



# CURLEY PARK RANGERS FC

Est 1973  
SURREY HEATH



A CHARTER STANDARD  
COMMUNITY CLUB

10<sup>th</sup> Dec 09

## Update on Situation so far!

There continue to be many questions regarding the fence at Connaught Park and our current restrictions on the use of the Connaught School fields we wanted to update you on the current situation.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> October a meeting with Steve Evans (Surrey County Asset Plan Delivery Manager) and Paul Blair (Curley Park Rangers Club Secretary) took place.

This meeting was to discuss what we believed was a workable solution to the 'draft licence' between The School and Curley Park Rangers. The School agreed to the meeting although they were not present but happy for Steve Evans to negotiate on their behalf and Stuart MacLeod – County Councillor who was then unable to attend). There was give and take on both sides and both (Steve Evans & Paul Blair) believed that the agreement they came to was a workable agreement and both left the meeting feeling very positive.

However, Steve Evans still had to put this agreement to the school to be approved which he duly did. After some considerable chasing on our part for the school feedback on the suggested licence, Connaught Junior school then decided that they would not look at the licence as they had had an independent survey with a report stating that the ground was over used and should not be used until at least Easter 2010. A request was then formally put to the school via Steve Evans to allow us to have our own independent survey and also review the school's survey. This was done on the 25<sup>th</sup> November – to date we have had no response at all to either request other than the following statement.

Steve Evans informed Curley Park that "Whilst I went through the various scenarios with the School as discussed at our earlier meeting the message I have received from them is clear.... The School would not give any assurances re future lettings and were not prepared to consider any variations to the times of use to those set out in the original draft licence. I am therefore not in a position to take forward discussions around a licence and have received clear instructions from the School."

(NB – some of the restrictions of the draft licence are listed below in this document)



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## Previous Statement

### Calling All Parents, Your Club Needs You!

There have been so many questions regarding the fence at Connaught Park and our current restrictions in the use of the Connaught School fields we wanted to explain the situation and seek your help.

Curley Park has been based at Connaught Park for the last 30 years. We are a local club, the largest in the county, and we pride ourselves on offering football to the whole community. This has been recognised this last week as the Club has been awarded the prestigious status of "FA Charter Standard Community Club".

Regrettably over the last two years the relationship with Connaught School has become more difficult. This year the school have decided to push through a radical change of terms for use of the sports field. The ownership of the field has been split between the school and the local borough council. To achieve this, the school decided to put the metal fence between the two areas on the grounds stating that it was for reasons of the safety of the children at the school. Unfortunately for the club this fence goes across one of the 11-a-side pitches.. The club tried to negotiate a double gate to ensure we could assist in the maintenance of the grounds (as we have done for a number of years circa £5000 – £6000 per annum) and make the fence workable, however the school installed a single gate in the fence so even if the club do have usage everything will have to go through this narrow entrance which raises health and safety concerns for us such as access for Ambulances.

**Addendum – The school also refused Curley Park permission to enter the field during last summer to carry out remedial works as previously done.**

The school has imposed a number of further restrictions that really have a negative impact on the club. These are a reduction in the number of pitches from four to two and allowing only use on Saturdays. However they have doubled the rent and want further money for maintenance of the field! Further restrictions on usage mean no football after 3pm. The standard kick off for North East Hants League is 2pm which means 11-a-side games finish after 3pm this gives yet another problem. Additionally the school have advised us that the club would no longer be able to use the Tennis Courts for parking on a weekend.

We are continuing to negotiate the best deal we can for the club but the school seems to be set in its position and as of 23<sup>rd</sup> of August there is no agreement with the School and it seems unlikely the School will be in a position to agree anything before the 5/6<sup>th</sup> September. To that end we have asked the League to ensure that Curley Park teams do not have any home games on the 5<sup>th</sup> September but clearly this is not a sustainable position.



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You can understand the club's frustration that a facility that has been used for 30 years without problems (throughout this time paying rent to use these facilities) is now potentially unavailable to us. We are continuing negotiation with the School. However we are turning to our 500 parents to ask for your help so we can safeguard the future of the club and ensure the children can continue to play football. We need to find alternative temporary/and or permanent venues for the Junior Club at 7-a-side and help to find alternate pitches for the Senior Club at 11-a-side. Can you help us?

1. Are there Companies nearby with Sports facilities we could approach?
2. Are there local schools (we've approached a couple already) we could use?

Please email Mark Kelly ([mark.kelly63@btinternet.com](mailto:mark.kelly63@btinternet.com)) or Paul Blair ([sec@cprfc.org.uk](mailto:sec@cprfc.org.uk)) if you have any questions or suggestions.

Our new website is also up and running – please be sure to visit regularly to get the latest news ([www.cprfc.org.uk](http://www.cprfc.org.uk))



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