

THE PLAYING FIELD

*Newsletter of
Surrey Playing Fields - July 2017*



Surrey Playing Fields recognised with Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Surrey Playing Fields Association, which promotes sport in Surrey and endeavours to safeguard the county's playing fields and recreational open spaces, has been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2017. This award was created by the Queen in 2002 to mark the occasion of her Golden Jubilee, recognising excellence in voluntary activities carried out by groups in the community and winners are announced each year on 2 June – the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation. Surrey Playing Fields will receive the award from the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey later this year.

It is the MBE for volunteer groups. The Award brings with it a signed certificate from Her Majesty The Queen, an English crystal with the logo insignia and permission to use the official QAVS Logo (see below).

The Surrey Playing Field's Chairman, Gerry Ceaser, commented 'The work that the Surrey Playing Fields does in the community was very much admired by the Independent Assessment Committee, chaired by Sir Martyn Lewis CBE and we are delighted to be notified that we have been awarded The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. It is a tremendous achievement for all of us and we hope that everyone involved, and particularly our dedicated volunteers and all the local sports clubs in the county, feel immensely proud of the recognition that this Award represents'.

The Surrey County Playing Fields Association, as it was previously known, was formed in 1927 and this year it is celebrating its 90th anniversary serving sport in the county. The 90th year will be celebrated with a Dinner at Reigate Manor on the 20th October 2017. SPF is a registered charity and, as a purely voluntary organisation, all the funds it raises goes back into community sport. Besides giving advice, it gives bursaries to young people and, assuming they meet the criteria, it provides small grants to sports clubs and low interest loans for larger projects. During the period 2000 to 2016 the grants and loans support to community sports clubs in the county totalled well over £1,700,000.



Director David Gill and Secretary Jim Faulkner at
the Buckingham Palace Garden Party.



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For sports help throughout Surrey
Affiliated to the National Playing Fields Association

The work of the Surrey County Playing Fields Association is funded by subscriptions from local authorities at county and district levels and parish and town councils. It also receives funding from Sports Clubs and individuals. Details are in our Annual Report.

We thank them all.

Organisations on SCPFA Advisory Committee

Surrey County Council
Surrey County Football Association
Surrey County Rugby Football Union
Surrey Sports Board
Surrey Community Action

Active Surrey
Surrey County Lawn Tennis Association
Surrey Cricket Foundation
Surrey County Athletic Association

We are grateful for their support and wise counsel

FROM THE COUNTY SEC'S DESK

Duke of Edinburgh's Retirement

A few weeks ago The Duke of Edinburgh announced that he was retiring from regular royal duties. He had spent many years encouraging charitable organisations. In 1947 he was assisting at the National Playing Fields Association. When he married Princess Elizabeth in November 1947 he was made President of that association. He handed the post of President of NPFA, now operating as Fields in Trust, to the Duke of Cambridge 2 years ago.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s the Duke of Edinburgh was very active in raising the profile of the NPFA, raising money for its activities and forging links with other organisations like the Lords Taverners.

He also instigated several projects like indoor basketball halls. He was very supportive of counties as well as the national organization. An example of this was when he spoke at Surrey's first Annual General Meeting after the second World War. Here is a photograph of him at Surrey County Council in Kingston, which in those days was inside the County of Surrey.



**Rt Hon J. Chuter-Ede (Home Secretary), Alderman S.H Marshal (Chairman Surrey County Council)
H.R.H Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, General Sir Robert Haining (Lord Lieutenant of Surrey)
Mr F.O.M Smith (Treasurer SPFA) Major G.E Cohen (Chairman SPFA) Miss D.M Milton (Hon Sec. SPFA)**

NEW NETS AT CRANLEIGH CRICKET CLUB

Cranleigh C.C. have recently opened 3 new non-turf nets and have removed old nets on a less convenient part of the ground. The Club is based on the common at Cranleigh. They needed high quality nets to meet the standards required to play premier league cricket. Our local Development Officer, Martin Maybrey, worked closely with the club on the project. This included helping them with obtaining a new lease from Waverley BC in time to start the work. He also gave guidance on the clearance you need for developments on common land which are required in addition to normal planning applications. Once all this was in place, Surrey Playing Fields loaned them the money to start installation.

Martin could give useful advice because he had overseen developments at Wonerish. These were also on common land. Like many of our volunteers, he has experience of running sports clubs and of improving other facilities. They also have contacts with county sporting bodies and organisations which can assist.

Please consider us if you need support. More information on how to do this is on our website. There are contact details there and on this newsletter.



Play Equipment – Keeping on top of maintenance

'Of course it's safe, the council wouldn't allow it to be here if it wasn't'. The concept of any parent arriving with a clip board under their arm, 'stop, don't go in until I've been round and checked that it's all safe to use' is unbelievable, of course it's safe!

Yet how much time and money do we need to focus into this area that is regularly of intense focus in the competition for budget allocation. There is often little chance to set aside regularly even a nominal 10% annual amount to replace items, yet some replacement will be needed, play equipment does not last for ever. Plus of course, annual finance for repairs in addition to standard grass and litter maintenance operations.

Understanding of responsibilities does vary and are often found to be confused, even within larger authorities with dedicated responsibility sections. The overarching Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Safety at Work Regulations 1992 apply. These legally require a playground operator to carry out a suitable and sufficient assessment of risks regularly. This crucially, is a legally proactive requirement. The Act does not permit operators to wait until an accident has occurred, and then act – regular risk assessments are required to identify potential source of harm and the steps which must be taken to control them.

It is important to emphasise that within children's play, some risk is needed and children's play should not exclude all risks. That said, there are good risks and bad risks; hurtling down a slide onto a landing area covered in broken lager bottles being a bad risk, whilst balancing and then falling off a line of stepping posts, a good risk. Life is not risk free and children's playgrounds need to encompass life development opportunities.

Detailed guidance and advice of the frequency of



Robust SAFETY Inspections



Play & Sports areas, Parks, Ponds, Schools & Gyms

Detailed reports inspecting to approved UK & EU Standards
Risk Benefit Assessment & Guidance for prioritising actions
Identifying photographs & advice on problems found
Quality 'Seal' RPII Annual Play Inspectors
Independent of any manufacturer or maintenance company
Training courses for weekly & quarterly inspectors
30+ years' experience
Surrey County PFA Children's Play Advisor
Register of Play Inspectors International – Annual Inspect
RPII Examiner
Institute of Expert Witnesses – full member



Contact Today – Active Risk Management
Services Ltd

07970 764 804

infor@activerms.org

inspections has been provided since 1998 in national guidance, the British Standard BS EN 1176. This advises a hierarchy of inspections:-

Routine - a frequent check to spot immediate issues such as litter, vandalism and broken or damaged parts resulting from storms;

Operational – management, every 3 months, to check more carefully, particularly on repairs plus any manufacturers inspection or maintenance requirements;

Annual - every 12 months on the overall operation and continuance of national safety expectations. Annual inspection should be undertaken by a qualified inspector that is independent of suppliers, maintainers and the operator.

It is the regularity of the checks that is most important in keeping the areas safe, the most important being the Routine frequent check (daily up to weekly); if the problem is not spotted it cannot be maintained or sorted out. These are carried out by many operators as part of their cleanliness regime (litter picking). These checks, if they are to be fully useful, need to be recorded and carried out by competent individuals.

Courses and nationally recognised qualifications for Routine and Operational levels of inspections are available from:-

Jean Wenger, Surrey Playing Fields Play Advisor

AMAZING SISTERS

Around the time that you are reading this two sisters from Pyrford will be competing for England in Porec, Croatia in the European Archery Youth Cup (July 9th-14th). This is the first time in the GB squad for 14 year old Louisa Piper, being the youngest member of the squad, whereas for 18 year old Eleanor it is the fifth call up, although the first at under 21 level. In early June, Louisa won the Surrey Junior Championships for the 5th consecutive year and in the process broke the UK National Record She is regarded



by the senior Olympic coach as one of the best archers in the world for her age! Eleanor is the No1 UK U18 Archer (and No 9 UK Senior Lady). Both sisters have been on the Olympic Pathway for the past three years and train six days a week.

However it is not all good news for these highly talented youngsters as they need to attend the National Sports Centre at Lilleshall every month at a cost for each sister of £250 per month. UK Sports Funding for archery was withdrawn in March and so each potential Olympian for Tokyo now has to be self funding for their coaching. Surrey Playing Fields have been delighted to make grants to both of them but they are still going to need considerable funds to realise their potential in 3 years time.



Their mother has set up a crowd funding page which can be found at :-

<http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/sisters-targeting-tokyo>.

Both Louisa and Eleanor Piper are members of Woking Archery Club near Wisley.



Volunteering Opportunities

Surrey Playing Fields, one of the leading County Playing Fields Associations in England, celebrate their 90th Year this year. Due to a combination of retirements and new posts we are looking for two volunteer Officers and Trustees, to carry this vibrant Association forward towards its centenary thus ensuring our continuing legacy within Surrey.

We meet bi monthly at Leatherhead and over the years have had a significant influence on many sporting ventures and planning applications. Since 2000 we have given grants and loans in excess of £1.7million to individuals and clubs to help with their future aspirations. Beyond our regular funding activity we were the key player in having nearly 50 playing Fields in Surrey designated QE2 Fields commemorating the Queens Golden Jubilee and for distributing £240,000 of grants to those fields in 2014

If you are interested in becoming part of our team please initially contact the Chairman, Gerry Ceaser, 2, Rivermount, Sunbury on Thames TW16 5PH. tel 01932 785841, email: gerryceaser1@gmail.com to discuss the positions with him.

Director



This is an existing post held at present by David Gill who has indicated he is intending to step down during 2017 due to his other considerable involvement in County Sports. We are looking for someone to work alongside David before making the position their own.

Hon Planning Officer



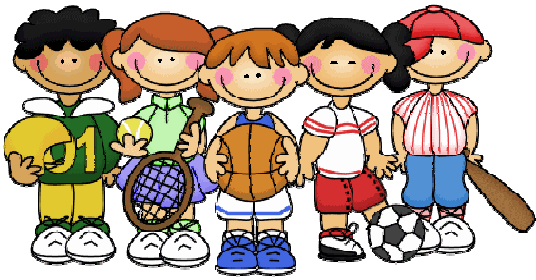
Paul Garber, our recent Planning Officer, has stepped down and we have redefined his role to cover Planning Advice on major Planning Applications in Surrey so as to ensure that the correct amount of open space is provided to meet the newly published Six Acre Play Space Strategy.

Web Manager.



This is a new post for someone to manage, expand and keep updated our website which can be found at www.surreyplayingfields.co.uk. We see this post as key in helping us to keep our profile as high as possible and as the principal means of contact with our members and the general public

Borough Development Officers



We currently have Borough Development Officers in all of the Surrey Boroughs and Districts. We are looking for people to assist our existing Officers with a view to taking over later. The position is rewarding for the right person as all existing Borough Development Officers have significantly benefited local sport and are only too happy to be of value to the clubs in their area. You will also have a role in monitoring the weekly Planning Schedules for your local area and after appropriate guidance provide advice. If you are interested in working in this area or would like to assist in any of the posts, we would like to hear from you.

General Volunteer



The Association has been successful because it can accommodate people who have an interest in helping but are not in a position to give a great amount of time. If you have knowledge which could be of use and would like to work with us, please think of joining us.

The Director and Hon Planning Officer positions would qualify the successful applicants to become a Trustees of Surrey Playing Fields.

HOW OUR LOANS CAN HELP

Staines Hockey Club

Staines Hockey Club had a pressing need to replace the playing surface and shock-pad to remain a viable club with appropriate facilities. They were losing players because the sand-based pitch was of poor quality. They were actively chasing other funding and there were no planning issues to consider. The total cost was £240,000 and a loan of £40,000 was agreed by Surrey Playing Fields.

Play on the new surface has now started and here is a photo of the opening ceremony which David Gill, SPF director, attended. The Club reports that the pitch has had a positive effect on the club with both the ladies and men's first teams securing their positions in their respective South Premiership leagues. They will be looking to pick up some new players during the summer. The new pitch has already seen an increase in external usage for junior county hockey and during the summer there will be summer leagues introduced.



This is an excellent example of the sort of support that we provide.

County Playing Fields Conference

Many of the County Playing Field Associations, and other organisations who carry out some of their functions, met at Kenilworth on Wednesday 14th June. We thank the Sports and Play Construction Association for supporting the event and providing the equipment used for presentations.

The main part of the conference was held in the morning.

It concentrated on the role of playing fields associations when their communities are under pressure.

The first speaker was Ron Harrison, the chairman of Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association. One of his jobs when he was in full time employment was Chief Planner at a major housebuilder. He explained how the guidelines on housing needs being imposed by central government were being implemented by local government. He then explained the political pressures that often influence local decision making. He went on to stress the importance of paragraphs 73 to 77 in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Some of the important statements which are of use to playing fields organisations are;

*Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

*Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.

*Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements. The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location. The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

*Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance.

He then went on to point out that the implementation of plans should be reviewed by the local community.

The next speaker was Steve Beard, Planning Manager Central Hub Team, Sport England. He stressed the importance of the independence of County Playing Fields Associations and pointed out the importance of their local knowledge. His major points were:

*Not all playing pitch strategies meet the standards,

*It is important to check site allocations in local plans,

*Try to ensure Community Infrastructure Levy is allocated appropriately.

He finished by saying Sport England are about to provide guidance on Local Plans.



The last session in the morning was presented by Fields in Trust.

They highlighted the importance of securing fields through one of their schemes.

They introduced their Manifesto for Parks which covers:

*Championing our parks.

*Ensuring access to parks is available to all.

*Putting parks at the heart of efforts to create a healthier and more active nation.

*Safe guarding the future of green spaces.

They then introduced the new scheme for improving parks which is sponsored by the London Marathon Trust.

It is an old concept; but the whole morning showed the importance of working with partners who can bring different skills and perspective to improving our communities.

Much of the afternoon was taken up with trying to see how individual counties can work together to pool experience and provide a better service within our areas. The conference provided us all with lots to think about.



Woking defend title at Specsavers Surrey Youth Games

The 2017 Specsavers Surrey Youth Games saw every borough and district in the county win medals as Woking repeated their performance from last year to claim victory. The Olympic-style event - which hosted more than 2,000 young people in 286 teams - took place in soaring temperatures on 17-18 June at the Surrey Sports Park and witnessed 16 fiercely competed sports ranging from squash to swimming, and badminton to boccia. The record-breaking numbers came from similar high demand for the free sport training places provided by the boroughs, with almost 4,500 slots taken up by local young people.

With **Woking** earning first prize and the overall Borough Trophy for this year, they were closely followed by **Epsom & Ewell** and **Spelthorne** in second and third place. The final placings were:

Borough Trophy Position	Borough / District
1	Woking
2	Epsom & Ewell
3	Spelthorne
4=	Elmbridge
4=	Reigate & Banstead
6	Waverley
7=	Mole Valley
7=	Surrey Heath
9	Guildford
10	Runnymede
11	Tandridge

In the medal table, **Reigate & Banstead** and **Woking** picked up the most Golds with seven each and also took the top two slots for the most medals in total, with **Epsom & Ewell** third. **Surrey Heath** picked up the Surrey Playing Fields **Fair Play award** for their teams' conduct over the weekend.



If you are inspired by a volunteer, coach or athlete then nominate them for their local sports awards <http://surreysportsawards.activesurrey.com/>. Nominations are open until 31 August 2017. Surrey Playing Fields sponsor the Young Volunteer of the Year Award. Local sports awards are run in boroughs and districts across Surrey to recognise and celebrate the wealth of local sporting talent and successes over the last 12 months. Reward those who make sport happen in Surrey and make a nomination today!

Surrey Playing Field 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

Mr Barry Hitchcock, MBE, Tel: 01483 410165 email: barry.hitchcock@gmx.co.uk

Borough Development Officers

Elmbridge	Mr Mike Armitage, Tel: 07930 405788, email: mike.j.armitage@btinternet.com
Epsom & Ewell	Mr Andrew Tibble, Tel: 07773 149755, email: atibble@hotmail.co.uk
Guildford	Mrs Heather Dean, Tel: 01483 525283, email: heather.dean@ukgateway.net
Mole Valley	Mr Bob Higson, Tel: 01306 886043, email: r1hgn@higsonweb.com
Reigate & Banstead	Mr Mike Hughes, Tel: 0208 668 3314, email: mikehhughes60@gmail.com
Runnymede	Mr Alan Greig, Tel: 01784 741022, email: a.greig3@ntlworld.com
Spelthorne	Mrs Shirley Winson, email: shirleywinson21@gmail.com
Surrey Heath	Mr Grant Simmons, email: gsimmons@ravenscote.surrey.sch.uk
Tandridge	Mr Denham Earl, Tel: 020 8660 6621, email: dm_laearl@hotmail.com
Waverley - Eastern	Mr Martin Maybrey BEM, Tel: 01483 893209, email: martin.maybrey@btinternet.com
Waverley - Western	Mr Brian Greig, Tel: 01252 793762, email: briangreig@fsmail.net
Woking	CLlr Ian Eastwood, Tel 01483 481864, email: cllr.ian.eastwood@woking.gov.uk

Other Officers you may need to contact are:

Director	Mr David Gill, Tel: 07798 667662, email: dandcgill@sky.com
Honorary Secretary	Mr Jim Faulkner, BEM, Tel: 01483 275628, email: jim_faulkner@talk21.com
Honorary Planning Officer	Vacancy
Children's Play Provision and Safety Advisor	Mr Jean Wenger MIEW RPIAM, 50 Hurst Park Road, Twyford, RG10 0EY. Tel. 07970 764 804, email: jeanwenger@activerms.org

Welcome to our new Borough Development Officer for Guildford Nick Wildman

Our current BDO for Guildford Heather Dean will become our secretary at the AGM in November, when Jim Faulkner retires. We are delighted that Nick Wildman will be replacing her.

Nick is a Guildfordian, educated at George Abbot school, married with two children and living in Puttenham.

His interest in sport developed in the Army where he was also introduced to skiing, boxing and sailing, competing in the Army Championships. He was also fortunate to be selected for two Operation Raleigh Expeditions and continues to take groups around the world today.

As a fitness instructor at the University of Surrey he coached football, climbing and the D of E group. He has officiated mixed martial arts events around Europe, competed in mountain endurance races and set up Puttenham Athletic Veterans football team which he player managed until recently.

Currently a serving Fire officer with Surrey Fire and Rescue he is responsible for building consultations and business risk in Surrey.



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www.surreyplayingfields.co.uk

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