

THE PLAYING FIELD

*Newsletter of
Surrey Playing Fields - April 2017*



NINETY YEARS OLD

On the 27th February, 90 years to the day, some 70 invitees attended a reception at the Effingham and Leatherhead Rugby Club in Church Road, Effingham to celebrate ninety years of the Surrey Playing Fields, very appropriately at this the largest King George Fifth playing field in Surrey.

John Coles and his staff at E&L RFC made us welcome with a Bucks Fizz or Orange Juice as we arrived for the 7.30 start. The evening progressed with a fulsome welcome by our President, Michael More-Molyneux, the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey to all those of us present and this was followed by a short illustrated presentation by our Chairman, Gerry Ceaser which took us on a journey covering the 90 years from 1927 up until the present day. He mentioned a number of notable events during that time including the visit of Prince Philip to the Playing Fields restart meeting in 1947 just 50 years ago this year. Gerry also outlined for the benefit of our guests the funding arrangements we have in place in respect of Young Person's Bursaries, Grants and Loans plus the myriad of ways in which we can give advice and assistance to our nearly 200 affiliated clubs and members.

There was then a presentation to Paul Garber, a Trustee and our Honorary Planning Officer, who has had to retire after 40 years. He was thanked for his considerable input over the years for Surrey Playing Fields and the President then presented him with a pair of Waterford crystal goblets. See page 2 for a tribute to Paul.

Amongst our guests we had high level representatives from the main sports in Surrey, Football, Cricket, Hockey, Rugby, Athletics and Tennis and the Chairman of the Institute of Groundsmen was also present. Unfortunately Tracy Crouch MP the Minister for Sport had to call off late in the day due to having to stay in London. However she will be including us in her visit to Surrey later in the year so we will still have the chance to meet with her and appraise her of our work.

The evening continued with a very enjoyable buffet supplied by Monster Foods from East Grinstead and many old friendships were renewed and several new ones formed. As one of the guests commented "anyone who was anyone in Sport in Surrey was there"

Having successfully launched the year we are now planning for our Dinner on 20th October at the Reigate Manor Hotel on Reigate Hill so watch for further information concerning this and book the date now to avoid missing out.

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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

Retirement of Paul Garber



Paul Garber has retired from the Surrey Playing Fields Association after almost 40 years of service. He left at the end of February due to poor health.

Paul had many sporting interests. In his younger days, he played cricket for Warlingham and rugby for Old Purleians. Warlingham Sports Club has been a good source of members for Surrey Playing Fields. Over the years, it has provided us with our first director, a chairman, a treasurer, two secretaries, a borough development officer and a planning officer.

More recently, Paul's main sporting interests have been in the field of gymnastics and he is: a Life Vice President of British Gymnastics, an Honorary Member of the European Union of Gymnastics and was President of British Gymnastics 2007-2012. He was also the Team Manager at the Sydney Olympics and from 1981 until 2012 he was a Director of British Gymnastics.

Paul is a Trustee & Council Member of the National Playing Fields Association. In 1986 he was one of a team working on the issue of the 6 acre standard and has since been involved with updating it. In 1993 he was awarded a NPFA President's Certificate by the Duke of Edinburgh.

Paul used to collate our grants and loans information. Later he became our Honorary Planning Officer. He was a Trustee and Executive Member. Prior to his retirement from paid employment, he was the Chief Planner and a Director of the Taylor Wimpey Group and, being an expert in the field, he has been able to give professional advice to our clubs. He submitted detailed assessments of large planning applications to ensure that adequate playing field provision was incorporated in any large scale development. In other cases, he has been able to defend proposals to save playing fields from inappropriate development.

We thank you Paul for your very significant contribution to the Playing Fields Movement over the past 40 years, both in Surrey and nationally. At the recent 90th anniversary function we made a small presentation in recognition of what you have done for us.

Take care and enjoy your retirement.

Jim Faulkner

David Gill, SPF Director, gives his personal view on the ECB's new 20/20 cricket competition

In a changing world, many sports often have to find new ways to re-invent themselves and, specifically, the sport of cricket needs to create a buzz. Few of the new generation can identify with the sport in the way that previous generations did.

The city-based franchise initiated by the England and Wales Cricket Board [ECB] should do this especially given the resources that the ECB will put into it. They are trying to attract new audiences and they can't afford for it to fail. It's due to begin [ironically] in the 2020 season and there's high expectation that some of the games will, crucially, be on terrestrial television.

However, there is a trade-off for generating new interest in cricket – it will potentially relegate the other cricket competitions to 'second tier' level and the dilution of county cricket may in turn dilute test cricket in the longer run.

We'll have to wait and see how it pans out but it will almost certainly be a watershed moment in the history of the great game of cricket.

QAVS Reception at Loseley Park



On 7th March seven members of Surrey Playing Fields attended the Lord Lieutenant's Reception for the Nominees for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, also known as The Queen's Golden Jubilee Award for Voluntary Service by Groups in the Community and The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Volunteering Award is an annual award given to groups in the voluntary sector of the United Kingdom. Winning groups are announced in the London Gazette on 2 June each year, the anniversary of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. The award is equivalent to the MBE and is the highest award that can be made to a voluntary group.

There were 18 organisations present including ourselves who had made the final round of assessment and they had been nominated in the various categories attending covering a wide span of interests from all corners of the County.

Surprising to us was to discover that we had been nominated in the environment and regeneration category, presumably for the work we do in supporting the sporting environment.

It was a very pleasant evening with plenty of networking opportunities with the other organisations represented and some old acquaintances were renewed and others made.

The Royal Record of Tree Planting

The King George V Playing Fields established in 1935, to commemorate the King's Jubilee are well known to everyone at Surrey Playing Fields. However few may be aware of the Tree Planting to celebrate the coronation of George VI in 1937. Trees were planted in recreation grounds and parks throughout the British Empire and even in the United States of America.



A detailed record of the planting was published in book form in 1939 as “The Royal Record of Tree Planting”. This is an enormous book which lists all the plantings in Britain by counties, broken down into parishes. The plantings in the Dominions and Colonial Empire are also recorded, as are those in the United States.

The raison d'être for the scheme is shown in this extract from the Foreword to the book which mentions the King George's Playing Fields and implies that Tree Planting is complimentary to the provision of open spaces:-

SUBMISSION TO THE KING

May it please your Majesty: Sir

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE A NOTABLE tribute of loyalty and affection, being the record of trees planted and of other efforts to improve and create natural amenities throughout the Empire in commemoration of Your Majesty's Coronation.

The provision of King George's Fields, now being rapidly established in honour of our late Sovereign, is already enriching the country with a great number and variety of open spaces. Nothing can be more serviceable, more appropriate as well, than the creation of open spaces in our crowded land: and, of course, the value of these parks and recreation grounds is all the greater in areas where the population is already congested.

Most of the plantings were in recreation grounds, village greens, public and private parks, on school premises and some on private land. An important part of the scheme was the involvement of the local communities and the trees were often planted by children from local schools. A wide range of different species were planted, with the most frequent being Common, Scarlet and Red Oaks, Common and Copper Beech, various Flowering Cherries and Crab Apples.

In my Parish of Wrecclesham, a Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) was planted in the Recreation Ground by William E. Blake and Basil Body, scholars of Wrecclesham School, the tree having been donated by Farnham District Council. In neighbouring Rowledge an avenue of Purple (Copper) Beech (*Fagus sylvatica purpurea*) was presented by past and present scholars and teachers of Frensham Heights School. Unfortunately the Red Oak in Wrecclesham died about 20 years ago and was felled; but I was able to find a few of the Copper Beech trees along a driveway in the grounds of Frensham Heights School.

In Farnham trees were planted in the Recreation Grounds of Badshot Lea, The Bourne, Hale, Rowledge, Weybourne and Wrecclesham. Sadly very few of these trees have survived today.

Details of tree plantings for forty four parishes in Surrey are listed in the “Royal Record”. I can provide photo copies of the entries for all those parishes if any BDOs are interested.

It is a pity if, as seems probable, that few of these trees have survived from such an ambitious and prestigious scheme as the trees would by now be fully grown and would be enhancing our local parks and sports grounds. I suspect that many have succumbed to developments, natural causes or old age.

Brian Greig - Tree Warden for the Parishes of Rowledge and Wrecclesham

Also Borough Development Officer for Waverley West

Club and Coach Conference Sunday 12 March



The event saw coaches and club officials from 25 different Sports across Surrey attend a variety of theory and practical workshops related to improving and developing their clubs and coaching. David Gill and Barry Hitchcock attended the event to promote Surrey Playing Fields' services to local clubs and coaches. David and Andrew Tibble, the BDO for Epsom and Ewell used it to learn more about funding opportunities.

The Conference welcomed Keynote Speaker Tania Hoffman, Director of Netball at Surrey Storm, who shared her sporting journey and spoke of key influences that played a key role in making her who she is today.

With 96% of delegates saying they would attend again, the Club and Coach Conference is one not to be missed. Thankfully Club & Coach Conference will be back again in 2018 – we look forward to seeing you there.

“It’s always a well organised event with topical and relevant issues on the programme. I’d recommend it to all sports clubs in Surrey” - David Gill - Director - Surrey PFA

“Really informative and fun. Full of good ideas.” – Addlestone Canoe Club

“Great opportunity to meet fellow coaches and network” – Baseball Coach



Edward Handley MBE.

I was invited to attend the Surrey Clubs for Young Peoples Awards at Surrey's County Hall in Kingston on 28th March on behalf of Playing Fields and upon arrival and looking through the programme for the evening I was delighted to see that one of our Executive members Edward Handley MBE, who is also Chairman of Croydon Playing Fields, was to receive the top Awards of the evening, Surrey's Life Time Achievement Award and the National Presidents Keystone Award for the work he has done with the White Horse Youth Club in Croydon.

Gerry Ceaser - Chairman Surrey PFA

He was presented with the Award by Cllr Toni Letts, the Deputy Mayor of Croydon who has this to say of Edward :-

“Edward Handley MBE JP is a Surrey ‘Treasure’ a can do gentleman who has great presence but equally on meeting him you find a sincere and gentle person.

I first met Edward in the late 1970's when he was a Board Member for Croydon YMCA, both he and his late wife Lyn Handley did an incredible amount of work with hostel residents, pre-school group, after-school groups, all on a voluntary basis living out their faith and social action.

Edward is a retired Magistrate, an active Rotarian, Presidents of the Surrey Schools Cricket Association, Chairman of Whitehorse Youth Centre Management Committee, Vice Chairman of the Frank Denning Memorial Trust, Playing Fields Association and so much more.

He has changed the lives of so many young people during his many years of service to others, he is often the platform from which young people take those first small steps and have gone on to succeed in sport, business, and the professions.

Some 22 years ago, Edward gave me two tickets for the Chelsea Flower Show, these were then given to Otis, a young man, the son of a single Mother who lived in a flat, but had a passion for horticulture even though he had never had a garden. He started his own business in gardening, Edward encouraged him to attend College, which he did, he operated his business in the evening and weekends and soon he purchased a car. Edward found the money for him to purchase a trailer. The trip to that Chelsea Flower Show was his future, meeting a garden designer from France, where Otis eventually moved to and after many years is now a partner in the firm.

I could fill hours with stories of this amazing man, friend to many, husband, father and grandfather, he has over almost fifty years invested in improving the lives and futures of hundreds of young people, whatever their background. Edward cared with a vibrancy to ensure that those young people he met could reach their full potential and that the whole community could benefit from their successes.

Edward is a wonderful and extraordinary man!”

Cllr.Toni E Letts OBE - Mayor Elect of Croydon 2017/18



Edward Handley with Tony Willis , SCYP Chair and Toni Letts , deputy Mayor of Croydon and also with his two daughters, Joanna and Sarah.

1st Anniversary of Opening of Molesey Boat Club Community Rowing Tank 7

In sending us the following Bill Raspin of Molesey Boat Club said:-

“On behalf of all the users so far, and those still to come , thank you to the Surrey Playing Fields Association for your considerable support and encouragement over the years. It has meant a great deal and made a wonderful community project possible”



OUR FIRST YEAR

Firstly, a huge thank you to all who have made grants, donations, or given up their time to work on the community rowing tank project.

This brief report gives you a snapshot of what your contribution has achieved in our first year.

Each year we normally have a couple of months when the river is closed, which should have generated a strong demand for the tank. As Murphy's Law dictates, in the year the tank was opened there wasn't a single river closure!

Nevertheless, we are pleased to report that (as well as our members, from Juniors right through to the senior squad), many schools, rowing clubs and community groups have used the rowing tank, some of which are listed opposite:

- Kingston Grammar School
- St James School
- Fulham Reach Boat Club
- Hampton School
- Lady Eleanor Hollis School
- Weybridge Boat Club
- Louis Braille School for the blind
- University College London
- Guildford Rowing Club
- Australian Surfboat Team: "Torquay Pirates"
- Henley Rowing Club
- Walton Weyfarers
- Walton Rowing Club
- White Lodge Centre for the disabled
- Surrey University
- Sir William Perkins School
- Wimbledon High School
- Hillingdon RC
- Gosden House School Guildford for children with special educational needs



ELMBRIDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL OLYMPIC TASTER SESSIONS

Following the club's excellent performance at Rio, we ran three Olympic taster sessions jointly with *Elmbridge Borough Council*. In total we had 30 visitors, who completed a coached session on the tank followed by a video of the Olympics to see how it should be done!

Our aspiring Olympians were pretty evenly split between male and female, and ranged in age from 29 to 72. We hope they will all be encouraged to take up the sport.



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 535283, 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
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

Welcome to our new Borough Development Officer for Runnymede Alan Greig



Alan has lived in Englefield Green for 35 years. He is married with 2 children. After teaching for 13 years Alan had a career in the civil service. Now retired he volunteers for Runnymede and Spelthorne Citizens Advice Bureau and is the secretary of Englefield Green CC.

Alan has played sport all his life – mainly football, rugby and cricket (which he still plays). He also coaches cricket and rugby and, with his wife, is a keen long distance walker.

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www.surreyplayingfields.co.uk

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