

THE PLAYING FIELD

*Newsletter of
Surrey Playing Fields - October 2016*



Surrey Playing Fields AGM 2016

On the 11th October the Lord Lieutenant, Michael More-Molyneux, chaired the Annual General Meeting which was held at the Old Council Chamber at Reigate & Banstead Town Hall. As it was his first meeting as our President, he explained about his family's background in sport and his belief in the value of sport in the community.

The Chairman, Gerry Ceaser, welcomed him and thanked his predecessor, Dame Sarah Goad, for all the work she had carried out on securing the future of many playing fields in Surrey. He then pointed out that there is still money available from our Loans and Grant schemes – details of these are available on our web site. He also stated that our bursary scheme for young athletes and coaches is in its second year and some of the recipients have had success at high level sport.

The Director explained about the importance of working in partnership and how our purely voluntary organisation can provide local information to borough and county bodies.

We are approaching our 90th year and will invite people to a buffet reception on 27th February 2017. This will be exactly 90 years after our first meeting. In October 2017 we will be holding a Gala Dinner where we hope to have significant people in the sporting world and the playing field movement present.

After the formal part of the meeting was complete, Michael More-Molyneux presented the Fair Play Award from the P&G Surrey Youth Games to Councillor Rachael Lake, Deputy Mayor of Elmbridge (see photo). The award consists of a certificate and a cheque towards improvement of youth sport. This is the second successive year that the team from Elmbridge has won the award.



During his talk later in the evening Steven Day, the Chairman of the Active Surrey Board, mentioned that playing sport in a way that develops people and friendships is important. Elmbridge have produced teams that reflect this ethos and we were very pleased that Emily Lewis, a member of their Leisure and Cultural Services Department, was able to be present when the award was made. The Department's work and their volunteers deserve recognition.

Steven Day then talked about how being a voluntary Chairman of the Active Surrey Sports Board fits with his employment as Chief Executive of the Fulham Football Club Foundation. He then explained that playing sport for fun whilst still playing to win was an essential part of participating. He described a number of the objectives for Active Surrey. These include the Sport England aim of making us an active nation. Over the years there has been a concentration on youth, now there is a target for increasing participation for over 50s. He also talked about the need for activity to fit in with the health agenda. We all realise that Active Surrey has an important role to play in assisting with funds and for that we are all grateful. There was some comment from the people present that the role of sports clubs must be recognised and helped to improve in the future.

The meeting closed with a high quality buffet where attendees talked amongst themselves about what is happening in sport and leisure. We thank all those who battled through the heavy traffic, caused by a rail strike, to contribute to the evening.

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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

A Long Haul



Anyone who sets out to ensure that their community has a suitable playing field must be prepared for a battle. The outcome may well be satisfying when one sees the result. However, remember once a well-equipped field is provided, it needs to be maintained. There needs to be a sinking fund for replacing equipment and procedures to ensure it continues to meet current needs.

Although this article is a recollection and may have too much about what I did, it is really a tribute to a team of people who achieved their aim and are continuing to provide a field which suits the needs of their village. Around the millennium Copthorne formed a village committee to organize a celebration; without the people who undertook that and then carried out other projects, this would not have been possible.

As Hon. Secretary of Surrey County Playing Fields Association I was keeping an eye on local news which affected open spaces. I came across an item which said that Worth Parish Council were going to remove the plaques from the King George V field in Copthorne. On further enquiry the Council advised that they did not think that the field was dedicated. They said that when Tandridge DC passed the ownership of the field to the local Council, there was no note about the field's security. It is worth noting that this is not uncommon and in the Playing Fields movement we have had to deal with similar situations a number of times. I contacted the National Playing Fields Association and a copy of the trust information was put in front of the Council.

In those days National Playing Fields used to undertake a tour of a county to inspect the fields in trust. This is not so easy today now we have added nearly fifty new fields! The inspection group included, amongst others, the Chairman of NPFA, their Director, senior officers and myself. The intention was to look at the fields, talk to the owners or managers and discuss how support could be provided. Our Play Advisor, Jean Wenger, remembers this particular visit. When we arrived at Copthorne, the gates were locked and no one from the Council was present. Being a local, I knew that against the agreements the Council were locking the gates to stop the field being used; I also knew how the clubs that rented the field gained access. The survey was carried out and a strong report sent to the Parish Council.

By this time the field was in a poor state of repair, so Surrey Playing Fields paid for National Playing Fields to undertake a survey, to provide a drainage scheme and a planned maintenance schedule. We also suggested a selection of suitable contractors who had a proven track record on such schemes. The Parish Council agreed to proceed with the work but to use a different contractor. The work was so poor that the field was out of use for over a year whilst it was remedied. Around this time, I was using photographs of the pavilion and its disgraceful fittings in presentations on how not to look after changing rooms.

It was decided to form a Sports Association with representatives of the adult and youth sports clubs in the village, together with a number of members of the Village Association. We brought in a number of people with special expertise. I was there both as a local sportsman and as a Surrey Playing Fields representative. Two parish councillors sat on the committee; both of them subsequently became chairman of the Parish Council. We were still being fed inaccurate information, but now had the skills to challenge it.

After I had moved away, in June 2008 the Sports Association received the news we had all been waiting for, the approval by Tandridge District Council of the Parish Council's planning application for the new pavilion. The clock was now ticking, as construction work had to begin within three years from the approval date. Funds, at least £250,000, were needed. The £85,000 already pledged by Mid Sussex District Council was secure. A number of different organisations became involved in preparing applications for grants and funding. The Parish Council decided to take the lead in bringing them all together to ensure fund-raising efforts were as efficient as possible. This had to be handled very carefully, as the expertise was not in the Council.

In October 2008 a company was appointed to provide architectural and contract management services. A quantity surveyor was also chosen to draw up a cost plan and a firm of structural engineers to carry out the pre-tender and post-contract quantity surveying works.

In February 2009 tenders were received for the construction of the new pavilion and the lowest 3 were in the region of £340,000. The Sports Clubs had to start an intensive series of fundraising initiatives from April onwards and details were publicised across the village and funds were forthcoming.

A Copthorne Sports & Community Association was formed to ensure the pavilion was suitable and to manage it and the field's use. This has representatives from the users of the field, including Copthorne Youth Football Club, Copthorne Football Club, Copthorne Cricket Club, Copthorne Stoolball Club.

The pavilion was completed in 2012. By this time the drainage system needed repair and Surrey Playing Fields provided a loan towards the cost of this project. In 2015 the Association won an award for their field from Fields in Trust (was NPFA). The money from this was used to provide extra facilities. These included a trim trail, an outdoor table tennis table, movable net facilities for the Cricket Club, new equipment for football now that both adults and juniors use the same field.

On Sunday 18th September 2016 the Copthorne Sports & Community Association held a Family Fun Field Day. It was run to celebrate the 4th Anniversary of the new pavilion and to introduce the improved facilities. The Stoolball Club provided refreshments, together with a number of village companies. The Football and Cricket Clubs provided introductory sessions. The Stoolball Club played a demonstration game. People of all ages used the outdoor table tennis table. There were a fair number of younger people using the trim trail. These newly installed items are well positioned and are suitable for the environment.

I was invited back to meet the people who now manage the field and was pleased to see several of the original team were still involved. Of course they wanted to discuss their future plans; these are always needed in a changing world. This is a good example of a playing field which has been adopted by its local community. It is well used, well maintained and has become a focus for healthy living.

Always remember that if a community does not work to maintain its facilities, it can easily lose them. They need a vision of how to meet future needs. Never take at face value what you are told about securing fields and developing them; there are too many organisations and people with other objectives. Find information from a number of sources. You will need succession planning projects which take a very long time and sustaining the facility takes even longer.

Seeing all the people at the Fun Day enjoying themselves shows that hard work has its rewards.

Jim Faulkner



MAXIMISE OUR PLAYING SPACES

The needs of our open spaces, and particularly our playing fields, recreation grounds and parks are diversifying. The demands made upon them are increasing and it is no longer appropriate to focus solely on one activity, however dedicated a locality is to their team. The seasonal changes of cricket and football on local community sports pitches now are so often no longer supplying local needs. The traditional sports space, used solely for winter and summer games, now receives demands for children's play, dog walkers, kite flyers, trim trails and outdoor fitness equipment... the list goes on; where to fit it all in?

Our fields and recreation grounds, those green lungs of our communities, are now needed to do more than just promote traditional sports. They can provide the space needed for individuals wishing to exercise without constraints. Indoor exercise centres, clubs and gyms are not always liked or indeed appropriate for all, be they from lack of time or finance. A variety of opportunity is beneficial in improving health and fitness and existing local open spaces can often provide this variety.

Whilst traditionally the focus has been on sports pitches, augmented by the occasional children's play area, there is a need to strengthen the range of opportunities that local communities look for, ensuring location access points and open sight lines to provide for the safety of users. Traditional, perceived, usage rights may also need to be challenged. These include the sole use of larger areas by single sports or clubs, and access by dog walkers. However with increasing awareness by the public of their responsibilities, dog walkers could well be seen as a positive benefit. Some may say that the walkers' presence at varying times acts as positive, informal policing. A grey haired pensioner with his/her labrador could be considered a visual asset in the greater overall security of the recreation ground and its users!



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Improving the diversity of our open spaces should not be viewed as removing sporting facilities. It is about maximising the opportunities that they can provide to our wider communities. It is the peripheries of the sporting pitches, that are often the most underused areas, that can be reallocated. The provision of a stone surfaced perimeter walking route with an occasional bench, together with sporting usage points such as a basket-ball goal, table tennis table or outdoor fitness item, can serve to give inspiration to those looking to improve their active health.

Those far corners of the site, rarely seen or visited, can be opened up and used with environmental improvements to the landscape habitat; the encouragement of plant, insect and small animal diversity, be it by just letting the odd bramble or patch of nettles grow.

The need to manicure every last corner to satisfy the mowing regime of grass cutters is questioned. Yes, cut where it is needed but otherwise why not reduce the mowing frequency?

These spaces and their positive benefits need to expand beyond present sporting users, to provide increased sport and fitness opportunities for the many.

Jean Wenger
Surrey Playing Field Play Advisor

REGIONAL SATELLITE CLUB OF THE YEAR

An Active Surrey supported project- Predator Taekwondo at Rosebery School (Epsom), has been named Regional Satellite Club of the Year and won silver for the National Satellite Club of the Year Award. There are over 9300 Satellite Clubs across England so to be in the top 3 is a great achievement. Active Surrey helped broker the link between the club and the school, and provided start up funding to support the project.

Satellite clubs - the £49 million National Lottery funded Sport England initiative – are extensions of community sports clubs, which use different venues such as secondary schools to offer a range of sports to young people who may not be regularly active, or lack the confidence to join a sports club. Active Surrey, alongside National Governing Bodies of sport have supported 172 satellite clubs across Surrey, engaging 6505 young people since 2012.

The club was inspired by British Taekwondo's 'KickSister' programme and is aimed at girls attending Rosebery school who are looking to increase their level of activity or who are currently inactive.

Offering Taekwondo in a girl's school has allowed more females to take part in Taekwondo and get active by reducing self consciousness and intimidation they may feel in a traditional club. Nearly 30 girls have been able to take part in Taekwondo with several reporting improved health and self confidence. Predator Taekwondo has supported participants to improve their lifestyle with one participant losing 16kg to reach a healthy weight.

The club continues to grow with new participants joining each week. Active Surrey continues to support the club and have recent secured an additional grant for new equipment.



Mark Haywood (Head Coach of Predator Taekwondo club), Dame Sarah Storey, Christiana Phillbein (Head Coach of the Satellite Club at Rosebery) James Lovell from Active Surrey and Tracy Crouch, Sports Minister.



SURREY PLAYING FIELDS NEEDS YOU!

In the last newsletter we placed advertisements for jobs within the organisation that will shortly need filling. They were:-

Secretary, Director, Planning Officer, Web Manager, Events Organiser and a Borough Development Officer for Epsom & Ewell.

Please have another look at the advert and consider whether you feel that any of these jobs would suit you.



TRIBUTE TO SILVER BILLY

Thanks to the Wrecclesham history project the village now has a permanent memorial to the legendary 18th century cricketer, William, 'Silver Billy' Beldham. Surrey Playing Fields gave a £250 grant towards the cost and was represented at the unveiling by Brian Greig the Borough Development Officer DO for Waverley (West).

The old sign depicting Beldham which hung over the Cricketers pub for time immemorial

has been re-erected at the recreation ground next to Yew Tree Cottage where Beldham once lived. The opening ceremony was performed at the village fete by a rather more recent England cricketer Graham Thorpe.

Graham Thorpe also grew up in Wrecclesham and like Beldham went on to play for Farnham, Surrey and England. He said that it was a pleasure for him to unveil the tribute to 'Silver Billy' and to be associated with it. Although they both lived in Wrecclesham and their paths followed parallel lines Graham only had two children (both were with him at the unveiling and are seen above with their father) whereas legend had it that Billy had 36 children! - Untrue, he fathered a mere nine!

John Birch, project director of the Wrecclesham Project (4th from the right in the above photo) explained that the sign was taken down when the pub closed in 2006 and was replaced by the Bengal Lounge Indian Restaurant. The sign, which shows Silver Billy in old age still holding a bat, was traced to Barnham in West Sussex where it had been stored. The Project decided that the most appropriate place for it to be re-erected was on the recreation ground, where cricket is still played.

In his prime in the late 1790's Beldham was the Ian Botham of his time, a household name during the golden age of Hambledon cricket when the gentry wagered huge sums on the outcome of games. Playing on rough pitches in the underarm era of cricket Beldham altogether played 189 first class matches between 1788 and 1821 scoring 7,045 runs at an average of 21.48, including 3 centuries and 38 half centuries. He also took 213 wickets and held 333 catches, and for good measure made 49 stumpings! Officially he played his last first class match in 1821 aged 55 but there is strong anecdotal evidence that he continued to play to a very advanced age. He died in Tilford, where he was the landlord of the Barley Mow Pub, at the grand old age of 96.



Graham Thorpe played for Wrecclesham and Farnham, like his two older brothers, before signing as a professional for Surrey. His father is now Farnham's

chairman, and his mother the long serving scorer. Graham first played for England at 23 and went on to play 100 times for his country scoring 6,744 runs with 16 centuries and 39 half centuries with a top score of 200 not out. His average of 44.66 places him amongst the very best who have played for England for whom he is now a batting coach.





DO YOU LIKE TO RUN?

Adult parkruns across Surrey attract an average of around 1,400 participants each week and data tells us that approximately 40% of parkrun participants classify themselves as *inactive* before they take part in their first parkrun (i.e. they take part in less than 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport or physical activity each week). Junior parkruns are relatively new and have an average attendance of 395 across the four that exist in Surrey at present. There is considerable interest in setting up new parkruns and junior parkruns from the recreational running community in Surrey, particularly in some of the areas of the county not served by a weekly event at present. If this is something you would like to see in your area or have questions or interest in please get in touch with your local councils Sports Development Office or a member of the Active Surrey Team

(linda.cairns@surreycc.gov.uk or lawrie.baker@surreycc.gov.uk)

Parkrun <http://www.parkrun.org.uk/> organise free, weekly, 5km timed runs around the world on Saturdays at 9am. They are open to everyone, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. In Surrey there are currently parkruns located at [Banstead Woods](#), [Reigate Priory](#), [Riddlesdown](#), [Nonsuch](#), [Cranleigh](#), [Homewood](#), [Woking](#), [Guildford](#), [Frimley Lodge](#). parkrun also delivers junior parkrun events on Sunday mornings at 9:30am for those aged 4-14, which in Surrey is represented by [Guildford Juniors](#), [Nonsuch Juniors](#), [Laleham Juniors](#) and the monthly [Saville Gardens Juniors](#). The 5k and junior parkruns are a cost effective, sustainable and inclusive initiative.



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 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 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	CLr Ian Eastwood, Tel 01483 481864, email: clrian.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

UK's Best Park, as voted by YOU! 2016



Fields in Trust are once again running their UK's Best Park competition and you have the opportunity to be involved! Parks and playing fields are the heart and soul of communities. Is your local park the best in the UK?

The nominations are all now IN and voting is OPEN. Voting will close at 5pm on Wednesday 9th November. Go to the Fields in Trust website to view the nominated parks by region and cast your vote. There have been 214 parks nominated from all over the UK!

The park with the most votes in each of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will be shortlisted.

Their nominators will be invited to attend the prestigious Fields in Trust Awards on Wednesday 30th November where the UK's Best Park 2016, as voted by YOU! will be named.

This newsletter is produced quarterly by Surrey Playing Fields

www.surreyplayingfields.co.uk

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