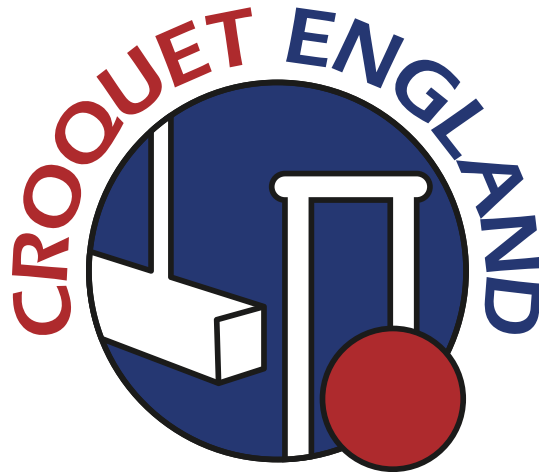


CROQUET ENGLAND



Digest of Funding Decisions

2003-2023

**Compiled by John Reddish
Chairman of the Funding Committee**

Revised
November 2023

A digest of decisions of the Development Committee
(and now the Funding Committee)
relating to grants and loans from the Croquet Association to Member Clubs

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Equipment for lawn maintenance

Grant of **£2,730** towards the cost of the acquisition of a **re-conditioned mower and a shed** in which to store it. The Club were badly let down by their lawn maintenance company following months of difficulties. Lawn cuts had not been to a good standard because their mower could not cut short enough and there was not the flexibility to add extra cuts on mornings of tournament and match days. The Club needed a more flexible solution which delivered better quality. They decided to invest in a specialist mower. This would allow them to contract a local person on a cheaper rate for regular mows and to add extra mows via club volunteers as and when needed. A specialist mower would deliver the quality of cut they needed to function as a club covering all levels of play - including as a satellite venue for the AC World Championships in 2023. They had a quote for a second hand mower from Duncan Hector. As this was a petrol mower the Club also needed to buy a storage container for secure storage on site since the pavilion was not suitable and was insufficiently secure.

Ealing January 2023

Grant of **£3,661** made towards the cost of the purchase of a **new Dennis cylinder mower** and a machine to paint white lines. The 5-lawn club had previously had the benefit of lawn maintenance by the "landlord" golf club. That service was withdrawn. The club decided to remain on same site. A plan was formulated to procure the "immediate need" equipment, including a mower with a cassette system and a machine to paint white lines. A new, rather than re-conditioned mower, was justified by the fact that, as main mower it would have a two year period of guarantee, a servicing contract, a delivery package which included an instruction and a safety in use demonstration, a better level of reliability and "a bit of a wow factor", which would encourage members to volunteer to use it. The purchase of a refurbished mower remained an option for a second mower.

Hamptworth: December 2020

Grant of **£2,874** made towards the cost of a **second hand mower** (50% of the cost). The club had three new, purpose-built courts and had built a pavilion and a toilet facility. They had all the necessary equipment, except a lawnmower. They had previously borrowed a mower. They wished to buy a second hand machine. They had discovered that new greens' mowers cost more than £20,000. George Noble had advised them to have an 11 blade cylinder model, which was harder to find than an 8 blade. Their local dealer had several 8 blade but only one 11 blade machine, which proved to be worn out. The club eventually located three possible mowers. A Jacobsen Eclipse hybrid, costing £5,450 + VAT was dropped because they tend to give trouble. A Toro 3250-D mower at £4,500 + VAT plus £250 delivery from Bury St Edmunds was eliminated in favour of a Toro 3250-D from Mitchells Groundcare of Hailsham, Sussex. This machine was ten years old. It had been used at Ham Manor golf course and Mitchells had serviced it regularly for the past 7 years. A very experienced former green keeper had checked it and found it to be good. Since it would be kept in a rather remote location, the club arranged to have an immobiliser fitted. Together with some necessary extras, the total cost was £5,748.

Canterbury: March 2018

Grant of **£615** to cover half the estimate for lawn improvement work and a **mower**. This rapidly developing and ambitious new club had made excellent progress and had a robust plan for further development. The club's request was for assistance towards lawn maintenance equipment and replacement balls. Replacement balls were not eligible for grant aid. The request for a mower for this developing club did come under the heading of a new requirement – not least as they were working to convert a pony paddock into a croquet lawn. As the request for assistance with new balls did not qualify for a grant the club were invited to ask for a loan towards the cost.

St Agnes: February 2017

Grant made of up to **£1,500** towards the cost of a **mower**. A new Allett Tournament 24 inch with a groomer costing £5,716 was planned. The club did not own a mower. Work was previously undertaken by local contractor using an inefficient machine. Duncan Hector had advised that new mowing equipment was needed to achieve a satisfactory playing surface. The mower available (via Duncan) had additional features not available from other sources and was competitively priced. The club's land was leased with a covenant preventing it being requisitioned for building. Grant subject to (a) a request that efforts be made to regenerate AC at the Club; (b) a suggestion that the Club should look at the second hand market, with grant aid up to £1,500 covering 50% of the actual cost; and (c) should other grant aid be received, the CA grant might need to be adjusted accordingly.

Bransgore: December 2016

Grant of **£4,500** made towards the purchase of a **'ride-on' mower** (costing £7,800 + £1,700 for storage). The club assured the Committee that this was not a replacement for existing lawn mowing equipment. They were using a Dennis cassette mower which they would continue to use for aeration and verticutting. The project was to meet a need for additional lawn maintenance. It was a fundamental change in the maintenance requirements of the club. The club had been on the site for 10 years. They started with a piece of barren waste land and developed a 5 court facility in a geographical area with a paucity of croquet provision. Much of the recent lawn improvement work had been associated with better drainage. The project aimed to make the annual maintenance more cost effective, by freeing up time from lawn cutting to allow for other lawn maintenance activities. Most of the lawn maintenance was done by club members on a rota basis. The Committee resolved to provide a grant but had a number of reservations. Members wanted to see a detailed specification for the tractor unit that was proposed, concerns having been raised about its turning circle and potential lawn damage that may ensue. Whilst it did not debar the club from asking for a grant, it was noted that the club had not bid for hosting future CA events as they had done historically. The club had a modest membership for its lawn size and there were some concerns about the robustness of its balance sheet. However, the club had attracted significant grant income from alternative sources. The Committee were minded to forward the application to the Major Grants Committee for determination, provided there were satisfactory responses to their concerns.

Pendle & Craven: February 2016

Grant of **£185** made towards the purchase of a **lining machine** (costing £305 + VAT) to paint the boundary lines on new lawns provided by the Cricket Club, the club having moved there from a local park. Although this was an extremely small grant the Committee agreed with the FDO that a CA award (instead of an award from the SECF) would be a gesture to encourage the club to grow and support the CA more in the future.

Hassocks: February 2015

Grant of **£1,400** made towards a lawns improvement project. The club's growth since its start up in 2006 had been impressive (now 2½ lawns). To make further progress and attract AC players, the quality of the lawns was in need of improvement. Project costs were split with £2,740 allocated to lawn treatments and £2,804 for capital equipment. The Committee took the view that lawn treatment programmes were an ongoing activity and should be covered by the club through its income. However, the capital equipment costs were eligible for grant purposes. The award was for expenditure covering a **towed liquid sprayer, towed Sarrel spiker and a secure walk-in container.**

Bransgore February 2015

Grant of **£3,197** made towards lawn improvement. Part of the plan was to purchase a sit-on mower with grooming attachment and a **Sarrel spiker** (costing £6,395). The club were taking the ground work over from a contractor. Tests had shown that the grooming attachment would significantly improve the speed of the lawns and the sit-on facility would smooth out some of the minor bumps as well as allowing the club to use more local labour. They had also been recommended to use a Sarrel spiker every couple of weeks during the summer months to aerate the soil. Purchasing these items would allow the club to improve the smoothness and speed of their lawns and put them more in control of the lawn maintenance. It was an A level tournament club where the grounds had gone downhill. The club had produced a sound recovery plan with advice from Duncan Hector. The committee decided to recommend the bid for acceptance the understanding that the club must make adequate provision for replacement going forward.

Colchester: November 2014

Grant of **£175** made towards the cost of a second hand **Sisis AutoGreenman** (costing £350) for **lawn aeration**. An enthusiastic club showing good progress. They suffered a setback when access to a mechanical aerator, shared with the cricket section, was lost. This machine would improve the quality of the lawns. The committee approved the grant while at the same time pointing out to the club that it needed to make provision for a replacement in the future.

Penrith & North Lakes: November 2014

Grant of **£232.50** made towards the cost (£465) of a **second hand mower**. The landlord Council had decided to cease lawn maintenance. Subsequent grounds contractors had produced bad results. The club had acquired a good groundsman but his equipment would not cut to the required standard. A suitable lawn mower had been identified. The club was an important club for the North East hosting CA tournaments etc.

A grant of up to **£3,606** was made towards the cost of the acquisition of an **electric mower** to enable the club to continue playing on their unusual site. The club had previously had its lawns maintained by the local authority. That authority had proposed a large increase in the amount it charged for the service, such that the club would not have been able to meet the cost. As a result, the local authority had terminated the Club's licence to occupy its lawns, leaving them to negotiate a new agreement with South West Water. The lawns were on the cover of a reservoir supplying drinking water to the city. Because of the situation, the landlord imposed a condition that no petrol-driven mowers could be used, as well as continuing a ban on the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides which had been in place for some time. Award made subject to prompt amendment of the club's constitution to ensure that funds would not be distributed to the membership on dissolution.

Plymouth: May 2013

Grant of **£4,688** made (as requested) towards the costs of major works. This application related specifically to Phase 1 of a project to acquire the **essential equipment** to enable the club to undertake their own lawn maintenance, following the withdrawal of local authority support (total cost £14,688). Further phases would cover the acquisition of a small club room to replace the existing shipping container shelter, which would now be needed to house the maintenance equipment, followed by relaying and extending the lawns to give 3 full-size lawns, and the erection of a security fence. The Committee were very impressed by the thoroughness of the application, and by the extensive evidence of community outreach work carried on by the club members.

Swindon: November 2012

Grant of **£950** made towards the cost of a **new mower**. The club had been using an elderly mower which was on loan from Wrest Park but which was now at the end of its life. This was first-time capital expenditure. The club were to be reminded that they should make provision in their accounts [*and accumulate funds*] for the eventual replacement of the new mower.

Wingrave: November 2012

The club was undertaking a major relocation project caused by the disposal by the local council of the premises where the club had played for 29 years. The Committee felt that the project was worthy of support but that a grant of **£3,000** plus a loan of £2,000 with a 2 year repayment holiday was the appropriate recommendation. Upon reconsideration of the application, it was agreed that the concerns raised earlier had been addressed but, in view of limited funds available, the award of £3,000 plus loan of £2,000 was unchanged. The club's application included the cost of **new mowing equipment**. It was noted that the Committee had another application to consider where a reconditioned example of the same machine was involved, at much lower cost. The club's attention would be drawn to this.

High Wycombe: February 2012

Grant of **£3,750** made towards the cost of **two mowers** to enable the club to take on the maintenance of its 11 lawns following the local authority's decision to seek an enormous increase in the amount it charged for mowing.

Southport and Birkdale: February 2012

Grant of **£1,000** made towards the cost of a **mower** and other equipment to enable the club to take on maintenance obligations.

Weston-super-Mare: February 2012

Grant of **£1,500** (plus the offer of a loan of £1,000) made in response to an application for assistance with the completion of an extensive lawn improvement project (costing £7,000). The project aimed at upgrading the playing facilities at the club, including the levelling and resurfacing of the club's two courts together with the installation of a Hunter irrigation system and peripheral protective fence followed by the provision of a new, secure storage hut (an Outdoor Interests 12x8 shed costing £1,100); connection of the irrigation system to the mains water supply (cost £1,512) and the acquisition of a new **mower** (a Ransome Super Bowl 51 cylinder mower costing £4,073) and a lining machine (a Linesman 50mm line marker costing £269). The Committee identified the specific items that could properly be included (connection of the newly installed irrigation system to the water main, a mower, a new storage shed and a line marker). Grant applied for was £2,500. The Committee felt that the club could find a less expensive mower and made a grant of £1,500 plus a loan of £1,000.

West Wittering: November 2011

A modest grant of **£650** was sought as a contribution to the general improvement of the lawns and for the purchase of a new lawn **mower**. The club had a "cherished 20 year-old mower" donated by a member. Spare parts were difficult to obtain and the machine was only continuing in use because of the skill and ingenuity of the groundsman. The Committee agreed to support the application for the purchase of new, improved equipment.

Irrigation systems

Grant of **£5,000** towards the cost of the installation of an **irrigation system**. The anticipated cost was £10,120. The award was a little less than requested because the Committee had a self-imposed maximum of £5,000 per grant. They were empowered to offer grants of up to £10,000 but, when they first took responsibility for the distribution of the development funds, they formed the view that, in order that they might fairly distribute the money as widely as possible, they should only make awards of that magnitude in exceptional circumstances. The project involved the installation of a concrete slab for a 10,000 litre water tank with rainwater capture from clubhouse roof and a pump and electronic irrigation system to allow for the watering of the 3 lawns. Mains water pressure was inadequate for suitable watering. The recent long, dry, hot summers had reduced the quality of the playing surfaces. The only irrigation the Club had was sprinklers run off the mains supply. The mains water pressure was only sufficient to cover a small area at a time and required the sprinklers to be manually moved. This meant that days went by without any irrigation and even on the days when the sprinkler was out, it only covered a small area of the three lawns. The aim of the project was to improve lawn quality by making sure the grass was adequately watered and patches did not die off in hot summers.

Newport August 2023

Grant of **£5,000** towards the cost of the installation of an **irrigation system**. The Club had 4 lawns. The ground was very fast draining which enabled year-round play, but the lawns dried out very quickly in summer and conditions could deteriorate rapidly as grass died. Recent long, hot, dry summers had resulted in extremely challenging conditions for players of all levels and lawn refurbishment costs at the end of each summer were becoming excessively expensive. The Club was currently spending a minimum of £3,000 at the end of each summer to renovate the lawns primarily because of the lack of rain. They did not think it remained feasible to maintain fine turf without some form of automated lawn watering system. They needed automated watering system that could be activated at night without the need for manual intervention. They anticipate that the system would be needed for 4-5 months of the year. The total cost of the installation was estimated at £19,376. The Club had already set aside £12,000 and had some other funds that could be used in the short term.

Guilford & Godalming. January 2023

Grant of **£3,750** towards the cost of the installation of an **irrigation system** with a total cost of £7,950. The project involved extending the supply of water from the sports ground pavilion to the site of the club's lawns, a distance of approximately 150 metres; the supply and installation of an irrigation system to distribute the water and the provision of mains power to enable the irrigation system to be powered and automated. The extension of the water supply to the lawns and the supply of power was to be carried out by club members and financed by the club and so did not form part of the grant request.

Southwell. January 2023

Grant of **£4,000** (as requested) towards the cost of the installation of an **automated irrigation system** for a single lawn providing for 40+ members playing both AC and GC. Watering by members proved to be inadequate and wasteful in the drought conditions of 2002 and adversely affected membership

Merton December 2022

The Committee agreed that it could support the application for a grant towards the installation of an **irrigation system** but not towards the described lawn work. The former was clearly a development project but the latter appeared to be maintenance work. However, the amount of the grant was unaffected because the Committee decided to adhere to their self-imposed limit of £5,000 per grant. Grants of up to £10,000 only awarded in wholly exceptional cases and the application did not fall into that category.

Littlehampton February 2022

Grant of **£1,000** (maximum for 1 lawn club) towards the cost of a new Rainmaker **automatic watering system** (total cost £9,810 + making good = c £10,000). The development of the club had been most impressive. Their involvement in Federation activities was commended. (A grant was also obtained from waste management company (nearby landfill site)).

Cheam: February 2015

Grant of **£2,000** made towards the cost of an extensive project, largely funded by the main sports club and also by the croquet club, to provide an **irrigation system** for its lawns, fed from a borehole. Total cost £10,660 of which £5,810 would be funded by croquet. Application for grant of £2,900. The irrigation project would give the club enhanced lawns and the ability to attract new members and allow

play in the two disciplines in good playing conditions. The completed project would put new life into a club which carried out a very great deal of self help, mainly due to the high proportion of members' fees going to the main club. Award made (as recommended by the FDO) towards Phase 3 of the project but subject to reduction if applications for grants from other sources were successful. Croquet section could also borrow from the main club, as they had in the past.

Ember: November 2011

Grant of **£2,500** made towards the cost of a **borehole** (£6,500 + VAT) from which water would, if possible, be drawn for an irrigation system for the club's 5 permanent lawns. The Rainmaker **irrigation project** had been instigated to prevent damage due to drought and to enable work to improve lawn quality. The only watering facility available was a single manually operated portable sprinkler with inadequate water pressure. The project was heavily dependent on a successful grant application (for £43,300) to the Inspired Facilities Fund, a decision upon which was awaited. The Committee noted that the costings were still uncertain (because they were dependent upon the success of the borehole). They recommended an interim award at this stage with a further application to be considered in due course when the figures were firmer.

Nottingham: November 2011

Grant of **£5,000** (about 25% of the cost) made towards the cost of installing a new **irrigation system**. The key point was that this Tennis and Croquet club had sufficient funds to carry out the project without any grant aid. The total costs were a bit expensive but the costs had been shown to be reasonable. It was also recognised that while the club had sufficient reserves to meet the costs without a grant, the internal politics between the croquet section and the tennis section suggested that the CA needed to back the project to kill off any threat to the croquet section being reduced to two lawns from four (by being refused use of the tennis courts for tournaments). Therefore, the committee's recommendation to the Major Grants Committee was that the CA offer £5,000.

Woking: May 2007

Grant of **£5,000** made towards the provision of an automatic **irrigation system** and groundsman's store. Project cost of £12,000. The club had the potential for 4 courts. Grant made subject to the supply of written quotations and satisfactory alternative funding.

Blewbury: October 2004

Essential off-court facilities

“Grants will be considered for the following range of projects : development of new clubhouse and secure storage facilities; improvements to clubhouse and storage facilities; provision of fencing to protect lawns and/or provide security for club grounds; non-playing items such as shelters for players, sanitary provision and provision of water and cooking facilities.”

Development Committee “Future Projects” announcement; November 2008

Access paths

Grant of **£2,000** made towards the cost of adding to previous **work to improve access** to the club. An uneven paved area was to be refurbished, facilitating wheelchair access to the clubhouse. The Committee fully supported the project (total cost £5,600), as it was a safety/access issue which was competitively priced.

Bowdon: February 2018

The Committee had awarded a grant £1,000 towards a footpath to the pavilion (*see below*). Comments regarding the chosen specification resulted in the project being revisited and significantly revised. A new application was submitted. A grant of **£3,957** (50% of the total cost) was awarded for a **trench containing a plastic perforated drain** along the width of the lawn in front of clubhouse to new soak-away. The trench would be back filled and finished with Grassroad paving (manufactured by Grasscrete). This was to be extended to the entrance gate along the route most heavily used from the entrance to the clubhouse. The finished surface would be a solid plastic honeycomb paving rather than cheaper artificial grass. The benefits of Grassroad were improved wear resistance, greater attractiveness and longer life. The Grassroad specification required that new non-compactable material be used as a back-fill over the new drain thus avoiding the risk of settlement. The drain and Grassroad would be extended to the far end of the lawn. To include this extra length (of about 15 yards) would be prudent to avoid the need for further work in the future. The extra cost would be a cost saving in the long term.

High Wycombe: November 2017

Grant of **£1,000** towards a **pathway** (cost £5,852 - £2,926 sought). Access was on a clay-based route on a slope presenting health and safety issues in winter and inclement weather. Other solutions had been trialled, without success. This was part of a much wider programme of development embracing the clubhouse, drainage and toilets for which the club had used substantial funds from its own resources. As a capital infrastructure project facilitating additional play, the request was eligible. There were however significant concerns over the high cost for a limited impact on croquet play. The club might in addition wish to request a loan.

High Wycombe: February 2017

Club houses

Grant of **£5,000** as a contribution towards the cost of acquiring **clubhouse as a replacement for an elderly and rotten shed and the excavation of a trench to accommodate water and electricity conduits**. The Committee were satisfied that the project would improve essential off-court facilities and enable the club to sustain the progress that they had made since they last received a grant in 2017. The shed what been donated to the club, secondhand, over 30 years ago. It was in desperate need of replacement. The planned new build was a wooden structure with one partial internal divider separating off the storage for croquet equipment. A new sink unit and storage units were also required. A trench from near the village hall to the club house would contain ducting for electricity and water supplies.

Kington Langley. October 2023

Grant of **£4,000**, as requested, towards the cost of the acquisition and installation of a **"garden office" type clubhouse**. The Committee were satisfied that the project involved the provision of essential off-court facilities for the club and that it would result in a significant development of the facilities for playing croquet in their area. A grant of £4,000- would help guarantee that the Club would reach the threshold of £6,000, triggering a Sport England grant taking them to £11,000. Benefactors within the Cub had pledged to support them with loans totalling £10,000 which would be added to the fund as their crowd funding exercise drew to a close, thus ensuring that they would reach their £20k,000.or £20,000 plus target.

Northampton October 2023

Grant of **£5,000** towards the cost of installing a **clubhouse** on the seaside lawns. The absence of shelter for members whilst playing and watching was seriously inhibiting expansion of the club. The Committee were impressed by the progress that the Club had already made, which was reflected in the documents that they had supplied. They found that a statement by an experienced member was very helpful in relation to the important matter of the viability and expansion of the Club in the foreseeable future.

Bude October 2022

Grant of **£5,000** made as a contribution towards the cost of a **club house**, involving a structure (technically a caravan) based on a steel chassis, with a wooden framework and exterior cladding, providing seating for 65 people. All walls and roof fully insulated. Double glazed units with 'K' glass reflecting heat back into the room. The Committee were very impressed by the presentation. Hope that a grant from the CA might prove to be "seed corn" which would assist with the fund raising process.

[The project was subsequently amended when the Club decided to acquire a second-hand temporary classroom to convert into a more extensive clubhouse and to add in an irrigation system. The grant was paid over on this basis in May 2021]

Camerton & Peasedown: December 2019

Grant of **£4,635** made towards the cost (£9,270) of a **changing and locker room**. The club planned to purchase a stand-alone sectional unit to provide additional changing and locker space. This would provide facilities for members and players from visiting teams to store mallets, clothing, personal belongings and kit bags in addition to changing shoes and wet weather gear. It would be sited adjacent to the existing pavilion and would also provide further undercover space in inclement weather. The Committee gave full support to this high quality application from a well-managed, forward-thinking, pro-active club which made a valuable contribution to Federation league activity. Grant made subject to provision being made for step-free access.

Cornwall: October 2017

Grant of **£5,000** made towards the **major refurbishment of the pavilion** (total cost £36,772 of which £28,000 had been saved over time). The club had 5 good lawns but the clubhouse was old and lacking many essential features. There were no disabled facilities. The first step was the introduction of two sets of wide double doors (Part 1) to be followed by accessible toilet facilities (Part 2). The club was important within its Federation and made a very important contribution to the CA calendar. Several concerns were raised about the application. Were other grant applications being made? Would access be genuinely for the disabled or would a step remain before reaching the ladies' toilet? Had a structural survey been undertaken? Was it known whether (expensive) asbestos removal would be required? Rather than spending £37,000 on a very elderly building, should the money be put instead to a new clubhouse? A decision was deferred in the hope more information would be

available. The club confirmed that access would be available for the disabled, via a removable ramp. A structural survey had been undertaken in March 2016. No asbestos removal would be required because none was expected to be found. A new clubhouse was considered as an option but the cost was out of reach and unnecessary. Restoration and renovation were the key words. The Committee eventually accepted that, while much of the work was repair, the relocation and upgrade of the cloakrooms was a capital project which was development. £20,000 of the estimated cost came within that category. The outstanding questions were then regarded as resolved and the grant was approved

Compton: January 2017

Grant of **£1,000** towards the cost of a new **“log cabin” style pavilion** (total cost £4,500). A small, enthusiastic club in Somerset, the only one within a 20-mile radius, committed to self-help, developing both AC and GC, showing success in league competitions, with significant potential for growth, and well deserving of support. A grant of £2,500 from Viridor (waste disposal company) had been approved through the first two of three stages. A grant from the CA was essential for the Viridor grant to be secured. If, in the end, the Viridor bid was unsuccessful, any CA funding would not be taken up. Club advised to ensure that access was step-free and told that further funding might be available as a loan if requested.

Abbey: February 2017

Grant of **£5,000** made towards the cost of a **new pavilion**. The club's choice was a building that would have cost £15,807, which together with a concrete base, came to a total of £20,677. A substantial grant from Viridor (waste disposal company operating a nearby land fill site) was refused so that the club could not afford that. They negotiated a revised price, based on keeping to the original size and construction but leaving out non essentials, e.g. internal wall lining etc. The revised figure was £9,456, which together with the base came to a total of £14,326. If the CA could grant £5,000, the club would be able to fund the balance £9,326 from their own reserves. The parent club had made a considerable investment in laying out three new croquet lawns which were currently under construction. The development had been planned for a considerable time. The club filled an important geographical gap in the provision of croquet in Kent. The application fully met the Committee's objectives and was fully supported. Grant subject to agreement that, should the Club fold within 5 years, the asset would revert to the CA and not to the parent Club.

Canterbury: December 2016

Grant of **£2,100** made towards the cost of a **new pavilion** (as requested) subject to (a) a strong suggestion that further funds be sought also from the cash-rich parent club and from other grant-making bodies; (b) assurances that the proposed pavilion would be sufficiently secure and adequately insured. It was recognised that the proximity of Southwick, with its facilities and high quality lawns, made it desirable to improve the club. The proposed pavilion was to replace an old hut given by another club. It was some distance away from the facilities used by other sports and would be used by croquet players only.

West Worthing: December 2016

Grant of **£5,000** (the maximum) made towards the cost of a **new pavilion**. The club had agreed to move closer to the boundary with the adjacent crematorium and laid two more lawns in September 2014. It was agreed that the club should fence off the croquet area from the rugby area and erect a small clubhouse as part of general facilities improvement and in order to increase membership. The plan involved the erection and fitting out of a Norfolk cabin measuring 8.5m x 4m to provide a clubhouse. The costs were £12,500 (including VAT) for erection and £4,500 for fitting out including connecting the toilet to the main sewer. The Committee praised the efforts of the club in transforming themselves in a remarkably short space of time but raised some concerns. These were subsequently dealt with.

Guildford & Godalming: February 2016

A grant of **£1,000** and a loan of £2,500 made towards the cost of a **new pavilion** (£27,400). £16,700 already received in grants. The grant and loan were given provisional approval in 2015, subject to a suitable forward business plan being in place to cover club expansion to more than one lawn. The club was well on the way to achieving its target figure for grants. One of the reasons that the pavilion was more costly than other applications was the fact that the club was within the confines of the South Downs National Park and they had to adhere to strict planning controls. The Committee were impressed with the growth of the club and its ability to get grants from other bodies. Grant of £1,000 and loan of £2,500 reconfirmed subject to (a) assurances that the proposed pavilion would be

sufficiently secure and adequately insured and (b) agreement that, should the Club fold within 5 years, the asset would revert to the CA. (? Grant would be repayable)

Lodsworth: November 2015 and December 2016

Grant of **£1,200** made towards the cost of new **club house** – a Waltons Left Sided Lodge Grand Corner Log Cabin 5m X 3m costing £1,999.95 including VAT and delivery. Committee members asked that the club be recommended to use heavier grade roof felt.

Beckford: November 2015

Grant of **£1,000** made towards the purchase of a **club hut**. Total cost: £2,905 (not including the hard standing and any fixtures and fittings such as cupboards and shelving, all of which would be met by club's own savings, fund raising and members doing the fittings, etc as D.I.Y projects). This was agreed subject to being satisfied that necessary insurance was in place.

Worthing: November 2015

Grant of **£5,000** (as requested) made towards a project involving the restoration of a **clubhouse** and development of a disused crown-green bowls club. Total cost £120,000. The applicant was a substantial club on the north side of Manchester. They had hosted a number of top International events on the courts in Heaton Park, which had been constructed for the Commonwealth Games bowls events. The use of this facility had become untenable. The club had decided to develop the greens and a club house in a public park. The crown greens had been levelled and 3 full-size croquet courts seeded ready for use in 2015. A grant of over £24,000 had been made by Viridor and a private trust fund of £29,000 had been received. The club house was not fit for purpose but could be made into an excellent facility if it were total refurbished, including asbestos removal. The Committee were in general support of the project subject to being satisfied that the funds for the total project cost could be raised. This was referred to the MGC for further investigation and consideration. The MGC could go ahead with the award if they were satisfied that the funding could be met without overstressing the club's finances.

Bury: November 2014

Grant of **£3,000** made towards the £12,000 cost of replacing the existing dilapidated hut with a **club house** which was better suited to the increased membership of the club, as well as providing toilet facilities and increased storage space. The club had chosen two prefabricated buildings from Dunster House Ltd, which had solid 45mm thick walls. First, a Severn 400 Sunlight Log Cabin was selected as the main pavilion. This had an area 4 metres x 5 metres with a double door and two large windows at the front. It also had a roof extending 1 metre, thus giving shelter outside to members when necessary. Inside members would build storage for hoops, mallets etc and a 'kitchen' area for preparing tea. Secondly, a Dunster garage. This was 3 metres x 5.5 metres. It would be divided to give two toilets with separate access. One would be a WC for ladies and the other a urinal for men. There was also a large equipment storage area with double door access. The award was made subject to confirmation that access was disabled-friendly.

Kenilworth: November 2012

Grant of **£3,000** + a loan of £2,000 (application was for £5,000 but funds were tight) made towards the estimated £25,000 cost of a secure **club house** to replace the existing dilapidated wooden hut. The club had been presented with a golden opportunity to regenerate its facilities. The project needed to be undertaken in conjunction with extensive refurbishment work on the Victorian park as a whole, including the croquet lawns, which was being undertaken by the local authority with Heritage Lottery Fund money. The vandal proof pavilion recommended by the council (a "Sitesafe" metal building with timber cladding, costing £19,680) would come in one piece. It would have to be transported in when temporary access had been provided for the heavy machinery required for the restoration of the park. Therefore, the purchase of the prefabricated building could not be delayed to follow after the other work has been completed. It would be placed on a concrete base at the side of the lawns.

Crawley: February 2012

Grant of **£2,250** made towards a relocation project. The move was from unsatisfactory premises in a park to a new site at a Golf Club. The application was for assistance with the construction of a **pavilion** beside the lawns. The Club had made some recommended changes to its constitution since the original application and had sought alternative sources of funds. The Committee thought that this

was a well-presented. The grant was subject to reduction if other grant support was obtained.

[The club acquired and used the pavilion but was evicted from the Golf Club in 2021]

Ipswich November 2011

Grant of **£1,000** made towards the cost of replacing a badly dilapidated storage shed some distance from the lawns with a larger **club house** building which could also provide shelter for players. The existing storage hut was very small (8'x6') and its condition was poor. There were no facilities for visiting teams (or club members) to shelter their kit or themselves. They used a tent. The new pavilion would provide such facilities (albeit small). The improved facility and more prominent location would bring the club to the attention of visitors to the Kingston Maurward College and visitors' park. Groundwork would cost £1,000 and the pavilion £2,725

[The club relocated to Winterborne Valley in 2020 with the aid of a grant of £500 for "clubhouse transportation"]

Kingston Maurward: November 2011

Grant of £1,900 made towards the cost of converting tennis courts to croquet courts. It was clear that the grant sought (£3,800) was the club's contribution towards the larger scheme of building a new pavilion for all the sports clubs on the site. It was decided to recommend to the MGC that a grant of £1,900 be awarded towards the conversion costs, with a further **£1,900** to follow in respect of the **pavilion**, both sums payable on completion of each of the respective parts of the whole development project.

Ben Rhydding: February 2011

Grant of **£1,000** made towards the cost of adding a canopy to the large shed (16' x 8') already purchased to serve as a club house on tennis club premises (£1,450) and to connect it to the electricity supply (£450).

Fylde: November 2010

Grant of **£900** made towards the purchase of a **new hut**. They had a 4' x 6' hut but it was packed full and not fit for purpose. They needed a bigger hut in addition.

Worthing: November 2010

A grant of £750 was made to help pay for a new storage shed for equipment after the host hotel reclaimed the existing store for its own use.

Beverley: February 2010

Grant of **£5,000** made towards the cost of a **new club house**. A detailed set of amendments to the design had been provided by Jonathon Toye regarding accessibility. A very ambitious scheme. The MGC agreed to the recommendation subject to various conditions including the accessibility changes.

Llanfairfechan: October 2006

Grant of £5,000 made as a contribution to a new pavilion to be provided mainly by the Local Authority. *[The total cost of £125,000 was raised by February 2008]*

Chester: February 2006

Electricity supplies

Grant of **£5,000** made towards the costs to be met by a new club, including a toilet, a Biodigester and the connection of mains services to the site.

Moreton-in-Marsh: March 2021

Grant of **£1,900** as a 50% contribution towards the cost of a **solar power** project (panels and a battery). The croquet pavilion had no power supply. The proposed system would provide 2kw of power with battery storage. This would be enough to power lights, a small fridge, a hot water urn and power points for a computer charging facilities. The cost of running power cables from the main club house would be prohibitive. The Committee were satisfied that the project had the objective of improving essential off-court facilities. The project was interesting, innovative, environmentally friendly and probably sensibly economic.

West Worthing: December 2019

Grant of **£3,500** towards cost of **connection by NW Electricity** (total cost £6,965 plus £2,000 for electrical installations in a new building). The current clubhouse was approximately 100 years old and no longer fit for purpose. There was no electricity to the premises. This was obviously an obstacle to providing decent facilities for members and visitors. To obtain a supply was not straightforward. The work involved additional cabling from the nearest supply (approximately 25 metres). It also involved taking cable across an A road so traffic lights had to be provided whilst the work was being carried out. The Committee queried the timetable and sought the provision of a Gant chart for this. There were also accessibility concerns to be addressed. These were subsequently dealt with and the grant was made.

Crake Valley: December 2018

Grant of **£700** made as requested for the **installation of electricity** to the clubhouse together with the provision of appliances. It was also agreed that the club should be granted a further £100 towards the cost of £150 for the provision of two water heaters.

Edgbaston: May 2007

Kitchens

Grant of **£1,650** made to support the refurbishment of the **pavilion kitchen** (not the white goods which, as replacements, were more properly a maintenance responsibility of the club) and to reflect the 70%/30% croquet/tennis usage of the kitchen. Tennis and croquet operated as a single club. A grant of £68K had been received from Sport England to enlarge the clubhouse, with the balance of the cost (£22K) being met from the club's reserves. The club had high reserves of £103K but it was a requirement of an earlier LTA grant that £78K of this be held for future Astroturf tennis court refurbishment, and £18K for floodlight maintenance, plus a further £10K for other, smaller items. The rebuilding of the clubhouse was already under way. Improvements to the kitchen were a separate initiative which was not envisaged at the time of the original Sport England bid but now recommended itself to the club, to be undertaken at the same time. A second quotation, with superior fittings, had been received for £10,500. This was a successful 4-court club mounting CA tournaments. The option was open for the Club, if it wished, to seek to negotiate a loan direct with the Treasurer.

Ryde: December 2016

Grant of **£3,000** made towards the improvements to the club house **kitchen** (a project costing £15,506 in total). A retrospective application. Special factors were considered.

Surbiton: October 2004

Security equipment

Grant of **£1,281.39** made for improved security, including an **alarm system** and a CCTV system; additional security glazing; anti-climb paint; security spikes and security lights. These were needed because, in August 2018, vandals entered the facility, broke half the windows of the clubhouse, damaged several electrical items and left fragments of glass everywhere inside and on the nearby court. The club was able to claim back all but £50 from their insurers and did not suffer serious financial or operational impact. There had been 3 previous break-ins over the previous 12 months (minor without much damage).

High Wycombe: December 2018

Shelters

Grant of **£1,310**, as requested, as a contribution towards the cost of acquiring a **pavilion-style shelter** which would provide protection from the elements and a hub around which club activity would focus.

Enfield January 2023

Grant of **£3,087** made as a contribution towards the cost (total £9,746) of ground clearance and levelling; seeding; the extension of an existing sprinkler system and a gazebo for a new court at the tennis club. The Funding Committee were satisfied that the proposed ground work and the extension of the irrigation system were clearly development projects that merited funding but doubted whether the provision of a gazebo could properly be regarded as a reasonable development project at this stage.

Frinton-on-Sea: March 2021

Grant of **£1,000** made towards the cost of providing **lawn shelters**. This award was subject to all the planning approvals being granted and a minimum of two quotes satisfactory to the Committee being received.

Nottingham: February 2008

Storage facilities for equipment

Grant of £990 towards the cost of a **storage shed**. Club recently founded to become a “strategic partner” of the existing bowls club and to share use of their green. Storage facilities required for croquet equipment. Shed identified costing £1980. Assurances sought that Croquet would be recognised as part of the combined club with its own accounts or identifiable entries in combined accounts and that the building would be insured

Bradford-on-Avon May 2022

Grant of up to a maximum of £5,000 towards the cost of a building in three sections to be used for **storage** of ground materials and equipment; storage of mallets hoops and other playing equipment and a manager’s office. Total cost probably £10,500 but lower estimates to be sought.

Ryde March 2022

Grant of **£500** as requested contribution towards the cost (£1,250) of erecting a **storage shed** adjacent to the clubhouse to accommodate additional equipment (mallets, extra chairs and sun/rain protection) needed as a result of the club's expansion. The Committee was satisfied that the project had the objective of improving essential off-court facilities.

Craig y Don: December 2019

Grant of **£1,350** towards the cost of **equipment storage** as requested (total cost of a 20ft x 8ft new metal container quoted by Steeles of Barrow in Furness: £2,700 including VAT). The Committee felt that this was the viable way to proceed and that club had a good track record in croquet terms. It was noted that their timetable did not appear to be achievable and suggested that their subscription rates should be increased. It was hoped the storage would be on a hard-standing surface.

Crake Valley: December 2018

Grant of **£650** towards the cost of **equipment storage** as requested (total cost £2,650: purchase of storage unit £2,150: delivery/transport £ 350: ground preparation £175 - £650 already awarded by EMCF). The club needed a container (10ft x 8ft) next to the lawns to store all the equipment. The club used the village green, where they had two lawns, situated at the furthest point from the car park. There were no facilities on the green and no permanent structures were allowed. Consequently, the club had to transport all its equipment to the lawns each time it met. Additionally, when playing in competition games they provided a tent/gazebo and a toilet tent. With a storage facility the club would be able to use the lawns more frequently, as the equipment would be on site.

Torksey: December 2018

Grant of **£3,000** made towards various costs (total £6,716) including a wooden **equipment store**; a patio paved area to encourage members and guests to stop and watch games: new specialist equipment to achieve cost effective disposal of grass cuttings and irrigation system improvements. There were no objections to the wooden equipment store. A mulch mower was seen as a good addition. The sealing of the irrigation water tank was seen as necessary but the proposed solution was very expensive. Maintenance equipment for sprinkler heads was endorsed. The patio area was currently grassed but the scheme to pave it received no support. A grant of £3,000, with the offer of a full explanation of how this was arrived at if the club wished.

High Wycombe: February 2018

Grant of **£625** approved for a larger **storage shed**. The club had acquired 2 mowers and needed more storage space. The new club had worked very hard to develop its lawns through self-help. There was much enthusiasm and industry in the club. The Committee strongly endorsed the application and commended the club’s energy and its success in developing the club. The grant was approved, subject to an assurance that adequate insurance cover would be in place and an agreement that, should the club fold within 5 years, the asset would revert to the CA.

Ludlow Castle: December 2016

Grant of **£700** (as requested) made towards the purchase of a **box** container to store equipment out

of season away from flood plain (probable cost, 2nd hand, £2,000). The club was located adjacent to the cricket club and shared their pavilion facilities. The pavilion was about 400m from the River Eden, which overtopped its banks during severe storms in 2015 and flooded the pavilion. The club had received some grant aid and help towards re-establishing themselves and would be ready for the new season but they had also suffered some damage to their equipment. Although they had adequate Insurance to cover for most eventualities, they could not get flood Insurance. Their choice of a transportable container/ box trailer to store equipment away from the flood zone was found to be a highly commendable, innovative solution. The Committee also recommended that they be offered a loan should the amount requested be insufficient to meet the total cost of the project.

Penrith & North Lakes: February 2016

Grant of **£900** (as requested) made towards the cost of a secure **equipment store** - a pre-cast Hanson concrete storage shed measuring 10ft by 8ft on a concrete base with corrugated metal roof and steel single leaf door with 3 point locking (total cost £2,141).

Craig y Don: November 2012

The club applied for assistance in replacing dilapidated **storage sheds**. The Committee felt that the specifications given for the proposed new shed were insufficiently robust for storage of expensive equipment and that the club's own financial commitment to the project was lacking. The club's insurance position was also queried. The application was deferred for further consideration. In the light of further information received, a grant of **£1,000** plus the offer of a loan of £500 was made. Concerns remained about the club's level of funding for the future. These concerns were to be passed on to the club.

*[The Fromus club in Benhall, Suffolk closed in 2016; moved to a former bowls club near Aldeburgh and became **Thorpeness** Croquet Club]*

Fromus: February 2012

Storage of cut grass and other vegetation before removal

Grant of **£3,335** made as a contribution towards the cost of a project involving the establishment of an accessible bay for the secure and environmentally responsible **storage of all the compostable material** generated by the club such as grass clippings, scarification “arisings”, shrub trimmings and waste material from the garden beds. The Committee were satisfied that the project had the objective of improving essential off-court facilities. Funding from local authority was not possible. Anaerobic digestion or on-site compost making would be uneconomical.

Surbiton: December 2019

Surrounding fences and hedges

Grant of **£350** towards the cost of the final phase of a **fencing** project. The first phase involved the removal of approximately 10 yards of overgrown Leylandii hedging. The second phase involved installing concrete and wood fencing along the boundary line. The final phase was the infilling of a trench left behind, exacerbated by the lie of the land which fell away along this boundary. The club had budgeted for the materials and had intended to do the work themselves but found that the work was beyond them. They needed help with the labour costs. Since 2012 they had carried out a major redevelopment of their site following the entering into a lease with the owner of the land. This involved a major levelling of the area of the lawn and total re-turfing together with the installation of new fencing along two of the boundaries.

Charlton: September 2018

Toilets

Grant of **£5,000** made towards the costs to be met by a new club, including a toilet, a Biodigester and the connection of mains services to the site.

Moreton-in-Marsh: March 2021

Grant of **£5,000** made towards the **major refurbishment of the pavilion**. The clubhouse was old and lacking many essential facilities. There were no disabled facilities. The first step was the introduction of two sets of wide double doors to be followed by accessible toilet facilities. The club confirmed that access would be available for the disabled, via a removable ramp. The Committee eventually accepted that, while much of the work was repair, the relocation and upgrade of the cloakrooms was a capital project which was development. £20k of the estimated cost came within that category.

Compton: January 2017

The club had rejoined the CA in 1999. The request for an unconfirmed amount was for toilets, including disabled provision. FDO suggested the sum of £1,750. Discussion about the provision of toilets and the new Disability Act. Members feared that other clubs could submit many more applications in the near future. It was agreed to ask for final plans, then give formal confirmation. Clarification should be sought from the CA Secretary on the timing and requirements of the new Act.

Purley Bury: October 2003

Lawns (new or enlarged)

Grant of **£5,000** towards the cost of **turning part of a cricket outfield into a croquet court** for a new club. The Committee were minded to support the project. Members felt some unease about doing so, having regard to the fact that the courts would be situated on a cricket field so that use of them would be limited, to some extent. However, they decided that they could properly offer the Club 50% of the estimated cost of the equipment that they needed to get started. That would result in a preliminary grant of £3,723. Upon receive of some further relevant information the amount was increased to the effective maximum of £5,000.

Hartley Wintney October 2022

Grant of **£5,000** as a contribution towards the cost of two new courts following the club's forced relocation and, in addition, an interest free loan of £5,000 repayable in two instalments over a period of 5 years. The Committee were impressed by the quality of the application and the presentation of it. One member described it as "a thorough and thoughtful application which deserves support". There was no dissent from that. The Committee were keen to offer as much financial support as they reasonably could. However, they were unable to offer another grant of £5,000 at that stage, for two reasons. First, while they did sometimes offer two grants, they did not do so at the same time or in the same year. They had developed a policy of offering multiple grants to the same club, usually in successive years, when a suitable project was clearly being undertaken in two or more "phases". To offer two grants at the same time would clearly be the same as offering a grant of £10,000. The Committee had the power to make such an award without special permission from the Executive Board but they decided, when they first began undertaking the task of distributing the limited funds available of Development Grants, that they would generally have to impose upon themselves a limit of £5,000 per grant so as to be able to distribute the available funds equitably. They therefore only offered grants of £10,000 in very exceptional circumstances. They were unable to place this application in that category.

Ipswich October 2022

Grant of **£5,000** as a contribution towards the cost of **two new courts** following the club's forced relocation to land adjacent to a bowls club. Significant efforts via crowdfunding and other impressive schemes had raise substantial funds. The Committee were impressed by the presentation and satisfied that the process the club had undertaken was appropriate and thorough. The contractor that they had selected was known to the Committee and he had established a good reputation.

Northampton December 2021

Grant of **£3,087** made as a contribution towards the cost (total £9,746) of ground clearance and levelling; seeding; the extension of an existing sprinkler system and a gazebo for a new court at the tennis club. The Funding Committee were satisfied that the proposed ground work and the extension of the irrigation system were clearly development projects that merited funding but doubted whether the provision of a gazebo could properly be regarded as a reasonable development project at this stage.

Frinton-on-Sea: March 2021

Grant of **£5,000** made as a contribution towards the cost of **lawns upgrade** project (total £70,000). Levelling and resurfacing of old bowling greens and turning the lawns through 90 degrees to give 4 full size courts and a small court in the existing space. Phase 1 (irrigation extension) had already started but funding was sought for Phase 2. Once completed the club would have a 9½ courts with the ability to host most of the major tournaments held by the CA and WCF and an increased flexibility to host smaller tournaments and matches whilst providing lawns for the growing membership. The Committee were satisfied that the project had the objectives of improving lawn quality and achieving the standards and numbers of courts needed to support CA tournaments. Members were impressed by the presentation and decided that the Club's efforts to ensure its long term future through improving its facilities, attracting a larger and broader membership and hosting the best tournaments and players, should be supported.

Nottingham: July 2020

A grant of **£5,000** made as a contribution towards the cost of a project involving **soil preparation and seeding** of 3 new courts plus a mower to maintain them – £5,868 for seeding and £4,119 for reconditioned Allett Westminster mower and ancillary equipment: total £10,067. Clearing and fencing of the old allotment site and levelling of the land had already been done using funds (£22,500) raised

by the steering group. 50 year lease granted by Council. The Committee felt that efforts to resurrect part of the history of croquet by establishing a club again in what had become a “croquet desert” should be commended and supported. Starter kit also granted.

Moreton-in-Marsh: July 2020

Grant of **£5,000** made as a contribution towards the cost of project to create a **second court**. The Committee were satisfied that the club had formulated a good project to acquire additional land (cost £7,740 including legal fees) and build a second court upon it and to extend their existing lawn to full size (Fencing, levelling and seeding cost £16,800 – local court contractor).

Eardisley: February 2020

Grant of **£5,000** made towards the total cost of **increasing number of courts from 2 to 5** (£166,600). Plan to create three additional new courts, to the highest standards, complete with irrigation connected to borehole, drainage, shelters, seats, pathways, flagpoles and flood lighting to 2 courts. Strategic goal to be a Croquet Centre of Excellence with a membership of 200 with the aim of running a full programme of coaching courses and a tournament programme and contributing to hosting national/international events. The club had a strong record in delivering on what it undertook to do and its ambitions were not restricted to the benefit of the club but the wider croquet family through player development and hosting major national and international events. The committee recognised the strength and value of the project and wished to offer the club all possible support. No available funds for financial assistance at the level the club wanted (£30,000). The funds available for 2020 were only £30,000 for all applications. The committee could only recommend a grant of £5,000.

High Wycombe: February 2020

Grant of **£3,000** made as a contribution towards the cost of a **lawn renovation** project involving the production of two club standard croquet courts from three old, disused tennis courts by getting rid of most of the surface area which was thick with moss, weed and thatching. The project was well formulated and sensible and the club had excellent future prospects. It also had the added benefit of helping with the health and well-being of the community and was an antidote for loneliness. It had the support of the mayor and the local council.

Llanidloes: December 2019

Grant of **£1,000** (upper limit for a one-court club) towards **lawn improvement** project costing £2,438. The club had moved to a new site and was bringing a deteriorated bowling green (unused for several years) up to croquet standard. They were well placed for expansion and their embryonic AC group needed encouragement. The lawn was sustaining GC but needed further work to be suitable for AC. This was not a lawn maintenance project arising from neglect but a one-off lawn improvement programme on a new site, with the possibility in the future of a second court. The club would need to fund its own maintenance programme and in this connection was encouraged to grow the club and take on a second lawn. The club was very strongly urged by the Committee to increase the number of its coaches, taking advantage of the CTC at the Northern Academy, York.

Auckland: February 2017

Grant of **£3,280** made. The club had 2 lawns, both former bowling greens, plus an area with two short lawns. A further bowling green was being used for bowls, the viability of which had become marginal. The club had an unexpected opportunity to take over responsibility for this extra lawn. Bowls wished to have limited use of one lawn. This would give the club sole use of three full courts at times when croquet lawn usage was highest, including every morning and all day every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The club's existing two full courts would remain available at all times. There was a real prospect, in the medium term, of croquet gaining sole use of the additional lawn. This was a once-only opportunity because, if not taken up and bowling ceased, the green would be converted to allotments. The club had been asked to spearhead the development of the Northern Croquet Academy and as a result had increased the number of coaching courses offered through the Fixtures Book from 3 to 9. Central to this was weekend lawn availability, which the additional lawn would provide. The Club was centrally located in the Yorkshire Federation and was the key focus of Federation events. The Club had a successful track record of delivering on ambitious development plans, including significant increases in membership. The plan was to take advantage of a one-off opportunity to **move from 2.5 lawns to 3.5 courts**, to facilitate further membership growth, to allow further opportunity for competitive croquet and to provide a base for the new Northern Academy. The bid encompassed start-up costs for the additional lawn and start-up costs for the Academy, both of which fell within the remit of the Development Committee. The Committee fully supported the initiative.

York: December 2016

Grant of **£5,000** made towards the total cost (c £40,000) of a project to **increase playing area** from 1.5 lawns to 2 lawns; to improve the playing surfaces and to renovate the pavilion. The Committee found this to be a strong application from an active, ambitious and enthusiastic club. This was a major initiative. Triple banking was the norm at the club and expansion was therefore very desirable. Grant made subject to an assurance that potential issues of ground stabilisation arising from the greensand substrate had been fully assessed and addressed.

[Bob Whitaker and Robert Moss subsequently visited the site and judged the ground stabilisation issue to be in hand. The agreed grant was then awarded]

Kington Langley: December 2016

Grant of **£1,000** made (as requested) for the creation of an **enlarged court**. The club used 2 full-size but unprotected courts on a cricket outfield on two afternoons per week and 1 dedicated but undersized court. The purpose of the project was to enlarge the undersized court to create 1 good quality, protected court for A class play to supplement the other 2 courts. It involved removal of part of a rough bramble hedge and two trees. The second phase was levelling, partial drainage and preparing the new areas for seeding. The estimated cost if this work was £5,500. If the club stopped there they would have a larger lawn but with still the same problems of slope and only partial drainage. An alternative was completely to remake the lawn, incorporating full drainage and increasing its overall height. The club were very keen to include this work, because the lawn, though improved, still had a noticeable slope. This work would cost £10,000 (instead of £5,500). Thus the total became £1,000 + £10,000. To this £200 needed to be added for moving a shed. Although the new court would be slightly short of full size (26 x 32 yards) it would facilitate satisfactory A class play. In considering the application the committee noted that there were no good alternative facilities near to the club, with the nearest being 30 minutes drive to the west and 60 minutes to the east. North of the club was a croquet desert. The committee were concerned about the number of CA members at the club as well as the apparent lack of CA qualified coaches. They also wished to see a clause in the constitution providing for any remaining funds to remain within the croquet world on the dissolution. The committee also wondered whether the club would like to consider a loan in addition.

Lym Valley: November 2014

Grant of **£3,000** made (the request was for £4,000) towards the cost of **relocating the club's lawns** to a position near the entrance to the park where they would be more visible and less subject to vandal attack and where protected trees would not impinge on lawn quality. The club had raised £20,000 in pledges from the membership. It was noted that the local council was supporting this work but that the council's insistence on carrying out the work was inflating the cost of some of the peripherals. It was confirmed that the club had received agreement for a new lease, running for 20 years from 2015, when the current lease expired.

Caterham: December 2013

Grant of **£500** (as requested) made towards the estimated £4,000 cost of preparing a **new lawn**. The parent Recreation Club had recognised that the Croquet Section required better facilities and had agreed to fund the major part of the cost of developing a new lawn in an area close to the clubhouse which would allow for development of a second lawn in the future. The work required to form the new lawn included stripping off the grass, levelling the ground with the addition of top soil, rolling and seeding. The Croquet Section was expected to make a contribution to the cost. Members would assist with some of the groundwork such as seeding, rolling and grass cutting and would be contributing from their own funds obtained through fund-raising events.

Tattenhall: February 2013

Grant of **£2,250** made towards the cost of **turning a disused bowls green into a croquet lawn**, including filling in the ditches. The application was for £4,500 towards the costs of bringing a neglected green back into use as part of the club's relocation, plus provision of secure storage. Agreed that this was a project the Committee wanted to support but the application was for a grant of 100% of the cost, whereas they would only grant a maximum of 50%. The costings were also unclear. More information was sought from the club, and the Major Grants Committee was asked to fix the amount of the grant, to avoid delay. Total cost set out was: lawn restoration £3,624; filling ditches: £1,884: Total project cost £5,508. The cost was later reduced because club members did some ditch work themselves (£ 716). Revised total cost £4,792. Grant then dealt with by the MGC.

Grant of **£4,000** made for assistance in expansion from 1 undersize court (35 x 24) to **2 full-size courts on disused tennis courts**. Club applied for £5,000 towards the project cost of £12,900. The project involved widening the existing lawn by 4 yards and turfing this area; removing a surface layer of red shale from an adjacent tennis court; laying top soil to a depth of 100mm; laser levelling it and fertilising and seeding it. The landlord Town Council had provided £3,000; Shropshire CC £1,000 and the club had accumulated funds of £5,000.

Church Stretton: November 2011

Grant of **£2,500** made towards the cost of adding a **fifth lawn**. Members commented that a lack of financial transparency caused by the relationship between the croquet club and the parent Country Club made it difficult to assess the continuing viability of the croquet club and whether the croquet club would be making any contribution to the cost. However, it was clear that the croquet club members were all members of the Country Club. Their annual subscription was just under £200 per annum. The application showed that there were 50 members, which meant that annual contributions to the Country Club were about £10,000. The surplus from the croquet competitions account also went to the Country Club which meant that, as the croquet club was able to hold larger tournaments, its contribution to the Country Club would increase. The Country Club maintained the lawns, paid the CA membership fee and presumably paid for insurance, mains services, rates, etc – what the application called the normal expenditure of a croquet club. The Country Club had also met the cost of levelling the site of the 5th lawn out of its own resources. Given the degree of interdependence between the croquet and Country Club, the Committee had to consider the bigger picture when asking who was contributing to the cost. The Committee knew from other cases how much a new lawn cost. It seemed that £2,500 as a contribution to the costs of seed and topsoil was modest.

Hamptworth: April 2011

Grant of **£1,900** made towards the cost of **converting tennis courts to croquet courts**. The parent Sports Club had agreed to make 5 lawn tennis courts suitable for 3 croquet lawns by removing the fixed net posts and converting to removable posts. The Tennis Club had dwindled to only 12 members. Their 5 grass courts were kept in excellent condition but without further use and income this facility would disappear. The Ilkley U3A Croquet Group had failed to find a satisfactory home over the last six years but had established a good nucleus of around 45 members many of whom played competitively against other clubs and in the Federation GC league. With the new facility there was a real desire to play, in addition to GC, AC at a more serious level. The Sports Club was keen to establish a croquet section as a way of making use of its 5 good tennis lawns. It would complement the existing summer sports of cricket, bowls and tennis. The professional conversion of the existing tennis lawns to an excellent croquet facility was the key to unlocking this opportunity. The Sports Club was demonstrating its commitment to the new Croquet Club by initiating a £22,500 project which, besides the lawn conversion, included a new pavilion for shared use by the croquet, tennis and cricket sections. The essential first step was to raise money for the croquet lawn conversion. It was clear that the grant sought (£3,800) was the club's contribution towards the larger scheme of building a new pavilion for all the sports clubs on the site. It was decided to recommend to the MGC that a grant of £1,900 be awarded towards the conversion costs, with a further £1,900 to follow in respect of the pavilion, both sums payable on completion of each of the respective parts of the whole development project.

Ben Rhydding: February 2011

“If a club wished to increase the number of their courts to four or more, the Committee would consider, and possibly recommend, a grant of up to half the project cost, with a maximum of £10,000 in the following circumstances:

- 1. The club is an established club with appropriate off-court facilities wishing to run CA tournaments.*
- 2. The club can demonstrate that there is a need for a club which has four or more courts in the region.*

The Committee would expect the club to have an ability to maintain four or more courts for use by the CA and would use the following priorities when considering an application:

It is a proven and successful club

There is a need for a club with 4+ courts in the area

The club has suitable off court facilities

It has a record of competitive play

It is willing to hold CA Fixture Book tournaments

It has sufficiently well-qualified croquet playing officials to support competitive play e.g. a tournament manager, graded coaches, referees

It has the resources to maintain 4+ lawns to competitive playing standard”

Chairman’s published announcement: February 2011

[The policy was renewed periodically and remained in place in 2020. The recommendation was to be made to the Management Committee and, subsequently, to the Executive Board. It was the only declared basis upon which the grant limit of £5,000 could be extended. In March 2011, the Committee recommended a grant of £10,000 to Camerton & Peasedown under this new policy.

Details of this grant and the reasons for it were not minuted because the Committee dealt with the application outside the normal meetings. The club subsequently recorded that the grant was made “to set up the club”]

Grant of **£5,000** awarded towards cost of relaying two lawns. Uneven surfaces with pronounced mounds and dips despite improved annual maintenance. Several experts had recommended relaying as the best option. Probable cost between £14,300 and £23,400 (the estimates obtained) - likely to be £16,000. Maximum grant sought.

Shrewsbury: November 2010

“Major grants, i.e. sums more than £1,000, will normally only be considered for clubs with two or more full-sized lawns, though those with a single full-sized lawn may be considered provided there is scope for additional lawns if the membership grows to support the extra facilities and there is a business plan to develop the new lawn(s).

Clubs with a minimum of one full-sized lawn will normally only be eligible for Minor Grants, i.e. grants of £1,000 or less.

It has been the custom that the maximum grant to be awarded is no more than half the project costs with a limit of £5,000. This should continue to be the case with the sum being reviewed on a regular basis.

Special projects such as the development of a four-lawn club with supporting facilities from scratch may be considered for larger sums.”

Development Committee polices: February 2009

The Committee recommended that **£3,000** be awarded for new lawns but supplementary funding might be requested if it turned out to be insufficient. Concern was expressed by LAG that proper consideration might not have been given to the possible problems involved in reclaiming industrial land. The LAG rep would be contacted.

Ashby: February 2009

“Grants will be considered for the following range of projects:

development of new lawns and improvements to existing lawns, including drainage and irrigation”

Development Committee “Future Projects” announcement; November 2008

Grant of **£1,000** sought towards the cost of a **relocation and lawn reclamation** project with new storage facilities. The Chairman was able to champion the club’s cause. Comment was passed about no other sources being sought. With the accounts being available for inspection and scrutiny it was agreed after discussion to award the requested amount

Fylde: October 2005

The request was for £1,000 grant and £4,000 loan to create 3 full size lawns. It was suggested that consideration be given to some of the £4,000 being commuted to a grant. The documentation included background information from the club’s secretary along with a copy of the plans, an advisory report on the croquet lawn plus quotation for the work and copy of terms of lease. With no separate written report by the FDO and a lack of clarity about the request and costings, it was agreed in principle that once clear information had been obtained the maximum £1,000 grant could be given.

Enfield: October 2003

A request for £1,000 for extension to lawns had written support. Research had discovered the

amount of community effort but clarification of the accounts was still needed. More information was to be sought but a grant was agreed in principle.

Llanfairfechan: October 2003

Lawns (improving and upgrading of existing)

Grant of **£4,190** part of which (**£2,790**) was a contribution towards the cost of improving the 2 courts laid in the previous year to get the Club started. The Club had embarked upon Phase 2 of their development programme and needed to achieve significant improvement in the courts and to meet in excess of the cost of normal maintenance to attract more members and to provide for a higher standard of play. The Committee calculated that the cost of provisions that could properly be regarded as “development costs” was £8,380. £500 was the cost of an equipment store; £1,500 the cost of additional mower attachments and £800 the cost of maintenance equipment. These were accepted as development costs. £200 for the provision of trophies was ejected. £500 for marketing was also rejected but it was noted that publicity for a new club might come under a special budget available for marketing new clubs (up to £300 per club). 25% of the ground work costs were disregarded since that proportion would have had to be spent anyway as part of regular maintenance.

Hartley Wintney October 2023

Modest grant of **£1,000** towards the cost of **levelling an existing, small lawn**. It emerged that the Club was planning to move to a larger site where they would be able to create 2 full-sized lawns in due course. The present site, of which they had only limited security of tenure, was too small to permit any further expansion. It was feared that negotiations with the local authority might well be protracted. The Club needed to improve their existing facility in order to ensure that they did not lose the relatively large body of existing members to other clubs pending the proposed move. The Committee were prepared, in these unusual circumstances, to make a modest contribution to the immediate costs on the understanding that the project to extend the club (which might qualify for a development grant) would proceed. The Club accepted a loan of £600 to enable them to complete the interim work.

Charlton October 2023

Grant of **£4,411 made** - being half of the cost of levelling of one lawn (excluding a tree report paid for before the application was made). Levelling work was much more than mere maintenance and fell within the definition of development.

Bath March 2022

Grant of **£460** made as a contribution towards the cost of a modest **drainage and levelling** project (clearing and rebuilding a drainage ditch with a drainage pipe in gravel and levelling ridges on one court). Total cost: £920. The Committee were satisfied that these two aspects of the project had the objective of improving lawn quality.

Fylde: December 2020

A grant of **£1,000** made as a contribution towards the cost of a **levelling** project (total £5,000-£6,000). Single court, heavily used, both as full and ½ courts. It had developed ridges and high points and had needed (per FDO) a complete re-levelling for many years. Lawns Adviser commented that the project did “all the right things [at] a reasonable price”. Committee satisfied that the project had the objective of improving lawn quality and that it had been properly considered and well planned.

Reigate Priory: February 2020

Grant of **£250** made towards the cost of lawn **drainage improvement** (total cost £531.75). The club wished to improve drainage with a “more robust and long term system”. They were “delighted with the lawn drainage” but wished to maintain the facility without the monthly ditch clearances that were necessary. Installation of lengths of 100mm perforated plastic drainage pipe embedded in gravel in the existing ditches.

Fylde May 2018

Grant of **£3,800** made towards the cost of a project to **restore the club's playing areas** (two former bowling greens) to their former excellence in order to attract new members, host more CA tournaments and more Federation fixtures and tournaments. The Club was informed by the City Council that it must take on ownership of the clubhouse and pay its own utility bills as well as maintaining the club's lawns. The club drastically increased membership fees and this resulted in a big fall in membership. The fees were then reduced in an effort to regain members. The club took on lawn maintenance itself but was hit by an outbreak of fusarium. They took advice from Duncan Hector to improve the condition of the lawns. Part of his advice was to buy a mower with a 10 blade cutting cassette. This would replace an old unreliable Ransome mower. The Committee expressed its unease

at the viability of the club, especially with the reduction in fees proposed. It needed to get itself in a position where its subscriptions would cover its costs. However, the Committee saw it as an exceptional case.

Tyneside: February 2018

Grant of £250 made to enable the club to take professional **lawn advice**. The Club was only created in 2015 and had, by its own efforts, created two lawns from a field. It had a low membership subscription and limited funds. The application was to improve the surface and levels of one lawn up to a competition level by removing undulations. Duncan Hector had been consulted but had not visited the site. His advice was being followed and a start had been made by the purchase and spreading of a sand/loam mix to fill in the hollows. £2,330 had been requested, spread over three years to continue this treatment. The club had previously had a starter pack and a grant for a metal shed. The application should result in at least one good court but seemed to be short of good technical advice. As Duncan Hector had not visited the site, there was a concern that the club's solution might not be viable (e.g. sowing grass seed on thatch would not work) particularly as they did not seem to have taken into account the seasonal nature of the project. A measurement of the problem was required. It was agreed that expert advice was required first before a re-evaluation and a re-submission could be made.

[The club spent the £250 on professional advice and subsequently completed the work without further grant aid]

Ludlow Castle: February 2018

Grant of £5,000 made towards the cost (total £22,161) of a **lawn levelling** project involving stripping the turf, levelling the surface and reseeded all four courts. The lawns had undulations and significant slopes. The club was highly regarded in the SW Federation and was a crucial focal point of its activities as well as of events with a wider appeal. The club worked very hard to help itself and had benefitted little from CA support in the past. The project increased the quality of the playing surfaces but did not increase capacity, meaning that grants from some other sources might be difficult to obtain. The club was strongly recommended to take advice on making a fresh application to Sport England and other grant-making bodies, ensuring that their key criteria (such as increasing take-up and reaching those with disabilities) were fully addressed.

Nailsea: December 2016

The club needed to resurface their lawns urgently and submitted a request to the Committee for a grant of £2,400 towards this in June 2013. The club had 7 teams in the Federation leagues and wanted to be able to host events - one of the reasons for **improving the lawns**. Maintenance would also be easier, since the incidence of scalping and skimming would be reduced. The decision was delayed until the next Committee meeting in late October 2013 but it was indicated that they could start before any decision was taken without jeopardising their situation but with no guarantee of getting support. The Club did the work. A grant of **£2,400** was subsequently agreed by the Committee and ratified by the Major Grants Committee

Weston-super-Mare: December 2013

Grant of **£4,000** (application was for £5,000) towards the cost of **relaying the front four lawns**, thus completing the refurbishment of the courts. It was noted that the club had substantial reserves but that these were being built up against the predicted need to replace the clubhouse and tea room (wooden buildings which were approaching the end of their useful lives). The Committee agreed on the need to support this club, which was an important venue for major tournaments.

Cheltenham: December 2013

Grant of **£3,000** made towards a project (total cost £20,772 including VAT) to **restore the lawns** to a decent standard and relieve the club of the problem of flooding. The remedial work involved levelling the ground, installing land drains and laying new turf to provide good level lawns. The club asked for "anything towards the £12,500 required". Further information had been submitted in response to the questions raised in November 2012 about the nature of the problem, the methods proposed to deal with it and the technical specification of materials, especially the make-up of the turf which was proposed. The FDO had made a site visit and had reported verbally to the Chairman. It was noted that the contractor's quote seemed to be on the high side but since the club was bearing the majority of the cost, the level of grant would not be significantly affected.

Bishop Monkton: February 2013

Application for **£3,908** in 4 instalments of £977 per year towards the £7,800 cost of **improving the club's lawns**. The Committee agreed that this was a strategically important club which should be supported but expressed some reservations about the proposed work, which in some ways looked like catching up on arrears of maintenance. They agreed to recommend an award subject to review after 2 years and to a commitment from the club to continued annual maintenance to avoid the problem arising again in future.

Nailsea: February 2013

Grant of **£3,500** made towards the cost of **relaying a lawn**. The club had been advised that the only sensible way to sort out lawn 8 was to re-lay it. The quotation from Southern Sports Surfaces was £7,185 (no VAT). The method to be used by the company would be similar to that used to re-lay part of lawn 4. The club had been very pleased with the result. The Committee recognised that this was an important venue for large croquet events, and recommended approval.

Sussex County: November 2012

Grant of **£3,500** made towards the cost of the **levelling and reseeded** of courts 1 and 2. (Total cost £7,736) Application was initially for £2,000 to £3,000, later increased to £4,000. Postponed consideration because the Committee required further information, while agreeing that this was a suitable project to support. Both lawns were "very uneven" and required Koro-planing (removal of approximately 25cm of organic material) and the addition of 6 tonnes of rootzone material.

Budleigh Salterton: November 2010

Grant of **£5,000** made towards the cost of stripping the surface of 4 courts, levelling and re-seeding to make one large playing surface (Probable cost £20,000). The work would enable the club to re-position four courts with room to move those courts within the enlarged playing surface and thereby reduce wear.

Cheltenham: November 2010

Grant of **£4,000** made towards lawn improvements. It was for a **drainage project**. The development work had already started and was almost complete. Concern about this being a retrospective application (the application had been made in April 2005).

East Dorset: October 2005

Grant of **£1,000** made towards the continuing cost of lawn levelling. Chairman to contact G. Noble regarding affirmation of the standards achieved and to consider plans for the 3 courts not generally used for tournaments.

Sussex County: October 2004

Relocation costs

Grants made in the total sum of **£3,125** towards the cost of three projects (acquisition of a **lawn mower** (£2,000); **ground work** (£650) and **clubhouse transportation** (£500)). The club was forced to find a new location following the short-notice termination of their contract. They took over a football pitch that was no longer used. It provided enough space for 2 full-sized courts with the potential for further expansion to two more full sized courts adjacent to the two new courts, once the club became established at the new site. The club facilities would then be suitable for tournaments as they would have the use of a large and purpose built pavilion with changing rooms, bar etc.

Winterborne Valley (formerly Kingston Maurward): December 2019

Grant of **£625** made towards the cost of **equipment** required because the club had been forced to relocate by the Council from the city centre to a two lawn facility at Monks Rest Gardens. The City Council and the club itself were paying part of the cost. This application was for a **white line marking machine** and a **wide lawn sweeping brush**. The club had originally applied to East Midlands Federation for funding but were advised that the CA could help them. The club was asking for full funding for the two items. It was going through a stressful period and had lost members due to the relocation. The Committee saw the need to encourage the club which had lost members due to the move. The purchase of the marker and brush were fully supported at 100% of cost.

Leicester: February 2018

Grant of **£4,000** recommended (the application was for £5,000) to assist in **relocation** of the club to new site. The total project involved laying 4 lawns and building a clubhouse on land belonging to the East Malling Trust, at an estimated cost of £40,000, of which c£18,000 was to be on the lawn work, the subject of this application. It was noted that club members formed the bulk of the Kent Inter-Counties team and that the club was active in competitive play.

[The Club did not proceed with the move and the grant was not taken up]

Medway: December 2013

The club was undertaking a major **relocation project** caused by the forthcoming disposal by the local council of the premises where the club had played for 29 years. The council had made a substantial grant towards the cost of relocation. The Committee noted that the expenditure forecast included £10,110 for new lawn equipment but they were unclear what this represented. They felt that the project was worthy of support but that a grant of **£3,000** plus a loan of £2,000 with a 2 year repayment holiday was the appropriate recommendation. Upon reconsideration of the application (referred back to the Committee by the Major Grants Committee to deal with further information supplied) it was agreed that the concerns raised earlier had been addressed but in view of limited funds the award of £3,000 plus loan of £2,000 was unchanged. The club's application included the cost of new mowing equipment. It was noted that the Committee had another application to consider where a reconditioned example of the same machine was involved, at much lower cost. The club's attention would be drawn to this.

High Wycombe: February 2012

Maintenance is not development – replacement equipment

The Committee considered an argument to the effect that that the acquisition of a new Protea or Fox cylinder mower would be the acquisition of necessary mowing equipment that the Club did not previously have rather than the replacement of existing equipment, because their rotary mower was not, and could never have been, reasonably considered as, a suitable mower for a court accommodating competitive croquet. A lowest cutting setting of 13 mm was obviously well in excess of recommended height of 4 to 6 mm. However, the application, as presented, was unequivocally for financial assistance in the acquisition of a replacement mower. Further, attention was drawn to the fact that Duncan Hector was offering properly reconditioned machines (which might well meet the club's needs) for under £1,000. The choice of mower must ultimately be for the club rather than the Committee but, given their trustee status in relation to CA funds, they could not be seen to be rewarding what might be regarded as improvidence. Clubs have long been expected to budget for, and make provision to meet, **replacement costs** from their own resources. The Committee had a long history of rejecting applications by small clubs who had neglected to build up sufficient reserves to replace equipment or to undertake proper lawn maintenance. The Development Fund could not properly be treated as a "backstop" (or a convenient source of supplementary funds) for those who belatedly realised the error of their ways.

Caversham: October 2020

The Committee felt unable to approve a grant of any sum as a contribution towards the cost of acquiring a robotic electric mower. The club was atop a drinking water reservoir. There were severe restrictions on what might be done to the lawns. No mowers driven by fossil fuels allowed. Club had been awarded a grant in 2013 for an electric mower and they were asking for assistance to buy a robotic electric mower to do a similar job but without an operator. The committee felt constrained by the published guidelines, which made it clear that the CA does not provide grants towards **ordinary running costs**, including the replacement of existing equipment. An argument to the effect that that the proposed new mower was a technological advancement rather than the replacement of existing equipment was considered but found unconvincing because the minimum cutting height of the new machine would be 10mm, which was "rather too high for croquet and so not an advancement".

Plymouth: February 2020

"Replacement equipment does not qualify for a grant, as this is something clubs should make proper provision for on an ongoing basis. Where the need for equipment arises from a new requirement, it can properly be considered for grant aid."

Statement of principle recorded in the minutes: February 2017

Club requested £5,200 towards the replacement of a grounds equipment storage building. The committee viewed this application as meritorious but that the club had not exhausted all sources of grant aid. The project was not so much 'development' as 'maintenance'.

Bowden: February 2006

Maintenance is not development – repairs to buildings

The award was less than the club was seeking because the Committee were unable to accept that waterproofing the pavilion roof could properly be regarded as a development project. They took the view that it must fall within the definition of “regular maintenance”. The relevant guidelines made it clear that the CA does not give grants to cover **ordinary running costs**, including the replacement of equipment or regular maintenance of facilities.

Fylde: December 2020

Grant of £5,000 made towards the major refurbishment of the pavilion (total cost £36,772 of which £28,000 had been saved over time). The clubhouse lacked many essential facilities. There were no facilities for the disabled. The first step was the introduction of two sets of wide double doors (Part 1) to be followed by accessible toilet facilities (Part 2). Several concerns were raised about the application and a decision was deferred in the hope that more information would be made available. The club confirmed that access would be available for the disabled, via a removable ramp. The Committee eventually accepted that, while much of the work was **repair**, the relocation and upgrade of the cloakrooms was a capital project which was development. £20k of the estimated cost came within that category. The grant was then approved.

Compton: January 2017

A special request was considered for a grant (of £597) to help the club pay for excess costs over and above their insured costs following vandalism at the club. It was decided that clubs should ensure that their insurance cover is sufficient and that the CA should not be used as a back- up insurer. The request was refused

Eynsham: February 2010

Maintenance is not development – repairs to lawns

The Committee agreed that it could support the application for a grant towards the installation of an irrigation system but not towards the described lawn work. The former was clearly a development project but the latter appeared to be maintenance work. However, the amount of the grant was unaffected because the Committee decided to adhere to their self-imposed limit of £5,000 per grant. Grants of up to £10,000 only awarded in wholly exceptional cases and the application did not fall into that category.

Littlehampton February 2022

Application for a grant to undertake lawn repair work caused by drought refused. The CA does not give capital grants to cover **ordinary running costs**, including regular lawn maintenance. Clubs are expected to have made provision to meet maintenance costs from their own resources. Committee members were not persuaded by the argument that the damage was unexpected and/or unforeseeable because there was no access to the usually available watering facilities. They were not therefore prepared to treat this case as exceptional.

Tyneside: December 2019

“Routine lawn maintenance does not qualify for a grant, as clubs are expected to make proper provision for this on an ongoing basis. Work needed because of arrears of maintenance, failure to maintain or failure to make proper and timely provision, also does not qualify for a grant. Lawn improvement projects, however, may be considered for grant aid. It may in certain circumstances be difficult to draw a clear line between maintenance and improvement, and, where this is so, the Committee will exercise proper discretion in reaching a decision.”

Statement of principle recorded in the minutes: February 2017

Two clubs applied for development grants for lawn improvement work ahead of the World GC Team championships being hosted by them in the UK at short notice in 2016. The Committee felt that these grants fell outside the development grant criteria being part of **annual maintenance** plans. It was understood that the clubs might need help and it was considered that it was more appropriate that the issue be handled by the International Committee who were responsible for hosting the event on behalf of the WCF. The International committee agreed to take this request.

Camerton & Peasedown and Bath: November 2015

Grant of £1,400 made towards a lawns improvement project. The club's growth since its start up in 2006 had been impressive (now 2½ lawns). To make further progress and attract AC players, the quality of the lawns was in need of improvement. Project costs were split with £2,740 allocated to lawn treatments and £2,804 for capital equipment. The Committee took the view that lawn treatment programmes were an **ongoing maintenance** activity and should be covered by the club through its income. However, the capital equipment costs were eligible for grant purposes.

Bransgore February 2015

Application for £2,000 towards the cost of rabbit-proof fencing refused. The Committee felt that general **lack of lawn maintenance** was contributing to the problem. The Committee was prepared to offer a loan of up to £2,000.

Chichester & Fishbourne: February 2013

Application for £3,908 in 4 instalments of £977 per year towards the £7,800 cost of improving the club's lawns. The Committee agreed that this was a strategically important club which should be supported but expressed some reservations about the proposed work, which in some ways looked like catching up on **arrears of maintenance**. They agreed to recommend an award subject to review after 2 years and to a commitment from the club to continued annual maintenance to avoid the problem arising again in future.

Nailsea: February 2013

A modest grant of £650 was sought as a contribution to the general improvement of the lawns and for the purchase of a new lawn mower. The Committee agreed to support the application but only for the purchase of new, improved equipment. The lawn improvement work was judged to be normal lawn maintenance and therefore could not be supported by a grant. It was also agreed to offer the club a loan, if required, to assist in the purchase of the new equipment.

Dowlish Wake: February 2010

Playing equipment is not usually regarded as development

The Committee decided to reject an application for a grant of £275 as a contribution towards the cost of acquiring a set of Foxy Hoops. This rejection was based upon the fact the Funding Committee do not regard the acquisition of playing equipment as "development". They take the view that this is part of the normal cost of running a croquet club which should be met from the resources available through subscription and other, similar income. This is not a new position. It may be seen, from the Digest of Decisions made by the Development Committee and, later, the Funding Committee, from 2003 to date, that applications for funds to meet "ordinary running costs" have usually been rejected. There are exceptions to this principle but the Committee were not satisfied that the temporary conversion of a lawn to provide two courts for use in matches was an unforeseeable requirement, for which the club could reasonably expect additional funding to be made available.

Craig y Don October 2022

Grant of £615 approved, to cover half the estimate for lawn improvement work and a lawnmower. The club's request was for assistance towards lawn maintenance equipment and replacement balls. Replacement **balls were not eligible** for grant aid. As the request for assistance with new balls did not qualify for a grant the club might wish to ask the CA for a loan towards the cost.

St Agnes: February 2017

No award on an application for £950 towards the cost of further playing equipment to cope with increased membership. The committee observed that it was not normal for development grants to be awarded for **playing equipment**, beyond the start-up kit given to new clubs. Further, the application showed that the club was not intending to put any of its own resources into the project, having received a grant from the local authority, and was looking to the CA for the remainder. The additional subscriptions raised from the new members should have enabled the club to purchase much of the equipment for itself. Loan assistance to cope with any cash-flow problem could be offered.

Penrith & North Lakes: October 2013

Application for a grant of £1,275 towards the cost of equipment for additional lawn (hoops and balls). The club had been offered the opportunity to take on a second bowling green to add to their existing one plus a practice area. If they did not, the local council proposed to turn the green and the practice area into allotments, thus leaving the club with less accommodation. The existing lawn and bowling green were of a high standard and the additional space would enable the club to be a centre for the Federation. The situation had arisen out of the blue and the club could not reasonably have been expected to make provision for the expansion. The Committee agreed that the expansion should be supported but was faced with the problem that the application was for **playing equipment**, which was not normally provided. It was agreed that the circumstances were different from the Penrith application (see above). The Committee would authorise the supply one set of hoops from the CA shop, and the FDO undertook to provide a second set from Federation resources. A loan was offered to cover the purchase of extra balls.

York: October 2013

A grant of £600 was sought for the purchase of special mallets to be used in a government-backed scheme to widen the participation of children in sport. The project was "to offer a rare opportunity for a select group (of 12) children from local secondary schools to discover and learn the little known yet challenging and competitive sport of Association Croquet at their local club". It was agreed that six suitable mallets would be given to the club for this purpose on the understanding that the mallets would be owned by the West Midlands Federation and therefore available for other clubs. It was also suggested that an approach to East Midlands Federation be made as they might be able to supplement the number of junior mallets.

Shrewsbury: February 2010

"Grants will not normally be considered for the following types of work: cosmetic improvements; work required through lack of regular normal maintenance; predictable replacement of old equipment which should be paid for by prudent saving from regular income. Grants will be considered for the provision of equipment including hoops, mallets and balls following accidental damage or theft in an emergency, although the Committee would normally expect to see insurance in place."

Development Committee "Future Projects" announcement; November 2008

A new club formed in 2003. They had affiliated to the CA but not their Federation. It was agreed to send a letter of encouragement, advising them to join their Federation and to borrow the equipment and increase their subscription from £10. Since the SWCF had no capacity to source equipment this would be arranged using the new Equipment Fund. A recommendation to purchase Dawson balls was suggested as that is the make generally used by the Federation. The Yorkshire Federation would

investigate availability of surplus equipment for loan. Request for £500 rejected

Fowey: October 2003

Constitutional provisions upon dissolution

An additional condition applied in relation to the Club Constitution. The grant would not be payable before the Constitution was amended in accordance with the proposal that the club had already made in response to a letter from the Chairman of the Funding Committee. It was noted that the club would be proposing a suitable amendment relating to the disposal of surplus assets upon any dissolution of the club, at an Extraordinary General meeting of the members and that they did not foresee any difficulties.

Merton December 2022

Grant of £1,000 made (as requested) for the creation of an enlarged court. The Committee wished to see a clause in the constitution providing for any remaining **funds to remain within the croquet world on the dissolution.**

Lym Valley: November 2014

A grant of up to £3,606 was made towards the cost of the acquisition of an electric mower in order to continue playing on their unusual site. Award made subject to prompt **amendment of the club's constitution to ensure that funds would not be distributed to the membership on dissolution.**

Plymouth: May 2013

Croquet deserts

A grant of £5,000 made as a contribution towards the cost of a project involving soil preparation and seeding of 3 new courts plus a mower to maintain them. 50 year lease granted by Council.

Committee felt that efforts to resurrect part of the history of croquet by establishing a club again in what had become a “**croquet desert**” should be commended and supported. Starter kit also granted.

Moreton-in-Marsh: July 2020

Grant of £1,000 towards the cost of a new “log cabin” style pavilion (total cost £4,500). A small, enthusiastic club in Somerset, **the only one within a 20-mile radius**, committed to self-help, developing both AC and GC, showing success in league competitions, with significant potential for growth, and well deserving of support.

Abbey: February 2017

Grant of £5,000 made towards the cost of a new pavilion. The parent club had made a considerable investment in laying out three new croquet lawns which were currently under construction. The club **filled an important geographical gap** in the provision of croquet in Kent.

Canterbury: December 2016

Grant of £1,000 made (as requested) for the creation of an enlarged court. In considering the application the committee noted that there were no good alternative facilities near to the club, with the nearest being 30 minutes drive to the west and 60 minutes to the east. North of the club was a **croquet desert**. The committee also wondered whether the club would like to consider a loan in addition.

Lym Valley: November 2014

Grant of £500 (as requested) made towards the estimated £4,000 cost of preparing a new lawn. The Committee concluded that this was a new club in Cheshire planning to serve a ‘**croquet desert**’ area in north Staffordshire and had the support of the parent Recreation Club.

[Wikipedia reveals that Tattenhall is a village 8 miles (13 km) south-east of Chester. The club asserted in their application that they were only 10 miles from the Chester club]

Tattenhall: February 2013

Expert advice

Grant of £2,874 towards the cost of a second hand mower (50% of the cost). **George Noble** had advised them to have an 11 blade cylinder model, which was harder to find than an 8 blade. Their local dealer had several 8 blade but only one 11 blade machine, which proved to be worn out. The club eventually located three possible mowers (a Jacobsen Eclipse hybrid, costing £5,450 + VAT which was dropped because they tend to give trouble; a Toro 3250-D mower at £4,500 + VAT plus £250 delivery from Bury St Edmunds and a Toro 3250-D from Mitchells Groundcare of Hailsham, Sussex). The last of these was ten years old. It had been used at Ham Manor golf course and Mitchells had serviced it regularly for the past 7 years. A very experienced former green keeper had checked it and found it to be good.

Canterbury: March 2018

Grant of up to £1,500 towards the cost of a lawn mower (a new Allett Tournament 24 inch with a groomer costing £5,716 was planned). The Club did not own a mower. Work was previously undertaken by local contractor using an inefficient machine. **Duncan Hector** had advised that new mowing equipment was needed to achieve a satisfactory playing surface. The mower available (via Duncan Hector) had additional features not available from other sources and was competitively priced. Suggestion that the Club should look at the second hand market, with grant aid up to £1,500 covering 50% of the actual cost.

Bransgore: December 2016

Grant of £5,000 made towards the total cost (c £40,000) of a project to increase playing area from 1.5 lawns to 2 lawns. Grant made subject to an assurance that potential issues of ground stabilisation arising from the greensand substrate had been fully assessed and addressed.

[**Bob Whitaker** and Robert Moss subsequently visited the site and judged the ground stabilisation issue to be in hand. The agreed grant was then awarded]

Kington Langley: December 2016

Grant of £3,197 made towards lawn improvement. They had been recommended to use a Sarrel spiker every couple of weeks during the summer months to aerate the soil. Purchasing these items would allow the club to improve the smoothness and speed of their lawns and put them more in control of the lawn maintenance. The club had produced a sound recovery plan with advice from Duncan Hector.

Colchester: November 2014

The Committee recommended to the Major Grants that £3,000 be awarded for new lawns but supplementary funding might be requested if it turned out to be insufficient. Concern was expressed by LAG that proper consideration might not have been given to the possible problems involved in reclaiming industrial land. The **Lawns Advisory Group rep** would be contacted.

Ashby: February 2009

Grant of £5,000 towards the cost of a new club house. A detailed set of amendments to the design had been provided by **Jonathan Toye** regarding accessibility. The MGC agreed to the recommendation subject to various conditions including the accessibility changes.

Llanfairfechan: October 2006

The club requested £287.73 for the **professional advice obtained from the STRI**. The report was considered valuable and could be the start of a series of case studies held at the CA as it included both general and specific terms of advice. This was a valuable club in the NW (*sic*) and a club on the CA circuit. It was agreed to this post-dated request subject to the report going to the CA and the Lawns Advisory Group.

Edgbaston: October 2003

Hosting CA events

Grant of £1,650 made to support the refurbishment of the pavilion kitchen (but not the white goods which, as replacements, were more properly a maintenance responsibility of the club) and to reflect the 70%/30% croquet/tennis usage of the kitchen. This was a successful 4-court **club mounting CA tournaments**. The option was open for the Club, if it wished, to seek to negotiate a loan direct with the Treasurer.

Ryde: December 2016

Grant of £4,500 made towards the purchase of a 'ride-on' lawnmower (costing £7,800 + £1,700 for storage). The Committee resolved to provide a grant but had a number of reservations. Whilst it did not debar the club from asking for a grant, it was noted that the club had not bid for hosting future **CA events** as they had done historically.

Pendle & Craven: February 2016

Grant of £4,000 towards the cost of relaying the front four lawns, thus completing the refurbishment of the courts. The Committee agreed on the need to support this club, which was an **important venue for major tournaments**.

Cheltenham: December 2013

Grant of £3,500 made towards the cost of relaying a lawn. The Committee recognised that this was an **important venue for large croquet events**, and recommended approval.

Sussex County: November 2012

The improvement of facilities should continue but priority will be given to clubs who have shown that they support competitive play in the croquet world

Minutes of the Development Committee: November 2010

Individual membership of the CA

Grant of **£3,087** made as a contribution towards the cost (total £9,746) of ground clearance and levelling; seeding and the extension of an existing sprinkler system. The Committee observed that they must, in accordance with the published criteria, give priority to clubs, or sections of larger clubs, that have clear plans to (i) encourage both principal forms of the sport; (ii) encourage competitive play at all levels; (iii) establish healthy finances; and (iv) demonstrate a strong commitment to the activities of the CA and their regional Federation. With these priorities in mind, the Committee decided to impose an additional condition. It would be a requirement that all members of the proposed Croquet Section were "signed up" as standard, individual members of the CA. The Committee noted that acquisition of standard membership is not burdensome and it results in tangible benefits, without any further payment and that, until recently, the club had only had one member listed on the CA database but had increased this but only to nine.

Frinton-on-Sea: March 2021

Club had only 1 premium member and 25 standard members of the CA out of a total of 50 members. The club's Committee could and should confront the 25 or so members who had not taken up their standard membership by reassuring them that their details would not be disclosed, if they chose that option. It was reasonable for the CA to expect that all member clubs should achieve 100% **individual membership of the governing body**, particularly those clubs that had been the beneficiaries of grant aid, more than once. The Committee therefore wished to see some progress towards the target in the forthcoming annual return of members.

West Worthing: December 2019

The Committee noted that the Club had only 6 premium members and 25 standard members of the CA out of a total of 53 members. This percentage (58.5) was regarded as disappointing. Since there was no additional cost involved, the Club Committee could and should confront the members who have not taken up their standard membership. The Committee wished to see some progress towards the target in the forthcoming annual returns of the members of the new club.

Winterborne Valley (formerly Kingston Maurward): December 2019

Grant of £1,000 made (as requested) for the creation of an enlarged court. In considering the application the committee noted that there were no good alternative facilities near to the club, with the nearest being 30 minutes drive to the west and 60 minutes to the east. North of the club was a croquet desert. The committee were concerned about the number of CA members at the club (only 3 of 19 club members) as well as the apparent lack of CA qualified coaches.

Lym Valley: November 2014

Retrospective applications

Grant of £2,500 made towards the cost of adding a fifth lawn. A question was raised about the fact that work on the new lawn had already started before the application was made, contrary to the normal rule operated by the Committee that retrospective grants were not made. The majority view was that the rule should be interpreted flexibly. In this case the croquet club had had no control over the initiation of the project by the Country Club, and it would not be appropriate to reject the application purely on that ground.

Hamptworth: April 2011

Grant of £4,000 made towards lawn improvements. It was for a drainage project. The development work had already started and was almost complete. Concern about this being a retrospective application (the application had been made in April 2005 but the papers were incomplete).

East Dorset: October 2005

Grant of £3,000 made towards the improvements to the kitchen (a project costing £15,506 in total). A retrospective application. Special factors were considered.

Surbiton: October 2004

The club requested £287.73 for the professional advice obtained from the STRI. The report was considered valuable and could be the start of a series of case studies held at the CA as it included both general and specific terms of advice. This post-dated request was agreed subject to the report going to the CA and the Lawns Advisory Group.

Edgbaston: October 2003

Security of tenure

“When clubs have to negotiate a lease for their ground, they normally ask the Development Committee for advice on the lengthy of lease they should ask for. They are normally concerned as to how their security of tenure would affect grant applications to the CA. The Committee agreed that advice should be offered to clubs that the minimum length of agreement for occupancy should be 15 years. This would give confidence that there is commitment from all parties to the continued existence of the club. It will not be a requirement that there should be at least 15 years to run to obtain a grant although applications for grants made within 5 years of the end of an agreement should be treated with caution. “

Minutes of the Development Committee: February 2009

Concerns were expressed by the Committee arising from the provision in the Guidelines that they “will look for evidence that the club has an agreement for its continued occupation of land and buildings”. The Committee felt uneasy about an apparent reliance upon the goodwill of the “landlord”. The Club did not (yet) have the benefit of any lease or sublease, or any contractual licence to occupy the land. However, in the particular circumstances of this case the problem was more apparent than real.

Hamptworth: December 2020

Application for a grant not submitted to the meeting. The FDO explained the insecure nature of the club’s tenure. Any grant funding would be problematic as the club had no recourse if their landlords (the Rackets Club) terminated their agreement with the croquet club.

Winchester: December 2018

Grant of £5,000 made towards the cost of a new pavilion. The Committee praised the efforts of the club in transforming themselves in a remarkably short space of time but raised some concerns including the tenancy arrangements. The club was operating under a license from the Rugby club. Bearing in mind a history of confrontation, how robust was this license? Could the club obtain a 'letter of comfort' from the Rugby club that would ensure the longevity of the croquet club. The club submitted their Memorandum of Understanding which said that, in effect, they had been granted a licence through the promise of quiet enjoyment of the croquet lawns. The Council had made it clear that they wanted a “Quiet Zone” between the Crematorium Garden of Remembrance and mini-rugby. The relocated croquet lawns occupied the Quiet Zone and the Rugby club saw the croquet club not only as a familiar and trusted user of the Quiet Zone but also as a source of rent to meet eventually 50% of its own rent of the fields. The Committee was prepared to approve a grant in these circumstances

Guildford & Godalming February 2016

Bid for a grant of £1,000 towards the cost of a new cylinder mower rejected. The Committee noted that the lawn was situated on the land of a private house owned by the Chairman of the club. They considered that available within the club to purchase second hand equipment. Furthermore the bid did not meet the guidelines in that there was no security of tenure.

Pinchbeck: November 2014

Grant of £3,000 made towards the cost of relocating the club’s lawns to a position near the entrance to the park where they would be more visible and less subject to vandal attack and where protected trees would not impinge on lawn quality. The club had raised £20,000 in pledges from the membership. It was confirmed (in response to a request by the Committee) that the club had received an agreement for a new lease, running for 20 years from 2015, when the current lease expired.

Caterham: December 2013

In the period from 2010 to November 2022 successful applicant clubs declared security of tenure as follows:

Auckland	A rolling 10 year Service Level Agreement with Chilton Miners Welfare Trustees overseen by Chilton Town Council. The agreement is reviewed annually and then rolled over for the next 10 years.
Bath	10 year lease. The lease was renewed recently and we have 9 years remaining of our current tenancy
Bishop Monkton	We rent from Bishop Monkton Village Hall & Playing Fields authority with guaranteed tenure unless we default on paying the annual fee
Bowdon	Lease from National Trust, due for renewal on 23/4/2030
Bransgore	Annual rental to the Parish Council who leases the ground from the Local Authority for "Sports and Recreational use". The Parish Council is currently looking to extend the lease up to 25 years.
Bude	30 year lease from Bude-Stratton Council
Budleigh Salterton	Freehold
Bury	Lease 25 years
Camerton & Peasedown	25 year lease with the right to opt for continuation
Camerton & Peasedown	Leasehold from the Trustees of Peasedown Cricket club. Lease is for 25 years from 2012, but this will have an extension clause added
Canterbury	Canterbury Croquet Club has never had security of tenure at Polo Farm and will not do so on the new lawns. However, croquet is part of our offer and if the club develops as you believe it will, there is every reason to expect it will remain so
Caterham	20 year lease from the Council to run from 2015 after expiry of
Caversham	Indefinite lease from Reading Borough Council
Charlton	15 year lease from 2016
Cheam	Our landlord is Sutton Council. We have a 20-year lease dating from 2012. The rent is waived if the Club meets certain requirements relating to public access and promotion of the games (croquet and
Cheltenham	Freehold
Church Stretton	Park charity unable to grant separate leases. Trustees committed to maintaining croquet facilities in the park
Colchester	Freehold
Compton	Leasehold, from The Trustees of Eastbourne Saffrons Sports Club. Current lease expires on 30 April 2020 (and was for 19yrs). We have every reason to believe that it will be renewed as it has for the past
Cornwall	Lease 10 years from 2016
Craig y Don	Craig y Don Community Centre hold the rolling 25 year lease of the land from local authority, Conwy Borough Council. Each club within the Craig y Don Sport and Community Committee has two designated directors on the committee and is guaranteed use of their particular court/pitch/lawn. Our Chairman and President are both Directors and Trustees of the Company and Charity which bears that name, nominated by the Croquet Club. The original lease of 25 years is running down but the Council have recently confirmed
Crake Valley	21 year lease from 2018 from Penny Bridge Hall Estate

Crawley	Council has “promised security of tenure” (following major refurbishment of the park)
Dowlish Wake	Under the Deed of Covenant which governs the running of the Trust we regard our ability to use the land and pavilion as secure in perpetuity even though this is not explicitly written. The Trust has no power to sell any land or change the use of the land. It must be used
Eardisley	Freehold
Ember	The club premises and lands are wholly owned by a holding company Ember Sports Club Ltd. The shares are held in a trust administered by trustees appointed by ESC solely for the enduring benefit of members of ESC, i.e. the estate is effectively owned by
Frinton-on-Sea	Freehold
Fromus	Section of Ex-Servicemen’s, Club: to continue indefinitely
Fylde	Lease
Fylde	No security as a licensee of the Tennis Club but well regarded contributors likely to become a full section of the club in due course
Fylde	Rented from the Tennis Club
Guildford & Godalming	Licenses of BSCL whose main activity is rugby (as Guildford Rugby Club). BSCL has a long lease from Guildford Borough Council.
Hamptworth	Club is sited within the grounds of Hamptworth Golf Club. The golf club itself is five years into a 99 year lease from The Hamptworth Estate. This also applies to the croquet club. Club will be paying an annual rent for the croquet area.
High Wycombe	21 year lease with option to renew from Hazlemere Parish Council
High Wycombe	25 year lease dated 6th Nov 2015 with option to renew for a further
High Wycombe	25 year lease with option to renew 25 years
Histon & Impington	Annually renewable contract with Histon and Impington Parish for a specified area to be prepared and maintained for croquet exclusively between April and September and available for play when not in other sporting use at other times of the year. Although there is no longer term legal obligation on either side, there is a commitment by the Parish in its forward development plans to continue to make provision for the croquet club activities in the interests of increasing the diversity of age groups using the Recreation Ground, and to include croquet in future recreational development projects for the
Kington Langley	Licence to Occupy. This has been agreed between the newly established CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), Kington Langley Village Hall and Recreation Ground and the Club. The CIO states: ‘The CIO is committed to assisting the Club in providing croquet facilities for as long as a viable croquet club is maintained in Kington Langley.’ The licence is for 25 years, renewable after this
Leicester	The club has negotiated a rent freeze for 5 years with Leicester City Council and has asked for a 5-year lease or licence to occupy to go with that agreement
Llanidloes	Lease 21 years from 2019 from Tennis Club

Lodsworth	A written ten year minimum tenancy agreement with the Village Hall Committee that we may play Croquet on the land we occupy
Ludlow Castle	The land is owned by the joint bowls and tennis club, of which the croquet club is a section
Lym Valley	Permission to use the area occupied by the club lawn from the Trustees of the King George V playing fields association for as long as the LVCC continues to be active
Medway	Lease 20 years
Moreton-in-Marsh	50 year lease from Town Council
Nailsea	The land is leased from North Somerset Council. The current lease started in September 2015 for a period of 25 years
Newport	Long term lease from Newport Parish Council on peppercorn rent (25 years + further 25 years option)
Nottingham	35 year lease from City Council
Penrith	Annual fee to the Langwathby & Edenhall Sports ground Trust.
Pinchbeck	Licence from the Freeholder
Plymouth	Lease with Pennon, (SW Water) with an ongoing right to occupy the area on the reservoir. This is subject to 28 days notice clause should SW Water need access to the Reservoir
Reigate Priory	Leased from the Reigate Priory Cricket Club
Ryde	Freehold
Shrewsbury	21 year licence from the County Council with 17 years remaining
Southport & Birkdale	30 year lease from Sefton Council with 17 years left to run (statutory right of renewal at the end of the lease)
St Agnes	The club owns the "tennis club" site and the adjoining field on which the croquet club has developed its lawns is under lease from a local farmer. The lease runs for 15 years from 1st April 2014.
Surbiton	40 year lease from Kingston Council from March 2007
Sussex County	Freehold
Swindon	Licence agreement with Council. Minimum 10 years. Nominal rent.
Tattenhall	The Recreation Club lease the land from the Bolesworth Estate. The current lease is until 2023. However, the lease has been renewed every 10 years since 1947
Torksey	The land (the village green) has been gifted to the Parish Council by a land owner, with an 80 year covenant.
Tyneside	Lease from City Council
Tyneside	Lease from City Council; also applies to building
West Worthing	West Worthing Club CIC owns the freehold and is supportive of the continuation of croquet
Weston-super-Mare	Lease 15 years renewable
Wingrave	No security. The Club was affiliated to Wingrave Sports and Leisure, the charity that managed the ground on behalf of Wingrave Parish
Ealing	Rental from the London Borough of Ealing

Enfield	15 year lease
Northampton	7 year lease from 2020
Winterborne Valley	Five Year Tenancy Agreement with Winterborne Stickland Parish Council who own the land
Worthing	No security of tenure and the Council replied to the club's request negatively. They were not willing to give up the option if a better money earning use could be found for the space occupied by the extensive bowling greens and the Croquet Club. Field Park was a beautiful and much used facility. The FDO doubted that the Council could come up with another option which would not spoil the pleasant and peaceful environment that the park offered
York	We are finalising a lease for 99 years operative from 2017

Support for all forms of croquet

The Committee noted that 100% of the club members played only Golf Croquet. It was the policy of the CA to promote all forms of croquet. In the past, grant aid had been refused to clubs who only played GC and who had no intention of promoting AC; Short Croquet; One Ball or any other form of the game. However, the Committee was aware that, in the club's area, special circumstances prevailed. A nearby club (Sussex CCC) provided facilities and incentives for AC players who could not access competition in their own clubs and it was recognised that that made it difficult for the club to promote the longer forms of the game. Therefore it was not appropriate to make the grant conditional upon the introduction of, for example, courses designed to introduce GC players to AC. Nevertheless, hope expressed that the club might adopt the policy of the CA in the longer term.

West Worthing: December 2019

Grant of up to £1,500 made towards the cost of a mower. Grant subject to (a) a request that efforts be made to regenerate AC at the Club; (b) a suggestion that the Club should look at the second hand market, with grant aid up to £1,500 covering 50% of the actual cost.

Bransgore: December 2016

Sustainability

The Committee recognised that the club viewed their changed circumstances as “a huge opportunity” and that their members had “really got behind the challenge presented” [by the refusal of the host golf club to continue to maintain the lawns]. They were keen to assist in this endeavour if they reasonably could but needed further information and reassurance. The “Application Guidelines” made it clear that, “where the application involves an improvement to the lawns or other facilities”, the Committee would want to see that there was “a plan and adequate resources to maintain these at their new and higher level”. The club was, in effect, starting afresh, albeit with courts and other facilities already in place. Whenever the Committee are presented with an application from a new club they need to see a reasonably detailed “Business Plan” which recognises the challenges ahead and sets out the plans to meet them. Their principal concern is, in a word, “**sustainability**”.

[The Club subsequently disclosed good plans and a grant was made]

Hamptworth: December 2020

The Committee endorsed the concept of the project and the mission statement of the club in embracing the local community. However, the Committee expressed a number of concerns and only approved a grant of £75 to carry out a laser levelling survey of the proposed site for new lawns. The application and additional information did not indicate how the club would fund the maintenance of the facility after the first year. Had the members approved the raising of the membership fees? Were they going to seek further grant money from other organizations? Could they ensure that this project would provide a suitable playing surface for competition matches? The CA recommended that they should develop a more detailed business plan for the next five years, using of the Croquet Matters tool. Assistance with that could be facilitated through their Development Officer.

[The club subsequently decided not to proceed with their re-location project].

Maldon: June 2019

Grant of £3,800 made towards the cost of a project to restore the club's playing areas (2 former bowling greens) to their former excellence in order to attract new members, host more CA tournaments and more Federation fixtures and tournaments. The Club was informed by the City Council that it must take on ownership of the clubhouse and pay its own utility bills as well as maintaining the club's lawns. The club drastically increased membership fees and this resulted in a big fall in membership. The fees were then reduced in an effort to regain members. The club took on lawn maintenance itself but was hit by an outbreak of fusarium. They took advice from Duncan Hector to improve the condition of the lawns. Part of his advice was to buy a mower with a 10 blade cutting cassette. This would replace an old unreliable Ransome mower. The Committee expressed its unease at the **viability** of the club, especially with the reduction in fees proposed. It needed to get itself in a position where its subscriptions would cover its costs. However, the Committee saw it as an exceptional case.

Tyneside: February 2018

Grant of £2,500 made towards the cost of adding a fifth lawn. Accepted that the Committee would not want to part with CA cash, only to have the parent Country Club fold up. The Committee needed something in the way of assurance that the Country Club was financially sound. Some members also argued that the Committee should not be supporting wealthy private clubs. It was pointed out that the guidelines contained no such restriction. It was resolved to recommend the grant of £2,500 to the Major Grants Committee subject to the Country Club being able to give the CA some assurance of its financial soundness (or the Croquet Club members being prepared to underwrite the grant).

Hamptworth: April 2011

Loan in addition to grant

Grant of £5,000 towards the cost of a new clubhouse. The Committee noted that the club would be applying for other grants; that they would need to undertake a large amount of fundraising and that they might be seeking a commercial loan. Agreed that they should be offered an **additional, interest-free loan** facility of up to £5,000.

Camerton & Peasedown: December 2019

No difficulty in awarding a grant even though the parent club already had an **outstanding CA loan**. Repayments were being made properly and promptly.

West Worthing: December 2019

Grant of £1,000 towards a pathway (cost £5,852 - £2,926 sought). Access was on a clay-based route on a slope presenting health and safety issues in winter and inclement weather. Other solutions had been trialled, without success. This was part of a much wider programme of development embracing the clubhouse, drainage and toilets for which the club had used substantial funds from its own resources. As a capital infrastructure project facilitating additional play, the request was eligible. There were, however, significant concerns over the high cost for a limited impact on croquet play. The Club might in addition wish to request a loan.

[The club did not request a loan but submitted a revised grant application which was successful]

High Wycombe: February 2017

Grant of £1,650 made to support the refurbishment of the pavilion kitchen (but not the white goods which, as replacements, were more properly a maintenance responsibility of the club) and to reflect the 70%/30% croquet/tennis usage of the kitchen. This was a successful 4-court club mounting CA tournaments. The option was open for the Club, if it wished, to **seek to negotiate a loan direct with the Treasurer**.

Ryde: December 2016

Application for funds to replace an old dilapidated hut (given to the club by another croquet club) with a new croquet pavilion. Grant of £2,100 towards the cost of the building was the amount sought but the total cost was £5,627. The Committee offered a **supplementary loan facility**, which was taken up by the parent club.

West Worthing: December 2016

Grant of £700 (as requested) made towards the purchase of a box container to store croquet and lawn equipment out of season away from flood plain (probable cost, 2nd hand, £2,000). The choice of a transportable container/ box trailer to store equipment away from the flood zone was found to be a highly commendable, innovative solution. The Committee also recommended that the club be offered a loan should the amount requested be insufficient to meet the total cost of the project.

Penrith & North Lakes: February 2016

The club was undertaking a major **relocation project** caused by the forthcoming disposal by the local council of the premises where the club had played for 29 years. The Committee felt that the project was worthy of support but that a grant of £3,000 plus a loan of £2,000 with a 2 year repayment holiday was the appropriate recommendation. Upon reconsideration of the application (referred back to the Committee by the Major Grants Committee to deal with further information supplied) it was agreed that the concerns raised earlier had been addressed but, in view of limited funds available, the award of £3,000 plus loan of £2,000 was unchanged. The club's application included the cost of new mowing equipment. It was noted that the Committee had another application to consider where a reconditioned example of the same machine was involved, at much lower cost. The club's attention would be drawn to this.

High Wycombe: February 2012

A modest grant of £650 was sought as a contribution to the general improvement of the lawns and for the purchase of a new lawn mower. The Committee agreed to support the application but only for the purchase of new, improved equipment. The lawn improvement work was judged to be normal lawn

maintenance and therefore could not be supported by a grant. It was also agreed to offer the club a loan, if required, to assist in the purchase of the new equipment.

Dowlish Wake: February 2010

Loan instead of grant

Grant for a replacement mower refused. However, having regard to the important geographical position of the club and the need to maintain and support a croquet presence in their area, the Committee were prepared to accept that the club should be offered an interest-free loan facility of up to £4,800 to cover the whole cost of the acquisition of a robotic mower, if necessary. That would remove or reduce the risk that the club might have to stop playing on some or all of its lawns because of a current inability to afford the cost of necessary equipment. They had already accumulated some funds to contribute towards the purchase and the club would save money on mowing each year and thus would be able to make the repayments. Loan subsequently made by CA Treasurer.

Plymouth: February 2020

Grant for lawn maintenance refused. Having regard to the observations made by the Federation Development Officer, the Committee were prepared to accept that the club should be offered an interest-free loan facility of up to £5,000 to cover the cost of the renovation, to remove or reduce the risk that it might have to close, or to restrict its availability as a tournament venue, because of a current inability to afford the cost of restoring the lawns to prime condition.

Tyneside: December 2019

Grant of £615 approved, to cover half the estimate for lawn improvement work and a lawnmower. The club's request was for assistance towards the cost of lawn maintenance equipment and replacement balls. Replacement balls were not eligible for grant aid. As the request for assistance with new balls did not qualify for a grant, the club might wish to ask the CA for a loan towards the cost.

St Agnes: February 2017

No grant award on an application for £950 towards the cost of further playing equipment to cope with increased membership. The committee observed that it was not normal for development grants to be awarded for playing equipment, beyond the start-up kit given to new clubs. The additional subscriptions raised from the new members should have enabled the club to purchase much of the equipment for itself. Loan assistance to cope with any cash-flow problem could be offered.

Penrith & North Lakes: October 2013

Application for £2,000 towards the cost of rabbit-proof fencing refused. The Committee noted that the club had alternated between affiliated and full membership more than once and that returns to full membership seemed to coincide with applications for CA assistance. The Committee was prepared to offer a loan of up to £2,000, subject to guarantees from individuals and to satisfactory evidence of a proper maintenance programme.

Chichester & Fishbourne: February 2013

Loan of £500 (interest free over 3 years) offered to assist the club in purchasing a new lawn mower. The club applied for a grant of £2,533.32 to purchase an Atco Royal B20E 6 blade cylinder mower "to cut the grass and save members [14 in total] having to bring their own or borrow one from the bowls club". The club, clearly uninformed about the grant process, was seeking £100% of the cost of a new machine from the local 2Garden Machinery Superstore"

Abbey: November 2010

Support for student members

Grant refused for subsidy to student members because that was not covered by the development grant scheme. There had been an upsurge in interest in croquet at Cambridge University. The club had the only tournament quality lawns reasonably accessible to Cambridge residents. They had been subsidising students with a membership rate £100 below adult rate (£27.50 against £125.00). In 2017 there were 7 and it looked as though there might be between 10 and 15 in future years. That was not affordable. The Committee felt that it was desirable to develop croquet at Cambridge University. The club had taken a welcome initiative, not least in view of the many previous attempts to put croquet on a firm footing at Cambridge. However, the bid did not fall within the Committee's agreed criteria for a grant and it could not therefore be approved as it stood. The Committee were, however, keen to see if another way ahead could be found, ideally through a model that could be replicated elsewhere.

Newport: October 2017

[The Funding Committee has now introduced a new, simplified scheme which may be found at <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?d=2927&pup=y>]

Table of grants awarded 2003-2023

Club	Year	Amount	Purpose
Bury	2003	£3,000	Lawn levelling
Edgbaston	2003	£237.73	Report from STRI of general interest
Enfield	2003	£1,000	New lawns
Llanfairfechan	2003	£1,000	New lawns
Pendle & Craven	2003	£5,000	Relocation costs
Purley Bury	2003	£1,750	Toilets
Rother Valley	2003	£650	?
Sidmouth	2003	£6,000	New lawns
Sussex County	2003	£3,000	Lawn levelling
Blewbury	2004	£5,000	Irrigation system
Eynsham	2004	£1,674	?
Letchworth	2004	£1,000	?
Leven & Crake (Crake Valley)	2004	£3,000	New lawns
Medway	2004	£750	?
Ramsgate	2004	£1,000	?
Royal Tunbridge Wells	2004	£6,000	?
Surbiton	2004	£3,000	Club house (kitchen)
Sussex County	2004	£1,000	Lawn levelling
Cheltenham	2005	£2,000	?
Fylde	2005	£1,000	Lawn relocation and reclamation
Blewbury	2006	£2,000	Irrigation system phase 2
Chester	2006	£5,000	Club house (largely funded by Local Authority)
Llanfairfechan	2006	£5,000	Club house
Reigate Priory	2006	£2,000	Irrigation system
Rother Valley	2006	£1,000	New half lawn
Bowden	2007	£1,176	Equipment storage
Edgbaston	2007	£800	Electricity supply
Woking	2007	£5,000	Irrigation system
Compton	2008	£500	Equipment
Nottingham	2008	£1,000	Shelters
Royal Tunbridge Wells	2008	£500	Drainage improvement
Ashby	2009	£3,000	New lawns
Bury	2009	£5,000	Lawn levelling (crown bowls greens)
Nottingham	2009	£1,000	Replacement huts
Ryde	2009	£5,000	Lawns
Beverley	2010	£750	Storage shed
Budleigh Salterton	2010	£3,500	Lawn levelling

Cheltenham	2010	£5,000	Lawn development
Dowlish Wake	2010	£650	Lawn mower
Fylde	2010	£1,000	Club house
Shrewsbury	2010	£5,000	Lawn refurbishment
Worthing	2010	£900	Club hut
Ben Rhydding	2011	£1,900	Club house
Ben Rhydding	2011	£1,900	New lawns
Camerton & Peasedown	2011	£10,000	New club
Church Stretton	2011	£4,000	New lawn (tennis courts)
Ember	2011	£2,000	Irrigation system
Hamptworth	2011	£2,500	New lawn (5 th)
Kingston Maurward	2011	£1,000	Storage shed with shelter
Nottingham	2011	£2,500	Irrigation (borehole)
West Wittering	2011	£1,500	Lawn mower (new)
Craig y Don	2012	£900	Store for equipment
Crawley	2012	£3,000	Clubhouse
Fromus (now Thorpeness)	2012	£1,000	Storage shed
High Wycombe	2012	£3,000	Lawn mower (new)
Kenilworth	2012	£3,000	Club house (log cabin)
Norwich	2012	£2,250	New lawn and ditch filling (bowls green)
Southport & Birkdale	2012	£3,750	Lawn mowers (2)
Sussex County	2012	£3,500	Lawn relaying
Swindon	2012	£4,688	Lawn equipment
Wingrave	2012	£950	Lawn mower
Bishop Monkton	2013	£3,000	Lawn drainage
Caterham	2013	£3,000	New lawns (relocation in same park)
Cheltenham	2013	£4,000	Lawn relaying
Medway	2013	£4,000*	Relocation costs
Nailsea	2013	£3,908	Lawn improvement
Plymouth	2013	£3,606	New mower (electric)
Tattenhall	2013	£1,000	New lawn
Weston-super-Mare	2013	£2,400	Lawn resurfacing
Bury	2014	£5,000	Club house refurbishment (incl. asbestos removal)
Colchester	2014	£3,197	Lawn mower (ride on)
Lym Valley	2014	£1,000	Lawn enlargement
Penrith & N Lakes	2014	£175	Lawn aerator
Tyneside	2014	£232.50	Lawn mower (2 nd hand)

Beckford	2015	£1,200	Club house (log cabin)
Bransgore	2015	£1,000	Lawn equipment (sprayer and spiker)
Cheam	2015	£1,000	Irrigation system
Hassocks	2015	£185	White lining machine
Sussex County	2015	£10,000	Lawn improvements
Worthing	2015	£1,000	Club hut
Bransgore	2016	£1,500	Lawn mower (2 nd hand)
Canterbury	2016	£5,000	Club house
Guildford & Godalming	2016	£5,000	Club house
Kington Langley	2016	£5,000	Enlarged lawn
Lodsworth	2016	£1,000	Club house
Ludlow Castle	2016	£625	Storage shed (additional)
Nailsea	2016	£5,000	Lawn levelling
Pendle & Craven	2016	£4,500	Lawn mower (ride on)
Penrith & N Lakes	2016	£700	Storage box
Ryde	2016	£1,650	Club house (kitchen)
West Worthing	2016	£2,100	Club house
York	2016	£3,280	New lawn (bowls green)
Abbey	2017	£1,000	Club house (log cabin)
Auckland	2017	£1,000	New lawn (bowls green)
Compton	2017	£5,000	Club house refurbishment (incl. disabled facilities)
Cornwall	2017	£4,635	Club house (locker room extension)
High Wycombe	2017	£3,957	Access path with drainage trench below
Histon & Impington	2017	£250	Storage shed
St Agnes	2017	£615	Lawn mower
Bowden	2018	£2,000	Access paths
Canterbury	2018	£2,874	Lawn mower (2 nd hand)
Charlton	2018	£350	Fencing
Crake Valley	2018	£3,500	Electricity (mains supply)
Fylde	2018	£250	Lawn drainage
High Wycombe	2018	£1,281.39	Security alarm and ancillary equipment
High Wycombe	2018	£3,000	Storage shed
Leicester	2018	£625	Relocation costs (equipment)
Ludlow Castle	2018	£250	Lawn advice
Torksey	2018	£650	Storage unit
Tyneside	2018	£3,800	Lawn improvement
Camerton & Peasedown	2019	£5,000	Club house (static caravan/former classroom)
Craig y Don	2019	£500	Storage shed

Crake Valley	2019	£1,350	Storage shed
Llanidloes	2019	£3,000	New lawns (tennis courts)
Surbiton	2019	£3,335	Skip for grass clippings (and excavation of site and base)
West Worthing	2019	£1,900	Electricity supply (solar panels and battery)
Winterborne Valley	2019	£3,125	Relocation costs (lawn mower etc)
Eardisley	2020	£5,000	New lawn
Fylde	2020	£460	Lawn levelling and drainage
Hamptworth	2020	£3,661	Lawn equipment
High Wycombe	2020	£5,000	New lawns
Moreton-in-Marsh	2020	£5,000	New lawns
Nottingham	2020	£5,000	New lawns (bowls greens)
Reigate Priory	2020	£1,000	Lawn levelling
Hethersett	2021	£1,000	Access toilets and kitchen facilities (<i>grant declined</i>)
Frinton-on-Sea	2021	£3,087	Ground work and irrigation
Moreton-in-Marsh	2021	£5,000	Car park, toilet and mains services
Northampton	2021	£5,000	New lawns
Bradford-on-Avon	2022	£907	Storage shed
Littlehampton	2022	£5,000	Irrigation system
Ryde	2022	£5,000	Storage building
Bath	2022	£4,411	Lawn levelling
Ipswich	2022	£5,000	New lawns
Bude	2022	£5,000	Clubhouse
Hartley Wintney	2022	£5,000	New lawn
Merton	2022	£4,000	Irrigation system
Ealing	2023	£2,730	Mower and shed
Southwell	2023	£3,750	Irrigation system
Guildford & Godalming	2023	£5,000	Irrigation system
Enfield	2023	£1,310	Shelter
Newport	2023	£5,000	Irrigation system
Charlton (Somerset)	2023	£1,000	Lawn levelling
Northampton	2023	£5,000	Club house
Kington Langley	2023	£5,000	Club house