

THE PLAYING FIELD

Newsletter of
Surrey Playing Fields - December 2018



OUR NEW CHAIRMAN ROBERT EVANS

At the recent Annual General Meeting our new Chairman Robert Evans was duly elected to replace Gerry Ceaser who sadly passed away in February.

In accepting the position Robert said:-

"I am honoured to accept this post and look forward to the new challenge.

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Sport is important to me, a huge part of my life both professionally and personally. For 16 years I was a primary teacher in Surrey and SW London encouraging students to participate in all different sports. I watched with pride as some went on and continued with their interest.

Personally I have always been involved be it playing, umpiring or administration etc and for nearly 50 years have played hockey and cricket in Ashford. I am a life member of Ashford CC and a vice president of Ashford HC. I still play and was recently part of Surrey Over 60's cricket team that won the National championships beating that well known county Wales! In my family my dad was cricket and rugby - Staines RFC – mum encouraged me and my brothers to play but was always worried that we would get hurt! I have a part share in both Arsenal and Fulham season tickets and also follow London Welsh rugby club, although that is a bit of a sad tale, although things are now on the up! At golf I'm the world's worst and not much better at tennis and badminton. However I try and strongly believe that sport provides stability, friendships, discipline, exercise and many other positive advantages.

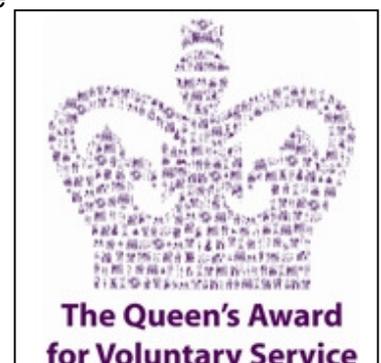
Why am I keen to take on this role? I want to get more clubs involved ,for more to join this excellent organisation and thus encourage more participation in sport whist at the same time protecting and augmenting our sports facilities.

Outside of sport I was an MEP for 15 years and since 2013 have been a member of Surrey County Council representing Stanwell and Stanwell Moor. As a side line I do after dinner speaking and conduct charity auctions.

I do hope that all these experiences prove to be useful and help me to perform and develop my new role with Surrey Playing Fields. I very much look forward to working with all the various people and bodies connected to this excellent Association".

Robert Evans

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 25TH OCTOBER 2018



The annual General Meeting of Surrey Playing Fields association took place at a new venue of the Surrey FA Headquarters in Dorking with around 40 attendees. All were welcomed by the President, Michael More-Molyneux.

He passed over to the temporary Chairman and Past Director David Gill who gave a comprehensive review of the year. Amongst the important aspects that he highlighted were our move to the FA Offices in Dorking for our regular meetings, the strength of our Association and all our people; we have a hard working and most efficient group of volunteers who run the association, the importance of the Playing Fields Network and the partners that we all work with and the problems that playing fields have had to cope with during the year such as visiting travelers and the incredibly hot weather this summer. He finished by not only thanking his colleagues for their support but also remembering some incredible supporters who sadly have passed on, namely Gerry Ceaser, our Chairman, who was the subject of a special newsletter in April and Dr Mike Clark the long standing Guildford BDO whose contribution is highlighted on Page 4 of this issue.

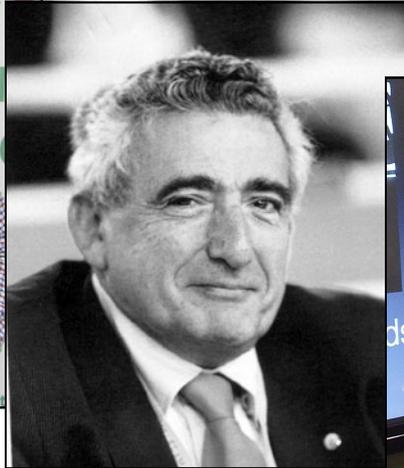
Treasurer Michael Hughes then presented the year's accounts to 31st March 2018 which were adopted unanimously with a vote of thanks to him and to our Independent Examiners, Braidwood Wheeler and Co.

Robert Evans was introduced to the meeting and formerly elected unanimously as our new Chairman. The current trustees, Heather Dean, Secretary, Michael Hughes, Treasurer and Barry Hitchcock, County Development Officer, were also elected unanimously. There are however still vacancies for a new Director and a new Planning Officer.

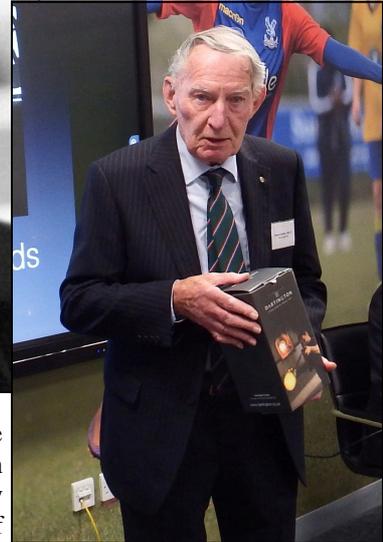
We were delighted that Gerry Ceaser's widow Zandra was with us to present the Gerry Ceaser Fair Play Award to its first recipient representing Surrey Heath Borough Team and awarded at the Surrey Youth Games. Presentations were also made to longstanding supporters Edward Handley and Paul Garber and further details can be found on Page 6.



Paul Garber



Edward Handley MBE



The meeting were then addressed by Simon Hards the Participation and Business Development Manager from Surrey County Cricket Club. He talked on a wide range of cricket subjects particularly highlighting Surrey's success this year with the winning of two major trophies the ECB County Championship (last won by Surrey in 2002) and the Women's Super League Trophy plus the large number of Surrey players currently playing for England. We were very fortunate that he brought both trophies with him (see below).

His main thrust however was the importance of the Surrey Cricket Foundation. The Surrey Cricket Foundation (formerly the Surrey Cricket Board) is the charitable body charged with the delivery of recreational cricket in Surrey. It operates as an integral part of Surrey County Cricket Club.

It supports communities, schools and clubs by providing funding, knowledge, coaching and competitions in Surrey and South London. Their goal is to get more people playing cricket, and in doing so aim to improve health and well-being of the recreational game and identify young talent for Surrey CCC.

They have 4 key areas of activity when delivering this strategy which are: Schools, Leagues and Clubs, Communities and Special Projects. Simon gave us examples of each area but focused on one great success story the 'Chance to Shine' Street Programme, an inner-city cricket initiative that has engaged nearly 27,000 young people since 2008.



All agreed that it was a fascinating talk and thanked Simon for his time.

The meeting having finished we continued our discussions over a drink and some delightful refreshments.



Simon Hards

Dr Mike Clark

We are very sorry to report that Mike Clark died on 24th September 2018.

Mike was the Borough Development Officer for Guildford when he had to retire due to ill health in March 2016. He has had a lifetime of practical involvement in playing, administrating, officiating or otherwise supporting sport. Probably his first recognised involvement in sport in Surrey was when, in the late 1960s, he was asked to build the initial sports facilities at the University of Surrey, by Dr Peter Leggett, the then Vice-Chancellor. This involved substantial indoor facilities on the main campus as well as outdoor pitches and tennis courts, with suitable changing and social accommodation across the A3 on what is now known as Manor Park.

He started working for the Surrey Playing Fields Association in May 1988. Later he took over as Borough Development Officer for Guildford where he actively supported the work of some of the major clubs in the area, including Wey Kayak Club and Guildford Archery Club. His knowledge of the area was invaluable. He taught at Surrey University for many years. He was Chairman of Sport Guildford, a founder member of Sport for All and a well known member of Guildford Rotary Club. He was also heavily involved with the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre and local arts. Wherever one went in the area you met someone who knew Dr. Clark.

Swimming has always been his real interest, particularly Water Polo where he was an absolute stalwart for local clubs as well as nationally. His daughter advised us that he was still swimming regularly until shortly before he died. Mike was recognised for his outstanding commitment by British University and Colleges Sport (the competition structure for universities) where he has worked tirelessly, particularly for water polo and cross country. He was also selected as a torch carrier ahead of the 2012 London Olympics.

We hugely appreciated his incredible stamina and long-standing enthusiasm and commitment and send our condolences to his family.



Mike with Olympic torch at Westcott



Trying to work out what a slip cradle is used for at Holmbury St Mary Cricket Club

CRANLEIGH CENTENARY GARDEN

In July 2014, Fields in Trust launched their Centenary Fields Legacy Programme, which was being run in conjunction with the Royal British Legion. The objective was to protect parks and green spaces in perpetuity to honour the memory of the millions who lost their lives in World War 1. The County Playing Fields associations were asked to support this project in whatever way they thought suitable. Surrey PFA talked to councils who owned land which could be used in the project.

On 10th November the field in Cranleigh was commemorated. Cranleigh Parish Council owned the land and made it available to a team of volunteers. They raised money from local businesses, individuals and received a grant from Surrey Playing Fields. The field was designed, built and furnished by volunteers without anyone taking payment. It really was a project completed by the local community.

It contains a memorial plaque listing the losses from each village, seats, bronze poppies and a selection of plants and trees (see photos below). It is a garden for future generations to contemplate the loss of life from local villages during the First World War.

There was a large crowd at the opening ceremony, showing the support from the village. The Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everyone. Robert Napier, a Deputy Lord Lieutenant who lives in Cranleigh, gave an address explaining the significance of the field. The field was then blessed by the Reverend Roy Woodhams, supported by local clergy. John Sharp, who is 97 and was an SOE wireless operator, cut the ribbon. The field was then open for the public to inspect.

This is one of a number of Centenary Fields opened in Surrey which has helped to meet the aims of the Royal British Legion. We salute the many people who have given so much time and effort to provide space for quiet contemplation.



At the AGM presentations were made to two great supporters of Surrey Playing Fields :-



EDWARD HANDLEY MBE

Edward has given much of his life giving voluntary service, both locally and nationally. We are recognizing a small part of his efforts this evening.

Edward is Chairman of Croydon Playing Fields Association which does invaluable work in that Borough. He sits on our advisory committee where he provides important information on national matters. He is a long serving member of the National Playing Fields Association and has made significant contributions to their work.

His sporting interests are now cricket and hockey. He has now moved from playing to umpiring. He has been a member of Surrey County Cricket Club for over 50 years. He is currently President of Surrey Schools Cricket.

He has been contributing to improving the community for over 50 years in many ways. This award is to thank him for his efforts for the Playing Fields movement. Thank you Edward.

PAUL GARBER

Paul was unfortunately unable to attend the AGM where he was made a Vice President.

Our Patron and past secretary Jim Faulkner was to present him with the following certificate at his home when he returns from hospital together with a letter congratulating him on being appointed a Vice President of SPF.

A tribute to Paul for his 40 years of service was printed in the April 2017 Newsletter.



SURREY COUNTY PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

THIS CERTIFICATE is designed to acknowledge your special contribution to the work and aims of the Association

There is no adequate reward for many years' devoted service but the Officers of the Surrey County Playing Fields Association hope that you will accept this certificate as a mark of their appreciation.

Thousands of people and clubs throughout the County of Surrey have cause to be thankful to the Association, and therefore to you, for help and guidance freely given.

This Certificate is a token of their appreciation.

President



GEORGE GROVES

Surrey Playing Fields have recently been pleased to give a bursary to a young golfer with a disability, George Groves, and this is his story:-

George was born in 1999 and suffers from a paralysis to his left arm which is called Erbs Palsy. Erbs Palsy can affect people in different ways; for George his left arm is quite restricted and his range of movement is only about 20/30% and some movements he can not do at all. He has always had a great interest in golf and has had lessons from a very young age. At the age of 12 he managed to achieve his first ever hole in one at Horne Park Golf Club in Surrey; he is currently still trying to get another one!

There was never anything that George wanted to do but play golf and he is currently in his third and final year at Lindfield Golf College near Haywards Heath. Through the college he was introduced to the English Disabled Golf Association (EDGA). He had to be assessed whilst playing golf and this was done by a neurologist who invited him to play at his local golf club St George Hill in Weybridge. He duly passed and in 2016 played in his first EDGA event coming 4th. Representing England in individual events in 2017 he came 1st in Sweden and 2nd in Portugal and by the end of that year was 3rd in Europe and England's top player.

England Golf are really now behind the disabled side of golf and are trying very hard to make the sport bigger and better. Should they be able to push to get it into the Para Olympics in 2020 George would obviously love to be selected for that event!

Unfortunately at present these events are not funded and George as an individual has to fund them himself, which is why he approached Surrey Playing Fields. In addition he is currently looking for any type of sponsor who can help him be successful with his chosen career.

George currently plays off a 1 handicap and fairly obviously has a promising future in front of him. In two events this year he has come second in the English open, and 1st in the Algarve open. So at the end of the year when the rankings were all placed from their yearly events he came 1st out of 194; the top of all the EDGA rankings in Europe.



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	Mr. Nick Wildman, Tel: 01483 831200, email: nickwildman@hotmail.com
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	Ms Lauren Lee, Tel: 07881 920987, email: laurenlee84@gmail.com
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: cllrian.eastwood@woking.gov.uk

Other Officers you may need to contact are:

Honorary Secretary	Mrs Heather Dean, Tel: 01483 535283, email: surreyplayingfields@gmail.com
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
Webmaster	Mr Alex Gear, Tel: 07532 741653, email alexander.gear@gmail.com



Chosen from the local borough and district awards, those considered the very best of Surrey's coaches, clubs and volunteers in 2018 were recently unveiled.



Surrey's own county champions were therefore formally announced on 3 December by BBC

Surrey's Tim Durrans, who honoured their achievements in front of their peers and Award Sponsors at a special celebration dinner.

Surrey Playing Fields sponsors the Award for the Young Volunteer of the year and the winner this year was Eva Porter from Farnham Swimming Club. Unfortunately she was unable to attend the dinner but was represented by our own past Director David Gill, who is also Chairman of Farnham Sports Council. The first photograph shows David accepting the award from new Chairman of SPF Robert Evans and the second shows Eva accepting the local Farnham Sports Award from SPF Borough Development Officer Brian Greig.

This newsletter is produced quarterly by Surrey Playing Fields

www.surreyplayingfields.co.uk

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