

August 2022

SPARTA Newsletter



WHAT A GREAT DAY

Welcome to a special bumper August edition of the SPARTA newsletter.

You may well have noticed that last month we didn't produce a newsletter. This was because we were preparing the incredible SPARTA Sport and Wellbeing Day.

We wanted to make sure that the first SPARTA Sport and Wellbeing Day for three years was a huge success and I think we did it.

while all the sports took place.

There were plenty of other entertainments too during the day to keep everyone busy when they were not playing football, netball, softball, cricket, or any of the many sports that could be entered on the day.

We were delighted to have some staff attending for the regional offices. We will be working with these offices to find ways to help more from the regions attend future events.



So far, we have received lots of great feedback from all those that were able to attend and plenty of thank you messages.

All day long the wonderful Caribbean Melody Steel Band entertained us

We would love to see your photos of the day so please send them through, along with any feedback that you have to us at SPARTA@dft.gov.uk

We hope that you had a great day.

CIVIL SERVICE ATHLETICS CHAMPS ENTRIES OPEN

The Civil Service Athletics championships take place in Nuneaton on 10th August.

Entries for the Civil Service Athletics Association (CSAA) track and field championships close very soon.

The championships include a full programme of events including steeplechase and veterans/masters age group events.

The CSAA arranges a number of events throughout the year. Find them all on the CSAA website

<http://www.csaa.org.uk/>

If you are interested in taking part, then please get in contact with me urgently at

SPARTA@dft.gov.uk

Check out the SPARTA website for upcoming events



SPORT & WELLBEING DAY IS A WINNER



The SPARTA Sport and Wellbeing Day was full of winners, runners up and fun. Here are some highlights

It was great to see so many of you from all the DfT and DLUHC offices and regions at Sport and Wellbeing Day.

With so many different events going on throughout the day there were plenty of medal winners.

The full list of all the medal winners is published on our website at [Sports Day Results](#)



The Netball was incredibly popular this year and very well attended. Gillian's team organised a tournament in which every team got multiple games. A thrilling final was won by "DLUHC Improving Engagers" who beat "Make A Wish" to the gold.

In the Football "Project Portfolio" were victorious in the final beating "Real Wilkinson" (pictured above middle) to the coveted gold medal.



Third place were the misleadingly named "Netting Zero" who may very well have traveled carbon zero to the competition but were certainly netting more than zero on the football pitch.

The Softball was so heavily oversubscribed prior to the event taking place that we had to increase the number of softball pitches to accommodate more teams.

Martin and Charlie did an incredible job of managing the event with so many teams on the day and the competition was won by "Rin Astros" who beat "Softies" in the final.

Cricket was back at Sport and Wellbeing Day for the first time since 2013. There were very few entries for the tournament, but they did include the "Superstars" team that have, in various guises, won the trophy 10 times.

It was not a surprise that they got through to the final. However, in the final they suffered a shock defeat as they were beaten by one run by "Busington Bears". I can see this becoming a new rivalry in the upcoming years.

With tennis, petanque and touch rugby all being well attended it was a busy day for all the officials and competitors.

One of the last and most keenly fought events of the day was the Tug Of War.



All the teams showed incredible determination in taking on the competition. At times it was impossible to predict who was going to win each pull, but eventually after an incredible final "Andrews Angels" came out victorious beating "LGF1" in the final. Third place went to "It's Coming Home".

So many of the events were taking place outside but we also had several competitions taking place indoors throughout the day. They included Darts, Pool,



SPARTA SPORT & WELLBEING DAY



More details from the SPARTA Sport and Wellbeing day...

Table Tennis, and the very popular Quiz run my quiz master, David Gott. We also ran a Yoga class at the beginning of the day.

The quiz was won by “Arney’s Army”, with “Young Boys” Second and “Red Power Rangers” third.



If you had been looking out across the field from the upstairs quiz room you may very well have seen some of the novelty events taking place which included among them the egg and spoon race, a sack race, and the three legged race.

All of these were taking place next to the very popular inflatable assault course. All day long people were racing each other along the fun course and there were even relays among some teams.

There were some very close finishes in the athletics events which included a 1500m race between two of the top endurance runners in the Civil Service Jack Millar and Conal McNarly, Jack came out on top with Conal finishing second closely followed by guest runner Miles Brierley.

The full results of the athletics events can be found by clicking this link: [Sports Day athletics results](#)



Above: Winner of the women’s 100m Hannah Baumert with second place Emily Hourihan.

We were so pleased that we were able to support the two charities, Heads Together and, the Charity for Civil Servants, throughout the day. We hope to announce how much we raised soon.

If you have any feedback on the day please do get in touch at SPARTA@dft.gov.uk



UPCOMING SPARTA CLUB FIXTURES/EVENTS

August

10th – Civil Service Athletics Championships – Nuneaton

10th – Superstars v Marauders – Chiswick 6pm

18th – Superstars v LT Dinos – Chiswick 6pm

25th – Superstars v Dodgers – Abbey Rec 2pm

31st – Superstars v Bank of England – Oberon Fields 2pm

September

3rd – Superstars v Green Sox – Dundonald Pk 2pm

8th – SPARTA Golf Society Autumn Meeting – Nizels, Tonbridge, Kent

Details of club contacts can be found on the SPARTA website www.spartarecreation.co.uk/



SPARTA SPORT & WELLBEING DAY

A Big Thank You to all our Volunteers



Sport and Wellbeing Day wouldn't be possible without the help of all of our amazing volunteers.



Even our Sport and Wellbeing poster was designed by one of our volunteers, Chris Fung. We gave Chris a framed print of the poster in

thanks for his fantastic work.

All of the volunteers did an incredible job in making the day so special for everyone attending.

A special thank you goes out to Peter and Rose D'Costa for their continued support and determination in creating and manning the charity raffle throughout the day.

A big thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who made the day so special for everyone. Here is a list of just a few of them

Amanda John
Anna McCarthy
Caroline Heminsley
Charlie Sunderland
Darren Cooper
David Gott
David Stowe

George Warren
Gillian Brown
Gwendolyn Morgan
Jackie Gillingham
John Hall
Lauren D'Costa
Laurie Kelly
Mark Leigh
Martin Wells
Matthew Eglinton
Michael Oliver
Pat Murnane
Paul Jones
Paul Shepperson
Paul Weekes
Peter D'Costa
Rebecca Khosla
Rod Paterson
Rod West
Rose D'Costa
Sian Priest
Silvester Aina
Simon Gundry
Steve Hattrill
Sue Johnson
Veronika Regecova

Thank you so much to all the officials in all the sports and all those that we haven't had a chance to mention.

If you have any feedback on the day please do get in touch at SPARTA@dft.gov.uk

WANT TO HELP BY BEING A SPARTA VOLUNTEER?

The SPARTA clubs and organisation wouldn't work without the help of our wonderful SPARTA volunteers who help to create something special for all our members.

We always need new people who are willing to help take our clubs and organisation forward.

Would you like to be more involved?

Would you like to help run a club?

If the answer is yes, then get in touch with us at SPARTA@dft.gov.uk



SUE JOHNSON RECEIVES AWARD

SPARTA Sport and Wellbeing Day was one long celebration for SPARTA Deputy Chair, Sue Johnson

SPARTA is always happy when one of our own receives an award so we



were really happy that we were able to be present at Sport and Wellbeing Day when SPARTA Deputy Chair, Sue Johnson, received not one but two awards.

The first award was a signed certificate to confirm her Honorary Life Membership which was agreed at the last SPARTA AGM.

We also presented her with a crystal vase and a slate placemat engraved with the words "From all your friends at SPARTA". These were retirement gifts that we kept back until we had the chance to present them to her properly in person.

The second award that Sue received was a special one from CSSC. CSSC is dependent on the hard work and dedication of a large number of volunteers who deliver sport and leisure opportunities to its members.

Each year the Chairman of CSSC grants up to ten Merit Awards to members who have made an outstanding voluntary contribution to CSSC. We were really pleased that CSSC awarded Sue with one of these merit awards this year.

She is pictured below with CSSC's Hedley Featherstone MBE receiving her award.



Sue very kindly continues to support us as SPARTA Deputy Chair but has retired and would be delighted to pass the baton to a new Deputy Chair.

If you are interested in taking on the role then please do get in touch with us at SPARTA@dft.gov.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

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

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

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

YOUR CLUB HERE
Start a club and it can be advertised right here

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



Check out all the SPARTA clubs on our website

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www.spartarecreation.co.uk

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