|  |
| --- |
| Press Release  |
| **Soar Valley Bowls Club Mountsorrel awarded £42,090 of funding from Sport England** |
|  | Date: 17th February 2015 |



Creating a sporting habit for life

Soar Valley Bowls Club is among 148 local sports projects to secure a share of £10 million of National Lottery funding from Sport England’s Inspired Facilities fund.

Since 2011, Inspired Facilities has been helping to breathe new life into tired community sports facilities and converting existing buildings into venues suitable for grassroots sport.

Soar Valley will receive £42,090 of National Lottery funding to replace its Bowling Green wooden ditch channels, which are life expired, replacing them with new concrete ditch channels covered on their front faces with Astroturf, and at the same time install an irrigation system to enable watering of the green replacing a manual system. The project would also see a new slab surface installed on the four surrounding sides of the Bowling Green.

Sport England Property Director, Charles Johnston, said: “The Inspired Facilities Fund has had a huge impact on grassroots sport across the country. Since 2011, we’ve invested £94 million into more than 1,800 projects to improve and refurbish sports clubs and transform non-sporting venues into vibrant community sports clubs.

“It’s great to see Soar Valley Bowls club join the long list of successful clubs to benefit from this fund.”

Club Chairman, David Burns, said: “We are delighted to have secured this investment, for the improvement of our facilities; it provides a boost for the local community, the sport it enjoys, and will help provide a long term future built upon modern facilities, bringing benefit to all present and future members.”

Many more communities are set to benefit from the hugely popular fund with the latest round of the Inspired Facilities now open. Community and voluntary organisations, councils and schools can bid for a share of £20 million to help upgrade facilities that can be unattractive, expensive to run and difficult to maintain, and to convert existing non-sporting buildings into venues that are suitable for grassroots sport.

Applying for funding has never been easier. Based on feedback from previous applicants, the Inspired Facilities Fund is now an open programme which means projects can submit applications as soon as they are ready rather than being restricted by a specific deadline. To find out more and bid, visit [www.sportengland.org/inspiredfacilities](http://www.sportengland.org/inspiredfacilities).

Notes to Editors

For more details about the project, please contact Stewart Warrington on 0116 2363628 or stewart.warrington@ntlworld.com

70 per cent of the funding will go to community and voluntary organisations, through grants of between £20,000 and £75,000. The remaining funding will be open to a wider group of organisations, including councils and schools, with grants of up to £150,000 available.

To make sure the technical elements of the application process do not put off groups with good projects, Sport England has created a catalogue of typical facilities developments and costs, based on what sports clubs have told us they need.

Sport England is focused on helping people and communities across the country create a sporting habit for life. We will invest over £1 billion of National Lottery and Exchequer funding between 2012 and 2017 in organization’s and projects that will:

* Help more people have a sporting habit for life
* Create more opportunities for young people to play sport
* Nurture and develop talent
* Provide the right facilities in the right places
* Support local authorities and unlock local funding
* Ensure real opportunities for communities.

The National Lottery has been changing lives for 18 years. Every week National Lottery players raise over £30 million to help change people's lives across the UK.

For more information please contact the press office:

* Amy Wright on 0207 273 1593 or amy.wright@sportengland.org;
* Chris Dowsett on 0207 273 1889 or chris.dowsett@sportengland.org;
* Andrew St Ledger on 0207 273 1800 or andrew.stledger@sportengland.org.

 