

COUNTY GRANT FUND



EMMBROOK & BEARWOOD CC CASE STUDY

As a club, Emmbrook & Bearwood CC have seen rapid growth over the last few years. Based in an area with a considerable number of housing developments the club membership has increased significantly. Couple this with the launch of Women & Girls Cricket in 2021 which has taken off with the club fielding 1x Women's Hardball Team, 2x Women's Softball Teams and 4x Girls teams in 2024. The increases in playing offers have put considerable strain on the single site. This was a perfect opportunity for the club to access the County Grant Fund under the Providing Enhanced Facilities & Playing Opportunities theme. This theme is designed to support Women/Girls Cricket and/or Disability Cricket.



Therefore, Emmbrook & Bearwood CC applied to access funding to carry out a full refurbishment/replacement of the existing two-lane net facility. Replacement Non-turf Practice Facilities are a sizable project and the club had to work through several challenges before securing the funding. Fortunately, the club initially contacted Berkshire Cricket in November 2021. Following the confirmation of funding, the contracts were issued and the club's new nets were installed in late April ahead of the 2022 season.

The club made effective use of the various funding streams available to them. The club accessed grant funding from the England & Wales Cricket Trust's County Grant Fund which accounted for roughly 1/3 of the total cost. The club also took out a loan from the England & Wales Cricket Trust as part of the Interest Free Loan Scheme. This accounted for another 1/3 of the total cost which they repay over a 5-year period. This left them requiring the final 1/3 to have all the funds in place which they were able to raise from internal fundraising and club savings.