



Case Study

Bolton's Fund Round 22: Small Grants, All Themes

August 2022

Queens Park Bowling Club– Small Grant for £1,850 in Bolton's Fund Round 22: Small Grants, All Themes

Queens Park Bowling Club is based in the centre of Bolton. Throughout the season, members come together to play competitive and non-competitive competitions. They create social interaction, encourage physical activity and enable connectivity between people.

The club Chairman approached Bolton CVS in early 2022 looking for help to secure funding to carry out essential maintenance on the green and to open the clubhouse during the winter months.

Zahid, Bolton CVS' Funding and Grants Officer, supported them to apply to Bolton's Fund Round 22: Small Grants, All Themes. In August 2022 they were awarded a grant of £1,850.

This small grant funded repairs to benches and covered the grounds maintenance costs – this ensured the green was suitable to play on over the season. It also enabled them to keep the club house open over the winter months so club members could gather, even if the bowling season was finished, reducing feelings of loneliness and isolation.

The confidence the club gained in applying and managing their first Bolton's Fund grant encouraged them to bid again in Bolton's Fund Round 31: Small Grants, All Themes. Working with Zahid, they submitted another application to extend and continue the activities funded in Round 22.

The second grant funded the opening the club house over another winter, offering activities such as dominoes, table bowls and pool and to provide hot food and drinks to the club members – thereby reducing social isolation and offering support for their members during the cost-of-living crisis a time when many couldn't afford to heat their homes. They were also able to cover some of the playing fees so members were not excluded due to economic pressures. They currently have about 50 active members of the Club and the Bolton's Fund has massively helped them to grow and support their members.

Ken Holcroft, Chairman, said:



"The grant to keep the club open in winter was a godsend. We got people coming back who we hadn't seen socially since Covid. We got 5 or 6 new people coming in and the whole club blossomed again and it's carried on - that spirits still there now as we've got into the season. It's just livened the club up wonderfully well, they're going home happy and people are just not on their own due to new friendships. The support has been fantastic, Bolton CVS have been on the other side of a phone, email or meeting to support us through the process. We're not tech savvy and you have made it so easy and to our needs."