
EMBRACES THE CULTURE OF
EVERYONE REGARDLESS OF
ROLE, RANK OR PHYSICAL
ABILITY TO ACCESS AND
DISCOVER NEW WAYS OF
GETTING INVOLVED IN
STATION SPORT”**

*Station Commander
RAF Leeming*



PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE RAF SPORT COMMUNITY

Alongside generating and managing charitable and commercial income, the Fund delivers essential support services to all 54 RAF Sport Associations.

This expertise – spanning governance, finance, marketing, legal and administration – enables Associations to operate more efficiently and effectively.

Our support ensures every Association can offer meaningful opportunities for both new and existing participants.

The RAF Sport community continues to grow, and this year the Fund engaged directly with over 600 serving personnel, helping them begin their sporting journey and connecting them with the right Association.

Interest spanned the full breadth of RAF Sport, with Athletics, Boxing, Motorsports and Martial Arts proving especially popular in 2025.



CONNECTING
OVER
600
PERSONNEL TO
A NEW SPORT



GOVERNANCE



FINANCE



MARKETING



LEGAL & ADMIN



**THANKS TO OUR
SUPPORT, SERVING
PERSONNEL WERE ABLE
TO STAY AT OUR LODGES
FOR AS LITTLE AS**

£8

**PER PERSON
PER NIGHT**

**“WE BIKED FROM
THE DOOR, SWAM IN
THE RIVER, HIKED THE
MUNROS AND ENJOYED
CANOEING ON LOCH
MORLICH. ALL EASILY
ACCESSIBLE. EVERYONE
IN OUR GROUP HAD AN
AMAZING TIME!”**

PROPERTIES

The Fund's estate includes RAF Central Fund Danesfield, Feshiebridge Lodges, Halton Tennis Centre and Vine Lane cricket ground.

The sites offer RAF personnel wide-ranging opportunities to participate in activities, including water, winter and racket sports and they host a number of competitive fixtures, training and try-outs each year.

In 2025, over 800 serving RAF personnel visited one or more of the Fund's properties and participated in site activities, many on several occasions.

From cycling, hiking, paddle boarding, gliding and fishing to tennis, cricket, orienteering, canoeing and rowing, there are opportunities for all personnel at any level.



**RAFCF
DANESFIELD**



**VINE LANE
CRICKET GROUND**



**HALTON
TENNIS CENTRE**



“

We receive substantial funding from the Central Fund each year and we're incredibly grateful for their support. Without this help, we simply wouldn't be able to exist. The support we provide to our members would be hugely impacted and consequently the sport would become prohibitively expensive for most of us.

”

“

The impact has been significant. It has built a sense of pride, belonging, and camaraderie within RAF Gibraltar, directly contributing to operational effectiveness by ensuring personnel work as a cohesive, motivated team.

”

“

RAF Rowing's successes on the water in 2025 are in a large part enabled by the RAF Central Fund, not only through a provision for various equipment but also support to essential operating costs, financial governance and the exploration of wider funding avenues.

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Scan the QR code to find out more about the RAF Central Fund and sport in the RAF.

    @RAFCentralFund

