

Account of Purley on Thames

Other Sports in Purley

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Many other sports have been played in Purley at one time or another and many Purley residents have played at other venues.

Archery

At one time Purley had an archery club which used to practice at the Recreation Ground. It started in 1970 but did not last long. Our first mention of it came from an article by Ken Mercer for the April 1990 Newsletter as its inaugural meeting was interrupted by a visit from a helicopter.

Daddy, there is a helicopter on the playing field! Thus I was greeted by our youngest daughter upon my return home a little early from the office. That evening in 1970 was to be the inaugural shoot of the newly formed Purley Archery Club under instruction from three County Archers. The machine was droopily sitting in the middle of the intended range.

The subject has cropped up again from time to time but nothing has come of it.

Boule

A boules piste was established by the Parish Council at a plot adjacent to the lock around 2014 but it has been disturbed on many occasions by maintenance activity at the lock which has needed the space to store equipment.

Golf

There has never been a golf course in Purley but many residents play at local clubs, amongst them Streatley, Pincents Manor at Nunhide and Calcot.

Hockey

Hockey has been played at Denefield School, mainly by girls. Adult players have excellent facilities at Reading Hockey Club in Sonning.

Netball

When the Tennis Courts at Beech Road were re-surfaced to provide hard courts, the opportunity was taken to make them suitable also for netball. To support this floodlights were provided but they incurred the wrath of most of the residents of Beech Road.

A thriving Ladies netball club resulted which played in the local netball league for a couple of years but then the league decided to play all their matches at Theale and the Purley activity folded with the floodlights being removed.

Riding

Rising has been a very popular activity, especially among girls. Horses were kept at Scrases Farm for some time and several local residents used to give them exercise by riding them around the area.

In recent years Scrases has become the Springs Farm Equestrian Centre and they keep up to 40 horses there for the family to ride.

Hall Place Riding Centre at the top of Sulham Hill has been a venue for local children to go for riding lessons. They also have provided facilities for the Riding for the Disabled scheme. A number of the

footpaths in Purley are in fact designated as bridlepaths and riders are quite common, especially in the summer months.

Rugby

It has been next to impossible to play rugby in Purley because of the prevalence of sharp flints in the ground. However after many years Denefield School started rugby around 2014. Many local boys played at either Abbey Rugby Club or Redingensians on the other side of Reading.

