



WELCOME TO THE SPARTA NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first edition of the SPARTA newsletter.

In this new publication we hope to provide you regular insights into what is going on across the SPARTA family, how to get involved with the SPARTA clubs and details of upcoming events. We will also bring you reports from recent events.

SPARTA is **YOUR** sports and recreation association. We want you to let us know what you want SPARTA to provide to encourage social and recreational activities and improve health and wellbeing

across both DfT and MHCLG. We want SPARTA to be inclusive and create ideas and opportunities that appeal to everyone.

Our first picture on this, our first newsletter, is of the Civil Service Choir in action pre-lockdown. They are just one of the many clubs that SPARTA supports. Check out their website at <http://www.civilservicechoir.org.uk/>

We are always looking for volunteers and to start new clubs. Why not contact us at SPARTA@dft.gov.uk We hope that you will enjoy this newsletter.

SPARTA GOLF SOCIETY NARROWLY BEATEN

The SPARTA Golf Society played their annual match against Ashdown Golf Society on 7 October

On a glorious sunny day at Westerham Golf Club the SPARTA Golf Society took on Ashdown Golf Society.

It was a good turnout from SPARTA with 16 golfers taking part along with several others helping to officiate and organize the day.

It was also the first turnout for the Golf Society by SPARTA General Secretary, Jason Marchant, after nearly four years without a round under his belt!

Check out how he and the rest of SPARTA fared on the SPARTA Golf Society website <http://www.spartagolf.co.uk/>





VIRTUAL ACTIVITY WEEK A SUCCESS

History, Yoga, Circuit Training, Golf, a PS4 tournament and a performance by the Civil Service Choir what more can you fit into a virtual week?

After the cancellation of the annual Fit for Business Day SPARTA decided to try to bring people from across DfT and MHCLG together for some fun activities by holding a week of virtual activities which it held over the week of 21st to 25th September.

One popular live event was the History Society lecture, where historian and author, Miranda Malins, gave everyone an incredible insight into life in Whitehall during the time of Oliver Cromwell.

The History Society hold lots of interesting lectures throughout the year. Details can be found on the SPARTA website.

The other live events, Yoga, Mindfulness, and Circuit Training classes along with the evening quiz also were well attended and received excellent feedback.

The SPARTA Golf Society held a very popular tournament, where players could play any course of their choice and send in a copy of their scorecard. Scores were calculated using 6 random hole numbers. The winner was Richard Lynn.

Virtual activities wouldn't be complete without an online tournament and the FIFA 20 tournament held on the PS4 met that need. The tournament ran throughout the week with winner and runner up in the two leagues qualifying for the final and third place play off matches.

The winner was James Hayes, second, Ben Taylor, and third place was Matthew Swann.

Among the other events taking place were an all ages fun home pentathlon and an online tenpin bowling competition.

The whole week was topped off with an incredible virtual performance by the Civil Service Choir. Check it out on their website.

Overall the week was a huge success, bringing staff together across the virtual world. Thank you to everyone who was involved

www.spartarecreation.co.uk





SPARTA PAST AND PRESENT

Next year will be SPARTA's 50th anniversary. Here SPARTA General Secretary, Jason Marchant, recaps a few of his memories of SPARTA past and present.

I joined the "Ministry of Transport" when they were still in the old 2 Marsham Street building (photo below). I soon found myself getting involved with TRAVAUX who were soon to be renamed DOETRA and is now called SPARTA.

A couple of days into my job my line manager took me to the rec centre that was in the huge basement. Tucked away in it there was a canteen which was part of the darts bar, a snooker room, a music record library, a wool club, cricket nets, table tennis and even a shooting range. Even though I didn't know it at the time SPARTA had a hand in setting up nearly everything in the rec centre.

It was lively place and in the darts bar they served the best ham, egg and chips. I spent many enjoyable lunchtimes using the facilities and

and enjoying the food.

As I was a good runner I started to race for DOETRA in Civil Service championships. I competed on the Cross Country, the outdoor and indoor track championships. Despite taking the silver medal twice at the CS track champs my favourite race of the year was always the CS road relay championships, which was held in Finsbury Park.

DOETRA had so many good runners but I managed to get into the first team a couple of times. The competition between all the Government Departments on the day was so fierce but it was always great to meet with other runners from the Department of Environment and the Department of Transport, as we had a great team spirit.

Eventually I started to struggle with injuries and wasn't able to run as well as I wanted so I turned to the other SPARTA clubs and played table tennis and then I joined the Superstars Cricket Club.

Superstars is a fantastic cricket club catering for men and women players of all abilities and are very family friendly. On their annual tour, players families often come along to enjoy the incredible UK venues, wonderful company and great cricket teas.

I used to use the CD club when it was in the old 2MS and Eland house. They have a great selection of music and always have something new and interesting to listen to.

I have even, just recently, enjoyed a round of golf with the SPARTA Golf Society.

The 2 Marsham Street rec centre may be long gone but SPARTA still has many active clubs, including Superstars Cricket Club, the Table Tennis club and the CD club. Check them all out on the SPARTA website

www.spartarecreation.co.uk

Got some SPARTA memories to share? Send them to SPARTA@dft.gov.uk



The old 2 Marsham Street building



My Old DOETRA running vest



CS Athletics Medals



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

**COMING SOON
RUNNING CLUB**

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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