



**GLOUCESTERSHIRE
PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022**



New MUGA at Winchcombe Park Photo: K Lillington

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

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

Chairman's Report



Once again, I am very pleased to be able to bring you my Annual Report as Chairman of the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association. The past year has seen a gradual return to something like normal activities, and people have been able to engage again in a more active lifestyle. As we all know, the challenges faced by everyone concerned with playgrounds and playing fields were daunting due to the Covid 19 pandemic, and I must pay tribute to all those involved who coped so well.

Despite some restrictions earlier in the year, we have nevertheless been able to maintain a good level of service to our membership of 160 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 membership continues to grow, illustrating the importance of the role of the Association in meeting the needs of our communities. The grant and loan scheme has been successful in helping members to complete their projects, and during the past year we have made new offers of grants to our members totalling £14,090. The total amount of grants paid out during the year was £18,770, which was used to support a wide range of projects including new cricket nets, playground improvements and grounds maintenance equipment. As well as the distribution of grants, we continue to be asked to provide advice, information, and funding guidance to our members. This is clearly a highly valued service that has helped Members to save significant costs when planning projects. Kay's role as Advice Officer is central to this successful service.

Now that we are emerging from Covid restrictions we have begun to undertake some of the normal activities that have proved so valuable. The very helpful Playing Field and Playground Assessment Scheme providing an independent and objective review of member's sites, is now available again to our members on-request. We have also been able to reintroduce the very popular Playground Management Training Seminar, this year under the mantle of our recently introduced Gloucestershire Playing Fields Forum, which was set up to further assist our members in creating and managing high quality green spaces, and we hope to offer further training, networking and knowledge-sharing activities over the coming months.

The annual GPFA Honourable Company of Gloucestershire Award scheme, which recognises the sporting achievements of the county's young people, had to be suspended until normal competitive activity could be fully resumed. However, this will again become an important feature of our work in 2023, and we will be able to support some of the promising young sportspeople in the County.

I would like to express my thanks to the many individuals who give up their time voluntarily to provide, manage and improve the many sport and recreational facilities for the people of Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire. In particular, I'm sure everyone will wish to express their appreciation for the many years of service shown by our former Chairman Major Tom Hancock DL in actively supporting the Association with dedication and enthusiasm. Similarly, my thanks go to all the various representatives who have served the Association on the County and other Committees over the years, as without their help and experience we would not have evolved into the successful organisation that we see today.

In conclusion, I am confident that we can all look forward to next year with renewed enthusiasm.

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

Ron Harrison

GPFA Chairman, November 2022

Officers of the Association and Committee Members as of 30 June 2022

President:

Dame Janet Trotter DBE CVO

Vice Presidents:

Earl of Wemyss and March DL

Mavis Lady Dunrossil DL

Sir Henry Elwes KCVO

Officers of the Association:

Chairman: Mr R Harrison

Hon Treasurer

Mr A Ellis

Vice Chairman: Mr N Thick

Independent Examiner:

Mr M E J Paish

Secretary/Advice Officer: Ms K Lillington

Management Committee

Ex-Officio Members:

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Hon Treasurer

Secretary

Members:

Mr T Haines

Cllr J Jones

Ms P Bailey

Mr B Leeke

Cllr D Brown

Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association Trustees Ltd

Directors:

Mr R Harrison

Mr A Ellis

Mavis Lady Dunrossil DL

Earl of Wemyss and March DL

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 advocate for outdoor sport and play and 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' and sharing of relevant information.
- Access to grants and loans towards the provision of play and recreational facilities.
- Provide advice on Trustee and Committee 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 made to GPFA members during the financial year **1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022**.

Grants	£	
Uley Parish Council	2,000	Play area refurbishment
Cranham Parish Council	720	New play equipment
Upton St Leonards Parish Council	500	Replacement swings
Prestbury Parish Council	2,000	Additional play equipment
Newnham on Severn Parish Council	2,000	Play area safety surfacing upgrade
Redmarley Tennis Club	2,000	New LED tennis court floodlights
Brockweir CIC (Brockweir and Hewelsfield)	2,000	New play area
Blakeney & District Recreation Centre	2,000	New play area
St Briavels War Memorial & Playing Field	150	New junior football goals
Winchcombe Cricket Club	720	Replacement outfield mower



The overall costs of the GPFA members' projects listed above, has resulted in over **£300,000** of new investment in community playing fields, sport and play facilities.



Some projects completed in 2021-22

Top: New LED floodlights illuminating the courts at Redmarley Tennis Club. (photo: M Bloxsome)

Middle left: New play equipment installed by Naunton Parish Council.

Middle right: Replacement outfield mower at Winchcombe Cricket Club (club photo).

Bottom left: New play equipment at Prestbury Playing Field (photo: H Breach).

Bottom right: Replacement seesaw at Synwell Playing Field (photo: Synwell PFA).



All projects received GPFA funding assistance

Playground Inspection Seminar

Many of our GPFA members manage and maintain play areas and equipment, and regular 'routine' inspections are most often undertaken by volunteers or in-house staff. Our GPFA Routine Playground Inspection seminars provide an expert overview and highlight what to look for during a routine inspection on a wide range of play equipment, as well as answering any specific queries from delegates. The session includes a practical outdoor element at a nearby play area.

In November 2022, GPFA was pleased to run another seminar at Apperley Village Hall and playground. The event was run by Louisa Hill (PSS Ltd), who is a fully qualified RPII Outdoor Play Inspector with many years of experience. We had twelve delegates, from GPFA member councils and organisations, and again the feedback from the event was very good. We plan to hold another event in summer 2023.

Youth Sport Start-up Fund

The GPFA Youth Sport Start Up Grant is a small fund available to assist in the start-up of a sports club or activity, often in areas where none currently exists.

Sometimes all that is needed is a few hundred pounds to buy some kit or equipment and GPFA is happy to consider applications from both new and more established clubs and groups. Up to £500 can be awarded to help with the start-up.

We made two awards in 2022, to provide safe kit and equipment for two cricket clubs, who were setting up new age-group teams - Down Hatherley CC (Under-13's) and Kings Stanley CC (Under-11's) allowing both boys and girls to participate further in the sport.

Gloucester City Council Pitch Improvement Grant Scheme (2019-2022)

GPFA is the administrator for this 3-year grant scheme run by Gloucester City Council, to distribute a fund of £100,000 to local sports clubs who play on pitches located on council-owned public open space in the city of Gloucester. The funding is generated through the planning system, through Section 106 legal agreements, whereby some housing developers pay 'off-site' contributions to improve formal sports provision in existing open spaces, in place of providing this on their development site.

With the increasing number of residents in the city, the existing sports infrastructure comes under pressure, often leading to over-use of grass pitches and associated facilities, many of which are also long overdue for investment and upgrade. The city council is committed to working with community sports clubs to provide pitches and facilities which are fit for use, now and into the future. Clubs also invest huge amounts of time, energy and their own funds into maintaining their pitches and facilities, so the added value the city council receives is notable.

As the grant administrator, the GPFA Advice Officer is able to offer the clubs technical guidance and support for their applications, which are then submitted to the city council for final approval. Although disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, the scheme has to date awarded over £85,000 of funding to local clubs, towards improving pitches and changing facilities. The city council has now extended the scheme and added a further £100,000 to the funding pot.



Left: Sandbanding one of the pitches at Quedgeley Wanderers FC, Waterwells.

Right: New team dugouts at Gala Wilton FC, off Plock Court



GPFA Advisory Service

GPFA members can also 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.

The Secretary/Advice Officer has visited a number of sites in 2022 and has provided written advice and guidance throughout the year, which has been appreciated by many of our members.



GPFA Playing Field and Playground Assessments

The Association is happy to provide any GPFA member with a non-technical, easy to understand assessment of their outdoor recreational facilities, including suggested areas for improvement. We are not currently running the scheme annually across all member's sites, as in previous years, but are happy to visit sites on request and provide a written assessment.

Gloucestershire Playing Fields Forum

At the 2021 AGM, the Association made a change to its Constitution, to initiate a Playing Fields Forum, which would be a platform for sharing knowledge, skills, and good practice to help our members and their local communities create high-quality, well-managed green spaces.

The first event run under the Playing Fields Forum Banner was the 2022 Routine Playground Inspection training seminar, at Apperley. In 2023, we plan to run more events, including site visits to show good practice and examples of well-designed spaces.

We would welcome members making suggestions for future topics or site visits for the Forum.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE PLAYING FIELDS FORUM



Top left: Example of a park consultation event.

Bottom left and above: Playground Inspection training seminar.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

The accounts were approved by the Management Committee on 6 September 2022 and signed on their behalf by Mr N Thick, Vice Chairman.

Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association

Balance Sheet at 30 June 2022

<u>Assets</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Cash at Bank:		
Barclays Bank	5,028	18,771
Virgin Money	48,124	48,066
Debtor	3,750	
Loans	6,112	8,752
	<u>63,014</u>	<u>75,589</u>
Represented by		
General Fund	41,578	35,383
Restricted Funds		
Appeals	2,623	20,527
CHK Charities		216
Youth Sport	658	1,308
June Stevens Foundation	18,155	18,155
	<u>63,014</u>	<u>75,589</u>

Note Grants totalling £32,220 have been approved to be paid in the future

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

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.

Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 June 2022

	General Fund		Restricted Funds	
	Y/e <u>30/06/22</u>	Y/e <u>30/06/21</u>	Y/e <u>30/06/22</u>	Y/e <u>30/06/21</u>
<u>Incoming Resources</u>				
Subscriptions and Donations	6,725	6,730		
Advisory Service				
Income	6,250	2,500		
Seminar	1,295			
Advertising	500	125		
Miscellaneous	75	75		
Deposit Interest	58	91		
Transfer from Fund				1,165
	14,903	9,521		1,165
<u>Resources Expended</u>				
Grants			18,770	11,500
Secretarial and Advice Services	6,299	4,750		
Office Expenses	600	600		
Seminar	1,021			
AGM and Awards	325			
Travel	278	118		
Postages and Stationery	23	23		
Insurance	151	184		
Sundries	11	21		
	8,708	5,696	18,770	11,500
<u>Net Incoming/Outgoing Resources</u>	6,195	3,825	-18,770	-10,345
Balance, brought forward	35,383	31,558	40,206	50,551
<u>Balance, carried forward</u>	41,578	35,383	21,436	40,206