International

As an organisation our mission field is here but we also believe we have a responsibility to support and sow in fields we will never harvest.

EUROPE - Matt Baker and Steve Jones have both travelled to Europe to support and train other brothers and sister who have a heart to serve their community of sport. This was done in partnership with other ministries delivering the readysetgo.ec program.

RWANDA - Mark Fleming had the privilege of leading a group of 11 Scottish football coaches to Rwanda in June. They delivered coach education to delegates from 12 youth academies in Kigali, and they also conducted coaching sessions with many youth teams in the city. The trip was very well received by the Rwandan Football Federation. As a result of this trip he was invited to deliver a seminar on the basis and benefits of chaplaincy (and how it works in practice in the UK) to representatives from several Rwandan Premier League clubs.

He has consequently been invited back to Rwanda early next year to help establish Sports Chaplaincy Rwanda and we are hoping to find a Rwandan national who will eventually lead the ministry.

Training & Conferences

The Annual Sports Chaplaincy UK Conference goes from strength to strength and as we celebrate 25 years of our work, we are ensuring that good quality training opportunities are at the top of the agenda for all our chaplains. The Conference programme moves through three different focus areas to inspire, challenge and stretch all those who attend and participate. With a combination of keynote speakers from the world of sport, faith and academic learning alongside engaging workshops it has become for all Chaplains a powerhouse of prayer, learning and mutual support.

Ambassadors

We are excited to announce that in this our Jubilee year we have been joined and supported by a number of new faces who you may recognise. Each of our Ambassadors are proud to be associated with Sports Chaplaincy UK recognising the benefit and support sports chaplaincy provides across the Community of Sport.

(Front left to right)

Anne Wafula Strike MBE - former Paralympian and Gold medallist and an advocate for charity work with disability charities.

Brian Noble - TV pundit and International Rugby League Coach having won everything domestically and globally at club level.

Robbie Hunter Paul - a retired New Zealand international Rugby League player, author and TV pundit. Robbie won everything at club and world level.

Stuart Elliott - former Northern Ireland international footballer who played in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Craig Brown CBE - a Scottish former professional football player and manager and the most successful national coach of Scotland.

Fabrice Muamba - a retired professional football player and manager and a key note speaker from the world of sport, faith and academic learning alongside engaging workshops.

The quality of the Conference and learning opportunities it offers highlights the trajectory for all our chaplains. The Conference programme moves through three different focus areas to inspire, challenge and stretch all those who attend and participate. With a combination of keynote speakers from the world of sport, faith and academic learning alongside engaging workshops it has become for all Chaplains a powerhouse of prayer, learning and mutual support.

If you have a passion for sport and a heart after God, why not contact us and see how you can support or get involved in this great work!
Welcome

CEO'S THOUGHTS

We here at Sports Chaplaincy UK have a dream to see an expression of God's love and compassion practically demonstrated in every community called Sport. Sports Chaplaincy UK have a big heart and a big vision to embrace the World of Sport knowing we are making a positive contribution and impact across each of our Home Nations.

Sports Chaplaincy UK is on an incredible journey and as we thank God and celebrate this our 25th year we are more excited than ever about the future. The Community of Sport consists of over 151,000 clubs totalling 25 million men, women and children – what a mission field! And we, the Church cannot ignore a community of this size and significance.

If you have a heart after God, a passion for people and may be you like sport, we would encourage you, challenge you, dare you to join us on this journey...you will not be disappointed.

May you be inspired and challenged by what you read, thank you for your prayerful consideration of support. Every blessing.

Warren Evans
CEO - National Director

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

Celebrating 25 years is a significant milestone for any charity, even more so for a Christian charity whose work is within sport; the largest secular community in the country. Looking back we thank God not only for the growth in chaplaincy, but also for the favour we have been granted among sport administrators.

Thanks to the hard work of many, sports chaplaincy is now firmly established on the national scene and, we look forward to the real possibility of continued growth. But above all we look upwards with hope and confidence in God's ongoing guidance, wisdom and provision for the next 25 years.

David Chawner
Chair of Trustees

ENGLAND

PURSING EXCELLENCE IN THE ENGLISH REGIONALS

The last year has seen not just the number of chaplains increase but also the variety of sports being served. At regions we have seen chaplains involved in football, rugby union, league, horse racing, cricket, athletics, ice hockey & triathlon. From the early days of predominant involvement in football this shows how much we have developed as an organisation. It is also unusual to have a regional without female chaplains present showing the inroads being made in women's sport.

BENEDICT MUSOLA NEWLY APPOINTED CHAPLAIN AT WYCÔME WANDERERS FC

The challenge with such diverse growth is to make our chaplains' regions not just a time of networking and prayer but also to provide relevant training. In recent years we have included training on handling the media and stress management and over the last 12 months we have added gambling addiction awareness and bereavement support in the case of an untimely death. We are particularly pleased to have linked with Care for the Family in the area of addiction awareness and bereavement support and see this as another important partnership as we move forward.

Matt Baker
Pastoral Support Director in English Football

SCOTLAND

OPPORTUNITIES IN SCOTLAND

While chaplaincy grows phenomenally in Scottish Football through the prolific work of Mark Fleming, chaplaincy in other sports is only found in a few pockets like rugby and curling. I have been working closely with Warren Evans, Scottish sports chaplains and Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland’s Rev Iain McFadzean, towards seeing chaplaincy in Scottish Sport become more sustainable and fruitful. With the help of expert consultancy we aim to create structures and processes, build profile and reputation, and evolve sustainable working models to ensure that sports chaplaincy can be truly owned in Scotland and grown to its tremendous potential. Opportunities for sports chaplaincy in amateur and professional sport are many and people in our churches can be identified, trained and supported to excel in sharing the love of Christ through sports chaplaincy. However we lack the breadth and support of the Church, Christians, Philanthropists, Funders and the Sports World required to help sports chaplaincy make real and lasting inroads into Scottish Sport. From local gyms, women's football clubs and disability / all-ability clubs we want to see more opportunities to work with the senior teams at regional level and greater involvement with the WRU.

JUSTIN LARCOMBE SPEAKING ON GAMBLING ADDICTION

Another important partnership is with Care for the Family in the area of bereavement support and see this as a key value in sports chaplaincy and believe our regions are important in empowering chaplains to do this.

Matt Baker
Pastoral Support Director in Scottish Sport

WALES

RUGBY UNION IN WALES

It's great to see what God is doing in Wales and especially in Rugby Union where we have a twofold approach: the blitz defence trying to provide chaplaincy support to the professional end of the game, and the drift defence – providing at a more local level through local churches. We are seeing God at work in both areas and have chaplains in all 5 regions and 60% of the Premiership. We also recently placed a lady to support the Welsh women’s national side. However we want to see more opportunities to work with the senior teams at regional level and greater involvement with the WRU.

Training Day for New Chaplains

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Matt Baker
Pastoral Support Director in Scottish Sport

CHAPLAINS AT YORK MINSTER

Steve Jones
Chaplaincy Support Director for Welsh Sport

By regularly meeting together we have been able to provide a clearer picture of our role and responsibility as chaplains. Fresh expressions and ideas have emerged inspired by the desire to offer Christ-centred chaplaincy not as a hobby or on-call service but as a consistent and authentic demonstration of pastoral care and witness in the world of Sport. If we are to adventure forth with sports chaplaincy, every step must be supported by prayer with our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

Keith Mitchell
Co-Chaplaincy Support Director for Northern Ireland Sport

Phil Mitchell
Co-Chaplaincy Support Director for Northern Ireland Sport
**Sports Chaplaincy to Women**

Women sports chaplains are currently involved in football, rugby, triathlon, athletics and all-sport ability. Often more emotional than men, it is important for women to have the opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings. Chaplains are willing to listen and will journey alongside them in their environment, understanding the pressures and seeing the frustrations. Heather Lewis, the Wales Women’s Rugby Chaplain says ‘Sharing life with the Rugby girls is a real privilege and big adventure! Slowly building trust and being welcomed into their lives in both the good and bad, means I can be Jesus’ hands, feet and words.’ I echo those sentiments in my work with elite women footballers.

**Disability Sports Chaplaincy**

**MANAGER**

**Sports**

**Chaplaincy**

**Sports**

**and pray about whether it may be an area of ministry for you.**

Carolyn Skinner serves at the Commonwealth Games, Paralympics and Women’s World Cups and is privileged to be able to serve and support athletes, staff and volunteers in such a high pressured environment. Providing a Christian presence at long-distance triathlons such as Ironman UK is exciting and exciting, according to Pat Cooke-Rogers. She spends three long days at each event talking with (and more importantly listening to) athletes, their families, the event crew, referees, team leaders, the sound team, medical staff and volunteers. The evening before a race she also organises a short prayer and worship service along with local churches.

Working with disabled athletes in Wales, Heather Lewis (obviously a popular name in Wales!) observes that the medium of sport can help transform their outlook on life. She believes that Christians should be involved with helping those who face such massive challenges, demonstrating Christ’s love and compassion. There are many opportunities for women chaplains to minister to sports grass roots to elite level. A pastoral chaplain was being part of the chaplaincy team for the IPC European Games where approximately 40 countries competed. Not only were we able to get alongside the athletes, but also the trainers, coaches, support staff, and the many volunteers.

**HORSE RACING**

It is with thanks that I look back on this year in Horse Racing here in the UK. With thanks to God that the relationships continue to be built and grow stronger with Racing Welfare and the many other organisations looking after the wellbeing of racing staff. There are many issues, increased workload due to shortage of staff puts pressure on those who work in the industry and this year has highlighted health issues in the sport come to the fore. This is where Sports Chaplaincy UK come in to help. In a role different from the staff need it most. There are many issues that I could highlight but we serve a God who uses us to bring his calmness into the areas that we visit. The aims for the future are to expand this work around racing towns and racinaceses. Please pay for people to be inspired enough to get on board.

Simon Bailey

Chaplaincy Support Director for Horse Racing

**RUGBY UNION**

The past year in Rugby Union has been dominated by the success of the England Rugby team in England, but with other home nations having greater success on the pitch! There was considerable disappointment that the tournament organisers turned down our offer to provide full chaplaincy support as in New Zealand in 2011. However, through our contacts chaplaincy was provided for one of the competing squads. More recently in a local rugby club the rugby league community have a number of local churches took the opportunity to build links with their local rugby clubs and it is hoped this will continue in the future. In the professional and semi-professional game there have been some new chaplains placed, most notably Maili Connolly working with the Welsh Rugby Union and a number of them heading for Rio.

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Carolyn Skinner

Chaplaincy Support Consultant

**CRICKET**

At present five of the 18 County Cricket Clubs have Chaplains, Surrey, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Derbyshire, and Northants are taking the lead in this area. Chaplaincy in professional cricket has received a significant boost over the summer when a letter sent from SCG to the Chairman of English Cricket Board promoting chaplaincy was circulated to the Chairman and Chief Executives of all the County Cricket Clubs. Although we have yet to see any direct outcome from this, it has opened the door for further talks with the clubs. Whilst these developments are developing places at the elite level of the sport, there are also encouraging signs of chaplaincy gaining ground at grass roots level in local clubs. There are clear opportunities for continuing to spread chaplaincy across the UK and we will be working over the next year to take hold of as many of these as possible.

Max Wigley

Director of Support for Cricket

**NORTH EAST**

It has been an exciting time developing sports chaplaincy in the North East. In the last couple of months we stayed a regional at St James Park, Newcastle United. Though a tough regional regarding bereavement, our sports chaplains were aware needing support, encouraged and enthused. The new season has just got underway in the Northern League, where we currently have four clubs and chaplains serving a cluster of clubs. After establishing chaplaincy within Northern League clubs it is now a year on from our prayers and blessings. We are praying for spiritual growth and development, reaching out in a variety of ways. We are looking to form a relationship with a number of the clubs and the opportunity to visit the clubs more regularly is also a great encouragement.

Christian Weinkamp

Pastoral Support Consultant

**HORSE RACING**

TOURISTBOARD.COM & CHALLENGE TOP NIGHT: HEATHER LEWIS WITH STEVE JONES BOTTOM: CHAPLAINSHIP

**WIMBLEDON**

**GYM CHAPLAINCY**

Heather Lewis

Chaplaincy Support Director

**CRICKET**

On a busy weekend I serve as a chaplain at my local gym, through a group called Fit Lives. I am there for social, pastoral and spiritual care. Some of my work is enabling people to build friendships by organizing social events; some of it is being a listening ear for those who aren’ttruck, and some of it is praying with people or running courses such as Alpha or Wellbeing. The Wellbeing Centre is for women looking at issues such as beauty and self-esteem, worry and anxiety, healing and forgiveness. People go to gym for reasons more than fitness. They go because they are lonely, have body image or stress issues. To have an intentional presence in gym provides some accessible opportunities. The pastoral need for the staff within the gym is also a significant part of the work and it has been encouraging to see how receptive they are to chaplaincy. We look forward to seeing how we can develop this in the future.

Carolyn Skinner

International chaplaincy

**NORTH EAST**

**STEVE JONES & CAROLYN SKINNER AT WHEELCHAIR RUGBY TOURNAMENT**

**WIMBLEDON**

**GYM CHAPLAINCY**

It was encouraging to be able to bring together another year of outreach at Wimbledon Tennis Championships with our Love All Serve All team. Every evening our team of volunteers offered free refreshments, a listening ear and prayer to hundreds of fans who camp in Wimbledon Park. This year we had 50 volunteers from 24 churches and prayed with 90 people during the festivities. Each year we meet as chaplains to the night stewards, often finding them coming to our base for a chat, encouragement or a hug. One steward said ‘This is the last time I will be in North all ever!’ I love to see us as church in the middle of the park, hearing of the challenges they face and how they engaged with that. While there are challenges in pursuit of greatness on Centre Court, there are people having God encounters in the park and as we served on our knees in a wet, muddy park, we sensed the greatness of God in that place.

Carolyn Skinner

International chaplaincy

**STEVE JONES & CAROLYN SKINNER AT WHEELCHAIR RUGBY CHALLENGE**

**ANGRY KING**

**English Women’s Football**

**HEATHER LEWIS**

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**Disability Sports Chaplaincy**

**Sports**

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Carolyn Skinner

International chaplaincy
ENGLISH FOOTBALL

The number of clubs with chaplains in the Premier League and English Football League continues to increase with now 72 of the 92 clubs represented. Several clubs are now appointing a second chaplain as well as specific responsibilities for the academy (which set up) at clubs. Particularly pleasing last year was the appointment of Benedict Musola at Wycombe Wanderers after several years of trying.

Looking forward it is great still to have the support of the Premier League, English Football League & PFA. The challenge moving forward is to continue to show the importance and relevance of chaplaincy at all level clubs, particularly where there is so much money available to some of the larger clubs to provide alternative support. Yet God continues to be faithful and the role of the chaplain, where faith is on the increase in football, is still a vital support and demonstration of the kingdom of God advancing.

Matt Baker
Pastoral Director for Lower League

WOMEN’S FOOTBALL IN ENGLAND AND WALES

There are currently six chaplains serving in women’s football in England, still a long way behind our male counterparts. However, the relationships being built with the players are excellent and time spent on the training ground, in the physio room and on the team bus is bearing fruit. This is my second year of chaplaincy with the Wales women’s football teams, where I am a consistent presence on camps supporting players during the tense times of international competition. Relationships developed at U19 level are being followed through into the first team and I am grateful to the Wales women’s manager for opening doors to me to show God’s love in this environment.

My aim is to have ten women chaplains in place very soon and I praise God for the chance to explain chaplaincy to the England women’s manager and pray that we can explore this within the international set up.

Angy King
Pastoral Director for Lower League

CHAPLAINCY IN LOWER LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Lower league football chaplaincy covers a vast range from ex League clubs like York City to community based clubs and grass roots initiatives. This year has seen new chaplains appointed at places like Woodham Ferrers and Kettering Town as well as several transitions as people move on. There is also an encouraging trend as chaplaincy teams develop to cover youth teams, supporters’ trusts and academies as well as the first team.

One positive example of development is Eastleigh where Andrew Bird pioneered the role for a few seasons before handing on the torch to Harvey with the club keen to see chaplaincy continue. For Jono, it’s an ideal role as he and his family pioneer a Fresh Expression of church on a challenging estate near the club. Plans for this year include research into the different ways chaplains add value to lower league clubs and a dedicated day for lower league chaplains in summer 2017.

Ian Nicholson
Pastoral Director for Lower League

IRISH FOOTBALL

Sports Chaplaincy in Northern Ireland has seen continued growth in football. We have continued to receive favour as we work with the 16 football governing body and have seen new chaplains appointed at all levels which is so encouraging. Our most recent training event took place at the National Football Stadium for Northern Ireland at Windsor Park. We continue to build a firm partnership with the Danske Bank Premier League Football were we now have a chaplain at every football Premier League Club as well as having a chaplain to the Premier League Referees. Additionally, there was a very positive article earlier this year in the Belfast Telegraph concerning Northern Ireland’s sports chaplaincy. We were also blessed to announce that Stuart Elliott former Irish International has thrown his weight behind sports chaplaincy by becoming an Ambassador for Sports Chaplaincy UK. As we look back we have much to give thanks for and yet the potential is enormous.

Phil Mitchell
Co-Chaplaincy Support Manager

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SPORTS CHAPLAINCY

I deeply appreciate Women’s Sport’s invitation to reflect on the history of sports chaplaincy as we celebrate 25 years serving sport. Impossible to say in a moment of who we have contributed, but must begin with Revs. Roy Freestone, David Coffey and The Baptist Union of Great Britain, whose vision led to the creation of SCORE as an interdenominational sports chaplaincy organisation. SCOREs early Trustees, not least Peter Clark and Martin Roach. Signified foundations. The constant support of St James Road Baptist Church, Watford and other churches who prayed and gave from their mission budgets, helped to grow this strategic initiative.

Sport and faith reframe the worth of this new ministry and that it was a genuine caring Christian service to all, whether a person had faith or not. Chaplains are meant to be like Jesus to the heart and players at their clubs, to work to defined parameters, with total confidentiality, and in ways which are club sustainability. Significant in the football world – Graham Taylor, Rick Parry, Gordon Taylor, John Barnwell, Ken Merritt, Sir Alex Ferguson at EUFA, appointed and endorsed this contribution and new doors opened into other sports and parts of the United Kingdom. We thank all our sports advocates for their highly significant support.

For these reasons, as we look to the future we can estimate the early ministry of our chaplains as sport because happy with the chaplaincy delivered as promised. Care, compassion, sensitivity and consistency combined with time-commitment and servanthood to create a strong impact. Sports chaplaincy revealed its character: not about self-promotion, gaining status or connecting with the famous, but about serving the people of sport through appropriate and consistent availability. Because of that, sport now values chaplaincy.

Finally, some personal comments.

My 25+ years in SCORE/SCUK were not about following my dreams but about God’s call, obedience and steps of faith. In all of that, my wife Anne and our boys Andrew and Jonathan, joined me in this. This review gives me a chance to think them for their sacrificial parts in that journey, and especially for Andy’s constant support when we sought to hear God’s voice and do what He was calling us to. So, Happy 25th Anniversary to all chaplains, members and supporters of Sports Chaplaincy UK and its leadership. In the years ahead, may God’s purposes be your purposes, may your ministry be God’s ministry, may you follow Him in the future. He has for you.

John Boyers
Chair of Trustees

READY TO MOVE FORWARD

The recent growth of SCUK both in size and reach has necessitated a rethink of its governance. This may not sound as exciting as scores of new chaplains in new sports, but it remains vital if the charity’s infrastructure is to be enabled rather than limited continued growth. It is also important that we keep up to date with developments in charity law and best practice.

To this end the Trustees have been working over the past year to create a new structure. This is a Charitably Incorporated Organisation, a relatively new type of structure and the one recommended by the Charity Commission for a charity of our size and structure.

There have also been developments on finance management with the appointment of a new Finance Manager to work alongside the Treasurer, enabling us to keep up to date with the state of our finances, which are currently in a reasonably healthy state.

The result of all of this behind the scenes work is that we now have a government base equipped to build on the foundations created by numerous volunteers Trustees over the past 25 years and ready for our next leap forward.

David Chawner
Chair of Trustees

SPORTS CHAPLAINCY NEEDS YOU!

Pray

To pray for the expansion of the work of Sports Chaplaincy UK please register for our monthly prayer letter www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk/prayer

Join Us

You can become a volunteer of Sports Chaplaincy UK admin@sportschaplaincy.org.uk

Keep in touch

To keep up to date with news of Sports Chaplaincy UK by Facebook: www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk Twitter: @sportschaplaincy www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk

Support Us

To help us extend the work of Sports Chaplaincy UK go to www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk/donate

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Bert Cadmore Secretary (Northwich FC Chapel) 
Richard Knopp Treasurer (Liver Pool Church Trustee)
Andrew Reed (Politician with expertise in sports)

Archdeacon Duncan Green Organiser of Olympic Multi-Faith Chaplaincy
Bob Hamer (Premier League referee 2000-2002)