

Case Study – Fox Hollies Fencing Club

Amount Granted: £ 5,000 (Grassroots Birmingham – Date Completed: February 2010)

The Fox Hollies Fencing Club Project:

Fox Hollies Fencing Club was set up 20 years ago and attracts young fencers from local schools and adults from the local area. This minority, yet Olympic sport, receives little attention. However, the club has seen a regular stream of young fencers who have gone on to national and international success. To us fencing is: fun, in a social environment, it provides fitness, it's competitive, accessible discipline and a skill we love to share through teaching!

Total number of people benefiting from this project: 34 (24 boys & 10 girls)



Area of Benefit: South Birmingham

Why was the project needed?

Since the club was created, no new equipment had been purchased as there were no funds to accommodate this. The equipment was worn out, unsafe and restrictive, therefore the fencers were unable to improve skills and their kit was in a really bad state.

The difference the project has made:

The funds have enabled us to fence safely. It has also meant that the current fencers have been keen to introduce their friends to this sport, confident in the knowledge that they will be safe and in a strong position to progress further in fencing. This has also meant that new fencers have been introduced to the sport from the local vicinity and they are enjoying the benefits that fencing brings.

We have also been able to purchase one set of electric fencing equipment, which the club has never had before. This has created a real buzz for the fencers, as this is a treat in itself. We have seen a huge influx of new fencers since September!

Quote:

"The Birmingham Community Foundation has given us at Fox Hollies Fencing Club the ability learn fencing in a safe environment to a high standard. With my new kit I feel more enthusiastic about fencing and telling my friends to come!"

(Stuart, Fencing club member)

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