

The Kent County Playing Fields Association

Autumn 2011 Newsletter



Robert Horner
KCPFA Chairman

It's been a busy past few months at the Kent County Playing Fields Association and progress continues to be made in all aspects of the Charity's work. First and foremost we would like to say a big thank you to all those members who contributed to the Association's appeal on behalf of **Ashford Town Cricket Club**. At the end of August the BBC South East news programme featured a robbery at the club. Thieves vandalised the clubhouse and stole copper piping and destroyed toilet and shower facilities. A long standing Trustee, Malcolm Hawkes suggested to the Management Committee that we set up an **Emergency Appeal**. Throughout September, many of you sent in donations and by the end of the month we had raised £815. After correspondence with the Virgo family it was decided to increase the sum raised by a further £250 from the **Ernest Virgo Fund**, set up in memory of a former President of the Association and dedicated to young cricketers. We would also like to say thank you to Olive Virgo, widow of Ernest, for allowing the fund to be used in this way, on this occasion.

On the 11th October, **Chairman of Ashford Town Cricket Club, Mr Neil Tegg**, pictured left, receiving the Association's cheque for **£1065** at Cantium Lodge, Maidstone from Secretary Paul Peacock. Mr Tegg said the club were extremely grateful to the KCPFA and its Members. **The Kent Messenger** were also present and photographs were taken for the Ashford edition of the newspaper. **Our thanks also go to them, in particular to Tim Collins and Barry Hollis**. It is hoped that all facilities will be restored in time for the start of the new cricket season in April 2012. We wish all at the club our best wishes.



Subscriptions and Funding

We are pleased to report that the **Kent Rugby Football Union has subscribed 60 of its affiliated members in Kent to membership of the KCPFA**. We hope we can be of service to those clubs in the coming years. We would also like to welcome new members **Wicksteed Leisure** and **Sutcliffe Play**, two of the country's foremost companies designing and producing play equipment. Both can be found at www.wicksteed.co.uk and www.surcliffeplay.co.uk. Thank you to all our members for their prompt subscription payments and a gentle, respectful reminder to those that may not have done so already. Remember to look at the website as new funding streams come on line. The latest being www.sitatrust.org.uk where funding may be sought for the **QE11 Challenge**, to improve designated QE11 fields. **There is still time for those who are considering nominating fields in their area**. Other funding opportunities, such as the **Enhancing Communities Programme; Enriching Nature and the Young Persons Volunteering Fund** may also be found. The site provides details of closing dates for applications, areas and postcodes within the remit and other useful information. Check it out! **Sport England** has also announced a fresh round of funding, commencing 1st February 2012. See their website.

An alternative way of making donations is now available. **Just Text Giving** by Vodafone is a new service that helps UK registered charities to raise money, no matter how big or small. Donations can be made from any network with just a simple text message. Donors can give up to £10 using our Vodafone Individual Code, which is unique to the Kent County Playing Fields Association.

SMS Donations

You can donate to The Kent County Playing Fields by SMS: Text **KPFA22 (& the amount)** to **70070** from your mobile. To donate up to £10 to the Association and help us protect your local outdoor recreational spaces! Encourage youngsters into sport. Or you can also donate VIA: **We get every penny there are no running costs !**



The Ivy Hawkes Memorial Fund

Two awards were made in the August .The first and certainly the most unusual was made to **Sam Hunter**. Sam competes internationally in Latin **Dancing** and his achievement to date has been outstanding. As a gesture of goodwill the Charity awarded **£100** as this activity does not strictly fall within the Association's grant criteria. The second award of **£300** was made to **Ross Gilham- Jones** who continues to make progress with the sport of **Hockey**. Ross hopes to compete in the European Championships early next year and aspires to be part of the squad in next years Olympics. We wish him every success.

The Ernest Virgo Awards

Apart from the award given to Ashford Town Cricket Club, **Samuel Rose** received **£200**.Sam attends Borden Grammar School and captained the Year 7's in the Quarter Final of the County Cup. He also plays for Upchurch Cricket Club and at the age of twelve his 115 not out for Swale Youth reflects his potential. This award is open to those young aspiring Cricketers of lesser means and opportunity so that more young people can be encouraged to participate in the sport. **Do you have a player that could benefit from up to £300 a year?**

Grants

A grant of **£1000 has been awarded to Orpington Football Club**. The club leases land from Bromley Council, located at Sparrows Den Playing Fields, Petts Wood Recreation Centre and Grassmead Recreation Ground. These areas have been reclaimed and are now utilised for 7 football pitches. This money will assist with the purchase of equipment to renovate and maintain the standard of playing areas. **West kingsdown Parish Council have been awarded a grant of £1000** to assist with the purchase and installation of a new climbing tower and slide at the Recreation Ground Hever Avenue. The grant to be paid upon completion.

Association Tie

The office has commissioned a new tie which is available to members at a price of **£15** inclusive of postage. It is hoped members will be proud to wear it. Please contact the Secretary for more information.

The Elizabeth II Challenge

Mr Terry Housden, FIT's representative for Kent & Sussex, progress continues with Kent's nominations for the QE11 Challenge. Mr Housden provided a full update at our **Council Meeting on October 21st at Maidstone Town Hall**, whilst presenting the **QE11 Challenge** to our guests. He also spoke about the voting process called **'Save a Space for Me'**

You have 1 month to vote for your local spaces. Get online and say 'Save a Space for Me'!

If you search by your postcode, you will find all the sites that have been put forward for nomination near you.

If you search by local authority you will find all the sites that the particular authority you select owns.

If you can't find the one you want, then you can download a call to action card to send off to your local authority urging them to get involved! This is a quick and easy way for you to show how important your local outdoor green spaces are to you.
Should you have any questions in relation to the Challenge, Terry will be delighted to answer them.

Charitable Donations

One of our Trustees, who asked to remain anonymous, has purchased £100 of Premium Bonds for the Association and although they had to make the purchase in their own name, they have authorized the Charity as the beneficiary. This is a splendid and generous gesture and perhaps one that some of our members may consider for the future. Contact /advise the Secretary should you wish to do so.

Change in inheritance Tax laws encourages charitable giving

The Chancellor recently announced a cut in the rate of inheritance tax from 40% to 36% from next April 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 is currently examining 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.

The County Show



The once again raised its banner at the Detling Show ground and for the first day the sun shone and the crowds flocked in. Subsequent torrential and persistent rain fall reduced those numbers on the Saturday and Sunday although a good time was had by all. Several Trustees visited the stand including Malcolm Hawkes, Helen Skellorn, Cheng Wong, Richard Young and Richard T. Maylam. Pictured left Trustee Malcolm Hawkes with High Sheriff of Kent Mrs Georgie Warner. Vice President Helen Skellorn to the right.



Pictured below Trustee Richard T. Maylam with new Treasurer K.C. Wong and Secretary Paul Peacock.

Judging by the smiles all round the weather doesn't seem to have affected or dampened spirits. The highlight of the event, certainly for the Secretary was the opportunity to present prizes in the main event arena, where many of the trials took place and the subsequent invitation to take a ride in a very fast pony and trap. Thank God the photographers weren't present to capture the fear!

It was also an occasion to say hello to some of our members who took the time to locate our stand. Our thanks go to **Lucy Hegarty**, Trade Stand Co-ordinator for the show and to Richard T. Maylam.

The Olympic Torch Relay



At the suggestion of **Mr Richard T. Maylam** the Charity decided to nominate three of our previous grant recipients to carry the Olympic Torch through Kent. Jasmine Pomeroy, Luca Russo and Lloyd Milner were chosen. During the first ballot unfortunately, Jasmine was omitted leaving both Luca and Lloyd to await the final decision in December. With so many people applying we are fortunate to have had two candidates go through. We wish them luck.

Bly Spartans Football Club



On the 2nd August the Secretary was invited to attend the official 'switching on' of the new flood lights installed at their home ground. A Gillingham side were invited to compete in a friendly which included Manager Andy Hessenthaler. Several hundred spectators attended the home match and were rewarded, after a thoroughly entertaining game, with a Bly Spartans winning 2 – 0. The Secretary turned on the lights having been asked to do so by **Bly's Chairman Bernard Hurst**, seen on the right with Secretary Paul Peacock. The Club also printed a thank you to the KCPFA in their match programme and will continue to do so through the season. A nice gesture by the club and help towards raising the profile of the Association in Kent. Thank you Bernard for making the KCPFA so welcome on the evening.

Bidborough Bowls Club

Later the same month The Secretary was invited along with his wife Angela to attend a luncheon at the Club house on Finals day following assistance provided to the club earlier in the year. The renovated and re



filed shingle roof looked superb and will hopefully last a further 40 years. The stunning location provided the perfect background to some fine bowling and excellent hospitality provided by members. Pictured left are **Mr Richard Hookway** and KCPFA Secretary Paul Peacock.



On the right, the Clubhouse with members over looking the greens.

A special thank you to Mr & Mrs Richman and Mr Alan Norman and to all members for making us welcome.

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 supporting the Association.