



CHILHAM SPORTS CENTRE

BLOG..... NO 2

www.cprgt.btck.co.uk

The REC, the Sports Ground, the Playground, the Sports Centre, the Recreation Ground - we all call it different things but it is surprising how few people in the Parish really know much about our fantastic facility. For a relatively small parish we are very lucky.

How did it start - Previously the Football Club's pitch changed each year as the farmer rotated his crops! They along with the Cricket Club felt insecure at their grounds. Finally things started moving in 1970 and thanks to the efforts of several local villagers grants were obtained, the ground was bought with money raised by local organisations, villagers and the Parish Council, all of which allowed the building of the Sports Hall and associated facilities plus the floodlit tennis courts.

Where do we get our income - despite what many people think we are not supported financially in any way by Ashford Council or Chilham Parish Council. Income is from Hires, donations, Boot Fairs and the famous 100 Plus Club.

Who runs it - volunteers, volunteers and volunteers, but unfortunately not enough of them. It's a great way to meet people and get involved in the village. Why not make an effort to come along and put your skills to great benefit -cutting the grass, marking the sports lines, booking out the facilities, running the 100 Plus Club, looking after maintenance issues, responding to alarm alerts, checking the toilet rolls.....

The Community - we are very proud and pleased to see important local groups covering all ages using our facilities. Both local schools use the indoor and outdoor facilities regularly in the week, and the Lunch Club, which must be unique, provides a weekly meal and convivial meeting for those who are less able to get out on their own. This can only happen due to the tremendous efforts of those volunteers who give freely of their time.

The 100 Plus Club - weekly draws with 3 weekly prizes. OK, you will not be able to retire on your winnings, but everyone likes an occasional unexpected win, and you will be supporting the Sports Centre. Only £1 a week, payable in various ways. Contact Malcolm Smith on 07721 636045.

Get Fit, burn the calories have fun - the Sports Centre is available for hire on a regular weekly basis for groups or individuals. Over the years various activities such as badminton, football, basketball, karate, yoga, martial arts, zumba, volleyball, indoor radio controlled planes, table tennis, martial arts have taken place at the Centre. Why not start a group, take training sessions or just get together with friends.

Why is the Recreation Ground often empty - it's a fact of life that there are spells when not a lot goes on, especially in the early parts of the day when people are at work. However St Mary's school is a regular user inside and outside depending on the weather, during the day, and weekends of late have often seen three football matches and tennis competitions.

Dogs - walking your dog is great exercise and we are pleased to see dog walkers down at the Rec, **provided**....that you clear up your dog's mess. They know no better but you do! Many of you clear up after the few inconsiderate owners and we thank you all for that. Children and footballers deserve a Recreation Ground clear of mess.

The Future...why not sell the ground for housing - absolutely **No Chance**. The whole ground and facilities are owned by our Charitable Trust - Chilham Parish Recreation Ground Trust (we know it does not flow off the tongue!) - and further protected by the National Fields In Trust programme.

The Real Future - once we are over the winter weather, work will commence on the excellent improvements planned for the new Children's Play Area, the Multi Use Games Area, the new Seating Area and the improved Tennis facilities.



