



Hi British, how much do you value your club's volunteers?

Did you know that 7 out of 10 clubs need volunteers and that each volunteer generates capacity for 8.5 more people to participate in our sport? In the current funding climate it makes complete sense to utilise the skills of passionate volunteers and look after the sustainability of your club.

Volunteers have always played a vital part in the sport and physical activity sector. Without them, most activity simply wouldn't happen.

This volunteer focused Club Digest will walk you through ways you can recruit new volunteers, explore how you can keep your volunteers happy and provide articles on how volunteers are growing our sport.

If you have a positive story to share of a volunteer in your club, [please complete this short form](#) to let us know about it and we could feature it for volunteer week 2019.

RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS

The Sport and Recreation Alliance have been busy building a new volunteering section on their website, which gives you access to their volunteer finder to help find the volunteers you need.

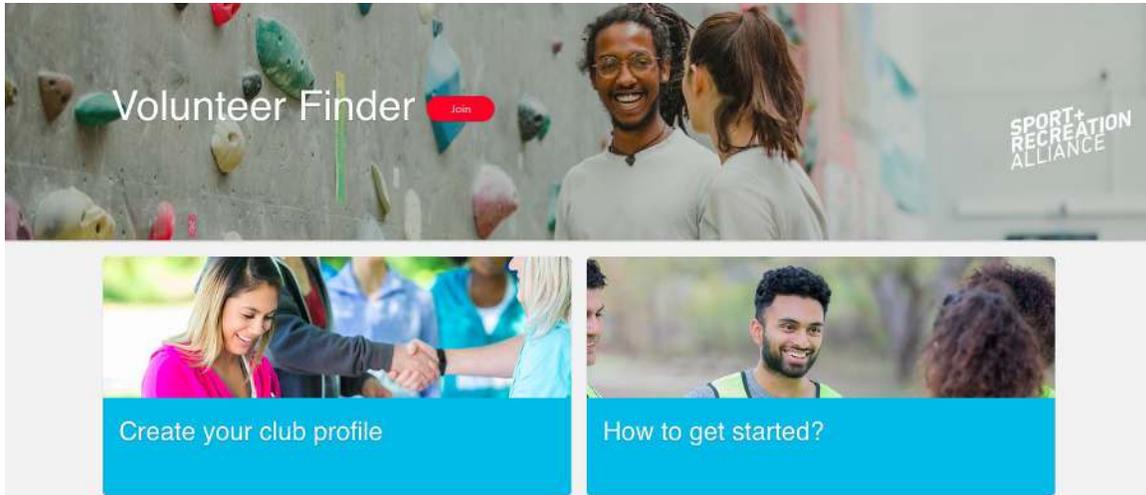
The great news is the site already has over **200,000** volunteers searching each month for their new role, and the site can also help match you to volunteers with exactly the skills you're looking for. So whether you need a social media guru, safeguarding or integrity officer, mental health ambassador or board member - the volunteer finder can help.

[Find Volunteers](#)

They have partnered with Do-it, the UK's national volunteering database, to create a volunteer

finder that helps attract volunteers from all walks of life who may not have considered volunteering in the sport and recreation sector.

It only takes a few minutes to create a profile that really stands out and attracts the volunteers you need to keep your club fit for the future. All you need to do is [sign up](#), create your club profile and head to 'How to get started' to make your profile shine! [Read this infographic to make life super simple...](#)



RETAIN VOLUNTEERS

The Sport and Recreation Alliance have invested in research that, for the first time, provides groundbreaking behavioural science research, that gives us new evidence and insight into what drives people to volunteer, and what keeps them from doing so.

The new research is called **'GIVERS; Growth, Impact, Voice, Ease and Experience, Recognition, Social'**.

Based on this research there are 10 top tips on how to recruit new volunteers and how to keep your existing volunteers happy. These tips include; **Make them feel needed. Give a warm welcome. Help them grow. Say thank you!**

You can find all 10 top tips by [clicking here](#).



Watch the short video above to learn more and [read the full research. click here...](#)

REWARD VOLUNTEERS

The GIVERS research suggested that recognising and rewarding volunteers using non-cash methods is a great way to keep them coming back!

Acknowledge that people may volunteer to be rewarded in non-financial ways, for example, through qualifications, skill attainment or community benefits. They may also appreciate the chance to improve their physical and mental wellbeing. Also consider they may need recognition of their good deeds, which could be in the form of a personal recognition (a thank you letter) or social recognition through a public 'thank you' and awards. We have listed a few examples of local and national awards that you may want to consider...

Fencing Specific Awards



BF host an annual awards evening to celebrate the fencing community. Information on the 2019 event will be released early next year. In the meantime, [find out more on the recent 2018 event](#) and start writing your nominations today!

Local Awards



London Sport, the CSP for London, are hosting their annual awards in March 2019 to celebrate the best of grassroots sport in the Capital. [Click here to find out more and to enter your nominations.](#)



Another example of local awards is that of Lincolnshire Sport. The awards have already taken place for 2018, however they will reopen for 2019 soon! [Click here to read more about the 2018 awards...](#)



A majority of County Sports Partnerships (CSPs) host annual awards evening. These provide a fantastic opportunity to nominate your club and its volunteers to be recognised for the great work they do.

[Click here to find your local CSP...](#)

National Awards



These awards honour great coaching from those who have demonstrated outstanding success over the previous 12 months. [The 2018 finalists have just been announced...](#)



The aim of the Pride of Sport awards is 'celebrating and recognising the unsung heroes of grassroots sport'. Nominations for the 2019 awards will open soon, [in the meantime read more on the 2018 event here..](#)



These awards have been celebrating grassroots sport and recreation for over twenty years, and they champion grassroots work on a national scale.

[Nominate here, but be quick, they close soon..](#)

VOLUNTEERING CASE STUDY

There are a number of volunteering roles available within fencing. Ranging from referees, social media gurus, welfare officers, to coaches, event organisers, club administrators, regions, armourers and so many more!

We've been speaking to a host of volunteers within the fencing community who all give up their free time in different ways - all of which make our sport happen across the country!

Also, read how Radcliffe Sword Club are piloting the Leadership in Fencing Course in a club setting early 2019 to ensure succession planning of the club.



Who: Ruth Robson

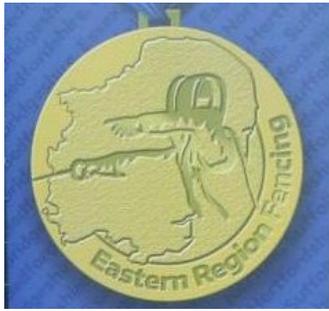
Where: Newcastle Fencing and Sports Trust

What: Treasurer and Event Organiser

[Read our Q&A with Ruth by clicking here!](#)

Who: Debbie Porter

Where: Eastern Region



What: Events, Finance and Social Media

Read why Debbie volunteers for the Eastern Region by [clicking here...](#)



Who: Liz and Jamie Brigg

Where: Events and Competitions

What: Referee and Parent

Hear what Jamie and his Mum, Liz, have said about volunteering by [clicking here...](#)



Who: Arran

Where: Events and Competitions

What: Armourer

What the short video when Georgina Usher met Arran at the C&J Championships 2018



Who: Junior Fencers

Where: Radcliffe Sword Club (RSC)

What: Leadership in Fencing

RSC will be piloting the Leadership in Fencing Course in January to up skill their young fencers to help at the club. [Read more here...](#)

British Fencing would to thank all the volunteers for their continued support at clubs, events, regions, Home Nations and all aspects that help fencing grow.

If you have a positive story to share of a volunteer in your club, [please complete this short form](#) to let us know about it and we could feature it for volunteer week 2019.

And one more thing...

Throughout December, British Fencing will be joining the Sport and Recreation Alliance on the **#BigThankYou** campaign.

This will see sports clubs up and down the country thank their volunteers for everything they do! Keep an eye out and we'll share everyone that tags **@BritishFencing** on Twitter.

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HONESTY
RESPECT
EXCELLENCE

