



# Three Years On

# Promise 21

**“We will introduce a Sports Council in 2006 that works with local, regional and national sports organisations to establish Swindon as a centre of sports excellence”**

Three years on and the Sports Forum continues to grow and develop. Both locally and regionally, the Sports Forum has been hailed as an example of good practice, with over 50 clubs in regular contact. Even after three years of success, there is still a long way to go and we continue to seek new members and new approaches.

**So what have we done?.....**

# TRAINING COURSES & WORKSHOPS

The Swindon Sports Forum has subsidised over 100 members to attend courses/workshops covering subjects that are required to run sports clubs effectively. These include:

- **First Aid**
- **Valuing Your Volunteers**
- **Developing Partnerships with Clubs and Schools**
- **Coaching Children in Sport**
- **Funding for Your Club**
- **Club Accreditation**
- **Safeguarding and Child Protection**
- **Equity in Your Coaching**

# CLUB ACCREDITATION SCHEME

Swindon Sports Forum is keen to acknowledge the good work of local clubs and has helped 17 clubs gain Level 1 Accreditation. The benefits of gaining club accreditation are:

- Members/parents can see that the club is well run and is a safe environment to play organised sport
- Addresses issues like equity and child protection, giving parents confidence when choosing a club for their children
- Aids the development of club coaches by ensuring that they are suitably qualified for the standard they are coaching at
- Acts as the first step towards gaining nationally recognised accreditation levels such as NGB or Clubmark
- Only accredited clubs can apply for SF grants

# SPORTS FORUM GRANTS

Swindon Sports Forum has developed a grant review process to identify exactly how and when monies are spent. This ensures that grant funding is spent in line with the objectives set. We have been able to support:

- 13 individuals with grants between £500 - £1,000
- 31 clubs across 23 different sports with grants between £450 to £1,200
- Disabled sports
- Youth teams
- Financially challenged clubs
- Individuals with Olympic prospects

# THE VOICE OF THE SPORTING COMMUNITY

Swindon Sports Forum takes up issues and facilitates their resolution. We work to build links between clubs and other agencies/organisations i.e. schools, Swindon Borough Council, governing bodies of sport, County Sport Partnership, other clubs. For example, we have:

- Facilitated local bowls clubs to work together to help a fellow club who were struggling to sustain membership
- Developed an open partnership with local government and sport agencies to improve sport in Swindon
- Resolved issues raised by clubs with SBC Leisure and other departments
- Consistently fed into the Sports and Facilities Strategies with issues to help clubs operate more effectively
- Helped clubs link up with support agencies to improve their opportunities to attract funding

# SPORT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SBC

There is a fantastic relationship of trust between the Forum and the Borough. We work in unison to use the respective expertise to improve sporting knowledge and information.

- Entrusted with £20,000 of STFC Community Initiatives Fund money to distribute, improving quality, participation and performance within accredited clubs
- Consulted extensively on sporting projects in the borough area
- Increased the representation of sports clubs in many aligned strategies of health, community and education
- Acted as a major player in the Community Sports Network
- Hailed as best practice and helped develop other Sports Forums