Ashtead Recreation Ground

We are expecting to have around 46 Queen Elizabeth II fields in Surrey. These range from large open spaces mainly for wildlife to small, but significant, areas in the middle of villages.

It has been most interesting inspecting these fields. Whilst taking photographs and making notes to check against owners’ application forms, I have been approached by users of the fields. These are usually local people walking dogs. The most common question has been “are you going to build on this field?” When we explain that the inspection is to secure the field as part of a Diamond Jubilee project, they are usually delighted.

We often think of villages having greens where children play and the local football and cricket clubs are located in the same place. Perhaps it is just Surrey, but in villages we have noticed that the land used for casual play and maybe having play areas is often separate from the sports grounds. These sports grounds tend to be privately owned. In the current fiscal climate, one would expect sports to share facilities. We came across a number of areas where football and cricket used different grounds.

There were important examples of sharing. Several cricket grounds had stoolball played on the outfield. Many of the clubs were using their pavilions for play groups. In the south of the county, I came across a number of pavilions being used for table tennis.

We are securing land and facilities; please make good use of what is available.
**From the County Sec’s Desk**

**King George V Field — Dunsfold**

Over the last 18 months we have been working hard on the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge. We must not forget that in the 1930s there was the first major project to provide and secure playing fields. This resulted in seventeen King George V fields in Surrey being secured. These are registered with Fields in Trust but owned and managed by local organisations. It is always hard work to keep the facilities on such fields in good condition.

One source of funding is the Places People Play fund from Sport England. We are delighted to note that Dunsfold Parish Council received a grant of £20,000 to update the pavilion on their KGV field. This will include improved disabled access. There will also be improvements to the changing rooms, the kitchen facilities and the car park.

This is a good village facility which supports 3 football teams, tennis, brownies, a nursery and a social club.

The local MP, Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Media and Sport, presented the cheque accompanied by Jennie Price, Chief Executive of Sport England.

**Blackheath Cricket Club**

The Secretary was delighted to see that this club had been given planning permission to build a new pavilion. It was interesting to see an artist’s impression. It is always difficult to provide a suitable modern pavilion in an area of natural beauty such as the Surrey Hills. This is a club which has grown over the last few years and the Surrey County Playing Fields has been pleased to support a number of the projects which it has undertaken.

My predecessor as Secretary of the SCPFA was David Reeds. He had been a proud member of this club. The score box on the edge of the pavilion has a plaque to his memory. I do hope that the club retain something to remember him. We were recently discussing how another club could erect something to remind them of a member who had contributed much to their growth. It does not matter what is provided; it is the memory of the person and their inspiration that must be retained.

Most of the sports clubs in the county are run by volunteers, celebrate their work and remember to thank them.

**Grow Your Club**

Active Surrey recently held a number of seminars around the county. The SCPFA supported them by providing people for a question and answer section at the end of the evening. Our Chairman, Director, Hon. Treasurer, a Borough Development Officer and Secretary attended one or more of the meetings.

Our Chairman was concerned how few people at his meeting knew about us. Our Director was pleasantly surprised to hear one club stand up and say how useful our local development officer had been in helping them raise funds.

What was highlighted were the problems that clubs are having. They are being asked to take over maintenance of grounds, being vetted on employment of coaches and suffering from a loss of members. Active Surrey did an excellent job providing speakers on relevant subjects and I wish more clubs would attend these seminars.
A Recurring Problem

The media keeps reminding us that we have to tighten our belts as we have been living beyond our means. Local Councils are attempting to cut their budgets but are aware that they must retain safe environments. Voluntary organisations are being asked to contribute more to maintaining facilities.

I trust that you will be reading this as Spring begins to bring warmth. The winter sports season will be drawing to a close and summer sport will be eagerly anticipated. Those of you with children or grandchildren will be looking forward to their playing in the open air.

As I will doubtless be reminded, it is a time of renewal and spring cleaning. What may well need renewal is the surface of fields, weatherbeaten pavilions, sightscreens, cricket covers, the surrounds of tennis courts, playground equipment. Over the last few years we have become accustomed to being able to provide replacement facilities. Much of our ground maintenance is now undertaken by professional groundsmen. We may no longer be able to afford this. Clubs may need to make more use of volunteers. If this is to happen, they must ensure that insurance covers their work. It is also important that they know what they are doing. The Surrey County Playing Fields Association can provide grants towards the cost of training. The SCPFA can also help identify suitable courses.

The jobs needed to maintain a ground are not always obvious. SCPFA will provide the money for a ground survey and a maintenance plan. If your previous ground contractor has brought in their own equipment, you may need access to kit. The SCPFA has knowledge of where equipment is available and can provide voluntary organizations with grants and loans towards purchasing it. In this age where there are many places to spend ones leisure, it is important that facilities are of a high standard and are attractive. Over the last few years quality has improved markedly; we must ensure that we maintain these standards.

The need to retain and maintain equipment means that we must ensure that it is safe. There are revenue grants available, try and find them. Make sure that children’s play equipment is regularly inspected. This applies to private play parks as well as those run by public authorities. The SCPFA can put you in contact with suitable organisations.

It is not all doom and gloom. Several County Sports Associations have negotiated deals and discounts for the purchase of equipment. They, like Active Surrey, can guide people towards suitable funding. Any equipment has to be kept secure. The Surrey County PFA has given financial assistance towards securing places where equipment for ground maintenance is stored. If you need more information, please contact one of the Area Development Officers whose details are on the back page of this newsletter.

More QE2 Fields

Chertsey Meads
The theme of being between 2 rivers is reflected in the play area.

Tarragon Drive—Guildford
SCPFA Contacts

We have a contact for each council area in Surrey. We have one officer who looks after county wide projects; he can also put you in touch with the officer who is appropriate for your request. The details are shown below.

County Development Officer
Dr Robin Elsdon-Dew, Tel: 01737 812781, email: elsdondew@nascr.net

Borough Development Officers

Elmbridge  
Dr Robin Elsdon-Dew, Tel: 01737 812781, email: elsdondew@nascr.net

Epsom & Ewell  
Mr William Eve, Tel: 01372 725310, email: helen.howlett@ramhouse.co.uk

Guildford  
Dr Mike Clark, Tel: 01483 574024, email: mikemclark@btinternet.com

Mole Valley  
Mr Philip Sears, Tel: 01306 885371, email: pmsears@btclick.com

Reigate & Banstead  
Mr Jack Ball, Tel: 01737 353778, email: jack@surreydowns.org

Runnymede  
Mr Keith Heal, Tel: 01784 435423, email: wkheal@sky.com

Spelthorne  
Mrs Shirley Winson, email: s.winson@care4free.net

Surrey Heath  
Mr Mark S Smith, Tel: 01483 480383, email: mssmith8@btinternet.com

Tandridge  
Mr Denham Earl, Tel: 020 8660 6621, email: dm_laearl@hotmail.com

Waverley - Eastern  
Mr Martin Maybrey, Tel: 01483 893209, email: martin.maybrey@btinternet.com

Waverley - Western  
Mr Brian Greig, Tel: 01252 793762, email: briangreig@fsmail.net

Woking  
Mr Alwyn Bowen, Tel: 01483 828907, email: alwyn.b@ntlworld.com

Other Officers you may need to contact are:

Director  
Mr David Gill, Tel: 07798 667662, email: dandcgill@sky.com

Honorary Planning Officer  
Paul Garber Dip TP, Dairy House, The Street, Capel, Dorking, Surrey RH5 5ER  
Tel: 01306 711015 email: pgarber@btinternet.com

Honorary Secretary  
Jim Faulkner, 9 Copse Edge, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 7DU  
Tel 01483 275628, email: jim_faulkner@talk21.com

Children’s Play Provision, Inspection and Safety Advisor  
Mr Jean Wenger  
MIEW  
RPII, AM  
50 Hurst Park Road, Twyford, RG10 0EY  
Tel. 07970 764 804  
email: info@activerms.org

Surrey Youth Games

Not only is it 2012 - the year we’ve all been waiting for - it’s also the 16th year of the P&G Surrey Youth Games!

These will take place over the weekend of 16 & 17 June in Guildford. Each Surrey borough and district council enter teams into the Games, and free coaching is offered as part of their team selection process. The event is open to anyone below county standard, in the age group 7 to 16. The sports which are played are: badminton, basketball, boccia, boxing, cricket, football, hockey, judo, netball, rugby, squash, swimming, tennis.

The Patron of the games is Gerry Ceaser, who is also Chairman of the Surrey County PFA. The SCPFA expect to provide the Fair Play Award as we have done for many years. The games are sponsored by Proctor & Gamble.

It is worth putting this event in your diary. Many youngsters have been introduced to sport through the Games, both as players and officials. A large number have continued to take part in sport at a level which suits them.