

D - Development

With the number of young people involved in sports clubs it is important to provide for their personal development. The provision of life-skills training, help with integration into the wider community, and advice on the preparation for 'life after sport' are areas where chaplaincy can be involved and is able to add value.

E - Events

Chaplaincy should reflect the highs as well as the lows of people's lives and should be about celebrating life. This may involve the Chaplain in special occasions (e.g. weddings, christenings) or seasonal events (e.g. birthdays, Christmas, pre-season) as appropriate.

F - Formality

In a more formal capacity, the Chaplain can provide a vital and recognisable link with the community. As well as services in which Chaplains are involved (e.g. Remembrance Day, Christmas), they often assist clubs with their safety and disaster procedures, write articles for the club programme, etc.

G - God

Whilst Chaplains are expected to be motivated by a real and dynamic faith, they are available to all people irrespective of faith convictions. Chaplains should be **pastorally proactive**, but **spiritually reactive**; ensuring that they do not impose their beliefs on others. (Divine intervention on results is not the Chaplain's role!)

Sports Chaplaincy - A Commitment

For chaplaincy to function effectively it is important to agree the role and expectations, so that they are mutually acceptable to all three parties involved (Club, Chaplain and Sports Chaplaincy UK). Sports Chaplaincy UK provides a 'code of practice' which can facilitate this.

The on-going success of chaplaincy requires clear communication and an active commitment on the part of all those involved. This should be reviewed regularly or when significant changes occur.



SIR ALEX FERGUSON,
CBE, DIRECTOR AND
AMBASSADOR AT
MANCHESTER UNITED

"Chaplains can be of help to all sorts of people involved with sport, when crisis, need, or difficulty comes. I commend the idea of sports chaplaincy and the work of Sports Chaplaincy UK to you."



SIR IAN MCGEECHAN,
OBE. FORMER HEAD
COACH BRITISH &
IRISH LIONS

"Chaplaincy brings a personal touch - people feel they can be listened to as individuals. If chaplaincy was established in every club, I believe it would be of huge benefit to the game as a whole."



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the potential of Sports Chaplaincy in your setting.

A growing number of professional and amateur sports clubs are benefiting from the involvement of chaplaincy under the aegis of Sports Chaplaincy UK (the UK's sports chaplaincy network). The chaplaincy role varies according to the requirements of the organisation in which it functions.

Chaplaincy is primarily aimed at the care and welfare of players and staff. However, Chaplains can also provide a number of other benefits to sports clubs as explained below. Chaplaincy is for all, not just for those who share the same faith convictions and is definitely not about imposing the Chaplain's beliefs on others.

The Chaplain is expected to demonstrate integrity, work professionally, care sensitively and maintain confidentiality. To function effectively, chaplaincy requires an understanding of the agreed role and a tri-partite commitment (Club, Chaplain and Sports Chaplaincy UK) to that role. This document seeks to clarify the role and facilitate this partnership.

Workplace Chaplaincy - A Universal Service

Chaplaincy in the workplace exists across a wide range of sectors including the emergency services, local authorities, manufacturing, retail, and financial services. Many chaplaincy roles are part-time with the Chaplain being supported by, as well as working for, local churches. Chaplains are often members of a professional group or association and are trained to deal with a wide range of issues, particularly pastoral issues (e.g. stress, change and uncertainty).

Sports Chaplaincy - A National Network

Sports Chaplaincy UK is a registered charity whose role is to develop high quality chaplaincy within sports clubs. It provides training, resources, sharing of best-practice and supervision for a national network of Chaplains involved in a wide range of sports including football, rugby union, rugby league, cricket, and horse-racing. Additionally, Sports Chaplaincy UK has provided chaplaincy to many major sporting events including the Rugby World Cup, Rugby League World Cup, Festival of World Cups, the

Commonwealth Games, Paralympic European Athletic Championships, World Police and Fire Games, the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Sports Chaplaincy UK works to satisfy the chaplaincy needs of sports clubs by identifying suitable local people and preparing them for that work. The three-way relationship between Club, Chaplain and Sports Chaplaincy UK is based on a clear 'code of practice', describing the principles and expectations on which the relationship is built. Sports Chaplaincy UK seeks to ensure that sports clubs can have confidence in the integrity and professionalism of their Chaplain and provides a point of contact for any issues that may arise.

Sports Chaplaincy - The Role

Sports Chaplains seek to serve their Club in the way that is most appropriate for that setting. As a result, the role of Chaplain varies according to the requirements of the Club and the availability of the Chaplain. However, the following 'A to G of Sports Chaplaincy' helps define what the role normally involves.

A - Acquaintance

Becoming acquainted with the players and staff at the Club, developing natural relationships and building trust is foundational to the whole chaplaincy role. This requires regular, natural interaction between the Chaplain and those at the Club and takes time to develop.

B - Being

Being there as and when events take place develops shared experiences. This goes beyond acquaintance, focussing on planned events (e.g. match-day, social events) which often provide better opportunities for conversation and may also include contact with family members.

C - Care

Caring for players, staff and their families is an important aspect of chaplaincy. This focuses on supporting through life events (e.g. injury, bereavement, retirement) and can take place during the normal treatment and rehabilitation process and may also include hospital visiting. For this to take place, effective communication of events and needs is essential.