

Abbotts Ann Parish Council Funding Request Form

Project Title	Chip Timing Project for Muddy Runners
Date	03/01/2021
Requesting Group	Muddy Runners
Corporate Entity	Charity/Limited Company/Informal Group <i>(delete as applicable)</i> Other: Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) <i>(please specify)</i>
Description of project	We would like to invest in chip timing equipment, to allow us to time our races using modern day technology. We currently organise races on behalf of local schools and other organisations, to allow them to fundraise for specific projects. We time these races using a mixture of manual recording and a basic form of software which requires significant manpower. This is all done by volunteers from the Muddy Runners and is time consuming, complex and open to human error.
Benefit of project	<p>This equipment would allow us to move our club into the 21st century, freeing up volunteers for use in other areas, making our results processing efficient and speedy, and attract more runners to our events. We would be able to increase the field size thus bringing in more revenue for the organisations we represent, raising more money for their charities and our own. In the past 5 years we have hosted annual fundraising races for the primary schools in Abbotts Ann, Ampport, Appleshaw, Winterslow and Twyford, and prior to Covid had races lined up for local charities The Boaz Project and Frontline Children. These last two events were cancelled due to the pandemic. Each race raises around £1500-2000 for the organisation and we charge 15% of their net profit. This fee covers our administration costs (software license, insurance, printing etc) and the rest goes into our club charity pot. Each year we nominate a charity and donate the funds collected from race fees – this has included Bloodwise (formerly Leukaemia Research), International Glaucoma Association, Basingstoke Cardiac Unit, Basingstoke Hospital Chemotherapy Ward and the St Michaels and Countess of Brecknock Hospices.</p> <p>Muddy Runners are based in Abbotts Ann and attract runners from the village, Andover and the surrounding area. We use the Bulbery Playing Field as a base during the lighter months and our Chair is Kate Bone, a village resident. The principal aim of Muddy Runners is to encourage people to be active, supporting them to start running, and keep running, by providing support, coaching, motivation and company. We have 6 Mental Health Champions within the club whose role is to listen and signpost, and to encourage people to use running as a way to benefit their mental health. We host regular #RunAndTalk events for England Athletics and also work</p>

	with children in primary and secondary schools, pioneering the #RunAndRevise programme and being on steering groups for both. We regularly organise 'Goodwill Runs' – turning a 'good run' into a 'run for good' – often running with donations for the foodbank, or litter picking, or more recently delivering Covid response leaflets in Abbots Ann, the surrounding villages and in Andover on behalf of the Abbots Ann Community Support Group and Andover Unity (TVBC).
Total cost	£2390 (please see attached)
Requested contribution	£500 - £1000
Other sources of funding contributing to the project	We will also be applying to TVBC for councillor funding of £1000 and will fundraise within the club for any shortfall.
Who reviews or audits your finances? When were they last audited?	Our finances are looked after by our Treasurer, Gemma Merritt, of River View Tax and Accountancy Ltd. There is no requirement for auditing however Mrs Merritt is a qualified accountant.

Once completed please send to the Abbots Ann Parish Clerk (abbotsannparishcouncil@gmail.com) who will confirm on which agenda this will be presented to the Parish Council for consideration.

Muddy Runners Timing Grant Request

Who are we?

Muddy Runners is a community amateur sports club that promotes and enables the development of physical and mental wellbeing through running; we achieve this through various deliveries:

- Membership training
 - Social run and talk sessions
 - Performance development sessions
- Public training sessions alongside England Athletics campaigns
 - Run and Talk
 - Run and Revise

Each of our sessions are led by UKA Qualified coaches and/or Run Leader, who are all volunteers providing their time to our members and the wider community.

Our Race Events

Another area to the club is our public race events. In keeping with our goal to enhance the communities around us the club hosts 5k & 10k trail races across the region with the proceeds dedicated to schools and local charities, in recent years we have helped raise funds for:

- Abbots Ann Primary School
- Amport Primary School
- Twyford St Marys Primary School
- Winterslow Pre-School & Primary School
- Appleshaw Primary School

We will manage for the school/charity all requirements to host a race including registrations, marshals, course mapping, registration and check-in volunteers and race timing.

With each event we have been able to grow the participation of runners to raise increasing funds for the schools/charities. We started by manually timing with a stopwatch and paper. That method had to change as the number of runners in the races exceeded the ability to time in this manner, which is when we switched to using a digital system that is still manually completed by volunteers.

With our most recent (Pre-Covid lockdowns) events we have begun to reach a level where the use of a manual time keeping system is becoming unmanageable logistically. To continue the further growth in the number of runners we can enter to our races and expand the club's goal of sport participation while raising funds for community causes is not possible with the current system. This leaves us with two choices:

1. We limit the entry numbers to races thus capping the physical and mental benefits we can help deliver through expanding opportunities for people to race and

reducing our ability to support the continued growth in fundraising for the community causes.

2. We invest into an automated chip timing solution for our races enabling an increase in the number of runners we can host in our events.

What is an automated chip timing solution?

Most people in their everyday lives will use technologies that are based on reading/sending information using Radio Frequency, one such use of the technology is RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) if you use the chip and pin payment in your bank card this is a form of RFID, or an access card to enter a place of work.

We can use this same technology to time running races with the use of electronic equipment and by placing a RFID Tag on our runners. The tag is normally placed on the running number that runners are given. Through having antennas and RFID readers at the finish line we can track an individual RFID Tag being worn by a runner when they cross the finish line, from this data capture and using timing software we are able to automatically time our events when the volume of runners crossing the finish line would be too great in number to track them manually.

Our desired hardware solution

The setup of the hardware can be achieved in 3 ways with Antenna on stands at the sides of the finish line, on an overhead gantry or by use of a floor mat with antenna built into the mat.



After much research we have found that the best solution for our events is to use a 4-metre floor mat antenna setup, this requires a 4-port fast RFID Reader to capture the runner's tags as they cross the finish line.

For the RFID Reader and to future proof the system we require the FX9600 4port reader from Zebra/Motorola to achieve the best read rates and to be rugged for outdoor use. Alongside these elements we require a Power over Ethernet switch, Ethernet Cat6 cables, uninterruptible power supply battery backup & RFID Tags.

We want to be as green as possible when holding these events. To achieve this, we will purchase the RFID tag inlays & then laminate them by hand to make our own re-usable tags. They can be used race after race rather than disposing of them. This extra work increases the cost of the tags upfront, but over time is better for the environment and saves costs in the long term with throw away tags.



This image is an Alien H3 9662 Inlay, laminated with a reinforcement ring that forms the reusable tag. 500 Tags will be enough to double tag all runners until we need to expand beyond 250 runners in a race.

A note to Software

Alongside the hardware we will need race timing software, there are many options on the market for the management of registrations and timing. We will be reviewing and selecting between two, Webscorer & Agee Race Timing.

Both platforms offer a different interface with pros and cons to both that need further review, but from a cost perspective Webscorer is an annual fee of \$250, whereas ART is one off investment of \$900

Total Cost Estimate

Costs Breakdown	
RFID Reader – Zebra FX9600 4 Port	£1100
4m Antenna Mat (Used)	£250
UPS Back up power pack	£85
PoE Switch	£45
2 x Ethernet Cat6 Cable 10m	£10
500 Alien 9662 H3 RFID Tag Wet Inlays + Laminate + Reinforcement rings	£100
Software over 4yrs (Todays exchange rate)	£800
TOTAL Estimate	£2390

The above is the basic setup needed to auto time our races, we will add to this system as required in the future with a Printer, automated finish line photography and eventually to add the same setup on the start line of our races. This allows for individual runners to have the race times based on when they cross the start line to the finish line rather than gun time to finish time. So, while the cost today we need to raise is £2.3k the eventual investment the club will be making will exceed £4k as we add to the system over time.