

PRESS RELEASE

GLL TO SUPPORT ATHLETES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

GLL Sport Foundation Applications Open 20th December 2018

GLL – the UK's largest leisure charitable social enterprise - has once again shown its commitment to improving health, wellbeing and opportunity in the communities it works in, by supporting the next generation of athletes to the tune of £1.5 million, via The GLL Sport Foundation (GSF). Now in its eleventh year, GSF's latest investment in today's and tomorrow's athletes will take its total support to £10.7 million.

The GLL Sport Foundation supports athletes across 73 areas of the UK. Eligible athletes can benefit from financial support, physiotherapy, gym memberships at GLL's Better facilities and more. Applications for the programme are open from **December 20th 2018 until February 20th 2019** and athletes from the **Chiltern** area are encouraged to apply. Last year, the GLL Sport Foundation supported 64 local athletes in 2018

Supported athlete Mari Durward-Akhurst (Para Equestrian) – “My long term goal is to compete at the Paralympics in Tokyo 2020 and beyond and to win a gold medal. Being supported by the GLL Sport Foundation has helped me to develop further as an athlete and my results are evidence of this. The free access to the gym and swimming pool has been brilliant and has allowed me to go swimming and to the gym on a regular basis.”

The GLL Sport Foundation is the UK's largest independent athlete support programme. Since the programme launched in 2008, it has provided over 16,000 athlete awards at a total support value of £9.2 million by 2018. 72% of supported athletes were aged under 21 and the programme supports athletes across all Olympic, Paralympic, Deaflympic and Special Olympic sports. Most importantly 90% of the athletes supported do not receive any other funding.

GLL Sport Foundation Patron Sally Gunnell explains the role the programme has to play: “The support from the GLL Sport Foundation is essential for young athletes, and can sometimes be the difference between being talented, and taking the sport up to the elite level. I have experienced first hand the financial struggle of being on the fringes of elite sport, and support programmes such as the GLL Sport Foundation relieve some of the burden so that more time can be spent on performing at the highest level possible”.

Athletes from across the UK can apply for support through the GLL Sport Foundation via the online portal at: www.gllsportfoundation.org. Applications close 20th February 2019.

GSF works with partners: SportsAid, Mary Peters Trust and SportsAid Wales to provide tangible support for Britain's next crop of talented athletes.

END

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzfRw8pwHKs&t=9s>

Images:

Local Athlete Image – associated to quote

HELPING ATHLETES ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL

APPLICATIONS OPEN
FROM 20TH DECEMBER 2016
UNTIL 20TH FEBRUARY 2017

The GLL Sport Foundation provides athletes with financial, training and sport science support. Apply now, become part of the largest independent athlete support programme in the UK and let us support your athlete journey.

Find out more and apply online at
www.gllsportfoundation.org

Dina Asher-Smith Team GB athlete, Rio 2016 Olympic Games
4x100m relay bronze medallist and supported ambassador



BETTER
the feel good place

Better is a registered trademark and trading name of GLL (Greenwich Leisure Limited), a charitable social enterprise and registered society under the Co-operative & Community Benefit & Societies Act 2014 registration no 277930. Registered office: Middlegate House, The Royal Arsenal, London, SE18 6SX. Inland Revenue Charity no: 10943369

2018 Application Image

Notes to the editor:

- GLL is a charitable social enterprise that manages sport and leisure venues in partnership with local authority and public service organisations
- The GLL Sport Foundation is a subsidiary organisation of GLL
- The GLL Sport Foundation was launched at the House of Commons in 2008
- The GLL Sport Foundation operates under the patronage of Sally Gunnell – OBE
- The GLL Sport Foundation is funded by:

* 1st Tier Sponsors:

- [GLL](#) – *leisure's most successful social enterprise*
- [Technogym](#) – *the wellness company*

* 2nd Tier Sponsors:

- [Selecta](#) – *vending services*
- [Zurich](#) – *insurance based financial services*

* 3rd Tier Sponsors:

- [Communis](#) – *communication channelled*
- [Annodata](#) – *business systems*
- [Insite](#) – *flexible IT services delivered*
- [Taylor Made Designs](#) – *branded solutions*
- [Pumps & Motors UK Ltd](#) – *services to industry*
- [Lyreco](#) – *office and work solutions*
- [Brenntag](#) – *Global market leader in chemical distribution*

* Sport Science Partners:

Belfast – Ulster University and Rebound Physiotherapy
Central England – Gosling Sports Park – The Physiotherapy Clinic
London - Middlesex University & London Sport Institute and Crystal Palace Physiotherapy Group
North England – The Osborne Clinic, Newcastle
South West England – University of Bath – Physio & Sport Science Centre
West England – Highworth Physiotherapy Clinic, Swindon
Cardiff – Sports Medicine Physiotherapy Clinic, Cardiff Metropolitan University
Cornwall Physio - Cornwall

- The GLL Sport Foundation works in partnership with SportsAid, SportsAid Wales and Mary Peters Trust to co-ordinate talent identification and national governing body funding recommendations.
- The GLL Sport Foundation works in partnership with local authority and public sector athlete support programmes.
- Links: www.gllsportfoundation.org, [@gllsf](https://www.instagram.com/gllsf), [@GLLSportFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/GLLSportFoundation)