

The Kent County Playing Fields Association

November 2014 Newsletter



Mr Robert W. Horner
Chairman

Since our last newsletter, with sadness and regret, we have accepted the resignation of our **President, Mr Geoff Cooke** for health reasons. Geoff has been a wonderful servant to the Charity for so many years as a Trustee and long standing Treasurer. I wish to extend our sincere gratitude for his diligence and support but in particular thank him for bringing a sense of fun to all our meetings. This is a necessary ingredient for any Committee of volunteers in that it makes the meetings concerning the importance of improving sports facilities and providing grants etc; even more of a pleasure and never a chore. His contribution to the charity's affairs has been immense and he will



be very much missed and impossible to replace. We all wish him well for the future. Geoff pictured above right and on the left, presenting annual donation from the KCPFA to Secretary of Kent School's Golf Association, Richard Young.

Annual Council Meeting 17th October – Maidstone Town Hall



Pictured left to right seated, Terry Housden, Paul Peacock, Robert Horner, His Worship the Mayor of Maidstone, Councillor Richard Thick and KCPFA Patron, Mr Bill Cockcroft

The Annual Council Meeting held at the Maidstone Town Hall on Friday 17th October was a resounding success. Guests attending were provided with a splendid buffet lunch and other refreshments before taking their places for the presentation. Several local authority and sports club representatives made up the audience. We were delighted to have **Mr Jamie Clifford CEO**

(pictured above and standing on the right) **of the Kent County Cricket Club as our principal guest speaker.** He is also Chairman of Kent Cricket Board. Jamie has been integral to the Club's redevelopment project, having led it from the outset and has recently managed a project for the multi-million pound redevelopment of the Club's ground at Beckenham. He is also a member of the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Audit and Risk Management Committee. Jamie's open and candid approach to questions was refreshing and interesting as he outlined his vision for Kent Cricket over the coming years and the steps in place to encourage future success. Our other guest speaker **Mr Terry Housden of Fields in Trust explained the new Centenary Fields project which aims to secure recreational spaces in perpetuity to honour the memory of the millions of people who lost their lives in World War I.** Through this new programme landowners across the UK will be encouraged to dedicate at least one recreational space as a Centenary Field. This will commemorate this significant milestone in our history and create a tangible local legacy that will be valued by communities for generations to come. These spaces can include war memorial parks and playing fields given in memory of those who lost their lives, or other significant green spaces.

Mayor of Maidstone, Councillor Richard Thick kindly attended and made a lively and entertaining welcoming speech whilst recounting his experiences when visiting family in Australia recently.

Our **Patron Mr Bill Cockcroft** concluded the meeting.



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Bourne Amenity Ltd - Principal Contractors Natural Sportsturf Division Manufacturers and Suppliers. Have been delivering on high quality natural and artificial sports surfaces for over 20 years. Their Contracting arm has worked with local authorities, term maintenance contractors and private sports clubs to achieve superior turf and synthetic surfaces and aid the playability of existing natural sports facilities.

Stanley Blow and Ole Kverndal Memorial Award - closure

After ten years the above memorial award has now been closed and will be replaced with a new fund aimed at clubs and other voluntary organisations with fresh initiatives called The Edwin Boorman Memorial Award. The criterion is broadly similar however; beneficiaries must generally be between the ages of 10 to 18 years. Application forms may be downloaded from our website www.kentpfa.org.uk or by contacting the Secretary in the New Year. Successful applicants will receive their awards at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for May 2015.

Out and About



The Secretary was pleased to attend **Young Kent – Youth Funding Fair** at Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce in Ashford on the 20th October. Alongside other notable charities, the event provided an ideal opportunity for us to make the public more aware of our activities and provide local clubs and voluntary organisations the opportunity to make contact and discuss future funding requirements.

Grants – Ivy Hawkes Awards



Once more several awards were considered and approved from the above fund in October. **Peter Buravystkiy, pictured left, received £125** to assist with the cost of competing at the World Age Championships in **Daytona Beach, Florida following his inclusion in the GB Trampoline Gymnastic Squad in October.** Peter had previously applied successfully to the fund in August however the Trustees considered his GB inclusion and progression worthy of further support. Arriving in Florida on the 9th November for 9 days, Peter is currently training in preparation for his event.

Awards of £150 each were also made to racing brothers Luke & Dave Wooder. Both boys have enjoyed great success in their short careers to date on the British Karting scene and the funds will assist Dave to compete at the World Karting Finals in Valencia shortly. Dave is currently the Junior Abkc Rotax British Champion, the British Kickmasters GB title holder and recently become super one vice champion, gaining his ticket to the World finals. Luke is also the Junior Abkc Rotax British Champion for his age category and his award will be used to continue his progress in 2015. Again we wish both lads every success.



As previously reported, **Georgina Kennedy, pictured right, received £200** to assist with training costs. Georgina had been selected by England Squash to represent England at the U19's World Championships in Namibia in August where she finished in 7th place (highest placed member of England team). This was followed by winning the Kent Closed (U19) Championship in September and then this month she became Winner of the British Junior Championships (U19). (This is her 3rd British Championship title, having also previously won it in 2012 and 2010). Our congratulations go to Georgina on a magnificent year of achievement!



Park Leisure (UK) Ltd – Provides a full range of Play and Sports Equipment - Park Leisure is committed to designing play equipment for parks, open spaces and leisure facilities. Park Leisure works with local authorities and private industry alike. It supplies equipment for all ages and abilities as a specialist in play, outdoor gym, skate, BMX and parkour schemes.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of manufacturing and installing playgrounds, Park Leisure has developed its product range and **launched a new catalogue, contact Bradley Walton 01233 841073 or bradley.walton@parkleisure.com to get your copy.**



Sustainable Futures For All - Park Leisure is extremely proud to announce that, following an assessment by an independent body (QMS International plc), the company has been awarded ISO 14001 certification. This certification has only been achieved by less than 1% of UK businesses and this prestigious award is supported by the government and recognised world-wide.

Donations

Our thanks go to the **Stonewall Park Charitable Trust and Valentine and Elizabeth Fleming. To the Ladies Bowls section at Hartley Country Club, to Mr R.K.Todd & Mr R.L.Steele and to Mr Malcolm Hawkes.** Mention should also be made of those supporting the charity through **Just Giving**. In addition, **Sponsorship Forms** are also available should you wish to compete in any event on behalf of the charity. Please contact the Secretary.

SMS Donations

You can donate to The Kent County Playing Fields by SMS: Text **KPFA22** to **70070** from your mobile. To donate up to £10 to the Association and help us protect your local outdoor recreational spaces! And encourage youngsters into sport .Or you can also donate via:



We get every penny there are no running costs !

The Ernest Virgo Award - Do you have a player that could benefit from up to £300 a year? The Ernest Virgo Fund was set up so that awards should be made annually to a number of young cricketers of lesser means and opportunities so that more young people would be encouraged to actively participate in the sport; Applicants for the award should provide a statement of attainment and be ideally of county level within their respective sport. Awards should be made for the expenses relating to coaching/training travel and accommodation up to a maximum of £300 a year and should be made to persons recommended by the Kent Schools Cricket Association or by the Senior Coach of the club they are members/affiliated to.

Cecil Leitch Five Club Competition 2015

Entries for the **Cecil Leitch Five Club Competition** to be held at **Gillingham Golf Club** on Monday 8th June are now coming in. This long standing and exciting competition now has, in addition to very good prizes for 1st 2nd & 3rd places, an exceptional prize for both the Men and Lady winners of a week's accommodation at a luxury villa in Marbella ,Spain with all modern appliances, air conditioning and its own private pool! Make sure your club enters to be in with a chance of winning this fantastic prize. **We look forward to welcoming all players to next year's final.**

General Grants

Reported in our August newsletter a grant was been made to **Tilmanstone Ravens Cricket and Sports Club of £350** to assist with the purchase of a new vehicle access gate to improve security. It was pleasing to see our District Representative for the area ,Phil Harding pictured alongside the club's Secretary Alan Bonner in a recent edition of the **East Kent Mercury**. Sadly I have been unable to acquire a digital image but it is most refreshing when a club takes the time to publicly thank and promote the services of the Association after receiving grant funds. Our thanks to **Alan Bonner and to Phil Harding** for all their efforts.

Subscriptions - Thank you to those members who have already made their subscription payments and a gentle respectful reminder for those who may not have done so.

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For Schools & Nurseries/Local Authorities
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Playground Equipment by Playdale Playgrounds - British Manufacturers of Outdoor Playground Equipment since 1978.

Change in inheritance Tax laws encourages charitable giving

Just 1% of your estate could make a tremendous difference to the Charity

The Chancellor announced a cut in the rate of inheritance tax from 40% to 36% from April 2012 for those who left at least 10% of their estates to a good cause. Inheritance tax is only paid on estates worth more than £325,000. Currently therefore, an estate of £1m would see the beneficiaries receive £730,000 and the taxman £270,000. However, if 10% of that estate above the threshold is given to Charity, the beneficiaries would only receive £713,000 and the taxman £218,700. It means the charity receives £67,500. George Osborne said, "if you leave 10% or more of your estate to charity, then the Government will take 10% off your inheritance tax rate. I want to make giving 10% of your legacy to charity the norm in our country". The Charity has examined the possibility of providing a deed of Codicil for potential donors to simplify the process of **Legacy Donations**. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary and on our website.

Kingsmead Field Canterbury

I am delighted to report that after a campaign lasting three years by the residents group opposed to the development of the field situated in the Northgate Ward of Canterbury the most recent (and probably final) version of the Council's draft Open Spaces Strategy 2015- 2020 contains a clear commitment to the protection and enhancement of the majority of Kingsmead Field. This is a significant break with the mixed messages of the past, and offers strong signs of hope for the future of the field. In particular, the draft Strategy states that:

'The council is committed to enhancing Kingsmead Field for biodiversity and amenity use in a joint programme with the local community, producing a joint management plan with the developing Friends group. Species surveys will be used to identify appropriate habitat improvements and protection of parts of the riverside area for these species. Kingsmead Field will be added to the Open Spaces Strategy Amenity Greenspace Priorities List.'

The future of the woodland corridor in the remaining 20% of the field will be determined next year. We will let you know as soon as the Council publishes a planning application for the development of this area.

Consultation on the enhancement of Kingsmead Field

The Council intends to undertake a public consultation on possible enhancements to the field in the New Year. As a first step, it is looking into the possibility of removing the spiked metal fence at the back of the field and opening up the former access point on Stonebridge Road.

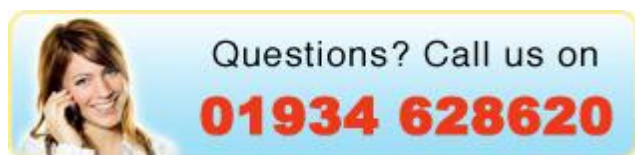
Practically, this will provide much easier access to the field from Kingsbrook Park and Broad Oak Road. Symbolically, it will represent a major step forward.

Launch of the Friends of Kingsmead Field

The Resident's Group are currently preparing the way for the transition from the **Save Kingsmead Field** group to the **Friends of Kingsmead Field** so that they can work together with the Council in the preparation and implementation of a management plan for the field. They will be holding a meeting in the New Year to launch the new group and would very much welcome support.

KCPFA Comment: Working together and planning a wide ranging and vociferous campaign has helped to make these changes possible and the playing Fields Movement really must praise the Resident's Committee and all supporters for such a splendid and hard fought effort. Quite rightly they didn't 'just roll over' and allow the sale and development to go ahead, preferring to fight their corner using all means at their disposal including a very successful publicity effort in the local press. They may have lost a few battles along the way but they have undoubtedly won the war of attrition. Congratulations to all involved.

GB Sport & Leisure UK Ltd -



G.B. Sport & Leisure is a full service provider of play and sports equipment, safety surfacing, fencing and street furniture. As specialists in the play industry our team has ability to understand the needs and expectations of play area providers and users. We work closely with our clients to produce timely and effective results. The group also provides landscape and amenity services and safety surfacing & repair kits.

We are very excited to launch our new Spares Plus Brochure, featuring a wide range of new and innovative must have maintenance products.

Final Comment

Over the years the KCPFA has built up a revolving fund by careful and cautious management from which we provide the grants, loans and all other assistance above, but funds are limited. We rely on voluntary subscription/membership and charitable donations to meet the costs of administration. The nominal rates of subscription are kept low to attract support whilst we provide a service that is valuable, both intrinsically and financially. We do hope you continue to support the Association.