

SWF Support for New Clubs Policy and Guidance: Development Grant

Primary purpose

The SWF will, subject to sufficient funds being available, set aside an amount to encourage and support the establishment of new clubs or clubs which have been in existence for under 24 months.

Within this, priority will be given to new clubs more than 20 miles away from the nearest established croquet club.

If there are sufficient funds, consideration will be given to applications from more established clubs undertaking developmental work.

Amount to be made available

After an initial amount of money allocated for this purpose, further additions of up to £500 per annum to keep the total available to the region of £2000. These figures will be reviewed annually.

Applications would normally be for between £100 - £500 but the committee is authorised to consider all applications on their merits.

If requests exceed the monies available, priority will normally be given to those clubs who have already done the most to help themselves.

What constitutes a new or potential club?

A group of people who have formed, or want to start a croquet club.

Advice.

The Federation Development Officer (FDO) will suggest:

- they form a committee of at least a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer
- they open a bank account in the new club's name
- they should have identified a suitable piece of land

The FDO should visit and be satisfied that

- the plans for the new club are workable
- the emergent club can demonstrate that there is a need for a new club which will not adversely affect any existing club/s in the area
- there is a sufficiently large population to sustain potential membership

Possible areas for help

The club or FDO may identify a need and could be for such things as

- enabling expenses - such as professional fees (e.g. Planning Permission)
- help with start-up costs (e.g. advertising, fliers)

Applications

Initial contact should be to the FDO who will give advice and assist with the written application which will then be forwarded by the FDO to the South West Federation Committee.

Before submitting the application, the club must have joined the SWF.

By contacting the FDO, the club will also have been made aware of other bodies from whom grants should be sought e.g.

- by joining Croquet England, a start-up set of equipment can be requested
- further support available from Croquet England e.g. coaching, handicapping

Further information

- Those wanting to start a new club should be put in touch with other clubs nearby.
- If they are part of a multi-sport club, there should be some security of tenure.
- Clubs are expected to accept responsibility for raising most of the funds themselves.
- However, a grant from the local federation and from Croquet England will often trigger other grants from, for example, Sport England.

Payment of grants

When the committee has agreed the award of a grant, the club will be informed in writing of:

- the amount offered
- the time this offer remains valid
- that it will be paid on production of the invoice for the work or items purchased.

Policy agreed: May 2022

To be reviewed: May 2024