

Weekly Sessions

Our Saturday sessions (**Danceboogiefit** 1.45-2.30 pm, **Children Multi-Sport Fun** 2.30-3.30 pm, and **Chill Out Club** 3.30-4.30 pm) will run as usual throughout the Autumn until **7th December**. The **Adult Multi-Sports Session** on Sunday 1-4 pm will also be running until **15th December**. We will not be running on the Sunday of the Glasgow Santa Dash (date to be confirmed) nor the Saturday of the pantomime trip (see below). The Wednesday Walking Group will continue for a few more weeks, weather depending!

Next Training Block

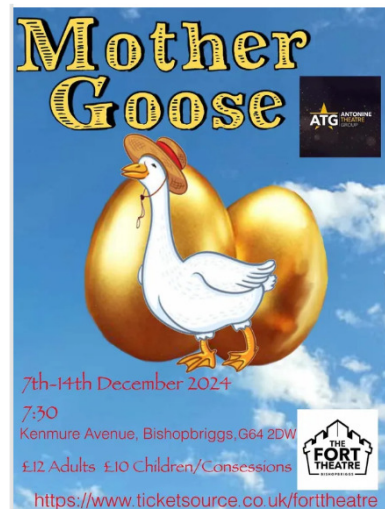
The focus for our next block of training will be on netball, starting Saturday 21st September. Please note that the session on **Sunday 22nd September will start at 1.30pm** to accommodate staff training.



We hope everyone enjoyed the football skills development sessions, which finish on the weekend of 14/15th September.

Pantomime Trip

We will be going to see Mother Goose, performed by the Antonine Theatre Group at the Fort Theatre in Bishopbriggs, on **Saturday 14th December at 1pm**. This means that there will be no sessions at the Leisure Centre that day. Look out for a letter with further details to book your seat!



And get your outfits ready for the **Halloween Party** on **Saturday 26th October 2.30-4pm**

Sponsorships:

The Sporting Aces would like to say a massive thank you to **CODA Estates** for their ongoing sponsorship.

If you are a local business who would like to hear more about our **new sponsorship scheme**, then please email office.thesportingaces@yahoo.com

Funding News

For the past three years our main weekend sessions have been funded by a National Lottery grant. Other activities such as holiday camps, trips and social events have been funded by individual one-off grants and fundraising events such as The Kilt Walk and Santa Dash. Although we have been lucky enough to raise enough money to do all the activities that we want through the hard work of our participants and families as well as our staff and Trustees, we have had to spend a lot of time identifying and applying for small pots of money, making it difficult to make longer-term plans for The Sporting Aces.

In March this year, our National Lottery grant came to an end, which started a flurry of activity for the Trustees. Every year during the funding period they had to provide a report to the funders explaining how the money was being spent and providing evidence that this was of value, which is where all the feedback forms and suggestions from our participants and families was essential. But at the end of the funding period a much larger report was needed, covering the whole three years, and this led to a lot of head scratching as we tried to remember everything that we had done!

Once this was completed we turned our attention to funding for the next three years. We know that people enjoy the weekend sessions but also that the holiday camps and social trips and events are really popular too and we wanted to try to make sure that we can continue with all of these activities. We decided to apply to the National Lottery “Improving Lives” scheme, which is a 16-page form so, armed with our participant and family feedback and a lot of coffee, we responded to the following questions:

1. **What do you want to use this funding for?** An easy one to start with! We explained who The Sporting Aces are and all the activities that we want to run including weekend sessions, walking groups, holiday camps, summer daytrips, and other social events.
2. **Why do you want to do this?** We described some of the challenges that our members face, particularly coming out of COVID lockdown, and how our activities help with some of these. We used lots of the great quotes that we’ve had from feedback forms and recordings in this section.
3. **How will you involve people in the development and running of your activity?** We described how you give us regular feedback and suggestions, how you are all involved in fundraising to help support our activities, and we talked about the Volunteer Pathway scheme that many of our current volunteers have come through.
4. **How will you build on the strengths of the people participating in your activity?** We talked about the amazing enthusiasm and commitment of our participants, the endless support from their families, and the skills of our volunteers and staff and well as the oversight of the Trustees.
5. **How will you connect with other organisations in your area?** We explained about our links with local schools and East Dunbartonshire council as well as many other organisations such as the Lawn Tennis Association, Disability Sport, and Sport Scotland.

6. **Tell us about the skills and expertise you have to deliver your activity?** We described the qualifications and skills of our brilliant coaches, multisport assistants and volunteers, and we talked about future training that would help us to expand our range of sports and activities.

And then we provided a full breakdown of all the money that we would need including equipment, staff costs, hall hire, training courses, and external trips and activities to name but a few.

We submitted the form and budgets with fingers crossed and a few weeks later, as Chairperson of The Board of Trustees, I was interviewed by the National Lottery to talk through some of the points in more detail. This was the last year of the “Improving Lives” scheme making it even more competitive than usual and we were aware that, even when applications are successful, most are only awarded a proportion of what they ask for. But eventually, after a few sleepless nights, we got our results ...

... thanks to The National Lottery, The Sporting Aces is funded for another three years and, supported by our usual fundraising activities, we can run all of our sessions, clubs and events. So thank you to our Trustees, our Treasurer, our Office Assistant, and all of our Staff and Volunteers. And, of course, to all of you for coming along every week ready to get involved and have fun, to our families for their help and support, and to everyone who provides feedback – it won’t be long until our first-year report is due and we need lots of quotes to include!

Paul Mulheran
Chairperson



The Sporting Aces receives a number of grants from various funding bodies, and we regularly apply for funding on an ongoing basis. However, our current income is not enough to cover our full running costs, and to allow us to continue to run all of our free weekly sessions. If you would like to help The Sporting Aces, then why not become a **Friend of The Sporting Aces**?

In exchange for a monthly donation of your choice, you will receive electronic **newsletters** telling you what we have been up to, invitations to our **charity events**, and one of our **limited edition The Sporting Aces mugs**. Please contact office.thesportingaces@yahoo.com for more information.