

# *Surrey Playing Fields Newsletter*

## **Fields in Trust Awards Evening**



On December 4th 2014 Fields in Trust held their Annual Awards evening. They were hosted by Olympic medallist and BBC pundit Steve Parry at Lords Cricket Ground. The Awards celebrate the fantastic achievements of the past year, of Fields in Trust and its partners, focusing on outstanding individuals, landowners and other organisations who have worked hard over the last 12

months to ensure that everyone has access to protected outdoor recreational space. Awards were presented in a variety of categories and the winners were selected by a judging panel including representatives from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Green Flag Awards, Join In, Sport England, Sport Wales and Sportscotland.

Surrey County Playing Fields Association were awarded the Partner of the Year (Other Organisations). The award was made by David Moorcroft who is shown here together with Steve Parry and the Chairman and Hon. Secretary of Surrey Playing Fields.

It was a good evening for Surrey. Horley Town Council, Surrey were awarded Partner of the Year in the Town & Parish Council Category. They thoroughly deserved it. We would like to congratulate all the other local councils who have contributed to providing local leisure facilities.



*Some of the 2014 FIT Award Winners*

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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 Athletic Association

Surrey County Council

Surrey County Football Association

Surrey County Lawn Tennis Association

Surrey County Rugby Football Union

Surrey Cricket Board

Surrey Sports Board

Active Surrey

Surrey Police

Surrey Community Action

We are grateful for their support and wise counsel.

The inclusion of any products or services in this newsletter implies no endorsement by the SPF.

Whilst every care is taken with the content, no responsibility can be accepted for errors or admissions made in good faith.

## From the County Sec's Desk

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### London Playing Fields Foundation celebrates 125th Anniversary at City Hall.

Surrey Playing Fields is part of a group of organisations that work to ensure that there is sufficient space for sport and play. This group includes Fields in Trust and the County Playing Fields Association. London Playing Fields Foundation is part of this group.

The London Playing Fields Foundation celebrated its 125th anniversary on Wednesday 21st January at City Hall in the presence of Kate Hoey MP, President of the LPFF and Helen Grant MP, Minister for Sport.

The event was also attended by a range of sporting organisations including the FA, the Premier League, ECB, Saracens and many grass roots clubs, volunteers and users of LPFF facilities. One of the special guests was former Arsenal legend Paul Davis, who explained to the large gathering how his football career would never had taken off had it not been for a number of playing fields in south London where he was able to hone his skills and develop his talent.

Helen Grant MP, Minister for Sport said; "It was a pleasure to attend the 125th anniversary of the London Playing Fields Foundation. The charity does fantastic work in encouraging participation in sport and outdoor recreation as well as playing a vital role in ensuring that playing fields stay protected. I wish all connected with the charity the very best of luck for the future."



*Meryl Smith from the County Playing Fields Association, Jim Faulkner from Surrey Playing Fields and Dale Mortimer from Leicestershire Playing Fields at City Hall.*

*Dale and Meryl are working very hard to help playing field organisations across the country to become more effective.*



*Kate Hoey congratulating LPFF on its success over many years.*

## Feedback from Readers

We do receive comments from people who read our newsletter. They are normally requests for support or for more information. Many of these are by telephone or email. Some are from people who talk to us when we attend presentations, such as supporting Active Surrey evenings. I was surprised when I read an email from Australia. It commented about the article in the last issue on Dennis Jacobs. It explained about the work he had done for Surrey Cricket when touring in Australia. The comments about the importance of effective volunteers on their community, and the lifetime friendships which can be built up whilst helping others, is very much in line with our approach.

If you wish to comment on anything we publish do tell us; we may well put it in the next newsletter.

## A Model of Sustainability?

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Barry Hitchcock – County Development Officer

In many organisations it is difficult to cope with an aging workforce. Achieving the smooth changeover of personnel, whilst maintaining optimum overall effectiveness, is a considerable challenge. Surrey Playing Fields tends to benefit from an older age-group entering the workforce, so it could be argued that our challenge is greater. This can be a good thing as our people tend to be experienced professionals, offering some time when they are prepared to make themselves available for the benefit of sport and other activities.

Jim Faulkner did not fall into that category when he joined us nearly 40 years ago as quite a young man. He has built the job up considerably over the years and we are now looking to cover what he does as he wants to devote more time to his family. You may notice I have not said “replace” him. We cannot easily replace someone with his knowledge, understanding, commitment and sheer appetite for what he does. Our challenge is to cover as much of the work as possible in a way that is not too onerous on any one individual. Jim has been trying to divide up what he does into more manageable chunks and we are actively looking for people to take a share. This will inevitably include existing roles and officers as well as new people. I think all of us are a bit worried as trying to step into the boots of such a consummate professional will prove difficult, we know.

In talking through the whole business of succession planning in SPF, we have readily recognised that our Borough Development Officers are usually the first people encountered by those seeking help, information or funding. Recruiting those with local knowledge and some time they are prepared to offer, has thrown up some wonderful people who have done a tremendous job. But these roles too, need occasional replacements – we do not have a full complement of BDOs at the moment. What would make a great deal of sense would be if we encouraged all existing BDOs to be on the look-out for new recruits to SPF to help the resident BDO with their workload and learn what we do and how we can do it better in the future. This in turn may release someone to consider being more centrally involved. The key recognisable areas are those of Secretary, Treasurer and Director but there is invariably far more to do than there are people to do it.

If we get this right we can have a steady stream of people coming in with fresh views, innovative solutions and boundless enthusiasm, who can regenerate our worthy organisation and help to modernise our outlook and our appeal. If we get it wrong, Jim’s replacement may be wondering in 40 years time how (s)he can leave to spend more time with their family, when there is so much to be done at Surrey Playing Fields.

*If you would like to know more about the work of any of our positions, please contact any of the Trustees who would be delighted to talk you through what they do and how you may be able to help. If you are interested in helping an existing BDO, or learning more of what is involved, please contact Barry Hitchcock. We currently have no BDO for Mole Valley.*

The Trustees are:

<b><u>CHAIRMAN</u></b>	Gerry Ceaser,	Tel: 01932 785841	Email bceaser@globalnet.co.uk
<b><u>DIRECTOR</u></b>	David Gill ,	Tel: 07798 667662	Email dandcgill@sky.com
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## WHO'S RESPONSIBLE NOW?

'Hooray' they shout and for a fleeting moment kids and parents do believe that they are going to get a new play area. Good news yet, as in Dickensian tales, the promise may never arrive or become permanently stalled or dovetailed into another project. Shame, humbug and all the rest, yet many local authorities are exercising what may be seen at best as excessive caution, or downright negativity in accepting these free gifts, the finance having frequently come from housing developments and their Section 106 arrangements, whose prime purpose is to increase the provision of necessary facilities for the increased community size.

As with any public accessed facility whatever its scale, be it provided by a local authority, restaurant/pub, school, sports club, community or village hall, the operators in some way become responsible for any facility on their premises. This is where great care needs to be taken in accepting that 'free' gift, especially if it is looked upon as a maintenance burden. Yes, there can be maintenance issues. Even major authorities are receiving new play areas that will cost them significant amounts of money because the project was not properly thought through and is not suitable for the operator's situation. Inappropriate play equipment, equipment being for too young or too old age ranges of children and consequential protest vandalism or community protests at its unsuitability; surfacing needing replacement because it turns into trip or muddy slip hazards; finding out that the area is just not used, yet still needs to be maintained.

By involving professionals with proven competence, such as experienced RPII play inspectors, can enable schemes to be checked and advised upon before the insert button is pressed and so enable changes to provide more workable, cost effective and maintainable play areas.

As with any city authority, all play areas need regular checks, crucially undertaken by trained and competent persons. Children expect equipment to be not just clear of litter and broken glass but safe as well. They do not and neither do their parents, aunts, uncles or elder siblings, carry out a safety inspection before they run up and jump onto the roundabout and swirl around. Reasonably, they expect it to be safe; after all 'it wouldn't be allowed to be there if it wasn't safe!'

It is important to understand that these regular safety checks are a legal requirement. Thankfully it's not permitted to wait for a child to be harmed before repairing the item.

## Robust SAFETY Inspections



### Play & Sports areas, Parks, Ponds, Schools & Gyms

Detailed reports inspecting to approved UK & EU Standards  
 Risk Benefit Assessment & Guidance for prioritising actions  
 Identifying photographs & advice on problems found  
 Quality 'Seal' RPII Annual Play Inspectors  
 Independent of any manufacturer or maintenance company  
 Training courses for weekly & ¼ ly inspectors  
 30+ years' experience  
 Surrey County PFA Children's Play Advisor



Institute of Expert Witnesses – full member  
 Register of Play Inspectors International – Annual Inspector  
 RPII Examiner

**Contact Today** – Active Risk Management Services Ltd  
**07970 764 804**  
[infor@activerms.org](mailto:infor@activerms.org)

Play provision when well thought through is fun and it is great to see the children grin or hear their joyful shrieks as well. Who knows, it may be the operator's smile appreciating that it's not going to be a drain on their resources, be that staff, volunteers or finance.

Remember that we all were children once and grasp any opportunity to provide improved play facilities. Children deserve more than our increasingly busy roads to play in and good play areas help communities.

Jean Wenger  
 Surrey Playing Fields Play Advisor



# Queen Elizabeth II & Centenary Fields

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## Horley Town Council

On page one of this newsletter we reported that this council had received an award from Fields in Trust. We would like to congratulate them. Their QEII Field, on the Brighton Road, is a delight. They have improved the field since we inspected it, using money from the London Marathon Fund.



*Pictures clockwise from top left.*

*The Playground Area,  
outdoor table tennis,  
fancy dress competition.*



If you are going to hold a “Have a Field Day”, you can still contact Fields in Trust for assistance. Take note of Horley, who have improved what was an already impressive facility. They then celebrated with their local community.

## Runnymede Borough Council



Chertsey Meads is a 71 hectare site bounded on 2 sides by water. It is a very informal site which has a good formal children’s playground. It is also an excellent spot for looking at flora and fauna.

They have used their grant from FIT to provide a new board walk and viewing platform. This is essential, as part of the site is a very wet area of reeds.

However the land is much drier now than it was last year when covered in floodwater and much photographed by BBC television news.



In the last newsletter we announced a scheme to provide bursaries for talented young athletes and young coaches. You can now download the application forms from our website — [www.surreyplayingfields.co.uk](http://www.surreyplayingfields.co.uk).

## ATHLETE APPLICATION

Applicants must be on the elite pathway of their sport i.e. County Regional or National ranking as applicable to their sport.

The Applicant should be in full time education and aged between 11 and 16 years.

A Club may nominate an athlete who would benefit from a Grant to cover the essential costs associated with training or competing in their chosen sport, that they would not otherwise be able to afford for financial reasons. Grants will be considered up to a maximum of 50% of the cost of training or competing costing up to £500.

Applicants should bear in mind that some funding agencies offer 'top up' funding, once part funding has been achieved.

The Athlete's Club is expected to waive or pay half of the training or competition fee.

Applications will not be considered unless the Athlete and the Club are affiliated, as appropriate, to their NGB and has the designated Clubmark. In exceptional circumstances this requirement may be waived by the Trustees of SPF.

Coaches must inform SPF if funding applications have already been made to other agencies, i.e. Sport England, NGB etc.

The SPF intend that the Athlete and the Club will receive a decision concerning the outcome of the application within 10 weeks of receipt of the application. Any course commenced before the Grant offer is made will not be eligible for funding.

## COACHING APPLICATION

The purpose of this Grant is to help and encourage aspiring young coaches, where funding might be an issue for them, to develop their coaching skills, gain qualifications and help to support their Club and their sport. Sport in Surrey needs more talented and enthusiastic young coaches for the future.

We have been promoting and supporting sport in the county since 1927. This Bursary Scheme will draw on funds administered by Surrey Playing Fields [SPF] in the best current and future interests of local sport.

The Sports Club may nominate a junior coach who would benefit from a Grant to cover the essential costs associated with their chosen course, which they would not otherwise be able to attend for cost reasons. Given that SPF has finite funds available, the Surrey Playing Fields will rely on the guidance and discretion of the Club's representative to reasonably confirm that individual's need for funding support. There are many people who undertake coaching courses in the county, but SPF funding is aimed at those who need the most help.

Grants will be considered up to a maximum of 50% of the cost of an appropriate course costing up to £500.

Coaches and Clubs should bear in mind that some funding agencies offer 'top up' funding, especially once part funding has been achieved. The Coach's Club is expected to contribute or pay half of the course fee if other funding cannot be secured. A coaching bursary will be payable by the SPF to the Applicant Club.

Applications will not be considered unless the Club are affiliated, as appropriate, to the National or County Governing Body of their sport and the Club has been designated, or is working towards, a 'Clubmark' or a similar club accreditation. In exceptional circumstances this requirement may be waived by the Trustees of SPF.

Applicants must inform the SPF if funding applications have already been made to other agencies, i.e. Sport England, NGB etc. SPF may monitor the process and reserve the right to contact the Club at any stage during the 12 months following the coaching qualification. The bursary scheme is subject to available funds.

The SPF intend that the Coach and the Club will receive a decision concerning the outcome of the application within 10 weeks of receipt of the application. Any course that has commenced before the Grant offer is made will not be eligible for funding.

Applications should be made to the Hon. Secretary of Surrey Playing Fields.



## Sportivate - funding for community organisations: next deadline 3 April 2015

Sportivate is a funding stream aimed at community orientated organisations to attract and sustain 11-25 year olds in sport/physical activity. Priority will be given to projects that target inactive or irregularly active (inactive young people are those who are not yet participating in sport/physical activity on a weekly basis) who are 19-25 year olds, females, disabled and those from deprived areas of Surrey. Please visit <http://www.activesurrey.com/sportivate> for an application and further information.

Register with the new [Club Matters](#) and access support to improve your sports club and develop your volunteers either by accessing resources online or through workshops/mentoring.

>> <http://www.sportenglandclubmatters.com/>

## Further News on QEII and Centenary Fields

### Elmbridge Borough Council



This council is using the money provided through FIT to improve the multi use games area (MUGA) at Cobham Recreation Ground.

This photograph shows the work in progress.

### Shere Tennis Club



We have been highlighting the work done at this club for a number of months. It has been a project which has had its problems; but is now complete.

There are many villages in Surrey with leisure facilities similar to those at Shere. Surrey Playing Fields has assisted with their provision and improvement.

Please contact us if you have a need. We have some finance available; we know where more may be obtained. We can also help with security of tenure. Remember SPF are here to assist you.

There are still a number of QEII projects outstanding. We would like to publicise your efforts on improving sports and play facilities. Please show us what you have achieved.

Centenary Fields are a project with Fields in Trust and the Royal British Legion to secure fields in memory of the First World War. This is ongoing and we will report on progress. There are still boroughs who have not nominated a field and we will be following this up.

## Surrey Playing Field Contacts

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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

<b>Elmbridge</b>	Mr Mike Armitage, Tel: 07930 405788, email: mike.j.armitage@btinternet.com
<b>Epsom &amp; Ewell</b>	Mr William Eve, Tel: 01372 725310, email: helen.howlett@ramhouse.co.uk
<b>Guildford</b>	Dr Mike Clark, Tel: 01483 574024, email: mikemclark@btinternet.com
<b>Mole Valley</b>	Mr Barry Hitchcock, MBE, Tel: 01483 410165 email: barry.hitchcock@gmx.co.uk
<b>Reigate &amp; Banstead</b>	Mr Mike Hughes, Tel: 0208 668 3314, email: mikehhughes60@gmail.com
<b>Runnymede</b>	Mr Keith Heal, Tel: 01784 435423, email: wkheal@sky.com
<b>Spelthorne</b>	Mrs Shirley Winson, email: s.winson@care4free.net
<b>Surrey Heath</b>	Mr Grant Simmons, email: gsimmons@ravenscote.surrey.sch.uk
<b>Tandridge</b>	Mr Denham Earl, Tel: 020 8660 6621, email: dm_laearl@hotmail.com
<b>Waverley - Eastern</b>	Mr Martin Maybrey BEM, Tel: 01483 893209, email: martin.maybrey@btinternet.com
<b>Waverley - Western</b>	Mr Brian Greig, Tel: 01252 793762, email: briangreig@fsmail.net
<b>Woking</b>	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 Planning Officer** 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 RPILAM,  
50 Hurst Park Road, Twyford, RG10 0EY. Tel. 07970 764 804, email: jeanwenger@activerms.org

## News from Partners

### Surrey Tennis

We have a number of advisors who meet with officers of Surrey Playing Fields once every 2 months. Several of the outdoor sports nominate someone to be on this committee.

After a number of years, David Coyte has had to stand down as the Tennis Representative. We are very sorry that he is no longer fit enough to continue. He has a great knowledge of tennis in Surrey, particularly junior tennis. He has provided invaluable advice and we believe that we have been able to assist him with some of his projects. David, we thank you for giving up so much time. We will miss you.

Surrey Tennis have nominated a replacement — Christine Wilding. We welcome her. It is always useful to hear views from sporting organisations in the county. We need to understand their problems and where we can act to assist them.

### Surrey Football

We also welcome Paul Jones from Surrey FA. Paul attended his first meeting in January and contributed to a number of items where our organisations have a joint interest.