

THE PLAYING FIELD

Newsletter of
Surrey Playing Fields - July 2018



GERRY CEASER FAIR PLAY AWARD



The last newsletter was dedicated to the memory of our late Chairman Gerry Ceaser. The proceeds of the collection at the memorial service held for Gerry in Staines, and also the private funeral, came to Surrey Playing Fields and the trustees have agreed with the family that this money should be put towards a new award named the Gerry Ceaser Fair Play Award which will be presented annually at the Surrey Youth Games.

This is an event that was extremely close to Gerry's heart.

This year's event took place on the 23rd and 24th June across Surrey Sports Park and Woking Leisure Centre. Some 1500 youngsters in 200 teams from every borough and district in Surrey competed for medals in 20 events. The final medal table showed Woking on top with Epsom & Ewell second and Spelthorne third. Surrey Heath were awarded the very first Gerry Ceaser Fair Play award and this award will be formally presented at the SPF AGM later in the year.

VENUE

After many years the SPF committees have met at Therfield School, Leatherhead where they have had excellent service. It has however been decided that ideally we should meet in a more sporting orientated venue. Therefore we are in consultation with the Surrey Football Association to use the facilities of their new headquarters in Dorking.



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

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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

ALEXANDER JULIAN (Sandy) BRIGSTOCKE DL

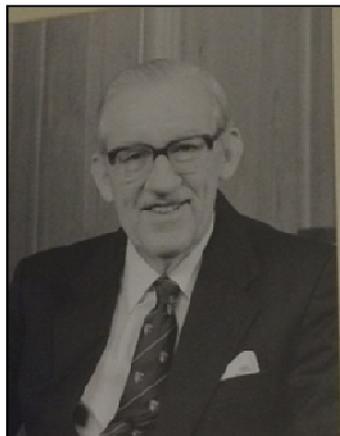
Sandy died peacefully on 23rd March 2018 aged 95. He joined our executive in 1987 as a representative from Surrey County Council and left in 2000. He was then elected as a Vice President. For much of this time he was a Trustee. During his time on our executive he was Chairman of Surrey County Council from 1990 to 1993. This important position did not stop him from assisting us. When the school playing field at West Humble was put up for sale he coordinated the purchase paid partially by Surrey Playing Fields, Mole Valley District Council and National Playing Fields. This 6.5 acre field is now owned by National Playing Fields and run by the West Humble Playing Field User Management Group.

Sandy, who lived in Shackleford, was a man who supported his community. He was a Parish Councillor, County Councillor, and Churchwarden. He and his wife supported the local village hall where there are rooms named after them. He was a headmaster who was keen on coaching sport. People have commented on his ability to produce excellent teams.

Despite this busy life, he always remembered SPF. He continued to use his knowledge of Surrey to make sure that we knew where there was a chance of losing open space and where we could best provide money and advice to help Sport and Children's Play. He helped strengthen this Association by encouraging suitable volunteers to join us.

This short tribute cannot do justice to a remarkable man who achieved so much. The Association send their condolences to his family.

Jim Faulkner Patron SPF



KEN OHLSON



We will miss Ken Ohlson or, to give him his formal title, Kenneth Banks Ohlson OBE, MC, TD.

He was a man of many achievements and few words about them. He said in moments of reflection that the Military Cross was the award he achieved; his other decorations and awards came about through teamwork. We who worked with him realised that his skill in leading teams went a long way to making them successful. His long service for the Sports Council was recognised by being awarded the OBE.

Ken is often thought of as a man of cricket; his interest in sport was much broader than that. We know of his involvement with Sutton CC starting in 1940 and restarting after the war in 1946. He played for the next two decades and took on captaincy duties for many years, including a highly successful spell leading the first team from 1962-65. He spent six years as chairman, affording long-term stability with a ground-breaking scheme midway through the 1970s when the old wooden pavilion at Cheam Road was replaced by a modern building which provided room for a squash club and later a gymnasium. Ken was renowned for his work with the Surrey Youth Trust in the 1990s, where he would, along with others, make recommendations to the Trust to help fund clubs around the county with much-needed grants. Ken Ohlson represented Sutton at the crucial meeting in 1966 which resulted in the formation of the Surrey Championship and was delighted when the first league title was won by the club in 1968.

He assumed the presidency in 1982, relishing three more titles being claimed in 1991, 2006 and 2009, and with his wife Jill, he made the ideal host. After 30 years in the role and just approaching his 90th birthday, he asked to stand down but his involvement at Cheam Road was marked in 2012 when the main function room was named the Ken Ohlson Room.

Ken was also a keen golfer, a hard working member of Walton Heath Golf Club. Earlier this year the 2018 President of Lloyds Golf Club, Richard Ohlson, had the pleasure in being joined by his father, Past President Ken Ohlson (President 1978 and aged a spritely 94) on his table. This was the first time that the Club has seen father-and-son President and Past President together at the dinner. A proud moment for the Ohlson family and an example of Ken's continued interest in sport.

With all this background we were delighted when he joined SCPFA in 1992 as Vice-Chairman. He became Chairman in 1995 and left this post in 1998. He remained with us as a Vice-President for many years. His interests had included being Chairman of the South East Council for Sport and Recreation. He was also involved with Headley Cricket Club, so he was involved at all levels of cricket in Surrey. He understood the needs of young people and ensured that we helped in the provision of playgrounds.

One of my great pleasures was inspecting cricket grounds so that we could present the Best Kept Village Cricket Ground award. Ken's understanding of all standards of cricket was matched by Dennis Jacobs who was really interested in top class club cricket and Geoff Dunn, who concentrated on the needs of villages. They and the other members of the inspection panel with different backgrounds had lively discussions which were resolved over a meal in a local pub. I have wonderful memories of knowledgeable sportsmen who were passionate about improving the quality of cricket in Surrey.

Before Ken joined us, he convinced SCPFA to assist Sutton in obtaining a second ground, Holmwood Close, which is in Surrey. This was purchased in 1986 and matches have been held there from 1989. Surrey Playing Fields assisted with planning advice and funding.

The Trustees of SCPFA used to meet at his house where we were well looked after by Ken and his wife Jill.

The meetings were great fun with Ken often providing an insight into solving the problems we were looking at. If we did not have the ability to resolve them, he often could find someone to help us. We remember a man who achieved many things and said very little about them.

Our thoughts are with his widow Jill, his children Richard, Hilly, Christopher and Jonny and his grandchildren.

Jim Faulkner
Patron SPF



MEMORIES OF A PARK



In the late 1940s my schoolteacher handed out cricket score sheets and told us to watch at least the first half of that Saturday's match at the local park. He would be using our efforts in the mathematics lesson the following Monday. He was playing in the match and had arranged for people to keep an eye on us. This attempt to show that arithmetic could be interesting when based on something you have seen and recorded made the youngsters more involved in our lessons.



It was not that we did not know of our park. Many of us used to watch cricket and football matches there on Saturdays. The crowds were quite large; about a 100 people watched on Saturdays. There were often more for Sunday cricket as few people worked on that day.

The football covered clubs in East Surrey; Saturday cricket was mainly against local villages. Sunday cricket was more ambitious and well known club and wandering sides were often the opponents. This was the style of cricket played until around 1960.

There were many reasons for this level of support. Not only was there little money around; but with rationing there was little to spend it on. There were very few private cars so much of the travelling was done on buses and public transport. Where I lived many of the players had been in the armed services and were determined to enjoy themselves after the war. Families and friends were still supporting each other in close knit communities.

Young people had to make their own fun locally. Although there was no 6 acre standard, in our area there were a number of parks and green spaces which were not far from homes. Most were accessible through alleyways and there were few busy roads to cross. It was not unusual to see 50 youngsters kicking a football with jumpers marking out the goals. Sometimes there was more than one football available and extra games with smaller teams took place. We were lucky, many youngsters had to use a bald tennis ball. A battered tennis ball, a rough wooden bat and a tree as a wicket was our introduction to playing cricket.

There was some play equipment – swings, a seesaw and a roundabout. None of these nor the surface they were on would meet modern play standards. Nevertheless, they were used quite happily by many young people.

As we grew up, many of us joined the local clubs based in the park. Because we had supported for such a long time we were welcomed in. It was a bit daunting to play alongside people who had been your role models. There was a natural progression as we had younger people following us and later joining the clubs. Naturally, as it became easier to travel to other attractions there were less spectators, although people wandering through the park did stop to watch for a few minutes.

We also started to use the public tennis courts and the putting green. I moved away before using the bowling green, although my father was a member and I noticed some retired cricketers had joined him. We were lucky, the local authority had provided an area which catered for all ages from youngsters who wanted to let off steam to older people who needed somewhere for a gentle walk and a bench to sit on.

It was a more tolerant time where people believed in community. Children were warned about the risks; parents understood the need for as much freedom as was safe. Councils could afford to retain a Park Keeper who could watch was happening.

Several things have led to the decline of these areas. Sports clubs decided they must improve their facilities. People decided to travel further to play their sport. In addition to travelling time, matches lasted longer. Improving facilities is necessary – it needs to be done in a way that keeps links with its own community and spectators of all ages need to be made welcome. The increase in the amount of time needed to prepare for a game and the length of a game, especially cricket, did not fit in with a modern lifestyle. Children's Play was taken over by the Health and Safety brigade. Playgrounds became so boring that they were almost empty. I must congratulate RoSPA, who recognized that play must have an element of risk and worked with manufacturers to provide this.

We are now in an age of the Health Agenda. If youngsters are to use sport and play to help keep fit, there must be a place for informal play and sport. Proper coaching can follow and is important. Never forget freedom to have unstructured play and sport is important in forming social skills and building love of exercise. Not everyone wants to compete at a high standard; let us remember the needs of both the elite sportspeople and relaxed players like me.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT –IT’S MORE THAN JUST THE EQUIPMENT

‘Hey, you should have looked where you were going’, may once have been the normal response to a child falling over. However, all too often there can now be additional interests in resulting in claims against the playground provider. Indeed, the provider may not fully appreciate that the surfacing, under and around the playground item, forms a crucial part of how the playground equipment is used.

It’s not just reminding children to pick their feet up. The condition of the surface, be it the special Impact Absorbing Surfacing or just plain grass, forms an intrinsic part of the equipment and how children access and play on the item. This becomes especially important where children are running or moving quickly, to perhaps capture their turn, on a popular item. The condition of the surface then becomes particularly important and there is a need to ensure that no unexpected obstacles or sudden change in the condition of the surface occurs. It’s that old issue, so often not recognised or fully appreciated, of ‘slips and trips’.

The sudden change in condition or level of the surface can dramatically result in a user falling. This needs to be watched for in the regular checks or inspections, of the playground provider. Locations where trips routinely become an issue, are in the high and intensive wear areas, such as under a swing or at the end of a slide’s runout. Here, if scuffing or a depression starts to develop, or the gap between the surfacing tiles differs in width or height, the user’s foot can often ‘catch’ with a resulting fall. Any injury may be further increased by the equipment itself such as the swing seat or a following slide user, hitting them. Often such wear areas are not addressed soon enough and are left until they develop into holes. Unfortunately, as a hole, the structural strength of the surfacing, becomes severely compromised, with the hole quickly becoming larger and of more concern, often through children investigating or vandalising it.



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Where natural grass becomes eroded, such as at main access points to play equipment and entrances at gateways, in addition to trips developing, a change in the weather such as rainfall, it can rapidly turn into a muddy slippery surface. Often trip hazards develop where combination grass with open mesh tiles are used, and the grass has become eroded or died. With the tiles no longer sufficiently anchored or secured in position by the grass growth, they are reliant upon their plastic ‘cable ties’ to hold them in position and prevent lifting. These cable ties often break under the strains imposed on them in high intensity locations such as at the end of slides, cable runways or zip wires.

So careful checking of all surfacing, as well as the item of playground equipment is always necessary and full appreciation, that the surfacing being less robust than the metal or timber item, will need repair or replacement with an alternative surface. Children in their rushing around and use of the equipment do not expect that the surfacing may trip them up, though a good length of slippery grass may be a good play item, provided it’s away from the swings or other equipment items.

Jean Wenger
Surrey Playing Field Play Advisor

HOW CAN WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES?

David Gill, former Director of the Surrey Playing Fields, discusses the legacy available in Surrey from the recent Commonwealth Games:-

The 2018 Commonwealth Games on Australia's Gold Coast may seem passed its sell-by date now. However, if you can cast your mind back a few months, these Games will be remembered for many moments of drama and its incredible locations....and of course the unsociable hours of the live television coverage! But arguably its most important legacy will be in helping to bring about a shift in the way that sport sees its role in wider society. And, putting politics aside, many of the messages were about inclusion and the 2018 Games effortlessly merged the elite performance able-bodied and disabled elements of the event.



With another major event now over, talk often turns to its legacy. And, specifically, what does it mean for Surrey? It is certainly never too late to take the inspiration you might have found by watching these athletes and sports stars and actively turning that into a new sports or fitness routine. The inspiration from major events comes and goes very quickly so it's important to strike while the iron's hot! We, as supporters and followers of the Surrey Playing Fields, have an important ambassadorial role to play in promoting the benefits of sport and an active lifestyle.

Virtually all of the activities which recently took place on the Gold Coast are also available in Surrey. We have on our doorstep, for example, top class, inclusive clubs in athletics, swimming, diving, hockey, gymnastics, rugby, squash, badminton, bowls, boxing, cycling, triathlon, to name but a few. But the iconic performance for England at the Games came on the final day; it was netball. An extraordinary performance saw England's underdog netballers crowned Commonwealth Games champions with a last second 52-51 win over hosts and world champions, Australia. And this happened only a day or so after they won their semi-final against Jamaica, also in the last second of the match. Now that's inspirational. And, yes, Surrey does have stacks of netball club.....and even walking netball clubs!



We're lucky in this county. Our own community sports clubs are top notch thanks in the main to our marvellous and committed volunteers. Our clubs largely aim to cater for all ages, abilities and needs and we even have in Surrey some well organised disabled-specific sports clubs. Organisations such as Active Surrey, or the appropriate local authority, keep directories of fitness and sporting clubs and associations....or simply tap in the appropriate words to your computer, phone or tablet to find out more, it's so simple to find more information these days!

So, please spread the word - Surrey, thanks to our excellent clubs, aspires to provide sport and physical activity opportunities for everyone in our community.

David Gill

Surrey Local Sports Awards 2018 **activesurrey**

Surrey Sports Awards 2018

Inspired by a local athlete?

Motivated by a coach?

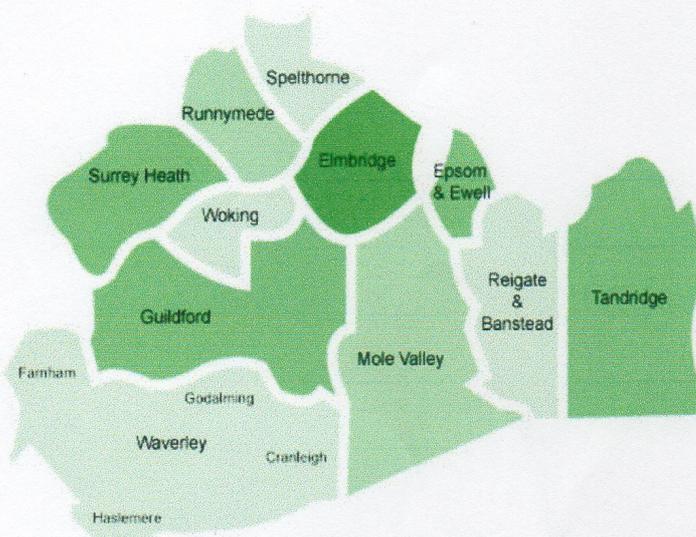
Impressed by a volunteer?

We are on a mission to find those people who make a difference in local sport - whether they're a volunteer who turns out in all weathers, an inspiring coach or an individual or team who've had a fantastic year, nominate your sporting hero whether they're a for a sports award.

Local sports awards are run in most borough and districts across Surrey to recognise and celebrate the wealth of local sporting talent and success over the last 12 months. (Please note there are no awards in Runnymede or Tandridge for 2018.) Local winners then have the chance to progress to become county winners at the Surrey ceremony in December.

You can nominate:

- an athlete
- a club
- a volunteer
- a team
- a coach



Nominations will close at midnight on Sunday 9 September 2018.

For further information please contact nominations@surreycc.gov.uk

or

01483 - 518944

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: rlhgn@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: gsimmmons@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: brian greig@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 RPIIAM, 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

CROYDON PLAYING FIELDS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

Last year Surrey Playing Fields was 90 years old and now Croydon Playing Fields have also just celebrated their 90th Anniversary.

The picture shows their longstanding Chairman, and great friend and supporter of SPF, Edward Handley at their party



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www.surreyplayingfields.co.uk

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