



Derbyshire Cricket Foundation (DCF) – Financial impact of Covid-19 **Funding Support (17-04-2020)**

Recreational cricket in Derbyshire has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. Towards the end of March and following Government guidance ECB announced the suspension of all forms of cricket. In effect this put a stop on all cricket training, matches and other associated activity, hence the start of the cricket season being delayed. The suspension is in place until further notice and with no date for resumption it is understandable that clubs are concerned.

Responding to a recent DCF survey some 80% of clubs highlighted the financial impact as one of their main concerns. For many clubs the approach to the season can be quite costly with, insurance, balls, kit and machinery repairs to be paid for following a period of limited income. In contrast the start of the season will usually provide a welcome boost with revenue coming in through membership subscriptions, match fees and social activity. Unfortunately, this additional period of inactivity will result in lost revenue and unexpected challenges for the game.

To assist clubs, leagues and other organisations at this difficult time DCF has put this document together which summarises the support available, it is split into three area which are as follows:

- Specific support relating to impact of Covid-19
- Other Support that clubs could look at
- Saving Money/ Raising Money

Hopefully this information will be helpful however if you are aware of anything that we haven't covered please let us know at mick.glenn@dcfcricket.com

Government Support

The government have put in a range of measures to support businesses through Covid-19. These were outlined in the chancellor's speech in March which confirmed and extended support for business. Sports grounds and clubs fall within the retail, hospitality and leisure sector. And for the purpose of business cricket falls within 'leisure' or (for some larger clubs) the 'hospitality' sector and as such you may be eligible for support under one or more of the following schemes:

Business Rates Holiday - Businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors in England will not have to pay business rates for the 2020 to 2021 tax year. For more information and to check eligibility visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-your-retail-hospitality-or-leisure-business-is-eligible-for-business-rates-relief-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19> for more information.



Business Support Grant Fund - The Small Business Grant Fund (SBGF) and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant (RHLG) could provide clubs with grants of between £10,000 and £25,000 depending on the rateable value of your property and your current business rates arrangement with the local authority visit <https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/cash-grant-for-retail-hospitality-and-leisure/> for more information.

Deferral of VAT payments – The government has announced temporary changes to the VAT payments due between March 20th and June 30th to help businesses manage their cash flow, visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/deferral-of-vat-payments-due-to-coronavirus> for more information.

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme - If your club employ any staff, Government will cover 80% of the salary of retained workers up to a total of £2,500 a month. A system will be administered by HMRC and should be up and running by end of April, with any grants backdated to March 1st. Visit <https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme/> for more information.

Business Interruption Loan Scheme - Supports small and medium-sized businesses to access loans, overdrafts and other financial support visit <https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme/> for more information.

The full range of financial support available can be seen at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/financial-support-for-businesses-during-coronavirus-covid-19#support-for-retail-hospitality-and-leisure-businesses-that-pay-business-rates>

In relation to Business Support Grants this is being administered by Local Authorities. Some are writing directly to eligible businesses while some are asking for an online application form to be completed. I have attached a document providing further details on the scheme and the links to the relevant local authority websites are in the table below. Some clubs have already received this grant and I would urge clubs who feel they may be eligible to look at as a matter of urgency.

Local Authority	Website Link
Amber Valley	https://www.ambervalley.gov.uk/business/claim-the-government-business-grant/
Bolsover	https://www.bolsover.gov.uk/index.php/your-council/coronavirus-information
Chesterfield	https://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/your-council/coronavirus-information-hub/businesses-information.aspx
Derby City	https://www.derby.gov.uk/business/business-rates/business-rates-additional-support/
Derbyshire	https://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/services-business/business-support-events-



Dales	funding/coronavirus-support-for-businesses
Erewash	https://www.erewash.gov.uk/index.php/news-and-events/latest-news-mnu/5424-business-grants-roll-out.html
High Peak	https://www.highpeak.gov.uk/Coronavirus-Business-Financial-Support
North East Derbyshire	https://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/news-and-media/latest-news/financial-support-information-for-residents-and-businesses-during-covid-19
South Derbyshire	https://www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/covid-19/covid-19-guidance

Sport England Support

Sport England has announced a package of support totalling £195million. This includes a £20million **Community Emergency Fund** which is now open for clubs and community organisations to bid into. Grants between £300 and £10,000 are available, here are the details which should help.

This programme will fund

Any organisation delivering community sport and physical activity can apply if it is experiencing short term financial hardship or the ceasing of operations due to the impact of Covid-19, these organisations include:

Local sports clubs

Voluntary and community sector organisations that deliver or enable sport and/ or physical activity, including organisations that are not solely or primarily sports organisations and have an important part to play in keeping people active, that may need support for other parts of their organisation to remain open.

Small Charitable trusts that do not qualify for financial help elsewhere

Regional or county level organisations or leagues that have already paid out funds for activities that are now cancelled and are not able to claim funds from elsewhere.

What the scheme can fund?

The fund has been developed to help community sport and physical activity organisations meet their obligations, particularly fixed costs, which are no longer supported with revenue as a result of coronavirus. This might cover expenditure on:



- Rent
- Utility costs
- Insurances
- Facility or equipment hire
- Core staffing costs (including casual workers) that cannot be met elsewhere by government funds
- Retrospective losses dating from March 1st

Some examples of the sort of things the fund can help with are:

- Support a boxing club to pay for their utility bills and other costs for their facility when no activity is taking place
- Support a local league who have paid for equipment to run a competition which is now cancelled therefore will not receive the money the players in the league would have paid.

Funding from this programme cannot be used for:

- Activities or costs which are already covered by other government initiatives including rates
- New activities or events – please see Sport England' other programmes
- Capital works
- Costs beyond the end of July 2020

Please carefully read the criteria for this fund before you make an application for full details visit <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/our-funds/community-emergency-fund>

Further information about all of Sport England's COVID-19 funding support can be found at: <https://www.sportengland.org/news/195-million-package-help-sport-and-physical-activity-through-coronavirus>

ECB Emergency Support Programmes

The ECB has been working to minimise the impact of this unprecedented situation and has put together a package of support to help the game at all levels. Included in this is an extra budget of £20million to the recreational game.

Cricket clubs and leagues are now able to apply to two new funding schemes specifically designed to help them through the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The following are the areas of support from ECB and are now live:



ECB Emergency Loan Scheme

The ECB Emergency Loan Scheme aims to support affiliated Cricket Clubs by providing interest free loans to assist clubs to cover any shortfall in essential day to day running and maintenance costs until normal recreational cricket activity can be resumed. Clubs will not be required to start paying back any loan until May 2021.

Who can apply?

Clubs affiliated to their cricket board in 2019 or 2020

What will the scheme fund?

ECB will consider applications for costs for a period of up to 12 months. Clubs should calculate estimated shortfall in the following expenditure areas:

- Utility or service Costs
- Rental charges
- Staff costs (employees – not coaches or players)
- Cleaning or maintenance commitments
- IT licences
- Security
- Insurance
- Equipment orders that can't be deferred or recovered
- TV / Broadband subscriptions (where it is not suspended)
- Affiliations
- Any other reasonable fixed and / or contracted costs

How much loan can I apply for?

Club with a junior section (including All Stars Cricket / Dynamos Cricket) between £1,000 and £5,000.

Club with an adult section only between £1,000 and £3,000.

How do I apply?

Clubs [apply by clicking here](#).

Before applying, it is highly recommended clubs read the [Emergency Loan Scheme guidance notes](#).

Where do I go for help?

If cricket clubs have any questions about the Emergency Loan Scheme please read the [frequently asked questions](#) or contact the facilities help desk by emailing loans@ecb.co.uk.



ECB Return to Cricket Grant Scheme

The Return to Cricket Grant Scheme aims to provide cricket clubs and leagues with assistance in **exceptional** circumstances, where other potential sources of financial support are not available, e.g. constitutionally a loan is not an option or there is a high risk of default in paying back a loan.

Who can apply?

- Clubs that are prevented from taking out an Emergency Loan by their own constitution or articles
- Cricket leagues (open-age or junior)
- Clubs that have an annual turnover of less than £15,000

What will the scheme fund?

Clubs and leagues can apply for:

- Utility or service costs
- Rental charges
- Staff costs (employees – not coaches or players)
- Cleaning or maintenance commitments
- IT licences
- Security
- Insurance
- Equipment orders that can't be deferred or recovered
- TV / Broadband subscriptions (where it is not suspended)
- Affiliations
- Any other reasonable fixed and / or contracted costs

How much grant can I apply for?

Clubs with an adult Section only up to £1,000.

Leagues (open-age or junior) up to £2,000.

Clubs with a junior section (including All Stars Cricket / Dynamos Cricket) up to £3,000.

How do I apply?

Please contact Mick Glenn to discuss your situation and potential eligibility for the grant scheme.

Before considering an application, it is highly recommended that clubs and leagues read the [Return to Cricket Grant Scheme guidance notes](#) to determine if they are eligible to apply.



England & Wales Cricket Trust – Interest Free Loan Scheme (existing loans)

The Trustees of the England and Wales Cricket Trust (ECB's subsidiary charity) have agreed that loan repayments will be suspended until May 2021. All other terms and conditions remain in place. If you have any questions, please contact loans@ecb.co.uk.

Other Support to Consider

While the current crisis has seen a raft of measures put in place to help sport it should not stop you looking into other opportunities. You might find that some funding bodies that have previously supported sport have changed their priorities to other areas in response to Covid-19. I have identified some sites that you could explore for funding:

Sport England – have a funding section <https://www.sportengland.org/funding/> a good site to visit and keep in touch with to pick up any changes

Easy fundraising for clubs enables your supporters to raise money while online shopping see <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

National Lottery Awards for All – supporting people and communities <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/under10k>

Foundation Derbyshire – manages a number of funds and has supported many cricket clubs in Derbyshire <https://foundationderbyshire.org/>

Co-op Local Community Fund – supports local cause, some cricket clubs have received funding <https://www.coop.co.uk/local-causes>

Derbyshire County Council Action Grants – Many clubs have received awards through this and the final round is May 31st <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/lottery-funding/action-grants/action-grants-programme/action-grants-programme.aspx>

Derbyshire County Council Community Leadership Scheme - its aim is to support worthwhile projects and initiatives that will benefit local communities through a small grants scheme <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/policies-plans/community-leadership/community-leadership-scheme.aspx>

Veolia Environmental Trust – support community and environmental projects <https://www.veoliatrust.org/funding/>

And there are lots of others – Landfill Communities Fund, East Midlands Airport Community Fund, Children in Need, Police & Crime Commissioner etc, etc.

It's also worth keeping up to date on websites that provide information and here are a couple that can help you:

Sport England - <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/our-funds> this site provides lots of advice on different areas among them Crowdfunding, Gift Aid, General Fundraising and much more.

Active Derbyshire Funding - <https://www.activederbyshire.org.uk/funding> a really good site to visit, keeps up to date with different funds as it is regularly updated. You can also subscribe to their newsletter which is produced monthly



Raising Money/ Saving Money

No doubt the present climate is presenting financial challenges to the game and 'making ends meet' has been highlighted by Derbyshire clubs as their key concern. With many regular fundraising initiatives not available, perhaps there is an opportunity to look at other ways of making ends meet. Listed below are a few suggestions from us based on feedback from clubs. An additional benefit is that some will help engagement with members who will be missing cricket.

- Online quizzes – virtual 'club/ pub' quiz with members
- Donations/ Voluntary contribution – from members
- Remote prize draws Members donate prizes tickets sold in aid of club funds
- Bonus Ball winner – linking to the National Lottery once a popular way for clubs to raise regular funds
- Crowd funding initiative
- Club sponsors – can you continue to engage and support them through your Social Media platforms
- Individual challenges for sponsorship

Saving Money

- As most clubs are shut you could consider turning off all heating, lighting, water, fridges etc.
- Can the club agree to pause/ suspend any payments while the club remains closed?
- Sky Sports (and other subscriptions) – get in touch with your provider(s) to suspend payment during the Covid-19 outbreak: <https://www.sky.com/help/articles/pause-sky-sports>
- Consider selling any stock that has a shelf life, for example bottled beers, cans, soft drinks etc. Possible action to release these consumables to free up cash flow.
- Contact your insurers to discuss whether your current policy is appropriate during this period. Can payments be delayed or deferred? Is there a clause relating to 'loss of earnings', worth checking!

We are acutely aware of the concern felt in the recreational game about the financial implications of the suspension of cricket because of Covid-19. However, there is help available and while accessing funding is not always easy, I would encourage all clubs/ organisations that are concerned to take the opportunity to investigate the schemes that may help them.

League Fees & Affiliations

If you are struggling to manage your cashflow at this challenging time and paying your league affiliation or match ball fees is causing financial difficulties, please make contact with the appropriate league to discuss payment options.