**-GUILSBOROUGH PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION**

**REPORT ON ACTIVITIES FOR 2022**

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|  | Meetings Organised | Meetings attended. |
| **Trustees:** |  |  |
| Hugh Lowther | 1. AGM 2. GPFA Trust Management Group | 1 |
| John McCall | 1 |
| Sarah Edwards | 1 |
| **General Committee** | 1. 5 Committee Meetings   **TOTAL 5** |  |
|  |  |  |
| Simon Smith | Chairman | 6 |
| Mike Edwards | Vice-Chairman | 4 |
| Graham Byars | Secretary | 6 |
| Milly Plant | Treasurer | 6 |
| **Members** |  |  |
| Jim Houghton | Haddon Cricket Club, Senior& Junior, Chairman Fundraising. | 5 |
| Marc Garret | West Haddon Junior Football Club | 2 |
| Katie Fulcher | Parish Council & Publicity Officer | 5 |
| Gary Wakelin | Health &Safety Officer | 5 |
| Ged Lowry | West Haddon Junior Football Club | 2 |
| Freddie de Lisle | General Committee Member | 4 |
| Mark Webster | General Committee Member (Corresponding ) | 0 |
| Stephen O’Connor | General Committee Member (Corresponding ) | 0 |
| Kit Woolridge | Guilsborough Academy School (Corresponding ) | 0 |
| Steve McGlasson | General Committee Member (Corresponding ) | 0 |
| Sam Darbyshire | Fundraising General Committee Member (Corresponding) | 0 |
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**1.Summary**

The GPFA were nominated for “The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service’ but although not successful, our work in the community was very much admired by an independent National Assessment Committee. If the GPFA had been successful, the award is the highest accolade given to volunteer groups across the UK, and Sir Martyn Lewis, Chair of the QAVS National Assessment Committee said the nomination represents a tremendous achievement for the GPFA. He also said that excellent work the GPFA does and the enormous benefits from it were very much admired by the assessors and said it was very clear that the GPFA plays a vital role in supporting the local community. The long-term need and demand for the Field has been established by the arrangements with Haddon Cricket Club and West Haddon Junior Football Club who are the primary clubs using the Field users. The relationship with both these clubs provides sporting activities for juniors and seniors from Guilsborough and surrounding villages.

In addition, the Field, provides frequent informal use by juniors and adults for sporting practices and recreational uses. The Football Foundation grant enables improvements to the playing surfaces over the next 6 years, although a GPFA contribution is required in the last 4 years. However, regular sources of funds are needed for fixed costs, and consequently the GPFA have embarked on a fundraising appeal to parishioners and others.

The GPFA participated in the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, by setting-up and running a bar on the village green.

Metro Bank are now the GPFA’s bank.

The GPFA website has been updated by Jim Houghton. `--+

The GPFA is an organisation that depends very heavily on the willingness of members to give up their time to commit to its’ activities The General Committee welcome more onto its General Committee to organise events, fundraise and maintain the facilities.

After 5 years as chairman, Simon Smith is stepping down, and is thanked sincerely for his stewardship and especially his important fundraising.

**2. Health & Safety, & Security**

* No accidents occurred or were reported in 2022
* Gary Wakelin monitored Health & Safety at the Field.
* The rodent/pest control regime by George Lawton continued.
* The West Northants Council (WNC) have convened a meeting in February 2023 to review the parking from the Academy to the Playing Field, that results in a distressed verge unsuitable for walking. The police have assessed it as dangerous. Northants Highways, The Academy, The Guilsborough Parish Council, WNC, the GPFA will be attending. It will also review if using the GPFA carpark could be a solution.
* A 4-camera CCTV system was installed on the pavilion following a grant from Northants Community Foundation, with the intention of deterring burglars. It has also shown some dog owners are not adhering to the signs at both entrances to the Field. Further signs have been erected and entries made in the VillageLink.

**3.** **Activities at the Playing Field in 2022**

In summary the Field was used by/for:

1. **Haddon CC**. After the highs of the 2022 season where the club were both Northamptonshire Cricket League Division 2 champions and T20 Cup winners Haddon CC are now planning for 2023 season. The club offer cricket across 3 grounds in Guilsborough, East Haddon and West Haddon and has thriving junior and adult sections.  The junior section runs All Star soft ball and hard ball cricket for all children from the ages of 5 to 16 who would like to give the game a try.  For 9-16 year olds indoor sessions will start from February 2023, and will move to outdoors from April.

In the adult section the club runs four teams in the Northamptonshire Cricket Team on Saturdays, two sides in the Rugby District mid-week league, and a ladies side in the Northamptonshire 8 a-side league.  The club aims to offer both social and competitive cricket, new players of all levels of experience are always welcome. Pre-season adult training for the 2023 season will start indoors from February. For further information please contact Jim Houghton on 07748920176 or [jim.houghton72@outlook.com](mailto:jim.houghton72@outlook.com).

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1. **West Haddon Football Club.** Teams playing at Guilsborough were A) An Under 11s and B)an Under 16s in the 2021/2022 season. A grant from Northants Community Foundation enabled 2 new under 12 football goals to be purchased, costing £2700.

**C) Other Users**

* **Guilsborough Primary School** used the Field for their Sports Day.
* **Guilsborough joggers, walkers and keep-fit enthusiasts,**  used the Field and the sports fitness equipment.
* **Guilsborough fathers, sons and daughters**, and local young teenage cricketers used the cricket nets, hopefully following guidelines relating to the virus that were erected..
* **St. Michael’s Cricket Club**, played 10 home games at the Field and contributed £1400. .
* **Northants Sports**  used the Field on 5 occasions for school sports events.

**4.Maintenance & Development of the Buildings, Ground & equipment**

1. R&G Grounds from Creaton maintained the playing surfaces, surroundings, and some equipment. The mowing, vertidraining, fertilising, perimeter maintenance and killing weeds on the field & gravelled areas cost ~£4,200, even though R&G had been asked to only complete essential maintenance.
2. On the cricket square Thompson Ground Care of Guilsborough, completed the end-of-season, winter and spring maintenance, costing ~£2300. R&G also maintained some of the equipment, however West Haddon Mowers serviced the specialised Allett mower, cost £470.
3. As Jim Pye had a knee replacement , Joseph Manning, aged 17 of Cold Ashby Road and Haddon CC cricketer, added Jim prepar wickets when needed during the 2022 season; they had been thanked and remunerated.
4. Other maintenance jobs were completed in 2022, including, service contracts for fire/security alarms, CCTV , electrical and mechanical services. These are all recorded in the minutes of the General Committee minutes.
5. In 2022, Helping Hands from Spratton cleaned the pavilion (~£350), and Cathedral Hygiene removed sanitary waste ( ~£220) that the GPFA is required by law to arrange.
6. The Football Foundation have awarded West Haddon Junior Football grants over 6 years to improve the Guilsborough pitches, that provides at £23,044, with the GPFA contributing a further £11,520 over 6 years with the GPFA contributing none over the first 2 years. The improvement work started in 2022.

**5. Fund Raising.**

1. As the Parish Council has declined to financially support the GPFA’s operational costs, despite several requests over the last few years, a new initiative to raise funds is in progress, and is a direct appeal to parishioners and businesses to be “ Friends of Guilsborough Playing Field” and contribute annually through a Deed of Covenant or “JustGiving”. A core of General Committee members and others are organising the appeal to be launched in the spring of 2023.
2. Again, no progress was made for someone to lead Fundraising & Sponsorship for the GPFA. There is an opportunity to raise substantial sums from sponsorship (e.g. advertising boards outside & inside the ground) which would lessen the need for fundraising events.

**6. Funding the GPFA**

* £19,000 is in the GPFA’s accounts at the end of 2022, an increase of £3,000 from 2021, thanks to Hollowell Steam & Hugh Lowther, a record sum from the Bottle Stall (in part from increased bottle donations from Haddon & St. Michaels CCs, plus donations from West Northnats Council and West Haddon Football Club, and because expenditure was restricted to essential items only.
* ~£12,000 p.a. was again needed for fixed costs, e.g. Field mowing & strimming/cricket square treatments & wicket preparation, Field treatments (vertidraining, slitting, weedkilling), tree inspections & maintenance, insurance, utilities, security, cleaning, equipment .
* The clubs and other Field users contribute ~40% of the operational costs. The contributions are in-line with charges made by other clubs and Northants Council for the use of their facilities.
* Since 1987 grants to the value of £220,000 and donations of £66,000 had been obtained by the GPFA, for projects costing £286,000.

**7. Marketing & Publicity (Increased activity at the Field)**

1. Regular articles in the VillageLink, that promote the GPFA as an umbrella organisation for all the clubs/organisation that use the Field, was organised by Katie Fulcher. She was thanked.

**8. Succession** A succession plan for some of the elderly GPFA officials is still needed. As reported earlier, the GPFA has a new Chairman in 2023, Freddie de Lisle. The GPFA would welcome individuals to “Shadow” the roles of some, with the intention to take-on these roles at a later date. In addition, a new Events Fundraiser is needed. Approaches have been made but no positive outcome.to date for individuals to join the General Committee.

**9. The “Vision Project” -New Activity at the Field**

No further progress on the "Vision Project" has progressed because the field is currently highly used with cricket and football. The four identified 4 routes that were to be progressed are an artificial grass games area, a cycle track, a pavilion extension, and tennis courts.

**10 Insurance**

Mike Edwards organised insurance for the GPFA and is thanked for not applying a brokerage charge.

**11. Trustees**

The GPFA General Committee thank the Trustees for their continuing support.

Written by**:** Graham Byars

**APPROVED BY:**  **Simon Smith : Chairman: DATE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**