



**GLOUCESTERSHIRE
PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT
2018-2019**



**Working to Improve Sport and Play Facilities
in Gloucestershire**

Established 1926 ~ Registered Charity No. 314301
Registered address: 31 Cheltenham Road, Gloucester, GL2 0JF

Chairman's Report



Once again, I am delighted to be able to bring you my Annual Report as Chairman of the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association.

This Association has an enviable history following its foundation in 1926, and since that time has made a significant impact, awarding almost 2,000 grants and loans to help create, improve and maintain many of the facilities that are enjoyed today by young and old alike. We assist a membership of over 150 parish and town councils, sports clubs and organisations, who share our common objective of encouraging active participation in sport, recreation and play of all kinds.

Our much-appreciated grant and loan scheme continues, helping members to complete their projects. This past year, we have made new offers of grants and loans to our members totalling £24,550 and the total grants and loans paid out during the year was £23,080. These were used to support a wide range of projects including new cricket nets, changing rooms, playground improvements and grounds maintenance equipment. I was very surprised to be reminded that since 2012 we have been fortunate to be able to make grants available to GPFA members totalling approximately £135,000. This is quite a remarkable figure for our small organisation and is a tribute to all those whose generosity has enabled us to continue with this vital work.

During the past 12 months the Association has been selected as administrator of a new scheme on behalf of Gloucester City Council for the distribution of sports grants using monies derived from the various S.106 Planning Agreements within Gloucester City. The administrative process is now established and will broaden the scope of activity for the Association and help the City Council maintain its objectives of improving community sports facilities. As far as I am aware, the GPFA is leading the way in this important innovation and we hope it is something that can be expanded and developed further over the ensuing years.

As well as the distribution of grants and loans, we provide advice, information and funding guidance to our members. This is a highly valued service that has helped to save significant costs when planning projects. Our input and guidance on preparing funding applications has also contributed towards members' successfully winning substantial external grants, to improve or create new facilities.

In 2014 we extended our services into South Gloucestershire, which up until 1974 was part of the County of Gloucestershire. We now have five members in that area who are benefitting from our services and we hope to increase this coverage in the ensuing year. I am very pleased to have a representative from South Gloucestershire as a member of the County Executive Committee.

We have continued to offer the GPFA Playing Field and Playground Assessment Scheme to our members, where our volunteer assessors have visited over 90 different sites across the county and provided a written report with constructive comments. The scheme has received a good response from our members, who value the independent and objective opinion of their sites. These reports have also been used as supporting justification for funding applications to improve facilities.

The annual GPFA Honourable Company of Gloucestershire Award recognises the sporting achievements of the county's young people and provides a small bursary towards the substantial training and equipment costs that are a feature of most sports. Four awards were presented at last year's AGM, and a further four awards are being presented this year. The number and quality of the entries for these awards is steadily improving, and we are grateful to the Honourable Company for their continued support in encouraging these aspiring youngsters to achieve their sporting objectives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron'.

Ron Harrison, GPFA Chairman, October 2019

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

- General advice and guidance on all aspects of play, outdoor sport and playing fields
- Advice on 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
- Regular newsletter 'The Playing Field'
- 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 GPFA training events.
- Liaison 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 awarded to subscribing member organisations from our grant 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 were offered to GPFA members during the financial year 2018-19.

Grants	£	
Arlingham Parish Council	1,750	New play equipment
Cainscross Parish Council	2,000	New changing rooms
Withington Parish Council	1,200	Pavilion refurbishment
Upton St Leonards Parish Council	350	Pitch improvements
Slimbridge Parish Council	2,000	New play equipment
Stonehouse Town Council	2,000	New play equipment
Guiting Power Parish Council	1,000	New play equipment
Friends of Elmbridge	2,000	New play equipment
Norton Parish Council	2,000	New play equipment
Kings Stanley Parish Council	1,350	New play equipment
Stow on the Wold RFC	1,000	Pitch improvements
Tewkesbury Town Council	2,000	New play equipment
Ullenwood Bharat Cricket Club	700	New mower
Winchcombe Tennis Club	2,000	New floodlights and WC
Loans		
Ullenwood Bharat Cricket Club	3,200	New sightscreens



Left: Youngsters using the new cricket nets at Forest Exiles CC, Aylburton (April 2019)

Below left: New play equipment installed at King's Stanley (July 2019).

Below right: Opening the new pavilion at Redmarley Tennis Club (Sept 2018)

All projects received GPFA funding assistance

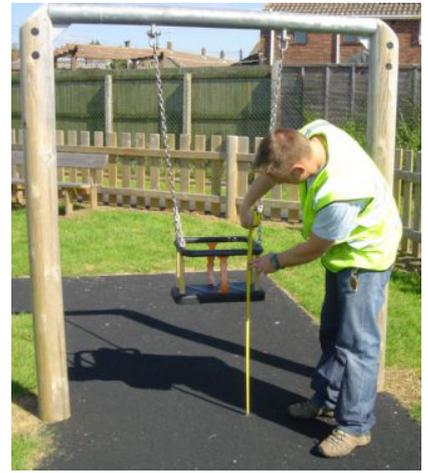


Playground Management Seminars

In February 2019, we held a Playground Management Training Seminar at Brockworth. Sixteen delegates attended the session.

The seminars highlight what to look for during a routine inspection on a wide range of play equipment and answer any specific queries from delegates.

We plan to continue to facilitate these seminars in forthcoming years.



Youth Sports Start-up Fund



The GPFA **Youth Sports Start Up Grant** is a small fund available to assist in the start-up of a sports club or activity in an area where none currently exists.

Sometimes all that is needed is a few hundred pounds to buy some kit or equipment but grant giving bodies often prefer to deal with established clubs.

Up to £500 can be awarded to help with the start-up and after that we will help however we can to assist in making the new project a success.

GPFA Playing Field and Playground Assessment Scheme

The assessment scheme has run for a number of years, giving our members a non-technical, easy to understand assessment of their facilities and suggested areas for improvement.

The standard of facilities across the county is generally good and although there are sometimes one or two sites that fall below standard, we are then able to offer additional, specific advice on improving these. Equally, there are some excellent sites that have benefited from significant investment in recent years.

The overall standard of play and sport facilities assessed is a testament to the continuing good work done by parish and town councils, community organisations and volunteers.

The GPFA is committed to helping its member organisations to improve their facilities through advice, support, funding guidance and its own grants and loans scheme. We are looking to focus on play areas in 2019, and plan to undertake an audit of play facilities across the county.

GPFA Advisory Service

GPFA members can call upon our free advisory and site visit service, to help deal with issues relating to their playing fields and playgrounds, as well as how to access various funding sources.

In the last year our Advice Officer has made numerous site visits throughout the county, as well as providing extensive written advice and guidance, which has been appreciated by many of our members.



The GPFA Honourable Company of Gloucestershire Award 2018

At the October 2018 GPFA Annual General Meeting, the winners of the GPFA Honourable Company of Gloucestershire Award for talented young sports persons were announced. Once again, the nominations were of an exceptionally high standard and four outstanding winners were selected. The presentation of the awards was made by Sir Dusty Miller, Warden of The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire.



*2018 Award Winners - Annie Testar, Charlie Denman, Emily Drysdale and Beth Gabriel (separate picture)
The Awards were presented by Sir Dusty Miller, Warden of the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire.*

Annie Testar, 16, (Minchinhampton) for Athletics, 800m - Annie has been a member of Stroud and District Athletics Club since the age of 9. She is the SW Counties women's indoor U17 800m champion for both 2017 and 2018 and she won the U17 800m at the England Athletics Indoor Championships in Sheffield. In the summer of 2018, Annie won her first international vest representing England Schools at both 800m and as a member of the 4x300m relay team. She won the girls U17 800m at the ESAA English Schools' Championships in Birmingham, also winning gold in the England Schools U17 4x300m relay team and silver in the U17 800m at the SIAB International.

Charlie Denman, 17, (Coleford) for Racerunning - Charlie has cerebral palsy and first tried racerunning in 2016 when her mum brought her to a taster day at the Gloucester Athletics Track. Racerunning is a relatively new sport but will be an Olympic event in Tokyo in 2020. Charlie started to train competitively with Gloucester Athletics Club's para-athletic squad at the beginning of 2018. In her first competition she won silver in the women's 100m at the UK Para-athletics Senior Championships. Charlie represented England in the World CP Athletics Championships in Barcelona, becoming world champion at 400m (beating the current world record holder), winning silver in the 100m and bronze in the 800m. Charlie also set the inaugural UK Record for Women's 1500m racerunning, at the CP Sport National Athletics Championships in Doncaster, also winning gold in the 800m, 400m and 200m on the same day!

Emily Drysdale, 17, (Cheltenham) for Hockey - Emily plays for Cheltenham Ladies 1st team in the West Premier League and is the Cheltenham College 1st XI captain and Cheltenham Hockey Club girls captain at both U16 and U18. Emily was selected to represent Wales U16 Girls and in 2016 won the Hockey Team Player of the Futures Cup tournament. She was the Wales U18 Girls Hockey Team Captain in 2017 and again in 2018. This year, aged 17, Emily was selected to play for the Wales U23 Hockey Team and was Team Captain for the Celtic Jaguars U17 Women at the Futures Cup.

Beth Gabriel, 17, (Upper Rissington) for Netball - Beth first played netball for Hucclecote, winning the South West League at U14 and U16 and playing at National Finals. Aged 15, Beth secured a place in the U19s team at the new National League club, Severn Stars, and was scouted by England selectors. She entered the National Academy training Programme for 2018 and was selected as a top 12 player to represent England at the European Championships in Ireland. She won her first England cap against Wales a few months later. Beth travelled to Australia in autumn 2018 on the England Netball U17 tour, to play teams from Australia and New Zealand, and will train with the England Roses U19 Academy Programme in 2019.

Other 2018 nominees: Ben Wade, 17 (Discus), Ellie Wheeler-Smith, 15 (Sprinting), Chloe Jones, 18 (Discus), Grace Pitman, 15 (Sprinting), Zoe Davison, 19 (Modern Pentathlon), Natasha Smith, 18 (High Jump, Heptathlon).

GLOUCESTERSHIRE PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

I report on the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2019 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

Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 June 2019

	<u>General</u>	<u>Fund</u>		<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Funds</u>
	Y/E	Y/E	Appeals	CHK	Youth
	30.06.19	30.06.18		Charities	Sport
	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
Subscriptions & Donations	7,446	6,292			
Advisory Services Income	2,500	-			
Seminar Income	840	785			
Deposit Interest	325	780			
Advertising	480	480			
Miscellaneous	20	70			
Raffle	64	72			
	11,675	8,479			
Resources Expended					
Grants			5,630	3,750	500
Sundries	51	251			
AGM & Awards	83	162			
Postage & Stationery	17	19			
Travel	193	453			
Secretarial & Advice Services	5,727	6,284			
Office Expenses	600	450			
Seminars	660	459			
Insurance	184	184			
	7,515	8,262	5,630	3,750	500
Net Incoming/outgoing Resources	4,160	217	-5,630	-3,750	-500
Balance brought forward	25,117	24,900	51,657	5,166	2,308
Balance carried forward	29,277	25,117	46,027	1,416	1,808

Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2019

		As at 30.6.19	As at 30.6.18
Assets			
		£	£
Cash at Bank -	Barclays Current Account	16,880	32,207
	Virgin Money Deposit Account	47,616	47,291
	Loans	14,032	5,500
		78,528	84,998
Less Liabilities			
	Funds held on Trust	-	750
		78,528	84,248
Represented by			
	General Fund	29,277	25,117
	Restricted Fund	49,251	59,131
		78,528	84,248

Note

Grants totalling £39,150 have been approved to be paid in the future.

The accounts were approved by the Management Committee on 10 September 2019 and signed on their behalf by Mr R. Harrison, Chairman.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

1. Principal Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the Charity are prepared in accordance with The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2000 and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in October 2000 ("SORP"), and with applicable accounting standards. These financial statements are drawn up on the historical cost accounting basis except that investment assets are carried at market value.

a) Incoming resources

The incoming resources are treated as either unrestricted or restricted depending on the source of the income and any specific requests by the donors.

b) Resources expended

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis.