

Calne Without Parish Council
8th March 2021
Agenda item 8.0

Calne Parish Without - application for funding

Applicant: Calne Bowls Club Limited

Address: Hillcroft, CALNE, SN11 8RJ

A limited company by guarantee. Company Number 12537749. Formed 30th March 2020 (not registered for VAT)

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We were formed in 1914 and, like many clubs, we have had our ups and downs. Approximately four years ago a new committee was formed to make Calne Bowls Club a great community asset. It was realised that there was a large catchment area in Calne and a need for gentle exercise with a social aspect. This has been proved over the last two years when, despite Covid, we have increased our membership from 39 to 70, including several individuals who have visibly benefited by playing and socially mixing. Ten of our members come from the Calne Without parish, as do two of our five life members.

We became a limited company by guarantee last March, a separate legal entity, and we succeeded in November 2020 in obtaining our own thirty-year lease from Calne Town Council who have been very supportive. This has stabilised our outgoings and enabled us to look for grants, including those to replace our ageing pavilion, as we need better facilities to offer bowls to the whole community including those with disabilities.

Covid has set us back with our fund raising, game revenue and loss of sponsorship. We have managed to obtain grants from Sports England and the Neighbourhood Lottery to keep us going and maintain our green. This costs somewhere in the region of £4,500 pa and is our most expensive but important outgoing as, without a good green, we are not able to play bowls. When we are released from lock down this season we intend holding open days to attract more members, as well as having members playing generally, socially distanced. For this we will require sprays, wipes, gels etc and have applied to Sports England Return to Play Fund for a grant to fund dispensers and bulk supplies to save money ongoing.

Proposal seeking funding:

Looking to the future we wish to encourage players from the whole community, and to include those who may be socially isolated, those from care homes and those with minor disabilities. New players and those with less strength are often better suited to lighter woods (bowls). To help those who are starting out we would like to have available, to borrow from club stock and assess for weight, some smaller/lighter sets of woods to make an encouraging beginning to learning the game, before new members buy their own sets. These lighter sets are, unfortunately, more expensive than the standard sizes but we are happy to buy secondhand from online selling sites. Each secondhand set is, on average, somewhere between £80 - £140. **We would therefore wish to seek funding for two sets, three if possible, and would like to apply for funding in the sum of £300.**

We hope that money can be granted for this purpose from the CIL Fund