



Interest Free Loan Case Study - Cardiff CC Practice Facility

Background Details

County Cricket Board:	Wales
Project Timescales:	March – May 2009
Funding Stream:	EWCT Interest Free Loan Scheme
Location (Inner City/Urban/Rural):	Urban
Club Status:	ECB Clubmark Accredited

Quantitative and Qualitative Details

Background:

Cardiff Cricket Club was established in 1819 and located in the Cardiff Arms Park. In the mid 1960s the Club moved to Sophia Gardens until the mid 1990s when this ground was taken over by Glamorgan County Cricket Club.

Following the sale of the ground, at Sophia Gardens in 1996, the Club faced a period of extreme difficulty and uncertainty. However, in the run up to the 2007 season the Club secured a 100 year lease for a piece of land adjoining the Cardiff High School Old Boys Rugby Club.

Since then the Club has built a state of the art pavilion and invested heavily in developing a high standard cricket field on the land, with the Club playing its first game on the new ground in 2007.

As one of the largest Clubs in the area, Cardiff Cricket Club has in the region of 100 adult members and a further 100 junior members across every age group. Whilst the playing facilities are capable of servicing this playing membership, the outdoor practice facilities were severely lacking and it was identified that a new 4 lane non turf practice facility would be required to meet the needs of this developing Club.

Aims and Objectives:

1. Cardiff Cricket Club to have access to a good quality 4 lane non turf practice facility at its main ground.
2. Cardiff Cricket Club to become the new Regional Centre of Excellence for outdoor practice provision.
3. Cardiff Cricket Club to continue serving the community of Cardiff by sustaining and growing Cricket in the local area.

Project Development:

Following the initial concept being proposed by the Club's committee a small sub-group of the main committee was established to act as a working group and manage the development of the project. Specific roles and responsibilities were assigned which covered; technical

specification, project management, internal club fundraising and external fundraising.

The specification was to develop a 4 lane non turf practice facility that complied with the standards of a Regional Centre of Excellence and the ECB Technical Guidance Notes for the installation of non turf pitches. At this time the Club took the opportunity to discuss their proposed project with some local clubs who had recently developed similar schemes. The Club is extremely grateful to Chepstow Cricket Club and Miskin Manor Cricket Club for their advice and for so willingly sharing their experiences.

Working closely with the key funding partners in order to comply with the criteria of their respective schemes the Club developed a specification and invited 3 companies to tender against the project. Following this a review of each tender submission was undertaken by the Club before a final decision was made. The appointed company then continued to work closely with the Club in developing a full specification and program of works. Whilst the tender process was underway, the Club made a full application for Planning Permission for the new facility which was granted prior to works commencing.

Funding Partners:

As part of the fundraising the Club has undertaken to develop their new ground, a proportion of these funds were set aside to contribute towards the design and installation of the 4 lane non turf pitch facility and its maintenance thereafter. Funds were raised from a number of events including; a Gala Dinner, Golf Day, and "Buy a Brick" scheme.

In addition to this the Club were fortunate to secure funds through a number of external funding partners. The Sports Council for Wales provided a significant grant towards the cost of the project which was supported by grant from The Lord Taverners and Cardiff and Vale Regional Youth Cricket Committee. Together with an Interest Free Loan from the England and Wales Cricket Trust and the monies raised internally, the Club were able to fund the £70,000 facility.

Outcomes:

1. The Club hosts weekly training sessions for seniors, every Thursday, and juniors, every Friday, throughout the season which has seen a significant uptake since the completion of the project in May 2009.
2. The facility is used by the Regional Youth Teams as well as the Glamorgan second XI.
3. The Club's first XI won both the Premier League and Welsh Cup in 2009.
4. Cardiff Cricket Club now has an excellent all round facility at their new ground with security for current and future generations of cricketers to grow and excel.

Helpful Hints:

For any Club considering a similar venture, the Club would suggest;

1. Speaking to other Clubs who have been through similar developments.
2. Assigning responsibility to particular officers for; technical specification and tendering, project management of the build and the internal and external fundraising.
3. Remaining focused on the delivery of the project to meet with the original concept and aims and objectives as set out by the Club's committee.
4. Do not under-estimate the time it will take to, particularly complying with the similar but always subtly different requirements of the various funding organisations.

Comments from the Club:

Club Chairman Matthew Philips said;

“The new nets are the result of a huge amount of work by the Club committee. We had a very clear plan and were superbly supported from within the Club and by the various funders. We had to work very hard to secure funding and deliver the new facility but were able to do so quickly and effectively. It is no coincidence that our youth section is thriving and the Club’s first eleven won the double.”

Club Captain David Kirtley said;

“The Clubs’ on-field success is linked with our ability to practice much more effectively using high quality outdoor facilities when previously we had to practice indoors. Our youth training nights are superb and as a result of the new nets, we are well placed to develop premier league cricketers of the future as well as to use our ground for representative and county second eleven cricket.”

Picture

