



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

SPARTA

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FOREWORD

by our Chairman, Rod Paterson



I am delighted to provide the opening Foreword for our Sports and Recreation Association (SPARTA) 2022 Annual Report.

For the first time since the outbreak of Covid, SPARTA has been able to operate in near normal circumstances for most of this year and start to provide the services that all our members deserve. Several of our clubs resumed a near normal programme and I was delighted that the Civil Service Choir has once again performed, with its recent Vivaldi concert a real highlight. I must congratulate the SPARTA History Society too which attracts a wide range of brilliant speakers to its hugely successful and appreciated hybrid talks enabling both in person and online attendance. I very much hope all our clubs and societies will resume a full programme of activities in 2023.

We were really pleased to celebrate the SPARTA 50th anniversary this year and have the Permanent Secretaries of both DLUHC and DfT, Jeremy Pocklington and Bernadette Kelly, as our joint Presidents. I hope that many of you were able to join in on at least one of the activities that we put on to celebrate the anniversary.

This year also saw us able to hold SPARTA Sport and Wellbeing Day for the first time since 2019. The day was an incredible success with well over 500 people attending and nearly a thousand pounds raised for charity. Our return to Chiswick allowed us to hold a full programme of sports on the day. The event was also recognised as a CSSC100 event that celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Civil Service Sports Council. A truly special day which required a huge effort. A big thanks to Jason Marchant, our General Secretary, who worked hard over many months to deliver a brilliant day together with our many volunteers.

We are always looking at ways to improve SPARTA and bring in new members. This year we held two “Meet the SPARTA Clubs” 50th anniversary events for staff in our central DLUHC and DfT offices. They were successful events which we hope to repeat in 2023. Both events

demonstrated lots of interest in our current offering and an enthusiasm for us to grow our offer and explore new clubs and activities. We will only grow our membership by promoting ourselves not just in London but in our regional offices too. We need all our clubs and societies to join us in that effort.

We couldn't have held any of this year's events without the help of all the volunteers that make SPARTA the wonderful association that it is. I want to thank you all for your time and commitment. The association couldn't possibly operate without your help. Looking to the future, several of our SPARTA stalwarts are beginning to step back from their clubs and societies and it is a concern that in some cases we are struggling to see new members step up.

I also want to thank my fellow committee members for their hard work once again. Sue Johnson, despite now being retired, has stayed on as our Deputy Chair as we search for someone of equal capabilities who can replace her. And Paul Jones continues to do a great job as our Treasurer and brings greatly improved rigor to our accounts. SPARTA would not function without their help.

Finally, we were all devastated earlier this year when Rose D'Costa MBE very sadly passed away. It is difficult to express in words all that Rose has brought to SPARTA since its foundation and the unbelievable amount Rose, and her husband Peter, have done for charity and the Civil Service. The SPARTA family will miss Rose enormously and a void has been left by her passing. I hope SPARTA commemorated Rose appropriately and we offer our love and support to Peter.

I look forward to seeing you in 2023 and to SPARTA having a brilliant 51st year!



Rod Paterson
Chair, SPARTA
DLUHC and DfT Sports and Recreation Association

ROSE D'COSTA MBE



This year we lost one of our honorary life members, Rose D'Costa MBE. Rose passed away very suddenly while still being heavily involved in SPARTA activities.

Rose worked in the Department of the Environment and Transport in the original 2 Marsham Street building, starting work in the typing pool and progressed over the term of her career through to the role of Senior Personal Secretary (SPS).

Rose has been heavily involved with SPARTA since its beginning in 1972. Rose was also one of the founding members of the Ten Pin Bowling club and league which also started in 1972. Rose was married to Peter D'Costa. Rose's husband, Peter, is a former general Secretary of SPARTA, and organised many sports days.

At these events Rose would be in charge of the very popular raffle and she along with Peter raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for charity through these and many other charity raising events with the majority of their monies going towards the Charity for Civil Servants (formally the Civil Service Benevolent Fund).

Rose and Peter were both recognised for their charity work, each receiving an MBE in 1997.

Rose, together with her husband, were involved in the corporate games and attended with teams formed from both DfT and DLUHC (in their various previous incarnations) many times. They were both very proud to represent our Departments at these events.

RIP Rose, your SPARTA family will miss you dearly.

FINANCIAL REPORT

21/22 YEAR ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022

by our Honorary Treasurer, Paul Jones



This year's accounts (21/22) have been audited by Oliver Poxon and he has confirmed that the financial statements for 2021/22 are free from material misstatements and gives a true and fair view of the accounts. I would like to thank Oliver for all the work he has done in auditing SPARTA financial accounts.

The SPARTA bank account is in a reasonable condition at this time as we held a bank balance of £73,113 at the end of the financial year (2021/22).

SPARTA Income for the year was £23,573

This was made up of three streams CSSC, Membership and Sports Day.

CSSC provided their main grant of £12,500 (in two instalments) and an extra £5,000 to celebrate their 100 year which we used to part fund our Sports Day.

Membership income was £4,901. This was down on 20/21 which had been £5,187. That is a drop of £284 which equates to 5.51%.

Even though membership has dropped, it appears the fall is slowing year on year. There is no available evidence to conclude why this drop took place although it is reasonable to assume that Covid-19 and the "new" hybrid working patterns may have had some bearing on this drop of income.

Sports Day generated income of £1,122.

Income Type	£
CSSC100 Funding	5,000.00
CSSC 21/22	12,500.00
Memberships (Excluding pre-payment)	4,901.00
Sports Day Income	1,122.03
Sports Day Return part of Float	50.00
	23,573.03

Expenditure for the year was £25,447

This is made up of payments made and cost accrued for the year.

Clubs Bids for 21/22 (calendar year 2022) totaling £8,945 were paid out to all the clubs apart from the Choir, Softball and Yoga.

Breakdown:

Expenditure Type	£
Club Bids	
Clubs Bids - Cricket - 21/22	659
Club Bids - Golf - 21/22	3,925
Clubs Bids - Ten Pin Bowling 21/22	2,645
Club Bids - Tennis 21/22	360
Club Bids - Table Tennis 21/22	29
Club Bids - History 21/22	1,297
Club Fitness class headphone	30
	8,945

Regional Bids (Rebates to Affiliated branches) totaled £978.

Currently only DVSA Nottingham has claimed for 19/20. They don't intend to claim for 20/21

Breakdown of the Regional rebates:

Expenditure Type	£
Regional Bids	
Nottingham Rebate FY 19/20	978
Accruals	
Clear DVSA Nottingham FY 19-20 over accrual	(1,298)
Clear TRL 18/19 as over 2 year	(221)
Clear DVSA Nottingham 20/21 as not intending to claim	(978)
DVLA Swansea Rebate 21-22	3,733
DVSA Nottingham Rebate 21-22	978
TRL Crowthorne Rebate 21-22	221
	3,413

The “Rebates to Affiliated branches” is showing an expense figure of £3,413 as the accounts had to be adjusted to clear the over accrual for DVSA Nottingham 19/20 payment, 20/21 payment that they don’t intend to claim and TRL write off for not claiming for over 2 years.

Accruals have been put on for DVSA Nottingham and TRL for 21/22.

I have added a further years accrual for DVLA Swansea. The proposal is for DVLA to reclaim their rebate direct from CSSC, however this arrangement has not yet been agreed and finalised and therefore we may need to pay the rebate for years 20/21 and 21/22. This has been agreed with the auditor as a matter of prudence and hopefully we will be able to clear these once we get confirmation DVLA are claiming direct from CSSC.

Sports & Wellbeing Day cost totalled £9,680

This is a lot higher than our “usual” cost of c£4k due to being our 50th celebrations and some of it has been offset by the extra £5,000 received from CSSC as part of their 100th celebration.

Expenditure Type	£
Sports & Wellbeing Day	
Equipment for Sports Day	443
Generator	146
Venue Hire	1,650
Cricket Pitch (2nd)	354
Unit Medica	750
Programme	1,028
Band - Caribbean Melodies fees & travel costs	830
Children's funcastle (incl vat)	390
Bootcamp (incl vat)	840
PA System: Rig & Gigs	830
Medals	544
Athletic officials	300
Rugby officials	59
Float	1,515
	9,680

There were three further categories of expenses for the year which are shown below:

Breakdown:

Expenditure Type	£
CSSC Nottingham travelling expenses	105.9
CSSC Nottingham travelling expenses	152.45
	258.35

Expenditure Type	£
CSSC Tennis entry fee	75
CSSC 10k Run Entrance Fee	395
CSSC CSAA Entry Fee	7
	477

Expenditure Type	£
Miscellaneous	
Barclaycard Anywhere Card Transaction costs	7
Jason Marchant Misc expenses	113
Sparta 50 - Promotional badges & Gift Bags	1,754
Charity Donation: Mind & Charity for Civil Servants	800
	2,674

The next page contains a statement of SPARTA finances as at 30th September 2021.

Financial Statements

INCOME STATEMENT	FY 21/22	FY 20/21	FY 19/20
	Year Ended	Year Ended	Year Ended
	30-Sep-22	30-Sep-21	30-Sep-20
Income	£	£	£
Sports day income	1,122	-	-
SPARTA Member subscriptions	4,901	5,187	5,604
CSSC Rebate	17,500	12,600	12,600
Other revenue	50	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	23,573	17,787	18,204
Expenditure			
Rebates to affiliated branches	(3,413)	19,498	(5,737)
Grants to clubs	(8,945)	(11,952)	(1,154)
Representative matches	(258)	-	-
Sports day cost	(9,680)	-	(1,262)
Entry fees	(477)	-	-
Miscellaneous	(2,674)	(594)	(547)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	(25,447)	6,951	(8,700)
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(1,874)	24,738	9,504

BALANCE SHEET	At	
	30-Sep-21	30-Sep-20
Current Assets		
Debtors	-	6,300
Petty cash	38	177
Cash at bank	73,113	73,481
Unpresented cheques	-	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	73,152	79,958
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	(0)	(1,154)
Accruals & Provisions	(9,945)	(38,337)
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	(9,945)	(39,491)
NET CURRENT ASSETS / (LIABILITIES)	63,206	40,466
NET ASSETS	63,206	40,466
Equity and Reserves		
Equity at beginning of year	65,204	30,962
Movement in Reserves	(124)	-
Surplus/(deficit)	(1,874)	9,504
TOTAL SHAREHOLDER EQUITY	63,206	40,466

MEMBERSHIP

Our finances show that membership income was down during the financial year 21/22 by 5.51%. There is no available evidence to conclude why these drops took place although it is reasonable to assume that Covid-19 and new hybrid working may have had some bearing on this drop of income. Even though they had been an increase in membership applications that has been offset/reduced by gradual decline in numbers.

As always it is not easy to determine the precise size of our membership due to the different ways that people can join i.e., new members who might pay an annual membership directly to their SPARTA club. Our finances show that we currently have 208 members who pay directly to SPARTA. That is an increase of 2 members from the start of the year (206). We had 28 new members during the year which offset 26 who left.

The figures above don't take account of new members who joined after the financial year end as a result of the "Get to know your Clubs" initiative. That generated 11 new members which are not yet on payroll and will show up in the next years account.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The 48th Annual General Meeting was held on 8th December 2021.

The meeting was held virtually online using Microsoft Teams

No motions were proposed at the meeting

A copy of the AGM minutes is available on the SPARTA website

THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (GMC)

This year the General Management Committee met on 24 March 2022.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee also met this year on 23 February 2022. At this meeting the club bids were agreed.

Regional Associations

No reports were received from Regional Associations during this period.

SPARTA LONDON BASED CLUBS

The SPARTA London based clubs had a good year. A report of each club is below:

The Civil Service Choir

The COVID-19 pandemic and its legacies continued to have an impact on the choir's activities in 2022, particularly in the first half of the year, but the choir continued to operate, and it is now once again thriving. It gave 16 performances in 2022, including eight in December.

At the Civil Service Awards in December the choir gave its 150th performance since forming in the autumn of 2009. It has now given 154 performances large and small (44 formal concerts, 5 virtual performances during the COVID-19 pandemic and 105 other performances). It plans to celebrate this achievement in early 2023.

Activities in 2022

In April the choir was invited to sing at the 2021 Civil Service Awards at Lancaster House, which had been postponed from December 2021. A contingent of the choir sang a selection of light music, including ABBA hits. In June a contingent of the choir sang in a Corpus Christi service at St Stephen's, Rochester Row - which had been limited to just six singers in 2021 under COVID-19 restrictions. The choir sang Schubert's Mass in G for the service.

In July the choir returned to St John's Smith Square for its first concert in 2½ years. With around 45 singers, the choir performed a multi-lingual work called Jubilate Deo by American composer Dan Forrest, with a small orchestral ensemble. The choir was to have performed the work with full orchestra in July 2020. The performance coincided with a summer heatwave which affected audience attendance, but it was a huge step for the choir to be back on the concert stage.



Feedback following the concert included:

- “It was quite the most moving and heartfelt performance I have known for many years.”
- “From the moment the choir started singing it was clear something special was going to happen.”
- “The audience was clearly enraptured, and you all fully deserved the ovation at the end.”
- “That wasn’t just a concert. That was an experience!”

Rehearsals continued from mid-August at which point live-streaming of rehearsals was introduced to accommodate those unable to attend a rehearsal in person. In September a small contingent of the choir sang at the People Awards at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, again performing ABBA hits.

In November, the choir was invited to perform *Jubilate Deo* in the magnificent surroundings of the National Liberal Club in Whitehall, and it has been invited to return in 2023.



The choir performed on four other occasions in November - the Fauré Requiem at St Stephen’s, Rochester Row for an All-Souls Service; at the Board of Trade Memorial on Armistice Day; and at the Civil Service Rifles Memorial at Somerset House on Remembrance Sunday. The largest event was an evening concert performing two large scale works for double choir and orchestra by Antonio Vivaldi, his *Beatus Vir* and *Dixit Dominus*. This was at Holy Trinity, Sloane Square, with the Brandenburg Sinfonia and soloists from the Royal Academy of Music. The choir numbered around 75 singers.

Feedback after the concert included:

- “Wow! A wonderful concert from beginning to end. Just brilliant.”
- “I am still basking in pleasure from last night’s concert.”
- “Simply spectacular!”

- “A brilliant concert. Truly magical”
- ”It was absolutely amazing. The choir sounded incredible, as did the orchestra.”

The choir was very busy in December with eight events, including two Whitehall Carol services, accompanied by a Salvation Army band at the Emmanuel Centre, and the choir’s own Carol Service at St Stephen’s, Rochester Row to a full



congregation for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic. The choir was also invited to return to Lancaster House to sing at the 2022 Civil Service Awards, which represented the choir’s 150th performance.

The choir’s profile has been raised by events, coverage in the Civil Service Weekly News bulletin and through its own publicity efforts. As a result, it has received many joining enquiries and registered membership is now at or indeed exceeds pre-COVID-19 levels with over 150 members. It is hoped that many of those who have remained inactive in 2022 will return to singing with the choir in 2023.



Raising money for charities

Charity donations at the choir’s *Jubilate Deo* and Vivaldi concerts and at its carol service raised £3,170. The proceeds were donated to the Cardinal Hume Centre on Horseferry Road, with which the choir is strongly associated; to the Charity for Civil Servants; and to St Stephen’s, Rochester Row, which hosted the carol service. This brings the total raised for charities by the choir to £42,890.

YouTube recordings

In December 2020 a recording, from the choir's pre-COVID-19 Christmas concerts and Carol Services, was released each day on YouTube. These recordings remain popular and there were 2,000 views in December. In total there have been 9,250 views of these and the choir's other recordings in 2022. Across the lifetime of all the choir's recordings on YouTube, there have been 56,100 views (up to the end of 2022).

More information about the choir

There is an extensive website that offers information about the choir, what is involved in joining, past performances, and links to recordings.

For more information visit www.civilservicechoir.org.uk

Fitness Club

The Fitness club continues to operate on a hybrid basis with attendees being able to join either in person or online via Microsoft Teams.

The club has a strong core of people who attend on a regular basis and is actively seeking new members.

The club has been operating in Room LG1 in Great Minster House every Friday Lunchtime. The room has recently had the IT equipment updated and it is hoped that in 2023 we will be able to make full use of these new facilities.

SPARTA Golf Society

Following the pandemic, 2022 was the first year that restrictions on our golf days were relaxed enough to have near normal events. However, with social distancing and no or limited access to clubhouse facilities during the previous two years, clubs were looking to recoup losses and as such costs for our society days have, and are, still rising. We have therefore had no option but to pass on those increases to members.

Initially, early events, booked at 2021 prices, attracted good numbers but later events proved to be too pricey for some and numbers fell away. Indeed, one event was in jeopardy of being cancelled due to lack of members wishing to take part. On a good note, though, our annual match against colleagues from Ashdown House, Hastings, was a winning one after 6 straight losses.

For the future, we are considering some 18-hole events in order to keep costs down but also to continue to visit quality courses in the hope that attendances will increase. In the meantime, the option to play just 18 holes will be made available where possible. We also hope there will be some new faces at our golf days following good interest in the society at the recent Sparta Meet the Clubs events.

More details about the SPARTA golf society and their activities can be found on their website at <http://www.spartagolf.co.uk/>

History Society

During the year the History Society has organised 13 virtual and hybrid talks with a number available to watch on YouTube. The talks are attended from staff from across the UK. The talks cover various historical subjects, including a presentation on HS2 Archaeology to the American discovery of Europe. In December 2021 historian Tracy Borman gave her presentation to us from the Tower of London.

For the SPARTA Sports Day we had a logo and banner made, on the day Brian and Chris manned the stall. The banner has been used for other SPARTA recruitment events where the society had its stall.





Planning for next year has already started with a number of high-profile speakers invited including Christian Wolmar on 'Cathedrals of Steam', Anna Key on 'The Restless Republic: Britain Without a Crown' and Professor Rana Mitter on China. The Society has worked with staff networks to inform their members of events. The main challenge facing the Society are the rising fees of the

speakers and a reduction in donations as most people prefer to attend online.



Details of our talks can be found on the SPARTA website:

<https://www.spartarecreation.co.uk>

Robert Baker

History Society Secretary

Martial Arts Club

The Martial Arts Club has not commenced activities post covid.

The retirement of their instructor has left a huge hole that still needs to be filled.

The SPARTA "Meet the Clubs" event showed that there was still good interest across both Departments for the Martial Arts Club

The club is hoping to find a new instructor, either internal or external, to resume activities in 2023.

Softball

The softball club held a few friendly matches during 2022. The Civil Service Softball league did not restart during the year.

The club hopes that the league will recommence during 2023 so that they can plan to continue having an enjoyable time playing in the league most Wednesdays in Hyde Park throughout the summer. New players are always welcome - no previous experience is necessary - and all the equipment is provided.

The members ran the successful softball tournament at the Sport and Wellbeing Day, which as usual was oversubscribed.

Superstars Cricket Club

Superstars CC had another successful season in 2022.

Post COVID we have trimmed the fixture list and managed to (just about) get 11 cricketers willing to play most of those games. The highlight of the season, as in many seasons was the tour which this year took place over the Jubilee weekend in Pembrokeshire.

Friendships with our opponents and bonds within the team were made and strengthened. The side completed 17 games, losing 9 and winning 8 suggesting the level of opposition is well matched for our (lack of?) ability.

The club has always had a strong social side and we'll be meeting for our AGM, awards night and pre-season nets over the winter.

Barry Gigg

barrygigg@yahoo.co.uk

Table Tennis

The Sparta Table Tennis Club did not enter the team into the London Banks and Civil Service Table Tennis League this season or last. We hope to enter the team next year - 2023/24.

The SPARTA “Meet the Clubs” events in Great Minster House and 2 Marsham Street were very successful at identifying new players who may be interested in joining the club in 2023.

Tennis

Sports Day 22nd July 2022

The date conflicted with the CSSC Windsor National Championships but was well attended and of a great standard, the final being contested by 2 mixed pairs from the composite competition field of Men’s, Ladies or Mixed pairings.

CSSC Team Doubles Tennis Tournament Nottingham on 5th - 7th October 2022

2022’s event promised to be our best for many a year having captured new players during the CSSC Windsor National Championships and the SPARTA Sports Day in July. We entered 2 Teams in the Men’s, 1 in each Division not having played in Division 1 before, a single Ladies Team and 2 Mixed. However, on the eve of the tournament our squad had 3 family bereavements forcing us to cancel a Men’s Team and draw other DA’s players in to make up a composite 2nd Mixed Team

MIXED

We fielded the 2 Teams, SPARTA comprising our members and ATHENIANS a mixture of our members and a couple with no Department to play for. In the 1st Round matches, ATHENIANS (Greg & Marguerite, John & Kate) lost to RCSL 2 by 4 rubbers to 0 and SPARTA (Phil & Sue, Nick & Ruth) lost to HASSRA-1 by 4 rubbers to 0. That meant both of our teams played each other in the Plate Semi-final where SPARTA beat the ATHENIANS by 4 rubbers to 0. In the Plate final SPARTA lost to HASSRA-2 by 1 rubber to 3 so finished as Plate runners-up for which they were rewarded with a memento.

LADIES

Our team of Sue & Ruth, Linda & Renata lost by 4 rubbers to 0 to MINERVA and the same score line to HASSRA 1 although Sue & Ruth were close to winning a rubber having won the 1st set before losing a Championship Tie-breaker 3rd set (best to 10, 2-clear) by 11 points to 13. 4 rubbers to 0 was also the score line against RCSL where Kate replaced Renata. Our highlight was against HASSRA-2 where the match stood at 2 rubbers all; Sue & Ruth winning both of their rubbers in straight sets and Linda & Kate losing both on Championship

Tiebreakers; in winning their 2 sets they gave us the win on sets by 6-4. We finished 4th of the 5 teams thus avoiding the wooden spoon!

MENS

With a much-depleted team for Division-1 of Christopher, Graeme, Graham, John & Rob we struggled but put up a brave performance losing by 4 rubbers to 0 against RCSL-1, HASSRA-1 and MINERVA-1 doing better against BT-1 losing by 1 rubber to 3. We thus propped up the table in 5th; most of the Team had only competed in Division-2 before and would we have been in our more natural environment of Div-2 would have undoubtedly been contesting the top places.

The playing standard was very high this year with there being no easy matches. Minerva, who were a very young team, had a clean sweep and won the Mixed, Mens and Ladies. SPARTA again performed well given the circumstances overall, justifying their entry and the support of SPARTA for which the players recorded their appreciation. It is planned to run SPARTA Teams in next season's competition which will again be at the Nottingham Tennis Centre probably in October. The CSLTA and organisers appreciate SPARTA's entry; we are one of just a few Departmental Associations to enter.

The support of CSLTA (CSSC) who run the event was acknowledged and personal thanks was given both to Nigel Daniels the event organiser and to Gul Rashid the Tournament Referee making it such a success.

SPARTA Meet the Clubs events

This awareness and recruitment event was held over 2 Wednesdays in November in Great Minster House and Marsham Street. It was well received and some 17 names of people expressing an interest in Tennis were gathered from the events. All have been contacted and we hope to hold a funded dedicated indoor event in the New Year to gather them together and hopefully get some organised play going in London. It's a far cry from the halcyon days that Lionel Jones, our longstanding octogenarian, talked about when SPARTA ran a summer league of clubs all from the same organisation, but it's a start. Thanks to both Rob for representing Tennis at the events and to Jason getting the events off the ground and running them

Brian Oliver
SPARTA Tennis Organiser

Tenpin Bowling Club

Although the Tenpin Bowling Club met over the last year full activity was severely impaired while waiting for the renovation work of the Lewisham Bowl to be fully completed and also with the sudden passing of Rose D'Costa the Chair of the SPARTA Bowling Club.

The club hopes to resume full activities for the whole of 2023 and to build on Rose's legacy and hard work.

Yoga Club

The yoga club has not been able to reinstate classes during 2022. However, the club is hoping lunchtime classes will be able to resume both in person and online early in 2023 once a new tutor has been appointed.

The 'Meet the clubs' events at the end of 2022 showed some strong interest in yoga so it is hoped there would be a good take up when classes resume

Sue Johnson, Chair

SPARTA NEW CLUBS AND LOCATIONS

SPARTA has started to expand this year and offer new clubs to staff in London and around the country.

We recognise that without adapting to the needs and wants of our members SPARTA will become stale and stagnate. This is something that we must avoid at all costs. It is imperative that we develop new clubs to meet the needs and wants of our members. To do this we need willing volunteers to take forward the establishment of these new clubs.

This year we have been gifted with three individuals who have started new clubs.

Leeds Climbing Club



The Leeds Climbing Club met for the first time on 12 October 2022. Initial administration of the club is being undertaken by William Reay. He has bought together staff from across the DfT Leeds office and introduced them to a fun and taxing activity. SPARTA part funded their initial gathering and would like to arrange formal funding during 2023 so that the club can flourish.



Leeds Hiking Club

The Leeds Hiking Club is an informal club that has been meeting during 2022. Initial administration of the club is being undertaken by Harriette Rymer. They are looking to build the club into a formal club and expand their activities to improve their offer to their members.

SPARTA Board Games Club

The board games club met for the first time on 19 December 2022. Initial administration of the club is being undertaken by David Misell. The club is open to staff across DfT and DLUHC. They hope to expand their activities so that they can invite other Departments to come and join them in the future.

SPARTA SPORT AND WELLBEING DAY 2022

We were really pleased to be able to hold the SPARTA Sports and Wellbeing Day on 22nd July 2022. This was the first such event that we were able to hold since 2019.

The day was a huge success with a full programme of sports and recreations available to all those attending along with musical entertainment and bouncy castle attractions. Events included were:

- Cricket
- Football
- Netball
- Tennis
- Softball
- Touch Rugby
- Petanque
- Pool
- Table Tennis
- Athletics
- Novelty Events such as the Egg and Spoon Race
- Tug of War
- A Quiz
- Yoga



Thanks to the help of all the volunteers the day was a huge success

A list of some of those incredible volunteers is on the following page



Here is a list of just some of the wonderful volunteers who helped to make Sports and Wellbeing Day such a fantastic day.



Adrian Redfern
 Anna McCarthy
 Charlie Sunderland
 David Gott
 Felicity Drown
 Gillian Brown
 Jackie Gillingham
 John Hall
 Laurie Kelly
 Martin Wells
 Michael Oliver
 Pat Murnane
 Paul Shepperson
 Peter D'Costa
 Rod Paterson
 Rose D'Costa
 Silvester Aina
 Steve Hattrill
 Veronika Regecova

Amanda John
 Caroline Heminsley
 Darren Cooper
 David Stowe
 George Warren
 Gwendolyn Morgan
 Jason Marchant
 Lauren D'Costa
 Mark Leigh
 Matthew Eglinton
 Mike Arney
 Paul Jones
 Paul Weekes
 Rebecca Khosla
 Rod West
 Sian Priest
 Simon Gundry
 Sue Johnson



We would also like to thank all those that helped who are not included in this list.

2023 AND BEYOND

2023 looks to be an exciting year for SPARTA with new clubs being established and the current clubs now being able to fully commence their activities in the post covid new normality.

With well over one thousand new staff being employed across DfT and DLUHC there is a real opportunity now for the clubs to recruit new members and expand their activities in 2023.

SPARTA finances are relatively stable, so we can now offer good monetary support to the clubs going forward over the next year.

We hope, with your support, we can reinvigorate SPARTA and make it a valuable asset in the health and wellbeing of all staff across both departments.

*SPARTA - Your Sports and
Recreation Association*

