



LEADER FINAL CLAIM REPORT

21st Century Curling

Project Ref: 07/P00100

Dumfries Ice Bowl Curling Association

BRN: 282916



Contents

Contents	2
Introduction	3
Background to the project.....	4
1. How was the idea for the project developed	4
2. Who was involved in the project	4
3. What were the aims and objectives of the project	4
4. How was the funding package assembled	4
5. How much money did LEADER provide.....	5
The Project Experience	6
6. When did the project take place	6
7. What actually happened	6
8. How the project fits with the Local Development Strategy	7
9. LAG Targets.....	8
10. How was the project delivered?.....	8
11. What marketing was undertaken	8
12. Who benefitted from the project	9
13. How did the final budget turn out	10
14. What lessons have been learnt	10
15. Will the project be mainstreamed or transferred	10
16. Detail the sustainability of the project/exit strategy	10
Publicity	11
Project Pictures	12

Introduction

This document has been created to support the final claim for the 21st Century Curling claim as submitted by Dumfries Ice Bowl Curling Association (DIBCA).

The headings for this report come direct from the LEADER Final Report Checklist.

Background to the project

1. How was the idea for the project developed

The drive for the project came from the desire to act smarter in helping people access curling when it suited them. To make the whole system of booking ice sheets easier and allowing individuals to be able to control when they choose to curl by accessing an online ice book.

Installing a smart scoreboard system, to modernise the outdated manual scoreboard.

The Klutch curling system was to be able to give everyone access to coaching when they wanted.

The premise behind the overall project was to enable Dumfries to be the go-to place for curling coaching.

2. Who was involved in the project

Dumfries Ice Bowl Curling Association Members

Selina Scott – Owen Farm Services

Gavin Coates – Nighthawk Software

3. What were the aims and objectives of the project

The aim of the project is to enable remote users to access curling on their own timescales. Members should be able to receive top class coaching at a convenient time.

We also aim to increase participation numbers and promote health and wellbeing.

4. How was the funding package assembled

Private funds through Dumfries Ice Bowl Curling Association (DIBCA) where used for the match funding element of the application. The private funds have been collected from Dumfries Ice Bowl Curling Association members.

The LEADER award and match funding at the start of the project was as shown –

LEADER	£10,594.00
DIBCA	£10,594.00
TOTAL ELIGIBLE COSTS	£21,188.00

5. How much money did LEADER provide

Dumfries and Galloway LEADER awarded a grant of £10,594

The Project Experience

6. When did the project take place

The project started 3rd October 2018; it was completed 1st October 2019.

7. What actually happened

The idea was formed to make things easier for people to access curling when it suited them, to have the first of its kind booking system developed specifically for DIBCA (Dumfries Ice Bowl Curling Association).

In order to achieve the outcome of creating a bespoke product a software developer needed to be recruited who understood the needs and requirements of the entire project and be able to produce something which met these. The association were keen to use another local business who was easily accessible for progress meetings and onsite demonstrations and training.

Through contacts within DIBCA (Dumfries Ice Bowl Curling Association) Nighthawk Software, Gavin Coates was recommended. After an initial idea meeting, he was recruited to commission the software.

Gavin (Nighthawk Software) worked on building the software to the specifications required to meet the needs of the association, the ice bowl, and its members. Regular updates were made with members of the association, including progress reports and testing.

One proactive member of the association sourced TV's and all the visual equipment required in order to display the scoring systems within the ice rink. This included different elements to make the system work. These needed to be able to be fixed within the facility so further equipment needed to secure them to the rink for security and safety purposes.

The software needed to be tested and any recommendations for changes to be made. Testing was carried out on functionality, ease of use and likeability. The software needed to be tested until it was declared fit for purpose.

Klutch curling purchased and installed across the 6 rinks within the ice bowl, this innovative training aid will be of huge benefit to existing members and will encourage people from out with the area to come and use the facility.

Once declared fit for purpose the software was signed off and use across the curling clubs. Some updates and upgrading may be required further into the future, however this will be managed between the association and Gavin Coates.

User training occurs as more people have access to the ice book. Going into the 2019/2020 season this will grow with new members and people adapting to positive change.

The project followed the schedule of the milestones and as a project has met the objectives set out within the application and more so for the association and users across the region and beyond.

The project followed the milestones as entered on the application. These are shown below for illustration purposes:

- Recruitment of software developer – Gavin Coates
- Software commissioned
- TV's and visual equipment sourced
- Software tested
- Klutch curling purchased
- Software signoff and in use

8. How the project fits with the Local Development Strategy

“The future of the economy, communities and services all depend on the engagement of young people”

By involving young people, we are aiming to provide opportunities for them to learn valuable life and work experiences. That they can use to take forward into whatever future work they choose to pursue. Often giving the young volunteers jobs promotes their self-confidence and helps with valuable life skills. A number of the members come from outlying rural areas and the opportunities to meet and socialise are fewer than those in the town. This environment helps them flourish and grow as well-rounded adults.

“we will prepare our young people for adulthood and employment”

Giving young people opportunities to expand their experience of dealing with people, interaction, training and self-promotion means that they have built up invaluable skills. Using the Klutch curling programme young people can gain independence by driving their own training. Identifying their skills, strengths and weaknesses is invaluable for going forward into their future, it improves their wellbeing as often pressures to perform well can hamper personal growth. Being able to realise personal weaknesses and then find a way to use it as a strength acts to prepare the young people for adulthood. “innovation in linking small rural businesses” To create the software, we aim to use several local microbusinesses including a local software developer and give opportunity to some of our members that have their own microbusinesses to advertise on the platform. “we will support and stimulate our local economy” supporting other businesses throughout the region and beyond. “climate change” A booking system which can highlight when there is spare ice, will allow for people to use the rink to its full capacity. This mitigates the impact of needing to keep the ice at the optimum conditions at all time which requires a energy input. This is worse if the rink is empty as it needs to be maintained even when not in use. “exchange learning and knowledge with each other” The innovative Klutch curling can be used as a training aid across all the user groups of the ice rink and beyond. Youth training camps can be delivered on the findings from the technology. If it is found that a certain demographic consistently has the same issue across the board then this can be addressed with a training session across the member group, Scotland and beyond.

“23% remote rural data zones”

416 (from 484) of the members are from rural data zones, it is paramount for them that this booking system works correctly, when it is operational it will be of a huge benefit to allow them to organise their games to suit with their other activities, helping to maintain a healthy work life balance and improve their wellbeing.

9. LAG Targets

Evidence on target in terms of lists of people being trained, obtaining new skills and having a positive benefit to using the new system have not been provided, as this is a direct breach of GDPR regulations. Dumfries Curling are happy to welcome a LEADER member or auditor to attend the ice bowl and view the information on the online system.

10. How was the project delivered?

Within the Dumfries Ice Bowl Curling Association different members are more suited to project management and these people were involved in making sure the project ran to schedule and the result fit for purpose. John Graham and Graham Sloan remained the lead contacts throughout the project.

Regular meetings and contact with the software developer were required to track progress and undertake testing of the software. This was undertaken by one point of contact and the information cascaded, as needed, to other members of Dumfries Ice Bowl Curling Association. Any association member was welcome to question how the project was progressing and details fed back to them on the project.

Recruiting a software developer with a proven track record of creating platforms to create the online booking portal and game scoring ability, meant that element of the project was trusted to them to complete. This was undertaken in a professional manner and completed to the required specifications.

Klutch curling was imported and installed across the sheets of ice. This is monitored by volunteer coaches and volunteers.

11. What marketing was undertaken

For this project internal marketing, people that are coming to use the facility are discussing with friends and other club members and it self-perpetuates.

Social media – Facebook has been used and will continue to be. Local clubs have also been given marketing material and briefings to inform their members of the system.

Some major curling events have been scheduled for Dumfries Ice Bowl, this gives a platform for more people to see the facilities and equipment.

LEADER banner has been included on the screens and signage as part of acknowledgement to the contribution it has made to the project. Pictures included at the end of this report.



This visual is shown across all the screens within the ice hall, it can be seen from the spectators stands and all those using the facility. It can also be seen from the lounge areas upstairs in the Ice Bowl. The Ice Bowl is to host the Scottish Curling championships, and this will mean far more people will be able to see the benefit that has come from the LEADER funding.

Individuals can like the Dumfries Curling page and peruse more pictures of activities and facilities at the Curling Hall, Dumfries Ice Bowl.

12. Who benefitted from the project

Everyone who curls at the ice bowl facility, people within Dumfries and Galloway and beyond. A wide variety of people have benefitted from improvements. Over 484 people.

13. How did the final budget turn out

The project was overspent in total, there was one element that could not be claimed from LEADER and that the total eligible costs were £20,564.08. with LEADER providing £9,970.08.

14. What lessons have been learnt

A good plan and schedule are required when undertaking a project, having this made the project flow well.

Second hand equipment should be avoided as due to GDPR regulations it is not possible to determine original source of the equipment.

The other lesson involves purchasing equipment from abroad, it is essential to confirm the currency and exchange rate to avoid unforeseen costs.

Both points have resulted in the association needing to fund elements of the project themselves over and above the grant funding due to ineligible items and grant limitations.

15. Will the project be mainstreamed or transferred

Visiting curling clubs have remarked on how good the system works and have enquired after the system being transferrable, there is potential for the system to be adapted by other rinks in the future.

16. Detail the sustainability of the project/exit strategy

There is the opportunity to license the software package to other curling rinks. Giving them the same opportunity to use the booking system, also gives an across region – and across Scotland benefit that these booking systems could be used to arrange across county competitions based on everyone's availability.

There are 12 different ice rinks across Scotland – Curing across these rinks follows the same process. As a game there is no difference, because of this the proposed software would be easy to be sold on a per year basis and rolled out across these other rinks to cover the cost of development or maintenance.

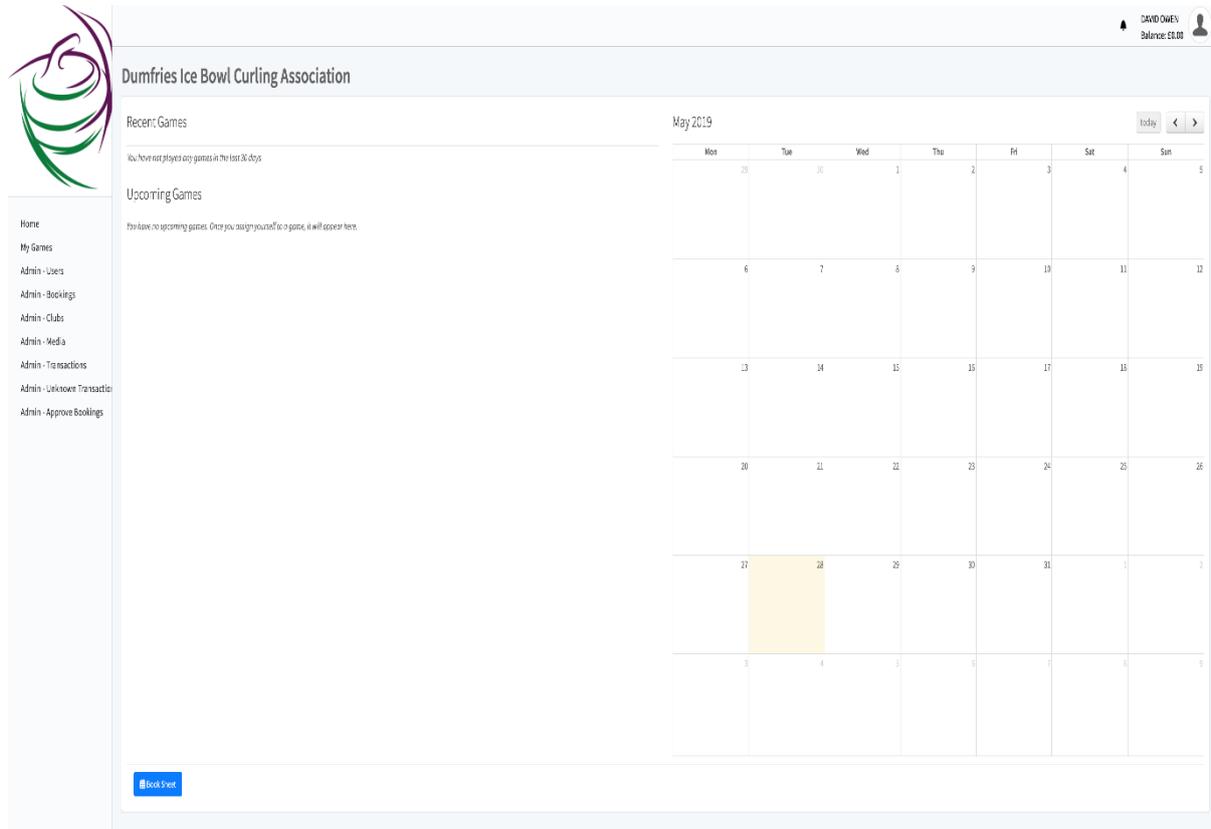
The system can also work in other countries.

Publicity



Project Pictures

Screen grab of the DIBCA ice book



Picture showing the working score boards



Close up picture of the score boards

