

RURAL/URBAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPLICATION FOR 13TH JANUARY 2016 EXECUTIVE :**Applicant :** Leamington Tennis and Croquet Club

Description of scheme: The project is to install a new all-weather artificial clay carpet on four tennis courts (courts 9-12), to replace the existing acrylic surface which is breaking up and is becoming a danger to players when wet and increasingly expensive to repair. The current surface has been in place for 14 years and is rapidly reaching the end of its useful life; the courts have been patched on a number of occasions in recent years but this is not now considered to be cost effective (the latest estimate was over £10,000). Without a new surface, these courts will soon be unfit for use, which will reduce the club's ability to offer opportunities to all age groups to participate in sport, but particularly juniors.

Evidence of need: The need for upgrading these courts has become evident due to the need for repeated repairs to worn areas in recent years, creating an uneven surface. The surface becomes slippery when wet and is increasingly viewed as a health and safety risk which can prevent some of the coaching activity from taking place. The need for a new surface was also established through a questionnaire survey of tennis members, through consultation with the Lawn Tennis Association's technical consultant and also the views of the senior coach at the club, Tony Pillinger. The survey and the expert reports have been provided with the RUCIS application.

3 years accounts received? 2012 - 2014 accounts have been received, along with recent bank statements for all accounts which evidences the reserves for the club's contribution to the project

Financial Performance; minus figure = deficit	Year ended 31/12/14	Year ended 31/12/13	Year ended 31/12/12
	-£52,010	£372	£16,542

Available Funds (cash and reserves)	Year ended 31/12/14	Year ended 31/12/13	Year ended 31/12/12
	£173,983	£99,539	£95,542

Details of membership, fees etc: Membership of the club comprises; 308 adult tennis members, 286 adult squash/racketball members, 113 adult combined tennis/squash, 211 junior tennis members , 68 junior squash members and 50 gym-only members (+120 squash or tennis members who are also users of the gym). The club has a structured membership scheme; Adults, Discounted adult (partners of members), Adult concessions (18 – 25, Over 65, Restricted Off Peak, Student Over 22, Unemployed), Juniors, Tennis/Squash/Gym and Social member. The cost to each member will vary, but the maximum is £32.90 p.c.m. (adult combined tennis/squash/gym membership). A list of all membership fees has been provided with the RUCIS application.

Details of usage: Leamington Lawn Tennis and Croquet club offers opportunities/facilities for local people of all ages to participate in tennis, squash, racketball, running and fitness training throughout the year. There are also more informal opportunities for croquet, table tennis, pool, darts and bridge. The club has 12 floodlit outdoor tennis courts and 5 squash courts, with advanced plans to build a sixth squash court in 2016, there is also a small gym. The club have a comprehensive tennis coaching programme for all ages and standards, and welcome members and non-members to the sessions. The coaches currently see over 300 juniors per week as part of their onsite and outreach coaching programmes; they deliver sessions for local primary and secondary schools. The club hosts around 30 junior competitions each year on behalf of the Lawn Tennis Association and have the largest number of junior teams in the county competing in Warwickshire and National competitions at U9, U10, U12, U14 and U16 age groups. The club enters mens, ladies, veterans and mixed teams in the Coventry and district summer league, and the South Warwickshire winter league. The club also hosts a number of county (Warwickshire) matches. Regular usage includes:

- Milverton, Brookhurst, Telford, St. Pauls, and Trinity schools – 7 sessions per week for 34 weeks, with an average attendance of 14 children per day.
- Local schools competitions for primary year groups 2-6 and secondary year groups 7-8 at the club, attended by approximately 100 children from local schools (Milverton, Brookhurst, St Pauls, Telford, Trinity, North Leamington, Southam, Myton and Kings High).
- Coventry and district summer league; 6 men's teams each playing 7 home matches – squad of 50 players, 6 ladies' teams each playing 7 home matches – squad of 48 players

- South Warwickshire winter league; 3 men's teams each playing 7 home matches – squad of 22 players, 5 ladies' teams each playing 5 home matches – squad of 35 players, 2 mixed teams, each playing 4 home matches – squad of 15 players, 2 men's vets teams, each playing 7 home matches – squad of 14 players, 2 ladies' vets teams each playing 5 home matches –squad of 15 players
- Junior holiday camps held at the club – 11 weeks outside of term time across the year, attended by an average of 20 children per day. Over 300 children attend these camps across the year.

The club house is also used for social events and can be hired for ad-hoc events such as birthday parties and community meetings; 27 bookings have been made in 2015, the number of people attending depends on the type of event but can be up to as many as 130 to 150 attendees.

Details of Organisations equalities policies: The Diversity and Inclusion policy agreed by the club's management committee on 5/03/2015 states: "Leamington Tennis and Squash Club welcomes all members of the community to become part of our club. The club is managed by members for the members to create an environment for the communal enjoyment of sport for all. The guiding principles we operate within are:

- We value and respect people's differences in everything we do;
- We will promote an environment in which members feel able to contribute and be listened to;
- We will not tolerate any form of harassment, bullying or victimisation; and
- We aim to create an environment in which every individual feels proud to be a member of the club"

3 quotes provided: Yes - three quotes have been received for all aspects of the project.

Which of the Council's Corporate Priorities are met?		
Reduce anti-social behaviour		The club has a thriving junior section and many links with local schools; part of the experience for the club's juniors is learning about fair play, playing to the rules of the sport and engaging with others in a positive and respectful manner. Other activities available to juniors within the clubhouse include table tennis and pool. A reduction in sporting opportunities at the club for young people in the area increases the amount of spare time, increasing the likelihood of anti-social behaviour.
Reducing obesity, particularly in children		Whether or not you're trying to lose weight or simply stay fit, tennis is a great way to have fun, socialise and burn calories; the more vigorous an activity, the more calories an individual will burn. The club's coaches currently see over 300 juniors per week as part of their onsite and outreach coaching programmes and during school holidays, the club run holiday camps that are well attended by children from all over the Leamington/Warwick area. The club hosts a number of county (Warwickshire) matches and around 30 junior competitions each year on behalf of the LTA, they have the largest number of junior teams in the county competing in Warwickshire and in national competitions at U9, U10, U12, U14 and U16 age groups. The club also enters mens, ladies, veterans and mixed teams in the Coventry and district summer league, and the South Warwickshire winter league. This all contributes to reducing obesity, including in children.
Increase opportunities for everyone to enjoy and participate in sports, arts and cultural activities		Much of the coaching and junior development activity takes place on courts 9-12, the courts we are seeking to replace. The growth of junior members and their success in local and regional events in recent years has intensified the use of these courts. Without the new surface, opportunities at the club for juniors to participate in sport and to develop their skills and prowess will diminish. The chosen surface, artificial clay, is considered ideal for coaching and skill development, ensuring coaching and junior activity at the club can continue to develop and expand.
Engaging and strengthening communities		<p>The club has a multitude of activities, usage and events which bring people together:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The club run a successful outreach programme with many local schools which is leading children towards a lifetime of enjoyment and good health, creating a sporting habit for life.• The University of the Third Age (U3A) use the club's facilities for a nominal weekly charge; this is a unique and exciting organisation which provides, through local groups, life-enhancing and life-changing opportunities where retired and semi-retired people come together and learn together, sharing their skills and life experiences.• Spa Striders, a friendly running club in Leamington Spa, is based at the club and use their facilities as a base for starting/finishing their regular running sessions, for changing/showering, for meetings and for social events. Spa Striders is open to anyone (over age 18) who enjoys running; they have 162 members.• The clubhouse is available for hire by non-members of the club for events such as children's parties.• The club offers a range of social events which are well supported by members, their families and friends, ranging from quiz nights to musical evenings. <p>Volunteers from the local community are also essential in the management of the club. A decline in the club's sporting facilities would eventually lead to a decline in membership, a weakening of the sense of community they generate and a reduction in community engagement.</p>
Targeting disadvantage in rural / urban areas:		The club offers reduced membership rates for; 18 – 25 age group, over 65s, students over 22 and the unemployed. The club also works closely with local primary and secondary schools (Milverton, Brookhurst, Telford, St. Pauls, Trinity) and, in partnership with CSW Sport, have established a satellite tennis club at Trinity Secondary school to help deliver sessions to children aged 11-18. The club also has a partnership with Round Oak school whose children receive coaching and use the club facilities throughout the summer.
Total cost of scheme (including VAT where appropriate)	£82,476	Including VAT (the club are VAT registered but are unable to reclaim VAT on this project)
Funded by:		Status
Town Council	£2,000	Approved
Own Funds	£50,476	Approved
Total RUCIS	£30,000	
equates to	36.4%	