

Sport and Leisure Clubs

Thursfields
Solicitors

We enjoy acting for clients connected with the Sport and Leisure Sector which is vibrant and varied

The Sector includes:-

- Commercial organisations;
- Amateur sports clubs;
- Professional sports clubs;
- Social clubs; and
- Charities.

We have extensive experience in the sector and are able to provide clubs with full legal services including property, corporate and commercial, employment, dispute resolution, not for profit/charity governance and trusts.

“Each organisation is different - many rely heavily on volunteers whereas others have a team of full time employees. We provide the level of support you need.”



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Why choose Thursfields?

Thursfields is one of Worcestershire's most long established and reputable law firms. With over 130 staff in eight offices across Worcestershire and the West Midlands, we pride ourselves on being your local legal specialists.

We are committed to providing exceptional service to Sport and Social Clubs to enable them to continue to benefit their members and the wider community. This goes beyond technical knowledge and expertise and involves taking the time to properly understand the culture, challenges and aspirations of the Club.

We have won numerous awards and achieve the highest levels of independent accreditation including:-

- **Law Society Legal Awards**

2016 - Winner of Law Firm of the Year (5-15 Partners)

2017 - Finalist - Law Firm of the Year (5-15 Partners) and Partner of Year

- **Legal 500** - "the clients guide to the best law firms" - multiple entries in the current directory

- **Investors In People** - a management framework demonstrating a mark of excellence within the firm.

- **Lexcel** - the legal industry's quality standard of excellence for high standards of practice management and client care.

Client Feedback:

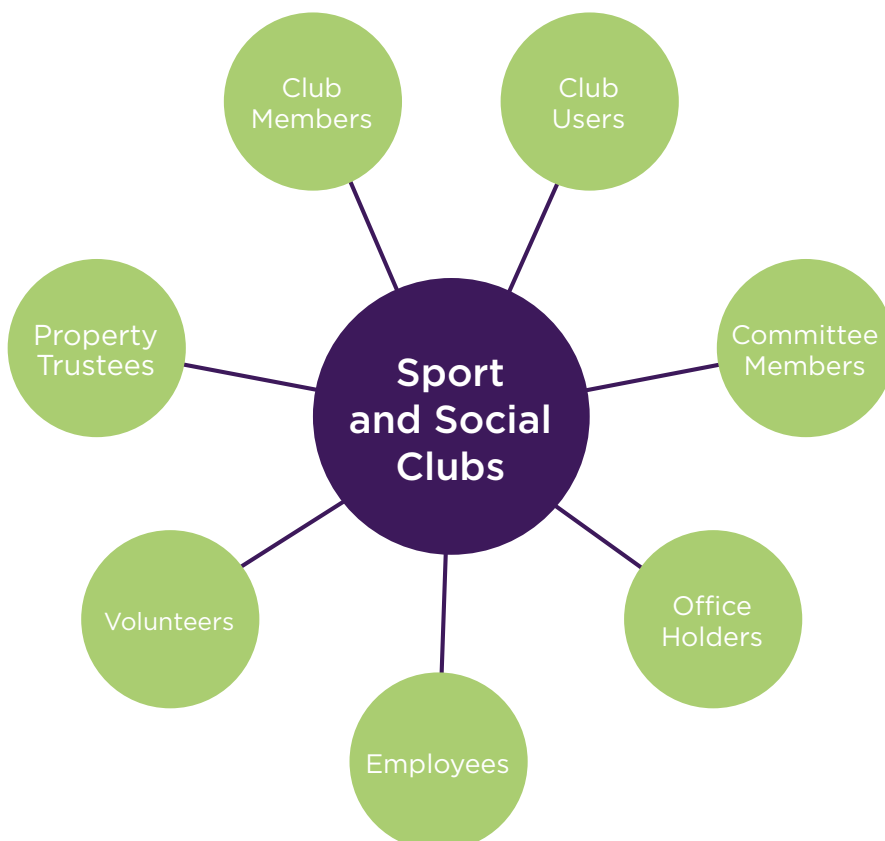
"We were keen to maximise revenue and grant opportunities to support the generation of funds into the club. Having charitable status would increase our chances of securing private and public sector funding. Thursfields helped us choose the best model for us and we have set up an associated charity to encourage local children and young adults to take up track or field activities. Having a separate charity means both organisations can focus on their core activities, and mutually benefit each other. Jenny's approach and clear advice made this an easy process to follow".

Adrian White, Northampton Athletics Club Committee Member

Key Stakeholders – Do you know who’s who?

Can you answer these questions:-

- 1** Do you have copies of the governing documents (e.g. trust deed; constitution; rule book; memorandum and articles)?
- 2** Do they reflect current practice?
- 3** Is the legal structure appropriate for the level of risk involved in the Club’s activities?
- 4** Is the Club property properly registered with the Land Registry?
- 5** Do office holders, committee members and property trustees understand their responsibilities and any potential for personal liability?
- 6** Is there an up to date list of Club Members, which is distinguishable from those who just use the Club’s services and facilities?
- 7** Who are the Club’s “workers” for employment law and tax purposes?
- 8** Does the Club have specialist insurance which reflects risk associated with current and anticipated activities?



Tax Matters

Clubs may wish to consider the tax benefits of either charity or community amateur sports club status for some or all of their activities.

We are able to advise regarding governance structures which can enable the Club to make best use of the opportunities available. We also arrange specialist tax advice, including in relation to VAT, for activities including trading and/or construction projects.

“To protect their committee and members, more and more clubs are choosing to separate the legal identity of their club by becoming incorporated.”

**Sport England
Club Matters**

Your Legal Team

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Tony Gibb

Director, Head of Commercial Property and Head of Sports and Leisure Sector

Tony is a commercial property lawyer with over 15 years experience. During that time he has advised a wide variety of clubs, including sports clubs and social clubs. His advice has included securing grant funding by way of legal charge over the title of Club property and registration at the Land Registry; agreeing the form of legal charges for grant funding from both Sport England and the Big Lottery; advice on licences; options over land; site acquisitions and disposals, freehold sales and purchases and strategic property development.



Jenny Smith

Head of Charities and Not for Profit Sector

Jenny is a governance and regulatory lawyer with over 15 years experience of acting for charities and other not for profit organisations, including clubs. She advises new and existing organisations regarding: their legal structure; governing documents, including property trust deeds; managing risk for the Club itself and its committee members; charitable and community amateur sports club status; responsibility of committee members and trustees; funding agreements; setting up new organisations, mergers and closures.



Lisa Kemp

Associate Solicitor - Employment

As a specialist employment lawyer, Lisa advises Clubs on all aspects of employment law ranging from providing HR support to defending tribunal proceedings and negotiating the settlement of disputes. She has provided training to groups of Clubs in relation to identifying their “workers” and has also advised in relation to volunteers, the national minimum wage and working time implications. Lisa also supports employer organisations through reorganisations including mergers and “hive offs”.

For a quote for your business contact:

Tony Gibb on **01905 677042**
tgibb@thursfields.co.uk

Or Jenny Smith on **01905 677052**
jsmith@thursfields.co.uk

Your Legal Team



Katie Williams
Solicitor -
Commercial Property

Katie is an experienced commercial property solicitor. She has substantial experience of advising in relation to property development and management as well as the sale and purchase of non-residential property and land. Through her work acting for banks Katie has experience of secured lending work and has considerable experience in lease transactions for both landlord and tenant clients, large and small. She has particular experience and interest in working for the “not for profit” sector.



Jane Rudge
Senior Associate
Solicitor - Commercial

Jane is an experienced commercial solicitor who advises a wide range of commercial and not for profit clients. She frequently deals with commercial contracts including in relation to joint ventures, technology, intellectual property and trading. She identifies the risks organisations face in entering into commercial arrangements and advises them on a practical and commercial basis. Jane enjoys using her technical expertise to help not for profit organisations, including Clubs, to achieve their objectives.



Bernadette Mackie
Senior Associate
Solicitor

Bernadette is an experienced personal injury lawyer, advising in relation to all types of claims including those arising from road traffic accidents, tripping/slipping accidents, accidents at work, Criminal Injuries (CICA), product liability, clinical negligence and claims arising from alleged physical abuse (including sexual abuse). She is able to act for either claimants, or those against whom claims are made. In relation to Clubs, this may include either the Club itself or individual committee members/former committee members especially where the claim is not covered by insurance.

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