

SPARTA Newsletter



THE FUTURE IS HERE

Welcome to the May edition of the SPARTA newsletter.

“The Future is Here” is a very bold statement I here you say, well what I am referring to is actually the “Future of SPARTA”.

SPARTA is always looking for your feedback on the services that it should offer, so we have created a future of SPARTA survey.

In the survey we ask for your input into how you want SPARTA to operate in the future, what new clubs you would like to see set up and any general feedback on our services.

Remember SPARTA is YOUR sports and recreation association and we

should be offering the services and clubs that you want.

The survey is only very short and will take you around 5 minutes to complete.

Your input is vital in helping us to understand what you want us to provide for you.

The Survey can be found by using the link below:

[SPARTA SURVEY](#)

Feel free to send any further feedback that you have directly to us at SPARTA@dft.gov.uk

All input is greatly appreciated as we endeavor to keep SPARTA relevant and buoyant for another 50 years



NEW GROUP FROM FAMILIES NETWORK

Solo Parent Coffee Roulette

This month sees the launch of coffee roulette for solo parents. Part of the families network, have set up a group for solo parents to meet up 1-2-1 (virtually), get to know each other, discuss shared experiences and provide support.

If you are interested in having a coffee and a chat please get in touch with Samantha.evans@dft.gov.uk and she can put you on the rota to meet a different solo parent each month. Please do also join their teams channel (families network, solo parents) and look out for their virtual event for solo parents with a guest speaker – date to be announced shortly.

Check out the SPARTA website for upcoming events



PRESIDENTIAL NEWS

The latest news from SPARTA YOUR Recreation Association and the SPARTA Clubs

CHECK OUT THE SPARTA WEBSITE
www.spartarecreation.co.uk

New Presidents

We are delighted to announce that in this, our 50th anniversary year, the Permanent Secretaries of both DfT and MHCLG, Bernadette Kelly and Jeremy Pocklington, have agreed to jointly share the role of SPARTA President through to the end of 2022.

We look forward to involving them over the coming 18 months as SPARTA celebrates this special anniversary.

Sports Day

We had hoped to have a special SPARTA 50th anniversary Sports and Wellbeing Day this summer, however, planning and delivering a mass event given the current gradual re-opening is extremely challenging. There was also concern that the date that we had booked was too close to the full relaxation of the current Covid restrictions. Any extension to those restrictions could have totally scuppered any plans that we made.

We have therefore, with the agreement of both Perm Secs, reluctantly decided to postpone the event until 2022.

We assure you that next year's event, which will be held at Chiswick, will be a special event

for all.

If you have any ideas for anything that you would like to see included at Sports Day, then please remember to add it to your survey return.



CSSC Centenary Games

We are not the only Civil Service organisation that has postponed events. It was recently announced by the Civil Service Sports Council (CSSC) that their Centenary Games, which had been planned to take place in September 2021, will now be postponed till 2022.

The CSSC games take place and include a number of friendly competitions including Archery, Badminton, Basketball, Chess, Gaming, Fencing, Football, Golf, Hockey, Karting, Netball, Photography, Pool, Rounders, Squash, Table Tennis and Rugby

We plan to get as many teams entered for these games as possible when they take place next year.

UPCOMING SPARTA CLUB FIXTURES/EVENTS

May

11th – History Society Talk - The Black Death: Dr Eleanor Janega

18th – Superstars Cricket Club v Green Sox – Dulwich 6pm

20th – Superstars Cricket Club v Green Sox – Chiswick 6pm

26th – Superstars Cricket Club v Dodgers – Chiswick 6pm

27th – Superstars Cricket Club v King's Road – Chiswick 6pm

28th – SPARTA Golf Society - Presidents Day – Sonning GC Reading

June

15th - History Society Talk - Dr Priya Atwal: The Rise and Fall of the Sikh Kingdom

This is just a small selection of the events that are taking place

If you are interested in attending any of these events, please get in touch with the relevant club. Details can be found on the SPARTA website



SPARTA CRICKET UPDATE

SPARTA's cricket club is called "Superstars Cricket Club" as originally the club did several sports including darts and snooker, in a similar manner to 1970s and 80s TV series, 'Superstars', hence their name. Cricket was however the most popular and survived as the others eventually took a back seat.

They play at a friendly standard with all-comers, including beginners, welcome. Their match on 25th April was a cracker. George Warren reports...

For the first time in our history Superstars travelled to Mill Hill CC to face St. Anne's Allstars, in what can't be described as a star-studded match up. The serene surroundings, with cows grazing the open fields and greenery as far as you could see, looked more accustomed to a village setting rather than zone 4 on the Northern Line. The pitch itself looked in good condition with short straight boundaries and a slope across the pitch similar to lords, the only comparison which could be made to the home of cricket that afternoon.

Following a turbulent week for sport in which the ESL was both formed and disbanded there was an element of normality as Captain, Barry Gigg, returned from the middle having lost the toss meaning Superstars were asked to field first. The green wicket certainly provided some assistance to the Superstars' opening pair of Chodzko-Zajko and Plahe. The bowling and, in most part, the fielding was excellent as St Anne's were restricted to only 11 runs in the opening 9 overs, presumably some sort of niche Superstars record.

However, it was the first change of H.Kumar who made the breakthrough with Sears taking a well-judged catch at

short third man. This brought the effective number 3 to the crease who looked to increase the scoring rate. He looked relatively untroubled as St Anne's headed into the drinks break now moving towards a competitive total. The drinks break gave Superstars an unexpected lift as S.Kumar, relaxed by his choice of lager refreshment, found the edge of the number 3 with Warren completing the catch behind.

Runs and wickets continued to flow as Gigg rotated his bowlers, Aranha picked up two wickets in a tidy spell of bowling, beating the batsman's inside edge and finding the off stump on both occasions. The Superstars fielding was noticeably above average but amongst the good there was one comedic drop when, with three players circling a high ball, Aranha appeared to call for the ball, this call was in fact was a shout of "where has it gone" before the ball predictably made its way to the ground.

It was left to Chodzko-Zajko and Plahe to finish off the innings with the latter picking up a well earned wicket, through the stumping of Warren, to finish with impressive figures of 5-3-7-1. St Anne's had scored 169-5 off their 35 overs which many considered to be a 'good score'.

Superstars opened the batting with Warren and Bishop facing an aggressive St.Anne's field. Despite the (relative) lack of run out drama there wasn't a shortage of wickets as Warren (8), Bishop (2), Hewlitt (10) and S.Kumar (4) all fell cheaply to leave Superstars staring down the barrel at 28-4. The reliable Gigg was joined by the Harris who hit some hefty blows before also departing for 11.

This brought Sears to the wicket and the pivotal moment of the match. While struggling for clean connection early on Sears started to find the middle of the bat and Superstars continued to build the partnership at a steady rate. Sears passed 50 and the partnership passed 100 (the second century stand in two games, again likely to be a niche Superstars record).

In the 29th over Sears was bowled for an excellent 67 but Superstars looked to be cruising to victory with 12 needed off 6 overs and 4 wickets still in hand. Gigg and Thomson played out two sensible overs and victory was in sight with 5 needed off 4 overs. Stay tuned reader. After two unremarkable overs Superstars needed 3 to win off the last 2 overs before a double-wicket maiden, with the bowler at one point on for a remarkable hattrick, sent panic through the Superstars ranks. This still left 3 remaining but now off the final over. Following 3 dots balls (!!!) Gigg finally found the gap and scampered back for 2 before hitting the winning run the next delivery to end on 44.*

All in all, an excellent day's cricket. St Anne's were an excellent opposition and, on another day, could have taken the win, we look forward to more matches in the coming years!

St Anne's All Stars

169 – 6 from 35 Overs

Superstars CC

170 – 8 from 34.5 Overs

Superstars won by 2 wickets



THE SPARTA CLUBS

SPARTA supports a number of clubs and associations across the UK and is always looking to start new clubs. Here is just a taster of the current clubs

CD CLUB 
www.spartarecreation.co.uk/cd-club

SPARTA GOLF SOCIETY 
www.spartagolf.co.uk/

YOGA CLASSES 
www.spartarecreation.co.uk/yoga

SUPERSTARS CRICKET CLUB 
www.superstarscricket.org.uk

SOFTBALL CLUB 
www.spartarecreation.co.uk/softball

RAILWAY SOCIETY 
www.spartarecreation.co.uk/railway-society

CIVIL SERVICE CHOIR 
www.civilservicechoir.org.uk

HISTORY SOCIETY 
www.spartarecreation.co.uk/history-society

FITNESS CLASSES 
www.spartarecreation.co.uk/fitness-class

TENNIS CLUB 
www.spartarecreation.co.uk/tennis

TENPIN BOWLING 
www.spartarecreation.co.uk/tenpin-bowling



Want to start a new SPARTA club or volunteer to help SPARTA?
Get in touch with us at SPARTA@dft.gov.uk

Check out all the SPARTA clubs on our website

SPARTA
SPARTA@dft.gov.uk

Phone 07884 390878
www.spartarecreation.co.uk

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