

## **CASE STUDY: THURROCK ASSOCIATION SUNDAY LEAGUE**

*Updated: Wednesday 1st April 2020*

### **Has anyone in grassroots football tried to apply for Government funding yet?**

It has become clearer to the Thurrock Association Sunday League that they may qualify for several of the Government grant and support schemes, and they have shared the following information with us. These schemes are being administered by local authorities. There are a number of possibilities, but things are fast-moving and the league are updating us as each item becomes clearer.

#### Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

The league employ seven people at Lakeside Sports Ground on a PAYE Scheme and they intend to “furlough” each of their staff from 20th March 2020. This will give the effect of allowing them to claim 80% of their wages. For one of their staff members, who is on a salary, the calculation is easy. It will equate to 80% of his monthly pay, plus employer compulsory pension contributions. They have the status of a small business and do not pay employer National Insurance contributions.

For the remaining six, these are all on varied pay each month. For those who have worked for them for twelve months prior to the claim date (26th March), they can calculate their average monthly earnings from the 2019/20 tax year and use this as the claim amount. This will cover five of their staff. The remaining member will have his pay calculated as an average of his monthly earning since starting work.

This scheme is not yet up-and-running and it is expected that the first payments will not be paid before the end of April 2020. It will require businesses to register via a portal which is yet to be launched.

#### Business Rates

The league pay business rates to their local authority and currently receive discretionary rate relief, but this, still, would leave them with an annual rates bill of over £2,000. They have also applied for Small Business Rate Relief. This could be key to obtaining a twelve-month rate holiday and a £10,000 grant. Local authorities will have to reissue rate notices as these have already been distributed, and were produced prior to the Government statements.

There is also a further grant possibility for a leisure business. Businesses with a rateable value of up to £15,000 will receive £10,000, and those from £15,000 to £51,000 will receive £25,000.