

# The Kent County Playing Fields Association

## Spring 2011 Newsletter



Robert Horner  
KCPFA Vice Chairman

Members will note, pictured left, our **Vice Chairman, Mr. Robert Horner**, appointed to the post in June last year. Robert is the former President of the England Rugby Football Union and current member of the Executive Committee of the Kent Rugby Union. A formidable public speaker, some members will recall his speech at the Annual Council Meeting in October 2009 when he related some of the experiences encountered, as President, during the famous victory of England over Australia in the 2003 World Cup Final.

Following a meeting at the beginning of the year with **Mr. Paul Dolan, Chief Executive Officer**, and **Mr. Colin Boswell, President** of the **Kent County Football Association**, a closer working agreement has been formed and a link from their website to ours has now been established. This arrangement will be reviewed in the year and it is hoped that many of the clubs affiliated to the KFA will also become members of the KCPFA. Further agreements have been made with the **Kent Athletic Association, Kent Hockey Association, Kent Cricket Board** and the **Kent Rugby Union**. These affiliations to the Governing Bodies of Sport in Kent will provide a base from which the Charity will increase its membership and in turn redistribute the increased funds by way of grant and loan awards.

## Maidstone Sports Awards

The Secretary attended the above awards evening on the 28<sup>th</sup> January where many of Maidstone's sporting representatives received awards for outstanding achievement over the past year. The Charity sponsored **Club of the Year** and along with the **Mayor of Maidstone, Eric Hotson** we were pleased to present this award to **Kevin Long** of **Bearsted Korfball Club**. The evening was an outstanding success and our thanks go to **Maidstone Borough Councils' Community Development Team** for their excellent presentation and organisation. Congratulations to all the individual winners.



Kevin Long  
Head Coach Bearsted Korfball

## The Ivy Hawkes Memorial Fund

Several awards have been made in the first quarter of the year covering a variety of sports. Two previous recipients, **Sophie Ayre** and **Hannah Frost**, representing **Athletics** and **Ten Pin Bowling** received awards of £100 each to assist with travel and accommodation costs. New applicants **Georgia Yates** and **Dani Chattenton** received £200 and £208 respectively. Georgia has been selected to compete for Great Britain at the **European Championships** in Austria in the **Fencing** Sabre category. Danni hopes to compete in the modern **Pentathlon** and the award will help to hone her skills at **Show Jumping**, one of the five disciplines.

## Grants

A grant of £500 was awarded to **Pembury Cricket Club** towards the costs of renovation and additional changing facilities to their pavilion. **Harbledown Cricket Club** were awarded £250 towards the cost of a new roller. **Hollingbourne Cricket Club** sought funds for a second hand mower but before an award could be made, our Trustee, Mr. Malcolm Hawkes mentioned that he in fact had a large mower that he was willing to offer free should it be suitable. Further consultation between the two resulted in the cricket club receiving the mower rather than finance. Our thanks go to Mr. Hawkes for his generosity.

## Loans

An application was received and considered from **Upchurch Cricket Club**. The club sought funds of between £5,000 and £25,000 for the development of their pavilion and to add a new level for changing facilities. After discussion the Committee agreed a loan of £5,000.

## Civic Service for the County of Kent

Several members of the association were invited to attend the above service on March 29<sup>th</sup> at the wonderful Canterbury Cathedral to celebrate the civic life our great county and give thanks for the dedicated and selfless work of those that contribute so much to its communities. The **Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Mr. Allan Willett, CMG** led the service.

## Subscriptions

Thank you to all our members for their prompt subscription payments and a gentle reminder to those that may not have done so already.

## The Royal Wells Hotel



The **Tunbridge Wells Rugby Football Club** held a lunch at the above hotel on the 9<sup>th</sup> April. Members will recall the Charity was pleased to assist the club's building programme last year. Mr. Robert Horner and the Secretary were both invited to attend a Vice President's luncheon to present a plaque to be placed on the club grounds, in recognition of the assistance provided. Mr. Horner presented the plaque to **Mr. Phil Sprackling, President of Tunbridge Wells RFC**. Our gratitude goes to all at the club for making us so welcome on an entertaining afternoon and for a splendid lunch. Afterwards we were able to visit the ground and see the completed project which has significantly enhanced the facilities. We wish the club every success next season.

## Larkings Chartered Accountants Seminar

The Secretary attended the firms Spring Charity Seminar on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March at the Eastwell Manor Hotel in Ashford. Improving your Charity's prospects in uncertain times was the theme and in addition to representatives of Larkings, **Annie Tunnicliffe** of the **Social Investment Business**, **John Ramage** of **Lloyds TSB** and **Dominic Fisher** of **Radcliffe & Newlands** gave talks related to the Charity sector. They were informative and interesting.

## Annual General Meeting

**Tonbridge Castle** has been confirmed as the venue for the AGM on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May** between 18:30 and 20:30. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Annual Report & Accounts for 2010 will be approved and awards from the Stanley Blow & Ole Kverndal Fund will also be made. **All members are invited to attend.**

## The Draft Annual Report & Accounts

The above accounts for 2010 have been signed off by our auditors on the 24<sup>th</sup> March and can be viewed on our website, [www.kentpfa.org.uk](http://www.kentpfa.org.uk). Members who wish to have a hardcopy should contact the Secretary.

## 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

Following enquiry made by Mr. Maylam at the December Committee meeting the Secretary reported that he had received an update concerning the QE11 Challenge. He reported that Mr Terry Housden, FIT's representative for Kent & Sussex had contacted him and informed him that the take up of areas to be placed under the scheme had been very good so far within Kent. He explained that ten of the County's Borough & District Councils had pledged land and that Kent's participation was amongst the highest to date in the country.

## 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.

## 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". Further information can be obtained from the Secretary.

## Gift Aid

Gift Aid will also be dramatically simplified so charities can lodge donors' details on line- and not at all for small gifts. The Chancellor said a new scheme would allow Gift Aid to be claimed on small donations without the need for filling forms, up to a limit of £5,000 per charity per year.

## The Ernest Virgo Awards

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?

## In Memory Of Ted Wilson

It is my sad duty to report the death of Ted Wilson, who passed away in March after a period of ill health. Ted was the former Secretary and subsequent Vice President of the Association commencing during the 1960's when he was also Secretary to the Association of Men of Kent and Kentish Men. During those years and advising both Associations, Cantium Lodge was jointly purchased. We are still joint owners and still share the office space there. Ted retired in 1997 and was appointed Vice President of the Association and became an active member of our Golf Sub Committee up until 2008, when poor health caused him to cut back on his commitments.

Over the years Ted received many accolades for his work within the Association, including the Patron's Award and the President's Certificate and I am often asked, during my daily routine, to pass on regards from Members/Representatives of the Association who remember him with both affection and admiration.

He was a most even tempered individual and remembered for never losing his temper at a meeting. He had a good sense of humour and often used it to relieve tension in some meetings where feelings were getting a little strained. He had a great command of the spoken word and a quick intelligence that often picked up the various strands of an argument or conversation. Often amazed by the number of people he knew in all walks of life and by the number of people who knew and respected him for many years, Ted was universally well liked. He continued as Vice President until June last year when sadly his wife died.

At our AGM in summer of 2010 and In accordance with standard practice, minutes of that meeting have been recorded and for the record Mr Geoff Cooke, also Vice President and friend for many years, stated that he felt that Ted “had been a marvellous Ambassador for the Association over the years. An excellent Secretary for many of them and a fine Vice President and friend and loyal supporter of the Kent Playing Fields Association. You will be missed.”

On behalf of the Management Committee and all Trustees we echo those sentiments.

### **Cecil Leitch 5 Club Final 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

This year's final will be held at the Ashford Golf Club and we look forward to welcoming all competitors on the day. Many of you will have submitted your entries already and prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> April deadline, for those clubs who have not, and who have not made contact, I would ask you to provide your finalist entry details as soon as possible please!

### **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.