

**Sample Grant Application:
Corinthian-Casuals Football Club**

1. Organisation information

Name of applicant organisation/institution: Corinthian-Casuals Football Club
Website: corinthian-casuals.com
Project title: Digitisation of historic matchday programmes

2. Contact information of lead contact

Redacted Information

3. Project summary (100-150 words)

Please provide a brief overview of:

- *Your project and its goals/aims*
- *How you plan to use the funding if successful*
- *Whether the project will include publishing the digitised collection(s) online, transcribing of metadata, or metadata capture via optical character recognition (OCR).*

Our football club was formed by a merger of two of the world's most important early amateur teams, Corinthian FC and Casuals FC, whose contribution to the development of football helped to popularise the sport around the world. If we are successful, we intend to use the funding to digitise the matchday programmes and newsletters from the club's early years, dating back to the 19th Century. Our intention is to make the collection available online so as to give historians, journalists, club committee members and the wider public access to information about football players and matches that had a major impact on the growth of the game.

4. Collection information (100-150 words)

Please provide a summary of the collection(s) you plan to digitise and its contents.

Please include the number of items to be digitised broken down by format (i.e. 89 bound books, 200 print photographs), the average size/number of pages of the items, and any relevant information about their condition:

If we are successful in achieving funding we intend to prioritise 280 of the oldest publications from the period 1882-1939. These programmes are typically 2-8 pages long and similar to A5 in dimension. They are in good condition and kept so by the club historian, but due to their age they are also fragile. Any remaining funds would be put towards the broader project to digitise the rest of our collection, which consists of 2000 programmes and 1000 newsletters of varying pagination (up to 64 pages). The programmes are all similar to A5 in dimension and the newsletters range from A5 to A4.

Please note: Applications will primarily be judged based on the following four criteria (sections 5, 6, 7 and 8) – which are all equally weighted.

5. Heritage need (150-250 words)

Please outline the heritage value, uniqueness, and importance of the collection(s) you plan to digitise.

Is the collection at risk? If so, how/why?

The publications we are prioritising for digitisation cover the pre-merger period of the two clubs' histories, and are much sought-after by collectors. This makes them incredibly rare and therefore difficult to come by for those who wish to see the content contained within. Corinthians and Casuals both influenced the growth of the game worldwide as they toured in Africa, Europe, North and South America, as well as the United Kingdom while football as an organized sport was in its infancy. In the late Victorian era, Corinthians were considered the best team in world football and are often referred to as 'the game's first global superstars'. When the game turned professional, both clubs remained strictly amateur and they are therefore unlike any other great team. Corinthians inspired Real Madrid to wear white, handed Manchester United their record defeat (11-3), contributed the entire England XI on two occasions and to this day can boast more England internationals than all but one other club. They inspired the foundation of Corinthians Paulista in Brazil (a club with several million supporters worldwide) and fielded the first-ever black international footballer, Andrew Watson, in the 1880s. This collection will open a window to a crucial period in football history and shed light on the way things used to be in a game that has changed beyond recognition in the ensuing years.

6. Social/community impact (150-250 words)

Please describe how local people and communities will benefit from your digitisation project.

Interest in Corinthian-Casuals' history is global, but we are also very rooted in our local community in Tolworth, in the London Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames. There is an active local history community in the area, many of whom would be absolutely thrilled to gain access to a digitised archive of programmes from their local team, not to mention hundreds of Corinthian-Casuals supporters who would be keen to delve into the club's past. Corinthians and Casuals were two of London's most prominent sporting organisations for many decades, yet so much of the information about their existence is lost to the online community. With this grant we'd be able to bring it to life for generations to come by allowing them to scroll through years and years of sporting history. We work closely with Kingston University on several projects and the potential would be there for us to approach them about shared history projects were we to digitise these early examples of our club literature. Corinthians and Casuals played as big a part in the game's development as any club in the land and it is our mission to ensure that is never forgotten.

7. Research impact (150-250 words)

How will digitising your collection(s) benefit researchers?

Whether academic, social historians, genealogists, or other researchers.

Social historians and sports writers regularly make contact with the club for assistance in their research, while journalists are attracted to our story. The 'Corinthian Spirit' is part of everyday lexicon now, but it started with our club's ethos and commitment to fair play. Consequently, there is widespread interest in the men who created and developed this unique reputation for playing football in the right spirit. With a digitised archive of our earliest publications, we would be able to point these intrepid writers towards a treasure trove of information and insight into our early years. Not only would it help to enhance their work, but it would also enable us to re-establish our reputation around the world. We would also be able to use the archive within the club. There are several committed historians and media officers involved at Corinthian-Casuals, all of whom would be able to freely study content that has previously been shut away in the vaults of collectors.

8. Improved Accessibility (150-250 words)

What platform is the digitised collection going to be accessible from to wider communities.

It is our intention to make the digitised collection available through our website. We have a drop-down menu linking to articles about past tours and events and we would look to add the collection to this menu. As a forward-looking club, our social media presence is one of our most important communication tools and we are the most-followed club at our level of the game. Digitisation of our oldest and rarest programmes would also enable us to share covers, imagery, team line-ups and articles from a long-lost period in our history to our followers and beyond. The club is currently exploring funding possibilities for a permanent museum, to which an interactive digitised archive would make a fantastic addition for visitors.

9. Match funding

How much funding do you have available from other sources? (Trusts, charities, foundations etc)

Note - Match funding is NOT a prerequisite for applying for the TWA Digitisation Grant.

Please include sources and amounts. If you have applied for HLF funding please indicate if you have a Stage 1 pass or Stage 2 pass.

At present we have no funding from other sources.

10. Additional notes (150-200 words)

Please include any additional information about your project/collection that you would like to be considered with your application here. This can include information about:

- *Image collections that you currently own (or have previously been digitised)*
- *Any digital image management systems that you currently use, links to websites where some of your digitized material might already be displayed.*
- *Any long term aspirations for your organization/initiative.*

Due to the precarious financial position clubs at our level find themselves in year to year, we are unable to fund the digitisation of our collection in one batch, so it would be our intention to look to put a little aside each season so that we could gradually complete the process over a number of years. We would therefore see this funding as the kick-start we need to get the project underway, beginning with the oldest and rarest items, dating back to our golden period as a club.