



Saddleworth and Lees District Executive Funding Application 2018/2019 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 SADDLEWORTH TENNIS		6 (must be same as on Section	on B):
PROJECT TITLE (must be s PURCHASE OF A PORTAE			
		1	
Total Project Cost		£6,950	
Amount requested from the District Executive		£2,050	
Project details on separate paperwork			
HAVE YOU <u>ALREADY REC</u> OR ANY OTHER SOURCE YES IF YES PLEASE GIVE DET	FOR THIS PROJECT IN T NO	STANCE FROM THE COUNTHE LAST 2 YEARS?	ICIL
SOURCE OF FUNDING	AMOUNT RECEIVED £	DATE	
Local Councillors	900	Pending	

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

lisa.macdonald@oldham.gov.uk Tel: 0161 770 5195

DESCRIPTION OF FUNDING REQUIRED

Saddleworth Tennis Club was formed in 1886 and is part of the 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 to the local school and village activities. Up until January 2016 the finances of the tennis club had been in the hands of the overall club management committee who accounted for all money from the three sports. Since then the tennis club have with the agreement of the committee become financially independent raising through a loan, donations, grants and fundraising £26,000 to resurface the three tennis courts which were in an unplayable condition and were in danger of causing the tennis club to fold up.

In the last two years since the new courts became available membership has more than doubled to 71 paying members including over 20 juniors.

The tennis club has two teams in the Oldham League and three Manchester League teams.

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 and fitness sessions, individual coaching and school holiday camps (for tennis, football and cricket).

As well as the tennis club coaching programme detailed above there has been a 20 year association with Saddleworth School who use the facility on a weekly basis as it cannot be provided onsite. The school has been able to participate in the boy's and girl's Oldham school championship with some pupils going on to be tennis coaches.

Over a similar period the tennis club has been involved in being the venue or being used for practise by villages in the annual Saddleworth Olympics (http://saddleworthvillageolympics.co.uk). Children from all 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 free use of the courts enables them to be part of their village team.

In the past the tennis club has been involved in initiatives with 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 was also involved in the "Get Oldham Active-Sports and Development 2013-2018" as one of the community sports clubs.

In the last two years the club has held a number of open days where anyone could use the facilities for free and/or receive coaching. These sessions have been exceptionally well attended.

PROJECT DETAILS

As stated above the club has managed to increase its membership in the last two years and we need to ensure we at least maintain those numbers to keep the club financially viable. The tennis club had to take out an LTA loan for £10,000 which is being repaid over five years, in addition the LTA have stated that a sinking fund should be set up to have funds for future court replacement and maintenance.

Weather permitting, coaching is provided for juniors all year round. This is mainly carried out after school and although the club has floodlights the situation of the tennis courts does not make for a welcoming experience in the dark as there is no other lighting in the surrounding area. Part of our strategy is that it is vital that we keep the club's juniors and their families interested in maintaining their membership in the hope that some will go on to become senior members and replace older members as they stop playing. The club have identified that the top priority in trying to achieve this is to provide somewhere for parents to shelter during the cold winter evenings and bad weather whilst they are watching their children being coached. At the moment there is nothing near the courts which allows them to do this. Our coach also runs camps during all the school holidays and in the past some have been ruined by bad weather as there has been nowhere to shelter. We are concerned about the numbers of juniors who leave to attend other clubs with better facilities.

We would like to purchase a portable cabin to place next to the courts where families and children can watch and shelter. A copy of the cabin details is attached. The cabin would also be used to store junior tennis equipment such as mini nets, soft balls and small rackets. At present the mini equipment is taken by the coach after the sessions have finished and is not available for use by members at other times.

Because of their availability they would be able to be used outside of normal coaching sessions which would encourage more use by families and juniors of the courts. A number of members stop playing as they find it too difficult to get into playing using normal size equipment.

The cost of the cabin is £6,950. The club has already spent £1,200 on flagging the area ready for the cabin to be placed on and has a further £4,000 of it's own funds to put towards the cost along with £900 from local councillors. The long term future of the club depends on our ability to have facilities that match other clubs and we can continue to develop and maintain the interest of our junior members together with their families.



