



RAF CENTRAL FUND IMPACT REPORT

2024



CONTENTS

2

WELCOME MESSAGE

4

**PUTTING PERSONNEL AT THE
CENTRE OF OUR SUPPORT**

5

**ENHANCING STATIONS TO
DELIVER SPORT**

7

CREATING OUR COMMUNITIES

8

**DELIVERING IMPACT THROUGH
PARTNERSHIP**

12

**STEWARDED CHARITABLE
SUPPORT**

13

RAF SPORTS LOTTERY

14

PROPERTIES



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As CEO of the RAF Central Fund, I am proud to present our 2024 Impact Report, a testament to our commitment to supporting serving RAF personnel through sport and physical activity.

At the heart of our mission is the belief that sport and physical activity are transformative. They build resilience, enhance physical and mental wellbeing, and strengthen the bonds of camaraderie within the RAF community.

As we take the opportunity to reflect, I would suggest the previous year has been one of change and growth.

At the start of 2024 we integrated the RAF Sports Federation into the RAF Central Fund. This was a hugely complicated and technical achievement – and I would like to place on record my thanks to David and the team at the Sports Federation for their co-operation and support during this period.

As part of this exercise, we began merging 54 Sports Associations into the Central Fund. After late nights, discussions, and committee meetings, 36 successfully completed the merger by year-end.

In 2024 we continued to expand our impact. Our Sports Grants programme has empowered personnel across the globe to participate in activities ranging from grassroots fitness initiatives to elite-level competitions.

We supported new projects to make sport and physical activity more inclusive, reaching those who may face barriers such as deployment or remote postings.

Looking ahead, our focus remains on understanding the evolving needs of the RAF community. The feedback we receive from personnel and our collaborative partnerships will shape our priorities to provide even greater access and opportunity.

I am grateful for the ongoing support of our board, commercial partners, and the RAF community. Together, we are making a genuine difference to the lives of thousands of serving RAF personnel.



Ross Perriam
RAF Central Fund, Chief Executive Officer



**“THE PREVIOUS
YEAR HAS BEEN
ONE OF
CHANGE AND
GROWTH”**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF

It is my privilege to introduce this year's Impact Report for the RAF Central Fund. As Chief of the Air Staff, I am acutely aware of the critical role that sport and physical activity play in maintaining the physical and mental resilience of our personnel.

In a challenging operational environment, where high standards of performance are demanded, the wellbeing of our people is paramount. The RAF Central Fund's work in supporting sport and physical activities across the RAF is, therefore, of immense importance and value to our entire community.

This year's report highlights the breadth and impact of the Fund's support, which reaches across the entire RAF family—from our newest recruits to seasoned veterans. The RAF Central Fund empowers our personnel to pursue activities that not only enhance their physical health but also foster teamwork, resilience, and personal growth.

These qualities are essential in the RAF's demanding operational environment and are integral to our shared identity and ethos.

In an era where the RAF is called upon to operate with versatility and agility, the support provided by the RAF Central Fund remains an invaluable resource. Sport and physical activity help to build bonds, lift morale, and maintain the high level of operational readiness we need.

I am proud of what we have achieved together and confident that the RAF Central Fund will continue to serve as a cornerstone of support, fostering the wellbeing and resilience of our people in the years to come.



Air Chief Marshal Sir Rich Knighton
Chief of the Air Staff



**“SUPPORT
PROVIDED BY THE
RAF CENTRAL
FUND REMAINS
AN INVALUABLE
RESOURCE”**



PUTTING PERSONNEL AT THE CENTRE OF OUR SUPPORT

The Individual Sports Grants programme, provided by the Central Fund, financially empowers serving RAF personnel to participate in sport and physical activity. Whether kit and equipment, competition entry fees or an overseas visit, this support enables personnel to stay active, and encourages participation in sport at all levels, from grass roots through to elite competition.

SGT DAVID ADAM: RUNNING CHAMPION AT HOME AND ABROAD

One example of how our sports grants support serving personnel is that of Sgt David Adam who has thrived thanks to our support which keeps him active and connected to the sport he loves. Whether at home in Scotland or during overseas postings, these grants enable David to compete at a high level and engage in diverse running communities.

Recently, David celebrated a remarkable victory in Tunisia, securing first place in the Over-55 category at the Tunisian Masters Cross Country Championships. "This was, without doubt, my best performance in Tunisia and indeed of any race I have completed in several years." He added "Thank you for your continued support. It is very much appreciated."



**WE FINANCIALLY
EMPOWERED**

2,811

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

**PROVIDED
FUNDING FOR**

50+

**SPORTS INCLUDING
BODYBUILDING,
CUE SPORTS AND
SKATEBOARDING**

287

**INDIVIDUALS
SUPPORTED TO
ATTEND ALPINE
CHALLENGE**



ENHANCING STATIONS TO DELIVER SPORT

Station grants enable RAF populations to access facilities, equipment and events that champion local participation in sport and physical activity. Dedicated support is also available to personnel serving overseas on expeditions and deployments.

The sporting world is continuously changing and during 2024 the RAF Central Fund supported three new sports on Stations – Pickleball, Padel and Indoor Skydiving. Here's how the Central Fund helped to support:



MARHAM PICKLEBALL

The purchasing of key equipment and training sessions launched the club in mid-2024, now running with 27 members.



JSSU CYPRUS PADEL COURT

The redevelopment of an old basketball court at the Cyprus base will be the first RAF Central Fund supported Padel court.



ODIHAM INDOOR SKYDIVING

The funding of air time for 50-100 people to experience Indoor Skydiving and build a community of diving enthusiasts.



WE SUPPORTED 48 PROJECTS AT 22 DIFFERENT STATIONS/UNITS THAT ENGAGED 13,000 RAF PERSONNEL IN SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.

CASE STUDIES

RAF ODIHAM: MULTI USE GAMING AREA

A Station grant funded the re-purposing of two disused tennis courts into a MUGA to include tennis, pickleball and netball courts. This regeneration has created a social and sports hub for Odiham; from daily use to creating a home for the Station Netball team.

“ Set against the high cost of living in the local environment and high operational demand tempo, our new MUGA is a fantastic addition to facilities at Odiham.

GP CAPT MOOREHEAD - STATION COMMANDER, RAF ODIHAM ”

RAF LOSSIEMOUTH: KAYAK CLUB

Kayaks, wetsuits, paddles, waterproof layers, helmets, and various other safety equipment were delivered for Lossiemouth to transform their kayak club.

From conducting activities with personally owned and borrowed kit, the club has been able to grow its membership and implement a summer and winter schedule including park and play taster sessions during the summer, and evening pool and weekend river sessions during the winter.

“ Due to the location of RAF Lossiemouth, we are committed to ensuring our people are provided with opportunities that can ease the stressors of separation and feelings of isolation, something identified constantly on our Community Needs Assessment.

A CAMPBELL - SCSO, RAF LOSSIEMOUTH ”



CREATING OUR COMMUNITIES

Central Fund Sports Association funding enables RAF Sports to deliver annual programmes of activity for RAF personnel of all abilities to engage in.

Our partnership with the Nuffield Trust for the Forces of the Crown saw a further £100,000 in support for sports and physical activity across the RAF.

This enabled a variety of RAF Sports to replenish equipment and/or expand their resources. From replacement of worn-out barrel skis, archery targets and table tennis tables, to the purchase of an Olympic weightlifting rig and introductory kit for ice hockey; these additional supplies provide lasting support at all levels of engagement.

THE ICE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

"The annual grant from the RAF Central Fund plays a crucial role in supporting the RAF Ice Hockey Association's golden thread, guiding newcomers from beginner all the way through to representing the Service. This funding is allocated across various aspects of the Association's activities, starting with the provision of essential protective kit for beginners, which is vital for initiating their participation in the sport.

In essence, the RAF Central Fund support is instrumental in reducing the financial burden to ice hockey, allowing participation by all and ultimately is what allowed the Association to win both the men's and women's UKAF Championships last season." - Flt Lt John Gilderdale-Smith



WE SUPPORTED
52
SPORTS,
ENGAGING OVER
10,000
RAF SERVING
PERSONNEL

OVER £1M
IN SUPPORT
FUNDING FOR RAF
SPORTS EVERY
YEAR

DELIVERING IMPACT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

At the RAF Central Fund, our Supporters are at the heart of our mission to transform RAF Sport, enabling serving personnel to participate in more sport and better-quality sport than public funding alone could provide. Together, we empower the RAF to build exceptional individuals and deliver on its core purpose.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS ENABLED BY OUR SUPPORTERS IN 2024



Increasing Accessibility

Making sport more inclusive and expanding participation across the RAF.



Supporting Excellence

Enabling athletes to achieve their best on and off the field.



Fostering Healthier Communities

Building stronger physical and mental wellbeing within the RAF family.



Delivering Social Value ROI

Generating tangible benefits for the RAF and the wider community.



AUTHENTIC COLLABORATION

DELIVERING VALUE FOR SUPPORTERS

Over the past 12 months, we transformed how we engage with Supporters:



Understanding Supporter Objectives

Tailoring our partnerships to align with their goals.



Maximising Impact, Minimising Administration

Ensuring seamless collaboration for all stakeholders.



Telling Their Story

Collaborative storytelling aligned with Supporter objectives.



Strengthened Relationships

Fostering connections between Supporters and the RAF community.



Exclusive Opportunities

Invitations to events, branding on kits, and joint participation in sporting experiences.

“ We believe sport plays a vital role in promoting mental and physical wellbeing, fostering unity, and building camaraderie. By sponsoring military sport and supporting personnel to reach their full potential, we aim to help individuals truly thrive both in their careers and in their wider lives.

**MEGAN WOODHOUSE, ARMED FORCES ENGAGEMENT OFFICER
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

”



**FIRST MILITARY
ALL FEMALE
WATER POLO
TEAM LAUNCHED
THANKS TO
CENTRAL FUND
SUPPORTERS**

**£225,580
SUPPORTER
INCOME FOR
SPORT IN 2024**

AIMING HIGHER

Our partnerships have driven innovation and elevated engagement and participation opportunities by:



Pioneering Sustainability

Entering, and winning, the Race of Remembrance with the first bio-fuel-powered car.



Elevating Participation

Supporting "Have A Go" and Training Camp sessions to inspire and develop new participants in sport.

LOOKING AHEAD

Building on this year's success, we are excited to launch legacy initiatives, including:



Facilitating Sustainable Kit and Equipment

Working towards two of our sustainability goals with select suppliers of clothing and equipment for sport in the RAF.



Creating a Supporters' Club

Strengthening partnerships and expanding opportunities for collaboration.

PROUD SUPPORTERS



babcockTM

BAE SYSTEMS

CGI



FUJITSU

GRC

inzipire

JEWERS
The Mark of Excellence & Innovation

KX

LEONARDO

NAAFI

NG Bailey



RBL
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

RDC

SiXworks
an IBM Company

serco

**“DIRECT ENGAGEMENT WITH
THE SPORTS AND THE
SUPPORT OF THE CENTRAL
FUND HAVE ACTIVATED OUR
PARTNERSHIP BRILLIANTLY.
WE’RE EXCITED TO
INCREASE OUR SUPPORT
NEXT YEAR”**

*Paul Milligan
Capture and Business
Development Manager,
UK Aviation, Babcock
International Group*



STEWARDED CHARITABLE SUPPORT

Support for Elite and High Performing Athletes in 2024 was made possible through the ongoing generous support of BAE Systems.

30 Elite and High Performing Athletes received funding for an array of activities across the year. Serving RAF personnel have successfully competed at the pinnacles of their sport; from Home Nations competitions through to European and World Championships.

A wonderful example of how this support comes to life was the 2024 Hockey World Cup in South Africa. September saw five High Performing Athletes (Coaches Fg Off Jeorgia Carr, CT Ffion Williams, Wg Cdr Jane Lewis and players Sgt Louise Yeudall and Sgt Christianne Church) supported to represent Wales at the World Hockey Masters World Cup in South Africa.



**“IT IS AN HONOUR
AND PRIVILEGE TO
REPRESENT YOUR
COUNTRY AND THE
SUPPORT, THROUGH
RAF HOCKEY, THE RAF
CENTRAL FUND AND
BAE - HAS ENABLED
ME TO COMPETE AT
THE HIGHEST LEVEL
AND REPRESENT MY
COUNTRY, FOR WHICH
I’M EXTREMELY
GRATEFUL”**

Wg Cdr Jane Lewis

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, WE
WERE ABLE TO INVEST
£1.6M
INTO SPORT IN 2024**

**OVER
3,000
INDIVIDUALS
SUPPORTED WITH
SPORTING KIT &
EQUIPMENT**

**£10,000
WEEKLY
JACKPOT**

HEAR FROM OUR WINNERS

“ I buy the maximum tickets each week in order to maximise use of the Individual Sports Grant as new kit helps with my motivation towards fitness. I have previously used my grant towards the purchase of quality running shoes and a road bike. I couldn't quite believe it when I received the call to say I'd won the Sports Lottery, quite a surreal morning! I used a sizeable chunk of the win to take my wife and young daughter on holiday. ”

“ I have been playing the Sports Lottery since I joined the RAF. I play RAF representative level sport so I am able to get most of my new equipment each year through the Fund. I was lucky to recently win the Sports Lottery and I plan on using the money to put a deposit down on my first house. ”

PROPERTIES

200+

**RAF SERVING PERSONNEL
AND FAMILY MEMBERS
WERE ABLE TO ENJOY
STAYS AT FESHIEBRIDGE
LODGES IN 2024**

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

£13

PER NIGHT

As well as providing financial support for sport, the RAF Central Fund also offers sporting centres and recreational accommodation, equipping serving personnel with bespoke venues for taking part in their sport or outdoor activity of choice.

In addition to Feshiebridge, the Fund provides RAF personnel with access to sports and activities at a number of other sites, including RAF Central Fund Danesfield, where over 1200 members of the RAF took part in a range of water-based sports and activities.

The Fund's estate also includes Halton Tennis Centre, near RAF Halton, and Vine Lane cricket ground, near RAF Northolt. The sites hosted a number of RAF fixtures, training and try-outs, with hundreds of service personnel attending.



**RAFCF
DANESFIELD**



**VINE LANE
CRICKET GROUND**



**HALTON
TENNIS CENTRE**



“

We are truly grateful for all of the help – it has made such a difference during a year when there has been such demand placed on our people and community. The positivity that your support has provided is tangible, and I know all who have had direct or indirect support are extremely grateful.

”

“

Our Association has gone from strong to very strong this past year, and all of us involved are really excited for the future. We could not achieve any of this without your hard work and commitment to all of us, so – THANK YOU.

”





“

As the Chair of a relatively new sport, I cannot understate the significance RAF Central Fund funding has played in growing our sport – we simply couldn't do it without you, so an enormous thank you from us!

”

“

The funding enables us to support sporting events and clubs to provide a place for people to get together, build their mental and physical resilience and build a community that we sometimes cannot do just in the workplace.

”





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

