



Saddleworth and Lees District Executive Funding Application 2014/2015

SECTION A

Please note that this section of the application will be made part of the District Executive's public reports and be available on our website at www.oldham.gov.uk

NAME OF ORGANISATION REQUESTING FUNDING (must be same as on Section B):
SADDLEWORTH TENNIS CLUB

PROJECT TITLE (must be same as on Section B):
RESURFACING THREE TENNIS COURTS

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT REQUIRING FUNDING setting out: what the project will deliver. Who will benefit, and how? How many people will benefit etc. Please provide as much detail as possible and continue on a separate sheet if required.

BACKGROUND

Saddleworth Tennis Club was formed in 1886 and is part of Saddleworth Cricket, Bowling and Tennis Club, Well-I-Hole Road, Greenfield, Oldham. It is run purely by volunteers and has been a community facility since that time and provides an opportunity for local residents to exercise at affordable prices whilst providing opportunities for all ages to develop their tennis skills through LTA qualified coaches and providing free usage for the local school and village activities. Since the courts were installed 26 years ago temporary maintenance and repairs have been carried out to keep them playable. Up until January 2016 the finances of the tennis club have been in the hands of the overall club management committee who account for all money from the three sports. The overall committee have not been able to save any money to assist in funding the courts despite the tennis activity being in profit in each year. Since January this year the tennis club have with the agreement of the committee become financially independent.

The tennis club presently has 26 fee paying members. This number has dropped off in recent years due mainly to the state of the courts from a peak of over 70.

The tennis club has two teams in the Oldham League and three Manchester League teams. The loss of members has reduced the number of teams by 2 in recent years.

The tennis club has an organised coaching programme which is co-ordinated by Sean Stafford SPC LTA accredited level 4 coach (website <http://www.sstenniscoaching.co.uk>) consisting of Tennis Tots (3-5 years) , Mini tennis(6-10 years), Junior tennis (11+), Adult cardio, Adult beginners and intermediate as well as individual coaching sessions. School holiday tennis camps are also provided.

As well as the tennis club coaching programme detailed above there has been a 20 year association

with Saddleworth School and its 1000 pupils has allowed the school to expose its pupils to a sport which cannot be provided onsite. The school has been able to participate in the boy's and girl's Oldham school championships with some pupils going on to be tennis coaches. The school wish this association to continue.

Over a similar period the tennis club has been the venue for the annual local multi-sporting event- the Saddleworth Olympics (<http://saddleworthvillageolympics.co.uk>). Children from all local villages participate in this event. For many of them this would have been the first time they have played tennis and free tennis coaching given by volunteers and the free use of the courts enables them to be part of their village team. The organisers value the involvement of the club as can be seen from their letter of support.

In the past the tennis club has been involved in the initiatives with the Oldham Borough Council Sports Development Team to expose mini tennis to primary children. The tennis club held an open day and more than 70 children attended. It is also involved in the "Get Oldham Active- Sports and Development 2013-2018" as one of the community sports clubs.

PROJECT DETAILS

Saddleworth Tennis Club wishes to apply for a grant to assist in the funding of replacing the surface of the three existing all weather tarmacadam tennis courts. The existing courts were installed 26 years ago and have now reached the stage where they are virtually unplayable and unsafe. Due to the amount of applications received and limited amount of funds available an application to Sport England for a grant was refused. The cheapest quote for the work is £24,700. The club have applied for a £10,000 interest free loan from Lancashire LTA. It has also so far raised £7,400 from club members but still needs to find the balance of £7,300. Should the overall cost not be found this year the tennis club will disband after being in existence since 1886 as the courts will have become totally unplayable and the majority of members will have left the club.

The tennis club has letters of support from the local MP Debbie Abraham, Saddleworth School, Saddleworth Olympics, Oldham Tennis League and Manchester Tennis League.

The continued availability of the courts is essential to ensure that the public have an opportunity to gain exercise as part of the governments reducing obesity and physical exercise policies. The tennis club wants to continue to provide facilities and support to Saddleworth School, the Saddleworth Olympics, Oldham Council and develop a wider coaching and exercise programme via SSTennisCoaching. This would include providing courses for local businesses and their employees demonstrating the benefits of exercise and nutrition and encouraging them to join the tennis club as members. Courses and events would also be aimed specifically to encourage women to take up or rejoin the sport and to play on a regular basis. The aim would be to at least maximise the number of members at the tennis club to previous levels of over 70 increasing the number of league teams and enjoying healthy social nights where families can turn up for a game of tennis. Although the courts are used during the days for coaching and tennis courses there is still room to develop other

initiatives with the Council and the LTA encouraging people to start or return to playing. The total annual throughput identified in last year's Sport England bid was 1656 with an estimated target of over 4000 before five years if the courts are resurfaced.

Total Project Cost	£24,720
Amount requested from the District Executive	£7,300

HAVE YOU ALREADY RECEIVED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE COUNCIL OR ANY OTHER SOURCE FOR THIS PROJECT IN THE LAST 2 YEARS?

YES x NO

IF YES PLEASE GIVE DETAILS BELOW:

SOURCE OF FUNDING	AMOUNT RECEIVED £	DATE

Please check that you have included all the necessary enclosures and return this form to your District Co-ordinator **Lisa Macdonald, Uppermill Library - upstairs office, St Chads, High Street, Uppermill, OL3 6AP**

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