ROUND FOUR PROJECTS

Community Climate and Nature Fund

LED FLOODLIGHTING INSTALLED AT STRATFORD RFC

"The Community Climate and Nature Fund made this project happen. Our 30-year-old floodlights were expensive to run and increasingly unreliable, and replacing them was beyond what a volunteer-run club could fund alone. With the Council's support we've cut the energy used to light our main pitch by almost 80%, and the savings go straight back into junior and community rugby. It's a fitting investment in our 150th anniversary season – and in the club's next 150 years."

Jason Savidge
Chairman, Stratford RFC

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Stratford RFC replaced the 21 ageing 2,000W metal halide floodlights on our main first-team pitch at Pearcecroft with 21 420W LED fittings. They set out to cut the electricity use and carbon emissions of evening training and fixtures by around 79%, while giving their 500+ players safer, more reliable lighting. The £9,100 CCNF capital grant, alongside £8,000 of club match funding (membership income, Vice President donations, raffles and reserves), paid for the new LED units and the removal, recycling, rewiring and installation work (£17,100 total). Club Chairman Jason Savidge led the project. Volunteer members, including qualified electricians and members trained on their hydraulic column-lowering ram, carried out the work, and a club sponsor recycled the old fittings.



IMPACTS

More than 500 playing members - from age-6 juniors to their senior and ladies' teams - now train and play under brighter, more even, instant-on lighting three evenings a week from September to spring. The lower electrical load also lets both floodlight circuits run at once for the first time, increasing training capacity during our 150th anniversary season. Environmentally, connected load has fallen from 42kW to 8.82kW, an estimated saving of 8,959 kWh and around 1.2 tonnes of CO2e a year. Directional LED optics reduce light spill for neighbours and wildlife, the old units were recycled rather than landfilled, and an estimated £2,330 annual energy saving is being reinvested in junior and community rugby.