



**GLOUCESTERSHIRE
PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2013-2014**



Working to Improve Sport and Play Facilities in Gloucestershire

(Registered Charity No. 314301)

Registered address: 33 Spinney Road, Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 3YX

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

President:

Dame Janet Trotter DBE – Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire

Vice Presidents:

Earl of Wemyss and March DL

Mavis Lady Dunrossil DL

Sir Henry Elwes KCVO

Chairman:

Major Thomas W Hancock DL

Vice-Chairman:

Mr Ron Harrison

Hon. Treasurer:

Mr Andrew Ellis

Hon. Planning Advisor:

Mr Ron Harrison

Legal Advisor:

Willans Solicitors

Secretary:

Mr Graham Ross

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Chairman's Report



It is with great pleasure that I report on the continued prosperity of the GPFA in 2013/14 and the real difference our work is having on sport and recreation in the county.

Our grants and loans scheme continues to help members with their projects and a number of awards were made during the year. It was particularly pleasing to make an award to Norton Parish Council for the excellent new multi-use games area at the playing field. This project costing over £70K was the result of the hard work of volunteers who developed the plans and were also successful in obtaining significant funding from a number of sources. This demonstrates what can be achieved when a dedicated and focussed group of volunteers come together. This year we were delighted to receive a donation of £50,000 from CHK Charities, this will enable us to award grants for sporting and play projects across the county

The idea of the QE II Challenge to celebrate Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, organised by Fields in Trust in 2012 was to ensure that the visited fields were dedicated and protected as playing fields in perpetuity. A total number of 45 in the Historic county of Gloucestershire were nominated, 34 in Gloucestershire and 11 in south Gloucestershire, a very satisfactory result. In Historic Gloucestershire there are 67 such sites which include not only QE II fields but also King George V playing fields and other dedicated areas. Credit is due to all the hard working volunteers in the county which has produced such a result, meaning that our county has the greatest number of Fields in Trust protected sites in Central England.

As well as providing grants and loans our service includes providing advice, information and funding guidance to our members. This is a highly valued service which has helped our members to save significant costs. Our help with advice and guidance on funding applications has contributed to our members successfully winning substantial grants to improve or create new facilities

I am delighted though to report that the recognition of our young sports persons in the county will continue in to the future. The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire has generously offered to support the scheme for 5 years starting in 2012. The scheme is now called the GPFA Honourable Company of Gloucestershire Award and its aims are still the same, to recognise sporting achievement and to provide a small bursary towards the substantial training and equipment costs that are a feature of most sports. This year the award attracted 11 high class nominations to which four awards were subsequently presented at last year's AGM.

The Playing Field and Playground of the Year introduced in 2008 completed its sixth year. After the judging in September 2013 the winners and runners up were presented with their awards at last year's AGM. In January we carried out a review of the competition and decided to introduce a completely new scheme. Instead of a competition we have introduced the GPFA Playing Field and Playground Assessment Scheme for this year. Each member that has registered their sites with us will receive an independent assessment of their facilities. It is hoped that members will find this service of benefit and that it will help them to improve facilities.

We have also continued to hold our successful Playground Management Training Seminars and in July 2013 this was again held at Churchdown Park with 24 delegates attending.

To recognise the outstanding work of many individuals in the county we introduced in 2012 a new award, the GPFA Volunteer of the Year. This year seven nominations were received and all are to be commended for the voluntary work they do to maintain and improve the facilities in their area.

Finally I would like to express my thanks to the many individuals who give up their time voluntarily to provide and improve the many sport and recreational facilities for the people of Gloucestershire.

We look forward to next year 2014/15 with confidence and enthusiasm.

Tom Hancock

Officers of the Association and Committee Members As at 30th June 2014

President: Dame Janet Trotter DBE
H M Lord Lieutenant

Vice Presidents: Earl of Wemyss and March DL
Mavis Lady Dunrossil DL
Sir Henry Elwes KCVO

Officers of the Association

Chairman: Major T W Hancock DL Hon Treasurer: Mr A Ellis
Vice Chairman: Mr R Harrison Independent Examiner: Mr M E J Paish
Secretary: Mr G S Ross

Management Committee

Ex-Officio Members:

Chairman Vice Chairman Hon Treasurer Secretary

Members:

Mr T Haines Mr N Thick Mr D C Mills Mr B Leeke Cllr J Jones

County Committee

Borough, City & District Council Representatives:

Cheltenham: Councillor P Baker Cotswold : Councillor R Hooper
Forest of Dean: Councillor D Pugh Gloucester: Councillor D Norman
Stroud: Councillor J Jones Tewkesbury: Councillor J Mason

Representatives:

Gloucestershire Assoc Parish & Town Councils: Mr N Thick

Gloucestershire County Council Councillor D Brown
Planning Advisor: Mr R Harrison

Elected Members:

Mr T Messel Mr J Clarke
Mr M White Mr P Jubb

:

Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association Trustees Ltd

Trustees:

Major T W Hancock DL Mr A Ellis

Directors:

Major T W Hancock DL Mr A Ellis Mr R Harrison
Mavis Lady Dunrossil DL Earl of Wemyss and March DL Mr D C Mills

Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association

Main Activities

To advise and assist in the provision of good quality playing fields and playgrounds.

▪

To provide technical advice and information on playgrounds, outdoor youth facilities and playing fields.

▪

To encourage and develop the playing of outdoor games, sports and play.

▪

To ensure that the fullest use is made of all playing fields in the county.

▪

To extend the benefits of playgrounds, playing fields and open spaces to all.

▪

To co-operate in saving threatened recreational facilities.

▪

To specialise in out of school play needs of children, young people and the disabled, including practical guidance on a range of safety issues.

▪

To raise funds for the furtherance of the Association's aims and objectives.

▪

To co-operate with local authorities in the county and all statutory and other bodies for the furtherance of the Association's objectives.

▪

To give financial aid to approved projects where possible.

Services to Members

- Free quarterly magazine 'The Playing Field'
- Advice on general sources of funding and fundraising
- Advice on purchase and setting up of recreational areas/playgrounds
- Advice on refurbishing play areas
- Advice on suitability of play equipment, safety surfaces and their installation
- Technical advice on most aspects of sports ground equipment and management
- Access to grants and loans towards the provision of play and recreational facilities
- Provide advice on the Trustees' and Committees' areas of responsibility for play areas
- Reduced fees for training events we organise.
- Liaise with all the councils in Gloucestershire to save playing fields in the county from development
- The GPFA Honourable Company of Gloucestershire Award for talented young sporting stars
- GPFA Playing Field and Playground Assessment Scheme

Grants and Loans

Grants and/or loans may be given to subscribing member organisations from our Jubilee or Anniversary Funds. These funds were established to help organisations within the county with projects benefiting playgrounds, playing fields and the playing of sports. The following awards, approved by the GPFA, were offered to members during the year.

Grants

Deerhurst Parish Council	£250	New BMX track
Moreton-in-Marsh Bowling Club	£500	New mower
Bredon Community Play	£500	Improvements to skatepark
Staunton & Corse Cricket Club	£500	Practice facility
St Briavels Playing Field	£1000	Playground refurbishment
Siddington Parish Council	£500	New zip wire
Alvington Parish Council	£785	New car park at playing field
Fretherne with Saul PC	£500	New inclusive play area
Norton Parish Council	£1000	New multi-use games area
Witcombe Village Hall	£1000	Playground improvements

Pictured below is the refurbished playground at St Briavels, the new zip wire at Siddington and the BMX Track at Apperley all made possible by a GPFA Grant



New Multi-Use games Area for Norton

Back in September 2012 the GPFA were approached by Jo Robson and Debbie Wilkins to give advice on the feasibility of building a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on the playing field to be used by the school and the community at large. At that initial meeting various topics such as design, specification, planning, budget costs and funding were discussed and guidance was given to Jo and Debbie as to where to go and what to do.



The design of the MUGA was to incorporate 5-a-side soccer, basketball, netball and tennis. This required a size of 34 x 17 metres and a porous macadam surface suitably marked. The budget for the project was approximately £70,000 which is not an insignificant amount. With guidance from the GPFA applications were made to various funders, In a comparatively short space of time the group secured over £60,000 from the following funders, Tewkesbury Borough Council, £32.5K, Gloucestershire Environmental Trust £25K, Summerfield Trust £2.5K and the GPFA also contributed £1K. The School PTA Group also made a significant contribution and money also came from the parish council and other fundraising.

Creating a MUGA is by no means a small project, however in just over 18 months Jo and Debbie with the help of the Parish Council and others were able to successfully build one. This is an outstanding example of what can be achieved when you have two dedicated and tenacious people such as Jo and Debbie who were instrumental in bringing this much needed facility to their village.

Playground Management Seminar

In July 2013 we held a Playground Management Training Seminar at Churchdown Park, Churchdown which was attended by 24 delegates from across Gloucestershire and neighbouring counties.

Once again we were fortunate to have the seminar presented by the respected ROSPA Inspector Roger Davis. Starting outside in the playground, Roger highlighted what to look for on a routine basis on a wide range of equipment from swings to roundabouts and climbing frames to safer surfaces.

After a break the seminar continued inside with an informative presentation from Roger which prompted a large number of questions from the delegates. Feedback from the delegates was very positive and we will continue with these seminars in forthcoming years.



Playing Field and Playground of the Year 2013

At the Annual General Meeting of the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association held on the 8th October 2013 the Winners and Runners Up in the Playing Field and Playground of the Year Competition were announced and presented with their awards by the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Robert Bernays OBE.

In the **Playing Field** Category there were 9 entries all of a very high standard from across the county and the final decision was made.

Winner: Queen Elizabeth II Field Corse and Staunton

Runner Up: Upper Up Playing Field, South Cerney

Highly Commended: Bathurst Park, Lydney

The judges were impressed by not only the excellent facilities at Corse and Staunton but also recognised the sterling work of the volunteers who look after the field. The cricket pitch at Corse and Staunton is ranked as amongst the best in the county.

The runner up, Upper Up Playing Field at South Cerney, has also improved greatly in recent times and it now plays host to a number of sports including cricket, football, tennis and BMX

Highly commended was Bathurst Park, Lydney, a past winner of the competition. The judges particularly liked the introduction of fitness equipment which has proved to be extremely popular with young and old alike

The **Large Playground** Category attracted 9 high class entries again from across the county and the decision of the judges was:

Winner: Churchdown Park

Runner Up: Queen Victoria Gardens, Moreton-in-Marsh

Highly Commended: Dolphins Hall Recreation Ground, Tetbury

Thanks to the efforts of the parish council together with the young people of the area Churchdown Park has undergone an impressive transformation in recent times. The centrepiece is an incredible skatepark (pictured right) which attracts visitors from far and wide. Also a BMX track, MUGA and wild life pond have been added. Finally, the existing playground has also been improved. The runner up, Queen Victoria Gardens, Moreton-in-Marsh, is an extremely popular facility and this year it has benefitted from a face lift. Highly Commended was Dolphins Hall Recreation Ground, Tetbury which again is a much improved area and in the last three years it has seen a new playground and concrete skate bowl introduced



Playing Field and Playground of the Year Cont.

In the **Small Playground** Category the decision of the judges was

Winner: Upton St Leonards Playing Field

Runner Up: Kingshill Play Park, Dursley

Highly Commended: Queen Elizabeth II Field Corse and Staunton



The winner, Upton St Leonards Playing Field is a very well maintained and popular small playground which has undergone a transformation in recent years. Kingshill Play Park, Dursley, the runner up has been significantly improved by the team at Dursley Town Council. Highly commended was the Queen Elizabeth II Field Corse and Staunton for their introduction of outdoor table tennis to the playground (pictured left) which is proving to be very popular. Additional picnic benches and seats have also been provided.

GPFA Volunteer of the Year Award

The GPFA Volunteer of the Year recognises the contribution made by the many unsung heroes in Gloucestershire who work tirelessly on their playgrounds and playing fields. In total there were eight nominations, David Hunt from Upton St Leonards; Claire and Geoff Newsum from Gotherington; Colin Gittings from Corse and Staunton; Roger Bassett from Kings Stanley ; Mike Woodward from Whitminster; Derek Biddle and Bob Berryman from Lydney; and John Barnfield from Shurdington.

Any of the eight nominations would have been worthy winners and the judges had a difficult decision to make. After some deliberation the GPFA Volunteer of the Year for 2013 was awarded to Roger Bassett from Kings Stanley. Roger has been Secretary of Kings Stanley Sports Club since its inception 25 years ago, plus Secretary of the football club for an even longer period. He is also a member of the Marling Trust which is responsible for the field. Roger works tirelessly to ensure that the Kings Stanley field is well maintained and one of the best in the county. One way or another Roger has been involved with, and helping out at Kings Stanley since 1960.



GPFA Information Sheets

The GPFA have the following information sheets that are available free of charge to members. If you would like a copy of any sheet then please contact our Secretary/Advice Officer Graham Ross

IS101	Playground Legislation, Standards and Guidelines
IS103	Playground Inspections
IS107	Risk Assessments
IS112	Playground Notices
IS113	Insurance
IS114	Coping with Accidents
IS115	Playground Fencing
IS 118	Planning a new Playground
IS303	A Problem with Dogs
IS306	Goalpost Safety
IS601	BMX Tracks
IS605	Meeting Young People's Needs

GPFA Advisory Service

In addition to providing Information Sheets we also offer a free advisory and site visit service to our members on issues relating to their playing fields and playgrounds plus how to access various funding sources.

In the last year our Advice Officer Graham Ross has made numerous site visits throughout the county which have been an enormous benefit to our members often leading to significant savings.

One such member to benefit from this service was the small village of Cerney Wick which received technical help and funding advice resulting in a much improved playground as pictured below



The GPFA Honourable Company of Gloucestershire Award 2013

The GPFA Honourable Company of Gloucestershire Award opened for applications in June 2013 and by the closing date of the 31st August some 11 entries had been received from young sports persons across the county. Unfortunately only four awards could be made and after considerable deliberation they were presented to the following young people by Patrick Brooke, Immediate Past Warden of The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire at the AGM:



Harry Wilson age 16 from Cirencester. Harry (pictured left) is making his mark in the demanding sport of Rugby Union. He started playing at his local club, Cirencester RFC aged just 6 years old. Since then he has developed in to one of the most talented players in the county. This has been reflected in his selection for Gloucestershire and South West teams and recently he has been picked for the England Under 16 Elite Squad. Next season Harry is aiming to get in to the England Under 17 Elite Squad



Kelly Constable age 16 from Down Hatherley. Kelly (pictured right) is making a name for herself in the competitive world of Athletics based at the Gloucester Athletics Club. Her chosen discipline is sprinting and currently Kelly is Midlands Under 17 100m Champion and was runner up in the 200m. In addition she was runner up in the South West Schools 200m. Finally Kelly is the club record holder for 150m sprint



James Hayes age 16 from Cam. James first became involved with Judo when he was 8 years old and went along to the local Dursley Judo Club. From that start James has progressed to become one of the top judoist in his age group in the country. He has been a member of the England Talent Judo Squad for the last 4 years and was a bronze medallist at the 2013 British Championships. In 2012 James was also Welsh and Northern Ireland Champion. For 2014 James has been selected as part of an elite squad to train in Japan. James's proud mother, Donna Hayes (pictured left) received the award on his behalf as James was at a training session with the England squad on the same

evening.

Paige Reed age 16 from Gloucester. Paige (pictured right) based at Hucclecote netball Club is a very talented netball player and for the past two years has been part of the Gloucestershire Talent & Performance Group showing dedication and commitment. Her hard work has resulted in her being selected for the Bath National Talent U19 League for the current season. In addition she has also just been selected for the England Under 17 Squad which is a tremendous achievement.



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

I report on the accounts for the year ended 30th. June, 2014 which are annexed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011(the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 (5)(b)of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the account presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention.

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act,
 - and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding on the accounts to be reached.

M E J Paish
Chartered Certified Accountant
28 Greet Road
Winchcombe
Gloucestershire GL54 5JT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	General	Jubilee	Anniversary	CHK	Youth Sport
		Restricted	Restricted	Charities	Restricted
Incoming Resources	£	£	£	£	£
Subscriptions & Donations	7041	25			
Competition Entries	95				
Competition Sponsorship	250				
Seminar Income	540				
Deposit Interest	2267				
Grants	50			50000	
Advertising	240				
Gift Aid	313				
Raffle	57				
	10853	25		50000	
<u>Resources Expended</u>					
Grants			6535		
Sundries	53				
Postage & Stationery	303				
Annual Report	220				
Travel	635				
Honorarium	7758				
Office Expenses	600				
Seminars	290				
Competition	747				
Legal Costs	475				
Insurance	175				
Conference	160				
	11416		6535		
Net Incoming/Outgoing Resources	-563	25	-6535	50000	
Balance brought forward	30781	9492	57291		3808
Balance carried forward	30218	9517	50756	50000	3808

