



www.barrowsportscouncil.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORT November 2010 – October 2011

Who are we?

Barrow Borough Sports Council's membership consists of representatives from the voluntary, statutory, sporting and community sector.

The Sports Council is supported by a multi-agency Sports Development team. This team works together to implement the Barrow Sports and Physical Activity Strategy.

The Sports Council awards grants to local clubs, organisations and individuals who are working on projects which support our Strategy. We run free holiday sports activities and we are partners in Kick It Out, Furness Street Soccer, Furness College Sports Hub and lots of other local projects and activities. We also recognise local achievement by awarding a Performance of the Month Award and with our Annual Sports Awards.

We can also co-opt representatives of additional organisations, agencies or projects as appropriate. The Sports Council is always reviewing the membership. If you would like to become a member of the Sports Council please contact us on 01229 407319.

What we do?

Barrow Borough Sports Council aims to:

- Promote increased active involvement in sport and recreation by all sections in the community and to promote excellence in sport throughout the Borough
- Assist in the development of, and implementation of a, sports strategy for the Borough - the current strategy (2006-11) is available on our website at www.barrowsportscouncil.org.uk
- Bring together appropriate public bodies and other agencies to ensure that sport plays an integral role in promoting public health, social inclusion and social and economic regeneration.



Championing the cause of sport in the Barrow Borough

As with so much in sport, Barrow Borough Sports Council is a team effort, we are constantly producing creative ideas as well as showing commitment and pulling together to help shape Sport in the Borough.

Other than awarding grants, BBSC develops plans for the whole of sport in the area paying particular attention to those groups which sport has struggled to reach in the past - women, ethnic minorities and those with disabilities.

We want to encourage all people regardless of abilities and background to play sport.

Our vision is more adults and young people playing more sport, more often with more and better prepared volunteers and coaches supporting them.

If you feel as passionately as us, then you too should be a member of Barrow Borough Sports Council!

Barrow Borough Sports Council's Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2011-16

Barrow Borough Sports Council's new Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2011-16 builds on and replaces the previous strategy and sets out the Borough's shared direction and priorities for the next five years. The document outlines how we are going to make sure that all the people of the Borough of Barrow in Furness, young and old, have the opportunity to improve their life chances by becoming more active more often. The strategy contains ambitious plans for further developing sport and physical activity in the Borough of Barrow in Furness and Barrow Borough Sports Council members believe that by working together we will be able to deliver the priorities and actions set out within this document.

Finance

Sports Council received over £29000 from Cumbria County Council and £2930 from Barrow Borough Council.

As always, our running costs are kept extremely low.

The Sports Council gives grants to local projects which help to increase participation and skills and also funds many local individuals competing at a national level. We also fund local sports clubs to increase their number of coaches and to improve facilities.

The Sports Council receives an annual grant from Cumbria County Council's Barrow Local Committee and Barrow Council. This is used to then draw down additional funds and the Sports Council awards over £20k a year in grants.

For any information regarding funding, please contact Chris Athersmith, Sports Development Officer on 01229 845927 or visit www.barrowsportscouncil.org.uk where all grant criteria and information can be seen.



STREET RUGBY

Street Rugby kicked off in the Autumn Term with evening sessions being held at Multi Use Games Area's throughout Barrow. The format of play is tag rugby for all ages, with Barrow RLFC coming along to show the youngsters how it's done!

Equity Project - Key Achievements

FREE New Wheelchair sessions a huge success

Barrow Sports Council has been running multi sports sessions for children with a disability at

Hoops Basketball Centre for several years.

This year we have added wheelchair sessions with Furness Wildcats. For the wheelchair session, you don't have to be a wheelchair user. All young people with a disability are welcome and we will provide chairs. And if we have enough chairs left over, parents, carers and siblings can join in. So far we've tried wheelchair rugby, basketball, cricket, football & hockey.



Indoor disability football sessions



Barrow Sports Council and Barrow AFC are now running weekly football sessions for young people with a disability.

The sessions are held every Tuesday at DASH @ Dowdales from 5pm to 6.30pm which is a very disabled friendly venue on the Dowdales School site at Dalton.





Donation from Shorty Shaw Festival

Barrow Sports Council received a donation of £1,032.50 to help provide activities for children with a disability.

The donation was presented by Dalton United from the proceeds of the Stuart 'Shorty' Shaw Football Festival. The Festival was held in July in memory of the local footballer who died in a car accident earlier this year.

In recognition of Stuart's love of sport, Stuart's family asked for half of the funds to go to support sport for disabled children.

Our thanks go to Stuart's family and Dalton United and we will make sure the money is well spent. The donation will help to support a range of free sports activities including our disability football sessions at DASH @ Dowdales.

FACT: Over 870 attendances at our Holiday Sports Programme for youngsters with disabilities throughout the year.

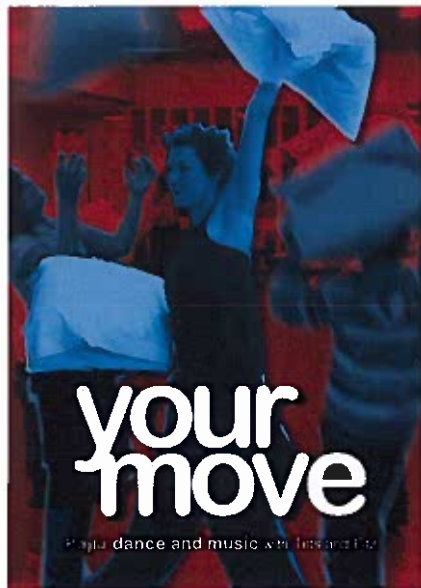
The following sessions were held:

- ✚ Horse Riding
- ✚ Trampolining
- ✚ Climbing
- ✚ Swimming
- ✚ Canoeing at the Docks and at the Park Leisure Centre
- ✚ Multi-play
- ✚ Dance & Music
- ✚ Cycling

During these sporting sessions youngsters from different cultures, of varying ages and disabilities have all had the opportunity to access many sporting experiences.

Your Move

Barrow Sports Council has been running a variety of sports for children with a disability for several years. We use formal and informal methods to get feedback from the young people and the parents and carers. In recent years this has led to new sessions in various activities, including cycling, canoeing and trampoline.



In 2010 some of the parents noted that their children liked to dance but they would not join any of the local dance clubs or projects. We were asked if we could incorporate some form of dance into our regular holiday activities.

We found a local dance instructor and musician (Tids and Fitz) who had experience of working in special schools. We obtained Aiming High funding to run a series of taster sessions which we called 'Your Move'. Some sessions were in school and sessions were also held in a variety of community settings at different times. Sessions also targeted particular groups.

After a slow start, the sessions have found a home at the Forum and are now a regular part of the holiday activities for disabled children. We are working with Tids and Fitz to develop a project particularly for children with autism.

Special Sessions with Cumbria County Council Library Staff

30 minute story-telling session with puppets and sensory games. Interaction with parents and their children. It's not a sport but the children love it!

Horse Riding Club

Following requests from children, we arranged horse riding sessions in the 2009 summer holidays. These are now a regular part of our holiday programme for disabled children and they are always the first sessions to be fully booked.

Parents and carers were so pleased with the sessions that they asked if we could also arrange regular sessions in term time. Following discussion with Seaview riding school at Biggar Village, we were able to set up regular weekly sessions at 5pm on Wednesdays. Disabled children pay the same as everyone else that uses Seaview (£12) but the Wednesday session is just for them. Sessions are tailored to meet their needs and the children get to know the staff and the horses!

Our thanks to Seaview for their help. For bookings and further information please ring Claire Hayton at Seaview on 07766402757.

Parents and Carers Support Forum

This is an ongoing consortium made up of a group of Parents & Carers of young people with disabilities.

The group still meet on a regular basis at the Nan Tait Centre to discuss their following priorities;

- ↓ Ensuring there are activities on offer for disabled children of all ages
- ↓ Lobbying service providers
- ↓ How the group can improve information sharing
- ↓ Looking at how the group can support each other and ensure there is better support from service providers

From meetings which have taken place in the past year, the forum has now set up a weekly horse riding club, Library session, disability swimming, outdoor canoeing and Christmas Party

Barrow Sports Council's Extra Special Christmas Party



More than 30 children with disabilities got to play in the soft play area, pick up presents and meet the real Father Christmas.

The Barrow Sports Council Christmas Party gave the children the same opportunity in a much more comfortable environment; they all relished their time meeting Santa and his elves and all the other stars which came out in force to celebrate.

Publicising Sport and Local Events for Sports Clubs

The home of Barrow Borough Sports Council is on the web at www.barrowsportscouncil.org.uk with over 30 pages bursting with 'What's Happening', 'Where to get help with funding' and 'Examples of Success'.

The site also includes an extensive database of local clubs, contacts and other useful information.

We also send out a weekly email promoting local activities and events. This now goes to over 1500 contacts. We encourage local Sports Clubs to get in touch with us so we can promote clubs and activities and success stories through this e-bulletin.

Check out our You Tube site

The You Tube site has had some fantastic footage on this year, including the SubUrban skate project at Barrow Park which Sports Council helped fund and the amazing new soft play and sensory room for children with disabilities.



It has been another eventful and exciting year for local sport and once again the prestigious Barrow Sports Awards Ceremony is due to take place on Friday 18th December. And as is normally the case, the competition is fierce! The Sports Awards acts as an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the achievements of sport in the Barrow Borough.

Many of the award winners are volunteers, giving up their time for the benefit of others and it is great to be able to reward them for the valuable work they carry out within the community.

Free sports sessions for young people during school holidays

Barrow Borough Sport Council's free holiday sports programmes have again been delivered by the youth sports worker. 10 weeks of free holiday activities have been delivered during February, Easter, Whit, Summer and October.

A wide range of activities held at many different venues around the borough have been used to help deliver a variety of activities to the young people who take part in the holiday sports sessions. Sessions have been held at our central venue of Furness Academy South Site, with sessions running along side this at the Park Leisure Centre, where free dance mat sessions take place, and orienteering sessions which

are held in Barrow Park, with Barrow and District Table Tennis Centre also being

available to use on the Academy South site. In addition to this sessions have also been held at Hindpool MUGA, DASH @ Dowdales and on Walney, with Duddon Canoe Club also kindly providing some young people the chance to kayak as part of the holiday sports programme.



Throughout weeks at our various venues, the totals of attendees, attendances, new participants and girls are as follows:

- 994 attendees
- 1771 attendances
- 338 new participants
- 281 girls



This means that 28% of the total participants during the past year have been girls. This increase in participation has occurred due to dance mat and canoe sessions, so a big thank you must go to the Park Leisure Centre and Duddon Canoe Club for their help in this.

Barrow Sports Council grants

Barrow Borough Sports Council gives away nearly £20,000 a year in grants.

This money is used to assist sports groups and individuals from Barrow Borough to:

- Increase levels of participation, especially amongst young people
- Increase and improve the use of sports facilities
- Increase opportunities for all, regardless of age, sex, ability, disability, or ethnic origin.
- Increase opportunities to improve skills and performance

The Sports Council meets approximately every six weeks.

'On the 6th of September 2011 Askam Rugby Club were accredited with Clubmark Gold through our NGB the RFL. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you both and Barrow Borough Sports Council, for your support over the last couple of years, which without it I believe we wouldn't have accomplished the task.'

- Garry Connell, Askam Mini-Rugby Chair

Support for Clubmark Clubs

The decision was taken this year that Clubs which have received or are working towards Clubmark will automatically be entitled to receive 50% towards Level 1, 2 or 3 coaching qualifications.

We have 23 clubs who have achieved Clubmark in the borough and 19 who are currently working towards the accreditation.

Sports Performance of the Month

Every month we receive many nominations for this award each month, however, we always welcome more.

It is awarded to an individual, group, team or club who have achieved something special in that month.

Chris Athersmith, Barrow Borough Council's Sports Development Officer along with Furness Heating Components and the North West Evening Mail has the difficult monthly task of choosing the winner.

The winner or winners then receive a £50 cheque from our extremely generous awards sponsors Furness Heating Components Ltd.

The monthly award is always featured in the North West Evening Mail and on the Barrow Sports Council Website.

This year winners have included Hawcoat Park's performance of the season they won away to second place Prenton in the Raging Bull Colts League to clinch the league title with four games to go. This was a superb performance and has earned the squad a nomination for entrance into the National U17 cup remaining unbeaten. This is the first time ever that a Barrow team has won this league.



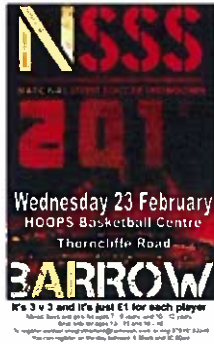
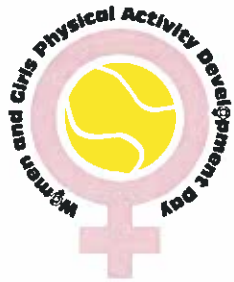
Supporting Local Clubs and Individuals

The Sports Development Team is a multi-agency team which supports the Sports Council. The Team can offer support to clubs, voluntary organisations or statutory agencies to help to increase participation or improve skills.

The team has developed strong sports partnerships within the borough and is always there to answer any questions any local clubs may have.

The support we can offer includes funding advice, sports development plans, organisational issues and training.

The team has also been involved with and has organised many events this past 12 months, including some of the following to name a few;



Some people and clubs we have helped recently

'Excellent service and help throughout the whole process. Many Thanks.' - Shaun McPoland, Roose Pioneers RLFC

'Askam RLFC would like to thank Barrow Borough Sports Council for their support in sport and their partnership approach they have to the community at large that they have given in the last 12 months. Which without support like that the progress of the Club and achievements of the teams such as the Under 16s Scholarships to Whitehaven, Workington and St Helens and also the Under 12s in their Treble victory in FCA League and Knock-out Cup and the Cumbria Cup, would have been so much harder to do.' - Gary Connell, Askam RLFC

'Thank you for the funding, it helped so much. My grant application was handled brilliantly, really quickly. I appreciated the kindness and support of Barrow Sports Council. The tour was successful and we won both our games. Thank you once again.' - Sam Dowsett

Social Networking



This year we joined Facebook to harness the power of social networking to motivate the residents of the Borough to become more physically active. Become a friend with 'What's Happening Barrow-Sports' and you will get to know everything about Sports and Physical Activity in the area. You can also sign up for our free weekly email newsletter.

Go to the home page of our website or email emma.broadbent@cumbria.gov.uk

Help and Assistance

If any clubs or organisations require any help, assistance or further information on any aspect of sports development or Barrow Borough Sports Council, please contact:

Chris Athersmith Sports Development Officer on:
cathersmith@barrowbc.gov.uk 01229 845927

Derek Brook Area Engagement Officer on:
derek.brook@cumbria.gov.uk 01229 407575