



<b>Organisation</b>			
Name of Organisation	West Oxfordshire Levellers RL		
Registered Address (including Post Code)	[REDACTED]		
Website	westoxfordshirelevellers.co.uk	Telephone	[REDACTED]
Facebook/Twitter	Facebook: West Oxfordshire Levellers RL Twitter (X): WestOxLevellers	Email	lan.ferry@westoxfordshir elelevellers.co.uk
Contact Name	Ian Ferry		
Position in Organisation	Club Secretary (i.e. Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary)		
Registered Charity	YES/NO	Registration Number	n/a
<p>What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation?</p> <p>We are a community focussed not for profit Rugby League club providing different forms of the sport to Primary and Secondary aged children, along with Adult opportunities.</p> <p>Core Values &amp; Vision: Inclusion • Support • Growth • Respect • Resilience • Togetherness • Fun</p> <p>We promote staying healthy by having fun. We use sport as a tool to develop players, and young people especially. We teach the skills needed to work as a successful team. We support player confidence to use individual inspiration when opportunities arise, within and outside the club. We aim to work with partners to facilitate young player opportunities to gain insights into the business world as they prepare for life after school. Work with partners to get adult workers into sport and improve fitness whilst making new friends.</p> <p>The health and wellbeing of players are the highest priority. We have at least one first aider for every coaching session or match. All senior coaches are fully qualified with valid DBS checks. We align with national standards and seek new approaches to meet Physical and Mental Health needs. We don't alienate. We encourage players with additional needs to join us. For those who wish to play in matches, we assist players and their families in RFL registration.</p> <p>We are dedicated in facilitating Primary and Secondary children in trying something different, making new friends, keeping active, building confidence and having fun. As the club grows, we aim to enhance support of female players; and those from ethnic, cultural or religious minorities to ensure we thrive as an all-inclusive club.</p>			

Membership	
How many members do you have?	60 (including 52 players, 7 coaches and 1 volunteer).
Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?	50 (including 1 in Freeland and 4 in Eynsham).
Is membership restricted in any way?	No, we are all-inclusive (all genders, all ages, all abilities).
What is your annual subscription, if any?	We ask players to pay £4 subs pr training session. This year we planned 22 of these, so some paid up front for £88.
Are you affiliated to Oxfordshire Youth or other similar umbrella organisation? If so, which one	No
Do you have safeguarding procedures in place?	Yes. Safeguarding training, first aid and DBS checks.
Local venue/meeting place (if applicable)	Wood Green School, Woodstock Road, Witney
Grant-Funding	
<p>Purpose for which the grant is required:</p> <p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>Female team sport is growing like never before. However, taking that first step by joining a club can be much harder for females, especially if they don't know anyone at a club. Some teams are afraid of asking the question or afraid of the hearing the answer:</p> <p>"How can we make our club more attractive and accessible for women and girls?"</p> <p>The Levellers fully embrace movements such as "This Girl Can" and "I Will if You Will", by encouraging any interested female player to come to a free taster session with a friend (who doesn't necessarily have to join in themselves). Our coaches include 1 woman and 1 girl who focus on primary development. 3 of our 6 sponsors are female owned companies; and providing opportunities for women and girls is high on their agendas.</p> <p>As a club, we want to be led by our players and parents. Through engagement with our existing female members and interested parties, we will provide answers to these questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do female athletes want from a team?</li> <li>• How do they want it to work?</li> <li>• What barriers need breaking?</li> <li>• What facilities do they need?</li> <li>• What don't they need or don't want to hear?</li> <li>• What does their sense of achievement look like?</li> <li>• What will make them look forward to their next session or match?</li> <li>• How much do they want to get involved with the club?</li> <li>• Have they been disappointed by a club before? (any type of club)</li> <li>• Are they worried what people at school will think? (friends and teachers)</li> <li>• Are they concerned about not fitting-in or not knowing anything about the sport?</li> </ul>	

**Purpose of the grant request:**

Building on the successful enrolment of girls to our Madley Brook Primary School after-school sessions, West Oxfordshire Levellers RL aim to hold a Girls Rugby League Activity Day for school years 2 to 11. The information and activities will be specifically designed for girls; and be appropriate for those currently partaking in sports and those who do not.

Each activity will be themed around Rugby League to include skill development, problem solving, team-working/building and learning leadership qualities. The club will follow the Rugby Football League's principles of Respect. The skills learned and advice provided can be adapted to other activities to help develop girls as the individuals they are. Success will not be measured by strength, stamina or ability to play; but on involvement and enjoyment.

We aim to provide instruction from experienced coaches, advice from strength and conditioning leads and nutritional support. Coaches will provide their assistance free of charge. However, we budget for up to £200 for other experts. All our coaches and experts are fully qualified and have passed enhanced DBS checks. All these costs have been funded by the individuals. There are no additional insurance costs as this is already included in our Rugby Football League insurance.

Part of the funding will be used prior to the event in booking facilities (up to £100 for 4 hours, including set-up for pitches, changing rooms and amenities), promotion and recruitment (up to £150). Promotion will take the form of posters, flyers and wayfinding on the day (signage and banners). Social media promotion and liaison with schools will be cost-free, and the club already has the majority of equipment required. We aim to provide refreshments up to £300. Each participant will receive a pack for their further development; and we budget up to £100 for design and production. We aim to provide spot-prizes during the day and budget for up to £150 for these (some items we have already so will not incur charges). If the costs of the event exceed that of an awarded grant, the difference will be covered by our budget reserve, without compromising the offer to our participants.

**Summary of budgets:**

Facility Hire	£100
Promotion	£150
Experts	£200
Refreshments	£300
Development Packs	£100
Prizes	£150

**Outcomes:**

Rugby League benefits from players of all shapes and sizes. By encouraging young players (especially girls) to be who they are and how they are; we can increase the number of female players enjoying more and more regular team activities.

The Girls Rugby League Activity Day will also serve as a recruitment event for the club. However, the club acknowledges some participants may not wish to join the team; and will therefore ensure all are treated with equal respect and provided with the same support, regardless of their choices.

Amount of grant applied for

£1000

Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?

YES/NO

If YES, please give details	We were fortunate to be awarded £50 in celebration of the Town Council's 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary.																
Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?		YES/NO															
If YES, please give details	<p>In the past 12 months we have applied for and successfully awarded the following grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £500 from Thames Valley Police for our anti-knife crime/drugs balls initiative,</li> <li>• £500 from Valda Energy to recruit and tailor our sessions for young people with additional needs which sometimes prevent them joining other clubs (for example those with ADHD and/or Autism).</li> </ul>																
<b>Financial</b>																	
<p>Please find attached the club's 3 recent bank statements. When parents pay subs etc, we ask that they use their child's name as reference. These details have been redacted from the versions shared to comply with our club GDPR policy. Please note the invoices have the home address of our Club Chair John Connaughton as the account was set-up by the latter. Our 2025 season will be closing shortly so our projection will be for our 2026 season, commencing in February.</p> <p>Our costs for next year are for facilities hire only as we already have all our equipment and playing kits. We do set-aside a small budget to replace an vital damaged assets. Our Primary and Secondary sessions take place at the same time (different areas of the grounds) which reduces the cost to £25 per hour. We plan to hold 22 sessions which totals £550 in hire charges. We plan at least 2 home fixtures which will total £100. Most games are played away from home.</p> <p>Our subs for each session are currently £4 per hour per player* and we aim to have a bare minimum of 30 players at each session, this will total £2520. If we deduct the pitch fees this will leave a remainder of £1870. We naturally aim for attendance to be higher and therefore increase the amount of subs paid, but have to be realistic about our players balancing other commitments, including their schoolwork.</p> <p>Our coaches and first aiders are volunteers so incur no charges. Mandatory training requirements that are chargeable are paid for by those volunteers and not the club. We also provide training wear for players and each order gains a surplus of approximately £5 to cover postage etc.</p> <p><b>Summary of income and expenditure for 2026:</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Item</th> <th>Income</th> <th>Expenditure</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Subs from players (current rate £4 each per session)</td> <td>£2520</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hire of facilities for weekly training sessions (22)</td> <td></td> <td>£550</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hire of facilities for matches</td> <td></td> <td>£100</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total estimated surplus for 2026</b></td> <td><b>£1870</b></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*The figure of £4 per session has been in place since 2024 and will be reviewed by the committee prior to our AGM in the Autumn.</p>			Item	Income	Expenditure	Subs from players (current rate £4 each per session)	£2520		Hire of facilities for weekly training sessions (22)		£550	Hire of facilities for matches		£100	<b>Total estimated surplus for 2026</b>	<b>£1870</b>	
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<b>Fundraising</b>	
<p>What fundraising events or activities will your organisation be holding this year?</p> <p>Each year we take part in fund raising events for our chosen charity, MNDA Oxfordshire Branch. This has included the Blenheim Park “walk2dfeetmnd”, volunteering as marshals at the Witney Park Run (raising awareness only) and a rather successful cake sale/raffle. All proceeds from these activities went to MNDA Oxfordshire Branch and not the club.</p> <p>Our players have recently asked about the possibility of buying bespoke Levellers/MNDA balls with some of the money being made going to both bodies. However, this would require guarantees of purchase prior to ordering such expensive items.</p>	
<b>General</b>	
<p>As a Rugby League club serving a population outside of the traditional heartlands (Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cheshire and Cumbria) we do receive a small amount of support from our governing body, the Rugby Football League. However, funding, personnel and time are extremely limited. Thus, the vast majority of the endeavour in managing the club is made by volunteers, players and their parents.</p> <p>Funding and support from local organisations such as councils, schools and our amazing sponsors; are vital in underpinning our aims and values. Recognition of our efforts is invaluable for a club made-up of volunteers.</p>	
<p>I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I am authorised to make this application for Grant-aid.</p>	
Signed:	<div style="background-color: black; width: 250px; height: 30px; display: inline-block;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 30px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 30px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px; text-align: center;">Date: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025</div>

*If posting, please return your completed application form to the address overleaf, for the attention of the TOWN CLERK*

For office use only:			
Acknowledged		Previously Applied	
Grant Aid Awarded/Amount	Y / N	Chq No.	