

# SPARTA Newsletter



July 2021



## SUMMER IS COMING HOME

Welcome to the July edition of the SPARTA newsletter.

If you haven't been busy enjoying SPARTA activities in the last month then you have missed some real corkers that were almost as good as watching Harry Kane stick the ball in the net for the second England goal against Germany.

The History Society held two wonderful lunchtime history lectures, 'The Rise and Fall of the Sikh Kingdom' and, 'A Fistful of Shells 'Thinking about African Kingdoms''. Both were highly informative and over 100 people attended each of these online events to listen to the excellent historians that the History Society have cleverly got to share their knowledge on these wonderful subjects.

The SPARTA Golf Society also held

their centenary event at Chobham Golf Club, a full report is included later in this newsletter.

The Superstars Cricket Club have also been very active, playing a full and varied schedule of fixtures, including a trip to Berrylands to play an afternoon match against the London School of Economics.

If you have never visited the LSE ground then it is a fantastic venue, which is incredibly well maintained with a great old-style pavilion.

Just like the England football team Superstars have more fixtures booked throughout this month.

It is my personal hope that England play at least a few more games this month too.

If you need to contact us then you can find us at [SPARTA@dft.gov.uk](mailto:SPARTA@dft.gov.uk)



## SPARTA SURVEY

**The SPARTA survey has now closed**

Thank you to the 176 people who were kind enough to spend the time to complete the survey.

We will be compiling the results now and seeing how we can adapt SPARTA to meet your needs.

Initial feedback shows that there was plenty of interest in setting up certain new clubs so we have already started to investigate the best way of starting these off.

We also had a good variety of ages completing the survey so once we have analysed the results we won't be shoehorning ourselves to one age group.

Feel free to send any further feedback that you have directly to us at

[SPARTA@dft.gov.uk](mailto:SPARTA@dft.gov.uk)

Check out the SPARTA website for upcoming events



# SPARTA GOLF AT 100

*The SPARTA Golf Society held their centenary event on 25<sup>th</sup> June at Chobham Golf Club*

The weather forecast was for rain all day but somehow the Golf Society had managed to book the only place in the country where it didn't rain at all and was, in fact in the afternoon, quite sunny and warm.



To fit 36 holes, play into the day the start times were early so the day started with breakfast rolls for everyone, along with a commemorative golf towel.

The course was in a beautiful condition with well-maintained greens that were incredibly difficult to read. In fact, my playing partner, Mike Arney, putted brilliantly all day but even he struggled to hole out on every green.

It was a fairly flat course and only 5452 yards from the yellow tees, so it wasn't particularly long and was an easy walk.



The morning round was followed by a lunch of freshly made sandwiches and chips for all.

As I hadn't played 36 holes for many years, I struggled in the afternoon round, despite paring the first hole and almost getting a hole in one on the 15<sup>th</sup> hole, but it was great to be outside enjoying the fresh air and the company of the SPARTA Golf Society members.

After the finish of play the Golf Society had arranged a special dinner to celebrate their centenary. The food and service were excellent in the lovely clubhouse and afterwards there was a presentation of the day's prizes.

A lovely day at a lovely course.



CHECK OUT THE SPARTA WEBSITE

[www.spartarecreation.co.uk](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk)

Anyone who is interested in attending any of the SPARTA Golf Society events should check out their page on the SPARTA website.

[www.spartarecreation.co.uk/](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk/)

## UPCOMING SPARTA CLUB FIXTURES/EVENTS

### July

13<sup>th</sup> – Superstars Cricket Club v Epsom Taxes – Chiswick 6pm

14<sup>th</sup> - History Society Talk- Under Fire: Black Britain 1939-1945 - 12:45pm

18<sup>th</sup> – Superstars Cricket Club v Mandarins – Dulwich Sports 1pm

22<sup>nd</sup> – Superstars Cricket Club v Hendricks XI - Chiswick 6pm

25<sup>th</sup> – Superstars Cricket Club v Charlatans - Charlton Pk 2pm

26<sup>th</sup> – SPARTA Golf Society - Chigwell GC, Essex

27<sup>th</sup> – Superstars Cricket Club v CIPA ITMA - Alexandra Pk 6pm

29<sup>th</sup> – Superstars Cricket Club v Treasury - Chiswick 6pm

Details of club contacts can be found on the SPARTA website [www.spartarecreation.co.uk/](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk/)



# SPARTA LIFE

## ***Barry Gigg, the Superstars Cricket Club Captain, gives us an insight into his many years of involvement with SPARTA***

I first joined the Superstars cricket team in 1990 when working for DoT, the club was one of a number receiving support from SPARTA. It wasn't long before I was given the job of skipper and I still am club skipper 25 years later.



The club has gone from playing against one team six times a season to over 30 games a year.

Superstars was playing 20 over cricket long before it became the popular short game we know today.

Anyone who has batted with me will know that you are likely to be run out by me if you're not backing up and that is still the same all these years later.

Superstars have won the Sports Day six-a-side tournament 10 times and are looking forward to the comeback of the tournament at next year's SPARTA Sports Day.

The club has also raised money for charities at a number of 6-a-side competitions and on tour over the last 30 years.

When SPARTA sent teams to the Corporate Games playing in an 8-a-side competition in Newcastle, Manchester and Swindon, I was lucky enough to captain the cricket side – sadly the competition is no more.

In the mid-90s the club embarked on a tour to Lancashire which has led to numerous tours around England, Wales and overseas – well the Isle of Wight – next year the club is heading to West Wales.



Since we began in the 1980's over 300 people have played for us but we rely on new players from DfT and MHCLG joining us each season to fulfil our fixtures.

Over the years we have played the majority of our games at the Civil Service ground at Chiswick. We still play there now but it's owned by a private school - sign of the times.

Superstars is all about creating long lasting friendships and enjoying the game. It is as important now as it ever was.

CHECK OUT THE  
SUPERSTARS WEBSITE

[www.superstarscricket.org.uk](http://www.superstarscricket.org.uk)

## **WANT TO START A CLUB OR MAYBE JUST HELP AT A CLUB?**

SPARTA are always looking to build on our portfolio of clubs. If you want to start a club or are already running one and want SPARTA's help, then please get in contact.

Want to help at a current club? Then please get in contact with us

[SPARTA@dft.gov.uk](mailto:SPARTA@dft.gov.uk)

Details of current club contacts can be found on the SPARTA website

[www.spartarecreation.co.uk/](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk/)





# 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](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk/cd-club)

**SPARTA GOLF SOCIETY**   
[www.spartagolf.co.uk/](http://www.spartagolf.co.uk/)

**YOGA CLASSES**   
[www.spartarecreation.co.uk/yoga](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk/yoga)

**SUPERSTARS CRICKET CLUB**   
[www.superstarscricket.org.uk](http://www.superstarscricket.org.uk)

**SOFTBALL CLUB**   
[www.spartarecreation.co.uk/softball](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk/softball)

**RAILWAY SOCIETY**   
[www.spartarecreation.co.uk/railway-society](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk/railway-society)

**CIVIL SERVICE CHOIR**   
[www.civilservicechoir.org.uk](http://www.civilservicechoir.org.uk)

**HISTORY SOCIETY**   
[www.spartarecreation.co.uk/history-society](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk/history-society)

**FITNESS CLASSES**   
[www.spartarecreation.co.uk/fitness-class](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk/fitness-class)

**TENNIS CLUB**   
[www.spartarecreation.co.uk/tennis](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk/tennis)

**TENPIN BOWLING**   
[www.spartarecreation.co.uk/tenpin-bowling](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk/tenpin-bowling)



Check out all the SPARTA clubs on our website

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