



Advice on branch fundraising

If you and your fellow branch members are looking to raise some extra funds to help boost your branch accounts, here are some ideas and tips to help.

Quick and easy

Who do you know?

Spend 5 minutes as a branch discussing what links your members have. Is anyone a member of a golf club, a quiz team, religious community, educational establishment, local council etc.

If so, could they encourage them to support your branch? It might be something they hold on your behalf or they might be able to support you with any events you already have planned or regularly hold.

Perhaps anyone in a busy workplace could organise a bake sale at the office one day?

Supermarket token schemes

Quite a few supermarkets have schemes which will accept nominations from local causes. Why not ask your members to nominate you in all the stores in your area?

If you are selected, be sure to shout about it and encourage everyone you know to visit the store and support you with their tokens. Do let NASS know too as we may be able to share it on our social media.

Some supermarkets we know branches have had success with in the past include:

- Waitrose. Just ask at the customer service desk for a Community Matters nomination form.
- Tesco. The Bags of Help scheme is co-ordinated by the branch Community Champion. You can find the email address for your local store [here](#), or ask in store about nominating your branch.
- Asda. Visit your local store and ask for a Nominate a Cause card for their green token scheme.

Find someone sporty

Branch members or their family members or friends, sometimes take on a physical challenge to raise funds for the branch. For example, in Manchester, the branch physio has been running several races to raise funds, and in Gartnavel, a relative took on the Glencoe Challenge. Down in Brighton a branch member ran the Brighton Half Marathon, and from Woking someone climbed Ben Nevis!

The fundraising team at NASS can help with fundraising advice and sponsorship forms, so be on the look out for anyone wanting to take on a challenge.

RCN 1183175
SC 049746



If you have a bit more time to focus on fundraising

Contact local Groups and Associations

Many groups such as Rotary, Lions, Round Table, Ladies Circle and Inner Wheel will support local causes, so ask around your members to see if they, or anyone they know, are members of such groups.

If you do have a personal link, find out if there's any chance that they could support the branch.

If you don't have a link, you could google your local branches and get in touch. Write to them explaining how axial SpA (AS) affects people, how the branch helps people, the costs of running the branch, and the help a donation could make.

Some groups like to have speakers at their meetings. If a branch member or maybe a couple of members would feel confident in speaking about their experiences of living with axial SpA (AS), and the benefits of being part of a branch, do offer this when you contact the group.

Bag packing or collecting at a local supermarket

You can contact a local store and ask for permission to either hold a collection, or do bag packing to raise funds for the branch.

If you get permission, do contact NASS to get branded NASS t-shirts and advice on branding your collection tins or buckets.

Make sure you recruit plenty of people to help so that no-one is standing for too long. Engage with people as much as you can – it all helps to raise awareness as well as funds.

Hold an event

Consider putting on a fundraising event in your local community.

Think about what interests you all have, and what your friends, family and wider contacts might be likely to support. Perhaps a quiz night at a local pub, or maybe a fundraising bbq in the Summer? Maybe a themed party or a jumble sale in a local hall. Whatever you decide, call the fundraising team at NASS and they can help with advice, ideas on how to maximise your fundraising, and also send you some NASS branded items to add a touch of NASS orange to the day.



100 Club

Branch members, friends and family buy numbered tickets which go into a regular draw, 100 tickets for a 100 club, 200 tickets for a 200 club and so on. When the draw is made a percentage of the profit is given as the prize, and the remainder goes towards branch funds.

You might want to 'sell' the numbers for 50p or £1 each. That will leave you will £50 or £100 so you could decide, say, half goes to the branch and half to the lucky winner.

Add-ons

No matter what you're doing, here are a few simple fundraising add-ons to help boost your funds.

Heads or tails

If you have an event with 15+ people, such as a tea-party, bbq or you're just having a sociable dinner or evening in the pub then Heads or Tails is a fun game.

Ask everyone to join the game by placing a £1 coin in front of them. You stand at the front with a coin and ask everyone to stand up. Before you toss your coin, you ask everyone to guess heads or tails – by placing their hands on their head or their 'tail'. You toss the coin, and anyone with the wrong guess sits down. You carry on until you have one winner. The branch keeps the money, and you have a small prize for the winner (like a box of chocolates).

Raffle

A raffle can be as big or small as you make it. You can have one small prize or collect a few nice prizes. If you are seeking raffle prize donations, do ask the Fundraising team at NASS to write you a letter on headed paper which can help to assure people that you are officially recognised by the charity, and are genuine in your request.

Try approaching the local health club for a couple of free day tickets, local hairdressers and restaurants. A local supermarket branch will often help but otherwise we'd suggest avoiding big chains as they usually have a strict policy on which charities they support.

Pick up a book of cloakroom tickets from a stationary shop like Rymans or WH Smiths, and sell them at your event or meeting.