

THE PLAYING FIELD

*Newsletter of
Surrey Playing Fields - July 2016*



Working with Partners

Surrey Playing Fields work with a number of partners. During the last month we have had two significant examples of working with other groups.

On 15th June the association for all the County Playing Field organisations held their annual conference at Kenilworth. Our Chairman, Gerry Ceaser, spoke about a survey on the work of associations across the country. This led to a very realistic approach to facing the problems which we believe will allow us to work more closely together and with Fields in Trust. Our Director, David Gill, gave a lively presentation about the various strategies from Sports England, the Health Service and others which we need to understand if we are to be effective. Other counties challenged us all with initiatives they had introduced. It is no use standing alone.

The P&G Surrey Youth Games were held at the Surrey Sports Park on 18th and 19th June. Active Surrey, with whom we have an annual service level agreement, organised it brilliantly. They invited many of the people who originated the Games and this included a number of our trustees. Surrey Playing Fields support the Fair Play Award at the Games. This was awarded to the team from Elmbridge Borough Council. We will be providing a certificate and a cheque towards the cost of sports equipment at our Annual General Meeting in October.

The Sports and Play Contractors Association held an exhibition at Kempton Park on 5th July. Our Chairman and our Director spoke as did a representative from Fields in Trust. Our Hon Secretary ran a stand on behalf of Surrey Playing Fields, Fields in Trust and the County Playing Field Associations. We are part of a team of organisations trying to improve sports and play facilities, not only in Surrey, but also across the country.

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Borough Development Officer - Heather Dean



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

2016 - The Year of Strategies!

Sports strategies produced by the key government and sporting agencies will be a highlight of 2016.

'For most sports clubs in the country' said SPF Director, David Gill 'they'll pass them by largely unnoticed because, understandably, they often feel out of the loop and they're just interested in focusing on the running of their own sports clubs. However, it does matter, because resources, opportunities and emphasis will be placed on the priorities identified in key strategies'.

The first strategy to be produced [just before Christmas] was the Government's national strategy for sport called A Sporting Future. This was followed by Sport England, who awaited the outcomes of the national strategy before producing their own in May, and it's called Towards an Active Nation. They're both available on the internet. There was also due to be a national Obesity Strategy in the early spring but it's been delayed until the early autumn. There will be a linkage between the strategies in relation to exercise and promoting active lifestyles.

'Basically' said David 'the country is building up long term health issues and the implications for society and the NHS are significant. All the key strategies in 2016 will be about promoting active and healthy lifestyles for all ages, and will be much more broad ranging - working with a wider partnership base - than previous sports strategies'.

Active Surrey have yet to finalise their own Physical Activity Strategy, as they also need to be aware of the chain of events happening around them. 'However' said David 'though all these strategies are critical to the work of key sporting and health agencies, the one that's most important of all to the Surrey Playing Fields is the production of local Playing Pitch Strategies'. About half of the 11 districts in Surrey have a current playing pitch strategy, and the concern is that in the quest to produce, in accordance with national strategies, local 'active lifestyle' strategies, then public, outdoor facility strategies might be diminished in the course of time. 'That's the concern' said David 'so we must all keep the pressure on to ensure that up to date playing pitch strategies are realised. These pieces of work help to consult, review and plan for local parks, sports pitches and open spaces which are used for formal and informal recreation and, by having a plan, outdoor recreational sites around the county will be much better used, managed and protected for the future'.

NEW PLAY AREA AT ORCHARD GARDENS

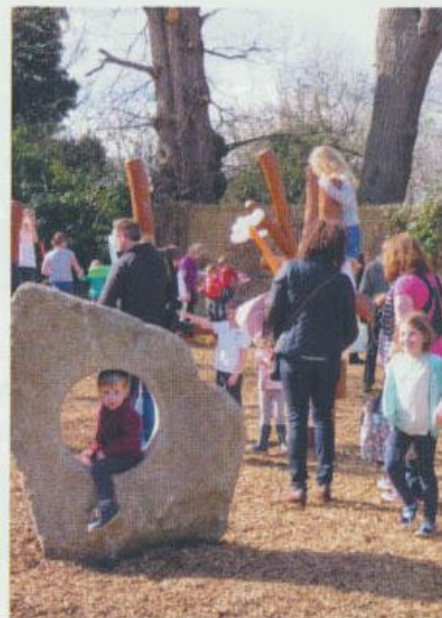
The following is an article about the opening of a new play area at Orchard Gardens, Sunbury-on-Thames. Orchard Gardens was one of the QE2 fields which SPF worked on with Fields in Trust to register in Surrey. SPF also worked with FIT to ensure that the money available from the London Marathon Fund was spent wisely on making improvements to QE2 fields.

Orchard Meadow Play area attracts crowds

Local families were entertained with a Punch and Judy show, juggling, balloon modelling and nature themed arts and crafts at the formal launch of the natural play area in Orchard Meadow in Sunbury-on-Thames on Wednesday 12 April. The April sunshine added to the buzz of the busy event. Designed for the under 11s, the play area is made using natural wood materials and includes a range of equipment including climbing logs, balance structures and play boulders. Spelthorne Council obtained external funding for the project from the Surrey County Council Community Improvement Fund and Fields in Trust.



Lisa Stonehouse, Leisure Services Manager, said: "I was delighted to see so many families enjoying our event on Tuesday. I have received many positive comments from parents and I am sure they will continue to have many hours of fun in this playground. We are very grateful to both Surrey County Council and Fields in Trust for providing the funding for this project."



Gerry Ceaser, Chairman of SPF with Michael More-Molyneux, Lord Lieutenant of Surrey and President of SPF with the Mayor and Councillors from Spelthorne Council at the opening

PLAYING TOGETHER

The experiences gained from developing and maintaining children's play areas are too often ignored or even worse swept away as not of importance. Has the new has got to be better than the old, is natural play better than well manufactured items. With the huge range of play equipment that is now available our know-hows and usage experiences have become ever more valuable. Whereas previously there were very limited equipment ranges, often of cast iron and gas pipe, there are now many thousands of module variations, the range of design opportunities to enhance children's play is simply vast.

While there is this huge array of potential facilities available the knowledge and experience to provide and maintain play areas is often stunted by operator budget cutbacks. The crucial brief to provide developmental opportunities for our children and their future should not be so short-sightedly handcuffed to having to accept dirty or rundown play opportunities. Yes a closed play area is a financial saving however is an unkempt one the handshake we provide to our future citizens as the acceptable?

Fortunately there are excellent examples of what can be done out there, we only have to ask and enquire why particular playgrounds are working better. It may be as simple as good litter collection (dog mess, cigarette ends, broken glass etc.) or that the swing seats provided are a slightly larger in width thereby encouraging parents, aunts and uncles to accompany and enjoy with the 'young-uns' their play area. Play equipment is much like a car or washing machine, it's a commercial product that companies need to sell, we need to ask others what works best and will carry on working rather than just rely on the manufacturer's sales team.



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So can we buy better swing seats or even ones that are more robust, are we focusing too much on climbing or agility equipment or our memories for roundabouts or seesaws. What about a spin bowl or spinning post, what about a group of crazy rocker springing chickens offering more for less money in equipment and surfacing? Does the maintenance and servicing economics really justify that cableway the company's sales team so desperately want you to include in your new project? What is the companies expected lifespan for the item and in practice does it work out?

Therefore what about improving the opportunities for playing together as a team? The knowledge base is likely to be in a neighbouring authority maintenance section, they know the budget issues mean that if its easily vandalised they cannot afford to repair or replace it. Or an independent playground inspector checking and seeing thousands of items a year.

Indeed is the larger question why such local knowledge is not being more readily tapped into or indeed part of tendering processes?

Jean Wenger
Surrey Playing Field Play Advisor

HOW A SPF SPORTS BURSARY CAN HELP

LONGLEY BOYS ARE TO REPRESENT GREAT BRITAIN IN BMX WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



Ben Longley

We are very proud to announce that this year both our boys, Lewis and Ben, have qualified to represent Great Britain in the 2016 UCI World BMX Championships in Columbia, South America.

Over the winter season, Lewis and Ben have both secured rides for a factory team and will be wearing their team shirts over the coming season. Factory Team Bikes ("FTB") are very well known on the BMX circuit and we, as well as the boys, are very proud to be representing them.



Lewis Longley

Unfortunately, tragedy struck and two weeks before the first National competition in Manchester in March, Ben had an accident whilst training resulting in a broken wrist. We are pleased to say he is now out of his cast and making a quick and strong recovery.

Lewis had amazing results in Manchester, where his brother watched from the stands, which saw him finish 5th in his age category. It was only World and European Champions who beat him that weekend so we are hoping that he continues his success over the coming months.

We take this opportunity to thank all of those who have shown interest and support in our boys progress over the past few years. Our boys have a whole new continent of fans to race in front of this year, and truly enjoy all the support and praise!

Karen and James Longley

THE ELEANOR SHORTER FUND

The Eleanor Shorter Fund was set up following a legacy in 1934 of land, including a bungalow, known as Haling Grove, which was left to the National Playing Fields Association (Fields in Trust) by the late Eleanor Short, who was a resident of Croydon. The NPFA/FIT asked the Croydon Playing Fields to supervise the area.

The bungalow on the land housed the then Chief Officer of Parks and was eventually sold, raising capital. The capital of the fund cannot be touched. However the interest from the amount raised by the sale of the bungalow at Haling Grove became the basis for setting up a Trustee Committee (7th July 1986) consisting of representatives of NPFA/FIT, Croydon Playing Fields and Croydon Council. The Owner/Custodian Trustee is Fields In Trust.

The Managing Trustees are empowered to use the interest from the capital to maintain and develop playing fields/open land in Croydon including Haling Grove and the King George V Covenanted Playing Field at Sydenham Road, Croydon (also the property of FIT), which includes a children's playing area, and closed courts for netball etc.

Since the inception of the Fund a children's play area has been created and maintained at Haling Grove by Croydon Council's Parks Department and much work has taken place to enhance the gardens, maintain toilet facilities, provide seating with picnic tables - always keeping in mind those who are disabled - plus providing a good playing area for youth league football.

In recent years both Haling Grove and the KGV field has had thousands of daffodil bulbs planted which has given a wonderful spring show at the entrance to both areas. Also a *Friends of Haling Grove* group has been set up which carries out very useful work in the protection of the area, as well as organising various seasonal events for the entertainment band involvement of local residents. The latest project is the supply and installation of an outdoor table tennis facility which it is hoped will be completed during this summer.

Anne S Organ - Hon Secretary - Eleanor Shorter Fund



Sir Steve Redgrave officially opened the centre on 3rd April. Over 250 people attended and Sir Steve gave a fascinating account of his long association with Molesey Boat Club.

Since that time we have had a large number of enquires from clubs as far afield as Henley and Maidenhead. We expected the tank to be relatively quiet at this time of year but it has been well used by the MBC Juniors and Masters and we have had multiple visits from Kingston GS, Surbiton HS, Wimbledon HS and Walton Rowing Club.

In November 2015, 13 year old Victoria Lyon, a keen rower from Newark RC, sustained serious head injuries in a car accident and was paralysed from the neck down. She has made a remarkable recovery and can now walk unaided and is currently undergoing rehab at the Children's Trust, a specialist Head Injuries Unit, in Tadworth Surrey. Victoria was keen to get back into a boat and as part of this process she came to visit us with her mother and physio for an initial assessment on the tank. She has now had four coaching sessions and we were delighted to learn she has invited the three other girls from her quad to come and join her on the tank. Let us hope she is able to get back on the water soon.

In June we are being visited by 11 pupils from the Louis Braille School for the blind and partially sighted from Cologne, as part of their trip to the UK being organised by the Weyfarers Rowing Club.

We are working with the sports development officer from Elmbridge Borough Council to encourage participation by children with special needs and in July we have arranged a visit by White Lodge Centre Chertsey, which supports children with disabilities.

Elmbridge Borough Council are keen to organise taster sessions for the various Olympic sports and will be working with them to provide an opportunity to the local community to give rowing a try on the tank. We are also looking to provide a similar opportunity for aspiring disabled athletes ahead of the Paralympics in September.

In summary the feedback from all the users has been very positive. The coaches seem pleased with the opportunity it gives them to provide technical coaching sessions from close quarters in stable, dry conditions. As the year progresses and winter approaches we expect the number and range of users to grow.

Thank you once again for your support.



Surrey Playing Fields supported this project with a significant loan



*Three ages of Olympian try out the tank at the grand opening.
Dickie Knight 1960, Sir Steve Redgrave 1984-2000 and Moe Sbhi 2012*

**Supporting 80,000 more people to
start moving, move every day and stay moving**



Surrey's Physical Activity Conference Friday 30 September 2016, 12.00-3.30pm Kempton Park Racecourse, Sunbury

A free event bringing together sport, health, leisure, transport and education bodies to improve Surrey residents' well-being.

The keynote speaker will be Mike Diaper, Sport England's Director of Community Sport who will outline how the wider sector can benefit from the new, influential 'Towards An Active Nation' strategy.



Additional speakers will cover how activity and sport improves physical and mental health, boosting productivity for business and reconnecting people with local open spaces.

Book now: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SurreyPAC2016

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Volunteering Opportunities

The Surrey Playing Fields, one of the leading County Playing Fields Associations in England are about to celebrate their 90th Year in February 2017. Due to a combination of retirements and new posts we are looking for a number of 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 £1.6million 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

We are planning a number of Special Events with several of sports during the year and 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, e mail bceaser@globalnet.co.uk to discuss the positions with him.

Hon Secretary



This is an existing post held for many years by Jim Faulkner who has indicated he is intending to step down at the AGM in October 2017. We are looking for someone to work alongside Jim until then and who will be able to pick up on the day to day secretarial requirements during that time before moving into the hot seat

Director



This again 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 present Planning Officer, is also stepping 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, apart from Epsom and Ewell.

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.

Events Organiser/s



This is a new position that has come about as a result of us wishing to stage a number of events in our 90th year. There could be one person coordinating the efforts of individual event organizers so as to lighten the load. We hope to have a Launch of the Appeal Year in February 2017, events with possibly Football, Cricket, Rugby, Hockey and Golf culminating with a Gala Dinner in October.

There will be a small honorarium for the person/s who might take on part or all of this role

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

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	Vacant - Contact Barry Hitchcock - details above
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 Keith Heal, Tel: 01784 435423, email: wkheal@sky.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: cllrian.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, Tel: 01483 275628, email: jim_faulkner@talk21.com
Honorary Planning Officer	Mr Paul Garber Dip TP, Dairy House, The Street, Capel, Dorking RH5 5ER Tel: 01306 711015, email: pgarber@btinternet.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

MEET OUR NEW BDO FOR GUILDFORD

First of all I would like to add my good wishes for a happy "retirement" to Mike Clarke in whose footsteps I am privileged to follow.

I have known about Surrey Playing Fields through my connection with two cricket clubs who have been able to enhance their facilities, via the loans and grants provided by the organisation, on more than one occasion.

Being the daughter of one cricketer and the wife of another you will have gathered cricket is high on my list of favoured sports. Although I have never played the game I have been involved over many years chiefly as a scorer but also as tea lady, secretary, fund raiser, events organiser even down to laundering the Umpires' coats and painting the changing rooms! I did manage to play quite a bit of netball, rounders and tennis before cricket became a full time weekend activity.

These days most of my sport is viewed from the luxury of front row season ticket in front a fire. However I do manage to creep out on occasions to watch professional footballers kick a ball from one end of the field to another. I am not averse to the odd local rugby or hockey match and you might also catch me watching a bowls match.

Heather Dean



This newsletter is produced quarterly by Surrey Playing Fields

www.surreyplayingfields.co.uk

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