



Tyne, Wear & Northumberland Area

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

SCOPE OF REPORT

This is the report of the CSSC Tyne, Wear and Northumberland (TWN) Area Association Committee for the period 1 January to 31 December 2023.

TWN is an Area of the CSSC without facilities. Any CSSC member who works or lives within the NE, SR1-7 or TD12 & 15 postal districts is a member of the TWN Area.

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT	-	Alan Fisher
VICE PRESIDENT	-	Peter Lawson

OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN	-	David Wells
VICE CHAIRMAN	-	Joanne Lockey
SECRETARY	-	Tim Cook
TREASURER	-	Sheila Ramsay
ASSISTANT TREASURER	-	Frankie Jones
SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICER	-	Jackie Ilderton

MEETINGS

TWN's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 31st March 2023 at Tyneside Irish Centre.

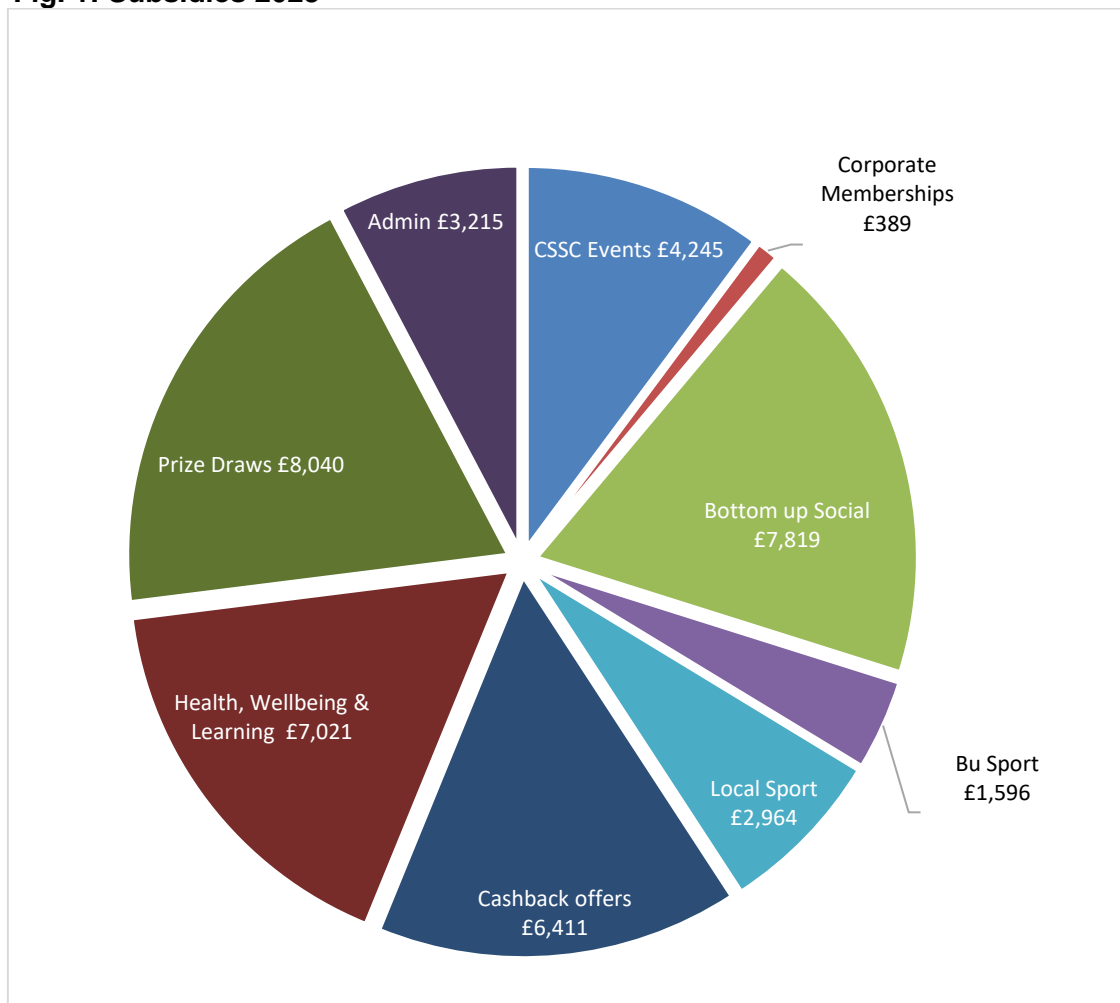
During the year, the Management Committee met five times, and the Sports & Social sub-Committee met three times. The Finance Committee met twice.

AREA FINANCES

We are awarded a grant from CSSC Head Office which was originally based on the number of CSSC members it has recorded as living and working in the TWN area. Half way through the year this changed to a bid system and TWN were successful in obtaining more grant overall than was originally allocated. In total the area was awarded £47,448 in 2023 (2022: £38,418). Together with reserves brought forward from the previous year, and a small amount of bank interest, we had a total of £47,448 to spend on behalf of our members. We spent £44,186 (2022: £38,208) and were able to carry forward reserves of £5,185.

A full set of accounts for the year to 31 December 2023 is available on the CSSC website.

Fig. 1: Subsidies 2023



SOCIAL EVENTS - £4,245 (2022: £6,325)

TWN subsidised many activities during the year, including some Newcastle United fixtures, some cricket matches, wine tasting, many trips to the theatre including the pantomime, and various craft classes.

Unfortunately a successful 2022/23 season for Newcastle United meant that we weren't offered as many tickets for games in the second half of the year.



CASHBACK OFFERS - £6,411(2022: £5,525)

TWN runs two very popular cashback offers. The Theatre, Show and Music Concert cashback runs throughout the year and we were able to offer a cashback to 470 members. The Santa cashback covers any Christmas themed event and is open to members and their children. In 2023 we were able to offer a cashback to 219 members and 206 children.

BOTTOM UP APPLICATIONS (BUs) - £9,415 (2022: £10,853)

We subsidised 873 members attending a number of sporting and social events designed to get members together. Activities included meals out, golfing events, trips away and Christmas get togethers.

HEALTH , WELLBEING & LEARNING - £7,021 (2022: £5529)

TWN received 227 applications from members, each of whom received a subsidy of up to 35% towards their health, Wellbeing and Learning activities. Examples of activities claimed for include memberships of gyms and slimming clubs, piano lessons and pottery classes.

SPORTING ACTIVITIES – £2,964 (2022: £3,257)

Over 40s Football

CSSC Darsley Park continues to be a thriving over 40s Football Team with more than 20 players signed on and actively involved. The team play in the First Division of the Sunderland and District over 40s League, which is a reasonable standard.



The 22/23 season saw them in the final of the Divisional Cup, only to lose to the eventual league winners. The team finished midway in the league.



The 23/24 season has so far been ravaged by game postponements due to the weather. However, they are currently sitting comfortably in mid table with games in hand, as well as still being in the Divisional Cup.

Anyone interested in joining should contact Mark.shearer@talktalk.net

Cricket

The first XI side played in Division 5 south of the Northumberland & Tyneside Cricket League and were looking to consolidate on a positive season in 2022. Unfortunately, the season wasn't a promotion push and ended with the team finishing comfortably in mid table winning 6 of the 22 games scheduled, losing 9 and having 7 washed out due to the weather. Throughout the season there were some excellent team performances, including beating sides that finished 3rd and 4th in the Division. Also, some excellent individual performances with a new player Siva Pasupuleti accumulating the most runs and Prateek Dubey taking most wickets during the league campaign. In the coming season the side have been moved into Division 5 North which will involve slightly more travelling for the side however there is hope that a promotion push to Division 4 can materialise.

The 2nd XI side played in Division 6 South of the Northumberland & Tyneside Cricket League and were looking to follow up their productive 2022 season with another productive season. The Division has some extremely strong sides in it, however the 2nd XI played competitive cricket throughout the season and finished 6th out of 10 sides, winning 6 and losing 9 of the 22 scheduled games, with 7 being washed out due to the weather. Again there were some outstanding individual performances with Teja Patil scoring a superb 165 against Clara Vale, which was the second highest individual score in the Division and Paul Woodley taking 8 wickets for 6 runs in the same game, the best bowling performance for the season in Division 6 South. Again in the 2024 season there is hope that the side can play competitive cricket throughout the season against some excellent sides.

The midweek side, after being relegated to Division 2 of the North East Midweek League, bounced back and achieved promotion by finishing 2nd in that Division. Throughout the season the side played some excellent cricket and looking forward to carrying that on for the 2024 season where the aim is to remain in Division 1 where they will come up against some excellent midweek sides.

The 3rd XI/Sunday team played around 10 games and again were used to ensure players not selected on a Saturday where getting games of cricket where they had a chance to play competitive cricket and when performances were strong on a Sunday they were then given an opportunity to perform on a Saturday in the 2nd XI in following weeks.

The preparation for the 2024 season is well underway with indoor nets taking place on a Sunday and Wednesday evening. We have had a good turnout at these sessions with a few new players turning up and a lot of existing players which bodes well and will mean we have

a large pool to select from for the coming season. The main aims are for the 1st XI to push for promotion, the 2nd XI to play competitive cricket throughout and the midweek side to remain in Division 1 of the Midweek League. Although our home ground is unavailable for 8 fixtures this season we have got a ground for 7 of those Saturdays and are currently working on the remaining week with ground availability in the area continuing to be an issue with more and more Saturday teams starting up and joining the league structure.

Anyone interested in joining the club can contact them via <https://csnorthumberland.play-cricket.com/Teams/8445>

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP - £389 (2022: £1,154)

TWN has a corporate deal with Doxford Hall Spa in Northumberland which is very popular with members. We also buy discounted tickets to the Eagles basketball matches, which we sell to members at a subsidised price.

PRIZE DRAWS - £8,040 (2022: £7033)

We offer a free prize draw for tickets to sporting events (Newcastle Eagles, Falcons Rugby, Durham CC, Newcastle and Sunderland matches). We also have a prize draw for Newcastle and Sedgfield Races, Theatre vouchers, a Spa Day and an afternoon tea.

CSSC TWN CARAVAN

The TWN Caravan at Seafield Caravan Park in Seahouses was always very popular, and we had plans to replace it. However, as corporate responsibility fell upon the volunteers who administered the bookings, and the Management Committee as owners, this was a responsibility that we as volunteers were not prepared to bear, therefore we took the reluctant decision to sell the caravan. At present we have a ring-fenced 'caravan' fund of £55,999 (made up of the sales proceeds and reserves accumulated over the years of ownership). We have plans on how this money may be spent and we are currently awaiting Head Office Approval for those plans.

VICE CHAIR'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that the TWN Committee was awarded a Certificate of Achievement by Matt Bazeley, CSSC's Chief Executive Officer, at the Regional Conference in November 2023. This has been a busy year for your TWN committee and we wouldn't have been able to give our 5000+ members the amazing cashback deals and events without our dedicated team of volunteers. Over the last 12 months we have had 15 committee members, covering our 3 committees – the Management Committee (11 members), the Sports and Social committee (11 members) and the Finance Committee (4 members).

The members of the committee were, until recently, David Wells (Chair), Sheila Ramsay (Treasurer), Tim Cook (Secretary), Jackie Ilderton, Jim Cleave, Dave Scanlan, Anna Thompson, Sioban Heywood, Eileen Thomas, Frankie Jones, Sarah Baverstock, Jamie Butt, Aruna Udawatte and Gerry Donnelly. The committee members organise events, issue newsletters, administer prize draws and pay subsidy claims, it's a lot of work from a small team and if you would like to find out more, or even better, help out, please contact Tim Cook.

Our thanks go to Laura Hugill, Anna Thompson and Lesley Ilderton, for the hours that they put in administering our cashback subsidies – Bottoms Up, Health, Wellbeing and Learning, and Theatre, Concert & Events.

We have 7 volunteers covering our 9 prize draws. A big thanks to Steve Foster who organises the NUFC prize draw, Ian Briton, who until recently administered the SAFC prize draw and to Emma Hunter who administered the Skinnypigs vouchers until the scheme ended in 2023.

I would like to give special thanks to two of our members, Masood Mohammed and Vicki Thompson, who regularly organise events and sort out reduced-price entry to football and cricket matches, and concerts.

I'd also like to say a huge thank you to Dave Scanlan and Eileen Thomas, who are the most recent caravan administrators and did the most amazing job of looking after the caravan until it's sale at the end of the last season.

Our president, Alan Fisher, has decided to step down this year, and we would like to thank him for his years of service to the CSSC. Congratulations to Peter Lawson who has agreed to be President in his place.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognise the volunteering efforts of David Wells who until recently had been our chairman for many years and a committee member before that. Saying thanks isn't enough to recognise the amount of time David spent organising events, administering schemes and chairing committees. The current Committee members are grateful for the time that David dedicated to TWN and the Region. His knowledge and commitment to getting and giving the best deals to members will truly be missed and we wish him well in his new volunteering roles.

Joanne Lockey