



**MAIN GRANTS PROGRAMME**  
(for applications to a maximum value of £2,500)  
**APPLICATION FORM**

Name of organisation	Neston Swimming Club
Official address (if applicable)	

	First contact	Second contact
Name	Alan Radford	Rachel Allinson
Position	Chair	Secretary
Address		
Telephone		
Email		

Does your organisation have a named bank account with a minimum of two signatories?	YES	yes
	NO	

Registration status (if applicable)	
Charity Commission registration number	na
Companies House registration number	na

Your organisation	
What does your organisation do?	Neston Swimming Club is a members club at the heart of Neston. We develop swimmers of all ages (currently from 8 to 57 years of age) and currently have 60 members. We swim three times a week at Neston Brio. Our aim is to improve swimming style, stamina, strength and mental wellbeing. Some of our swimmers go on to compete in regional galas. Crucially all our club committee and our Swim England registered coaches are volunteers.
How does your organisation benefit the local community? Please include a specific example.	NSC has been providing regular, local and affordable access to quality swim training in the Neston area for well over 20 years. As well as the obvious physical benefits to our swimmers, our club has a strong social and resilience focus. We were especially proud of the amazing work of the committee to develop COVID control measures which allowed the club to resume training early in 2020 after lockdown. This provided vital physical and mental support to our

	swimmers at a time when many other sporting opportunities were still shut down.
How many people benefit directly from the work of your organisation (itemise numbers of members, volunteers and service users)?	We currently have 61 members, three swim england level 2 coaches (volunteers), five volunteer committee members (chair, secretary, membership, finance and team manager), and an independent safe-guarding officer.
What activities, events or services has your organisation provided in Neston during the last 12 months?	We provide three training sessions a week for all our members (Wednesday 19.30-21.30), Friday (19.30-21.30) and Sunday (8.00-9.00). In addition our swimmers can, and regularly do, compete in our own local Penninsula Galas (against other Wirral Clubs) and regional galas. We also host swim-related social events as a way to further grow the confidence of our swimmers.
What activities, events or services does your organisation plan to provide in Neston for the next 12 months?	As above. In addition some of our senior swimmers (aged 14-18) will be taking part in a sub-aqua diving experience as another way of developing their skill set.

Your project	
Project title	Training a new cohort of younger volunteer coaches.
Amount requested	£1500
Project start date	1st November 2024
Project end date	31st October 2025
Describe your project	<p>Each swimming session has to be run by an adult coach qualified to Swim England Level 2. With Neston Council support we will develop our most dedicated young swimmers as teaching assistance (level 1) coaches. This has many advantages both for the wider club and the individual swimmers concerned. For the club it will help our level 2 coaches give greater support to individual swimmers attending each session (typically 20 swimmers a session). For the young people, becoming a level 1 coach will be a reward for their consistent swimming, develop their confidence as they learn to coach, and give them a valuable life skill for the rest of their lives.</p> <p>The funds we request will allow us to pay for four of our members aged 16 and over, who have swum with the club for at least a year, to train as level 1 coaching assistants. This course requires</p>

	<p>approximately five days of preparation and includes both theoretical and poolside examinations. The cost is usually £400 per person. More details if needed are available from SwimEngland here <a href="https://www.swimming.org/ios/course-information/swim-england-swimming-assistant-coaching/">https://www.swimming.org/ios/course-information/swim-england-swimming-assistant-coaching/</a>. Each new coach will receive a "coaching assistant" club teeshirt to wear proudly at training sessions that will also recognise support from Neston Council.</p>
List the main objectives of your project	To provide financial support for four dedicated swimmers aged 16 or over to train as SwimEngland level1 coaches.
Explain how each main objective will be achieved.	Swimmers eligible for this Neston "bursary" will have swum with the club for at least 1 year, will be of good standing in the club, and be aged 16 years or over.
Provide a timeline for implementation of your project.	Coaching training sessions are held regularly throughout the year by approved providers. We might hope our first coach would be trained before Christmas 2024 if a suitable course near to Neston can be found.
Detail the evidence that proves why this project is needed.	<p>Each of our club swimming sessions has to be run by a level 2 Swim England coach. We have three of these level 2 coaches that as volunteers cover approximately 150 training sessions a year. It does mean we often have only one coach a session, which typically may have between 20 and 30 swimmers at it. Such a coach to swimmer ratio can limit our ability to give the 1-1 support that may sometimes be necessary, especially to those newer swimmers or those with more special needs. Providing a cadre of Level 1 coaching assistants will transform these sessions.</p> <p>A second evidence comes from our membership. Many swimmers start with us when still in primary school but most, especially those not going on to compete at higher levels, leave around 15-16 years of age. We believe that providing a new development opportunity as a level 1 coach will give another reason for our more senior children to stay and further develop their wider skills.</p>
Please demonstrate how the people who will benefit from your project, with lived	Our most dedicated swimmers over 16 will be the ones that will train as coaches.

experience of the issues tackled, have been involved in its development and how they will be involved in its delivery.	Three of these swimmers are already regularly volunteering as unofficial helpers and two have already expressed a keen interest in this opportunity to formally train.	
What difference will your project make to the lives of the people who will benefit from it and how will you measure its legacy?	<p>Having, for the first time, a cohort of young level 1 coaches in our club will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- allow us to make coaching sessions more individualised to our all swimmers</li> <li>- provide a role model for our younger swimmers that if they stay with swimming they too could become a coach</li> <li>- provide training to up to four level 1 coaches and the associated resilience and confidence that will bring to them</li> </ul> <p>We will count the number of level 1 coaches, measure the number of sessions they attend, and ask them to write about their experiences on the club website <a href="https://neston.cluborganiser.co.uk/">https://neston.cluborganiser.co.uk/</a>.</p>	
How many people do you estimate will benefit from your project?	Direct beneficiaries	4 (the level 1 coaches)
	Volunteers	70 including our club swimmers, level 2 coaches and committee
If you aim for your project to carry on in the future, how will you ensure it continues after the funding from this application has been used?	Our aim is to offer this opportunity in future years as our younger swimmers reach 16. We are developing a new club sponsorship offering which includes sponsoring coaches as one of our priorities. We also hope that we can fund some from club membership fees although we are keen to keep membership fees as low as possible to encourage the widest demographic can benefit from club membership.	

Breakdown of project costs	
Description of expenditure	Amount £
4 x Swim England Level 1 coaching courses@ ~£375 per session	1500

<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST (do not include in-kind costs)</b>	1500

<b>Sources of project funding and in-kind support</b>	
Have you secured any other funding for your project? If so, where from?	Amount
We are seeking sponsorship for subsequent years	na
Description of in-kind assistance secured (eg volunteer hours or donated equipment)	Amount (what is the financial conversion for this in-kind help?)
All of our coaches work as volunteers. Our new level 1 coaches will still pay their membership fee, although we hope to reduce this a little (they can't swim and coach at the same time!). Any time they spend coaching will be as a volunteer. Their time will not be contracted but we are asking they try to coach at atleast one session a week.	Not easy to put a value on this. But if we had to pay our coaches £10 an hour and we had two at every session, that would add up to £5000 per year.

<b>Financial information about your organisation (last financial year)</b>	
What was the date of your last financial year end?	31st March 2024
What was your organisation's income in the last financial year?	£32715 (£20602 fees and a one off sponsorship of £12073 for MBNA bank).
Did your organisation have a surplus or deficit for the last financial year?	Surplus £8964 - this is largely made up of the remains of the MBNA sponsorship and is committed to pay for additional poolside equipment (clocks, diving blocks, white boards)
	Deficit £
What were your organisation's unrestricted reserves at the end of the last financial year?	£1295

<b>Financial information about your organisation (current financial year)</b>
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Are you projecting a surplus or deficit for the current financial year?	We recently have made a small deficit to shrink our reserve and to keep fees as low as possible. We now aim to grow the club membership in this coming financial year so income and expenditure balance and a reserve of approximately £3000 can be maintained to allow for changes in expenditure - most likely in pool hire fees. Projected deficit £
What are your organisation's projected unrestricted reserves for the end of the current financial year?	£3000

Previous grant support from Neston Town Council		
Please detail below previous grant support that your organisation has received from Neston Town Council during the past five years		
Date of grant award	Purpose of grant award	Amount
na		

The Town Council's funding priorities	
We look for projects that support the funding priorities detailed in the Town Council's Grants Policy. Which of these priorities does your project support?	
To enable local people to participate in voluntary groups and activities.	x
To help the Neston area's voluntary and community groups to improve the impact on the community.	x
To ensure the provision of services, needed by the residents of the Neston area, via the voluntary sector.	
To support organisations which meet the needs of people experiencing social and economic difficulties.	
To ensure that there is equality of access and opportunity for all Neston area residents to the services it provides and funds.	x
To improve or enhance the local environment.	

Checklist	
Latest annual accounts	x
Copies of written estimates or catalogue pages (if applicable)	
Policies for the protection of children and/or vulnerable adults (if applicable)	available at <a href="https://neston.cluborganiser.co.uk/codes-of-conduct/">https://neston.cluborganiser.co.uk/codes-of-conduct/</a>

Declaration	
1.	I am authorised to make the application on behalf of the above organisation.
2.	I have read Neston Town Council's Grants Policy and Funding Agreement.
3.	I certify that the information in this application is correct.
4.	If the information in the application changes in any way I will inform Neston Town Council.
5.	I confirm that our organisation has the necessary governance in place to ensure accountability for the spending of any grant money allocated by Neston Town Council.
6.	I understand that information provided in this application (with the exception of contact details and signatures) will be in the public domain and will be uploaded to the Town Council's website.
7.	I agree to participate in monitoring, auditing and reporting feedback related to Neston Town Council grant funding.
Name	Alan Radford (NSC chair)
Signature	
Date	22nd September 2024

Applications to the main grants programme are considered twice a year and the deadlines for submission of applications are **31 March** and **30 September**.

You can submit your application electronically to [council@nestontowncouncil.org.uk](mailto:council@nestontowncouncil.org.uk) or by post to Neston Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Neston CH64 9TR.

## NESTON TOWN COUNCIL PRIVACY NOTICE FOR APPLICANTS TO THE TOWN COUNCIL'S GRANTS PROGRAMME

The Data Protection Act 2018 governs how we handle personal data.

### Why are we collecting your information?

On our grant application forms most of the information we need relates to your organisation. However, we are often provided with names, email addresses, contact telephone numbers and addresses relating to named individuals who are submitting the form on behalf of the group. We are processing the data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. We will only use the personal data supplied for the means of administering the grants programme.

### How will we use your information?

The information you provide to us in connection with your grant application (including personal contact details) will be held securely as hard copy originals and as electronic data on Neston Town Council's shared drive. We will only use this information to assess, process and award community grants. For those successful in obtaining a grant award, we will use information about the project in publicity to promote the grants programme but will not share any personal data. If we want to use any photographs showing people at your events we will ensure we gain consent from them at the time in order to use images of them.

### **Who will we share your information with?**

The information may be shared with other Council Officers and Town Councillors as part of our grant assessment and monitoring process. A redacted version of your grant application (removing private addresses, private telephone numbers, private email addresses and applicant signatures) will be considered at a grants meeting and, as such, will be uploaded to the Town Council website alongside other papers detailed on the agenda. Your contact details will not be passed on to third parties. Please note that Neston Town Council is subject to the Freedom of Information Act and other legislation.

### **How long will we keep your information?**

Information from successful applicants will be retained for the current financial year plus six years. A redacted version of the grant application uploaded to the website as a meeting paper will be available to view for an indefinite period (private addresses, private telephone numbers, private email addresses and applicant signatures are redacted).

Information from unsuccessful grant applicants will be kept for 12 months from the point of application. A redacted version of the grant application uploaded to the website as a meeting paper will be available to view for an indefinite period (private addresses, private telephone numbers, private email addresses and applicant signatures are redacted).