



Press Release

For immediate release

As Scotland prepares for the World Cup a project to save the nation's less high-profile sporting achievements is launching

A national initiative to map, protect and promote Scotland's sporting archives is getting underway after securing support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The Lind Foundation SCIO has been awarded £182,829 for Supporting Scotland's Sporting Heritage a project to secure collections at risk, make them more accessible, and deepen public understanding of Scotland's rich sporting history.

Supporting Scotland's Sporting Heritage will work with sports organisations, clubs and communities throughout Scotland.

Kiara King, Director and Archivist at The Ballast Trust (operating name of the Lind Foundation SCIO), said:

"I'm delighted that, thanks to National Lottery players, vital archive surveying work for Scotland's sporting collections will be delivered in this two-year project. We're excited to realise the potential surveying has as a tool to safeguard archives and engage communities with their sporting heritage."

Safeguarding Scotland's Sporting Story

Supporting Scotland's Sporting Heritage has been created to prevent the loss of sporting records of significant historical value. The project will identify collections at risk, find appropriate archival homes for them, and raise the national profile of Scotland's sporting heritage.

Caroline Clark The National Lottery Heritage Fund Director for Scotland said: "Sport reaches every corner of Scotland and our nation's sporting archives contain an incredible record of people, places and events giving us new perspectives on the wider social history of communities.

“Heritage engagement and research elements of this project will be vital to recording and preserving these archives, while increasing our understanding of their historic importance and interest.”

A new Sporting Archives Surveying Officer will conduct surveys across Scotland, working directly with sporting organisations, clubs, and communities to develop a clearer understanding of what records exist, where they are located, and how they can be accessed. This work will produce a comprehensive picture of Scotland’s sporting archival landscape.

A complementary programme of public engagement, led by a Heritage Engagement Officer, will share discoveries through promotional events, community activities, skills workshops, and a national research-sharing conference.

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Project Partners and National Impact

The project is overseen by The Ballast Trust, which has funded and managed Scotland’s Business Archives Surveying Officer since 2014. Its delivery will be supported by project partners: the National Library of Scotland, Sporting Heritage UK, and the University of Stirling.

Through extensive surveying and community engagement, SSSH will create sustainable, national-scale resources and data for Scotland’s sporting collections—benefitting custodians, researchers, and the public alike.

Additional partner quotes

Rachel Beattie, Land and Sport Curator, National Library of Scotland, said:

“The Library is delighted to be involved in a project that will help discover and protect the sporting heritage of Scotland. Sporting archives are crucial in understanding the social and cultural history of the nation, and we believe this project will be invaluable in ensuring the long-term protection of these records and the stories they contain.”

Dr Justine Reilly, Sporting Heritage, said:

“This is such an important project, and we are absolutely delighted to be one of the key delivery partners. Sporting heritage has often been hidden or ignored, and as a result many sporting archives are in desperate need of care and attention. This project will provide crucial support to understand and preserve these collections, as well as engage

new audiences with them. Crucially, it will enable Scotland's unique and amazing sporting heritage to be celebrated and create a model for future activity."

Karl Magee, University Archivist, University of Stirling, said:

"We are delighted that the National Lottery Heritage Fund has demonstrated its support for Scotland's sporting heritage by funding this project. Our work with the archives of Commonwealth Games Scotland has highlighted the huge value and importance of sporting heritage, and we are excited to join the other partners in making a lasting contribution to preserving and celebrating it."

"2026 is a huge year for sport in Scotland with the Commonwealth Games returning to Glasgow and the men's football team qualifying for the World Cup. This project will provide an important historical backdrop to the sporting drama that will unfold throughout the year."

Follow the Project

Supporting Scotland's Sporting Heritage will share updates and run events throughout its two-year programme.

Sign up for news at: www.surveyingofficer.co.uk/SSSH

Notes to Editors

Project Partners

The Ballast Trust

The Ballast Trust (operating name of the Lind Foundation SCIO) is an archive processing centre based in Johnstone, Renfrewshire. Established by William Lind in 1988, it specialises in the rescue, sorting and cataloguing of technical and industrial records. The Trust is supported by a large team of volunteers and celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2018.

National Library of Scotland

The National Library of Scotland holds significant sporting archive collections across a wide range of sports and has extensive experience assessing, listing and making these materials publicly available. It also delivers an active programme of public events focused on sporting history.

Sporting Heritage

Sporting Heritage is the UK's sector support organisation for all those working with sporting collections. It maps and assesses sporting records, empowers their custodians, and works to ensure sporting heritage is protected and removed from risk.

University of Stirling Archives & Special Collections

The University of Stirling holds one of Scotland's largest collections of sporting archives, with a special focus on the Commonwealth Games and its associated sports.

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Our vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future. That's why as the largest funder for the UK's heritage we are dedicated to supporting projects that connect people and communities to heritage, as set out in our strategic plan, [Heritage 2033](#).

Heritage can be anything from the past that people value and want to pass on to future generations. We believe in the power of heritage to ignite the imagination, offer joy and inspiration, and to build pride in place and connection to the past.

Over the next 10 years, we aim to invest £3.6billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to make a decisive difference for people, places and communities.
heritagefund.org.uk

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Further Information

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Optional images available on request; credit information provided as required.