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#**35**18th May 2023

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## WELCOME

Welcome to our one team bulletin #35. I hope it finds you well and ready for a summer of great tennis. Not that these days we rely on the summer any more. We get great tennis all year round as you will see from the news stories on the following pages. I am delighted that our last edition had over 730 opens and around 23 contributions. Your news stories illustrate just how much our LTA Vision of Tennis Opened Up is coming alive and how much inclusion is on our minds. I have seen this for myself during my recent visits to awards presentations and county tours. In my recent visits to Shopshire, Suffolk and Northants I went to 11 clubs and 3 schools. All the clubs were community focused and most had a pay and play offering as well as membership, plus sessions for disability groups and walking tennis for older or less able players. It's wonderful to see and I look forward to seeing more. Thanks to all my lovely hosts.

Sandi Proces



From Billie Jean King Cup to the World Team Cup it's been an eventful spell for our players. Our Great Britain team missed out on their chance to reach the Billie Jean King Cup Finals later this year after losing 3-1 to France in the qualifying event at the Coventry Arena in April. They were defeated by the narrowest of margins, having lost four of five tie-break sets in six hours of play on the opening day and then two more three-set epics to see out the win for France. This means that the Brits will compete in a play-off tie on in November later this year, for a chance to battle it out once again in the 2024 qualifiers.

Surrey's Isabelle Lacy and Warwickshire's Luca Pow have secured wild cards into qualifying for this summer's Wimbledon Championships after winning the 18U Junior National Championships at the National Tennis Centre in Roehampton. In the finals, Isabelle beat fellow Surrey player Hannah Klugman and Luca beat Oliver Bonding also from Surrey. Hannah along with Ben Gusic-Wan from Kent added their names to an illustrious roll of honour for the 16U Championships.

Great Britain's men's and junior wheelchair tennis teams were both crowned BNP Paribas World Team Cup champions in Portugal on 7 May. Alfie Hewitt and Gordon Reid defeated defending champions, the Netherlands, in the men's final and Ruben Harris and Joshua Johns sealed victory over the USA in the junior final. Click below to read more.

**CLICK HERE** 

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## **SURREY**



Surrey held an afternoon event on 16 April at the Roehamption Club, hosted expertly and humourously by Candy Reid, with around 120 coaches, officials, volunteers, junior and senior players. It was a particularly nice touch that Candy interviewed all the winners and juniors especially gave some very entertaining answers. The first part was dedicated to local awards mainly for players and after afternoon tea, it was the turn of the LTA category winners.



## **CHESHIRE**

Following our mention of Cheshire's awards in our previous bulletin, they have now released their video of the evening's celebrations.

#### **WATCH VIDEO**



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## **GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

Gloucestershire held an evening dinner on 12 May at Hatherley Manor Hotel with 150 guests. Awards were presented by Jamie McDonald, also known as Adventureman, who is an ex Glos tennis coach and now a renowned adventurer who has raised over £2m for children's charities by undertaking challenges. He was the perfect person to present the awards, given his dedication to helping others. Lissey Bissett was also present and added an extra layer of excitement and people were thrilled to meet her. Speeches by Jamie and also by Charlie Chapman, an ex Glos tennis player, now professional rugby player, were inspiring and reminded everyone of the importance of giving back to the community.



## SUFFOLK

Held at East Bergholt Club on 30 April and because it was a nice sunny day the presentations were made outside on the recreation ground fields. Sandi was present to do the honours and after the presentations and a sumptuous feast of homemade savouries and cakes, the East Bergholt coach and volunteers organised activity on court showing just why they are Suffolk's Club of the year, the regional club of the year and now a national finalist.



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# REGIONAL AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

The regional winners have been announced, click the button below to see the full list:

#### **CLICK HERE**

Officials from counties with a winner are invited to attend a regional presentation at one of the following events:

Central and East - Rothesay Open Nottingham on Tuesday 13 June
North - Ilkley Trophy on Monday 19 June
South and South West - cinch Championships (Queens) on Tuesday 20 June
Midlands - Rothesay Classic Birmingham on Wednesday 21 June
London and South East - Rothesay International Eastbourne on Tuesday 27 June

Email awards@lta.org.uk ASAP if you would like to attend.



## **NATIONAL AWARDS**

The star-studded National Awards ceremony will take place on 4 July 10am at the NTC. The top 3 in each category have been invited and the winners will be announced on the day. All councillors will shortly receive an invitation to attend – look out for your email and RSVP by 31 May. A zoom link will be available for those who cannot attend in person.

## AWARD WINNING G TENNIS VISIT NTC

Chris Marshall and G Tennis were invited for an experience day at the NTC, after winning last year's National Parks and Communities Award. 25 children and 10 adults were treated to lunch, padel and tennis facilitated by LTA coaches. G Tennis won their award for providing low-cost tennis to kids in their local community, most who live in council estates in South London. They brought kids from their local charity called The Cheer Trust that supports single parents in and around the Stockwell area in London.



Watch a short video on their visit from their Instagram by clicking the button below:

**CLICK HERE** 

Chris said "We started a weekly coaching session about 4 years ago and are still going strong getting around 15-20 kids aged 5-15 from under-served communities, each week. Last September one of the girls was picked for the Surrey County Training squad and was then picked to represent Surrey in the County Cup last month which is something we are incredibly proud of. Trips like the one we had to the NTC are so important and inspirational. The kids played on world class courts, tried padel for the first time and even saw Emma Raducanu's US Open trophy! Thanks to everyone who helped facilitate such an amazing day".

To find out why G Tennis won their award, please click below:

**CLICK HERE** 

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# DEAL PAROCHIAL SCHOOL TAKE TENNIS TO SCIENCE

After winning the LTA National Award for School of the year in 2022, the Deal Parochial School are taking tennis to the science lab. **WATCH THE VIDEO** for their tennis-related science entry for this year's Big STEM Challenge competition in Kent. All seven of the children in this particular after-school science club really enjoyed their tennis racket science



# CATHIE SABIN CENTRE OPENS IN SHREWSBURY

by Simon Jones

On the 21 May Tennis Shropshire welcomed Sandi Procter to Shrewsbury to officially open the new Cathie Sabin Community Tennis Centre. Located on The Shrewsbury Club site, the centre, named in honor of Shropshire's inspirational former LTA president, who sadly passed away in May 2020, has been welcoming tennis players since last September. It was funded from a Sport England grant, LTA loan and the County's own reserves, sited on land made available by The Shrewsbury Club, and is operated by Inspire-2-Coach on behalf of the county. It is a huge venture for the county, made possible by a unique partnership between all those involved. The centre is central to Tennis Shropshire's vision of making tennis available for all.



During the opening ceremony, Sandi also presented a posthumous Meritorious Service award to Julie Kerr, widow of the late LTA Councillor Bob Kerr, who played an important part in the project. Around 70 guests attended including Cathie's family, children from Idsall School where Cathie taught for many years, and many others whose association with Cathie and with Tennis Shropshire went back many years.

It was a chance to fondly remember Cathie and pay tribute to everything she achieved, and we know that she would be delighted to see a new indoor facility in the county for community tennis.



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# SANDI ON TOUR IN SHROPSHIRE, SUFFOLK & NORTHANTS

## SHROPSHIRE by Simon Jones

Following the opening of the Cathie Sabin Community Tennis Centre, Sandi spent an enjoyable Saturday morning in north Shropshire. Fiona Jones, Chair of Tennis Shropshire said: "It was lovely to get to know Sandi during her visit and she was really inspired by the activity she saw and people she met". We went to the Ellesmere College indoor centre, where Stephen Welti, the senior performance coach explained how he runs an academy programme for both players at the school and from the community. We went on to Wem Tennis Club, Shropshire's club of the year, to meet committee members, Pete Hughes and Mark Wilson who explained how they have upgraded their facilities considerably both on and off court. Pete also won the volunteer of the year award. Sandi also opened the 'Battle of Shropshire' which is a competition run over 2 weeks with players of all ages coming together from all over the county. With 100 entries the players are entered into 2 teams 'Team Sabin' named after Cathie Sabin and 'Team Smith' named after Keith Smith MBE the current President of Tennis Shropshire. After 2 weeks of matches Team Sabin were crowned the eventual winners. Sandi's visit ended at the LTA 8U County Cup hosted by the Shrewsbury Club and it was wonderful she was there to present the medals.



## NORTHANTS by Richard Johns

On 2 May, the Northants Tennis Community welcomed Sandi to the county on her voyage of discovery. The visit wasn't to showcase our biggest and brightest venues, but to meet and celebrate with our tennis award winners, acknowledge the inspiring work of volunteers, coaches, and officials and to champion inclusivity on an individual, club and school level. With so much on offer, we wanted to give Sandi a taste of tennis life in the county. The discovery tour included dropping into a busy inclusive session at Rushmere Tennis Club, led by our previous year's Disability Tennis Award winner Maddee, to sample wheelchair and walking tennis with a group of regular participants.



To inspire us all, GB #5 and Northants based wheelchair tennis player Dermot Bailey hit with players and chatted to club members about his own tennis journey. LTA Councillor Richard Johns was also given a new perspective of the game whilst being put through his paces with a game of Walking Tennis! Life in the urban school environment can be hard for many, but our next stop to Vernon Terrace Primary gave us a fresh perspective of what can be achieved by the power of tennis. We were welcomed and accompanied with Northants Chair Suzanne Clarke, to a playground full of children smiling, laughing, engaging, and having fun. Vernon Terrace is a multi-cultural urban school, with limited outdoor space that is united by the language of tennis! The tireless work of teachers and support staff has made a real difference to many and a worthy recipient of the Northants School of the Year and Tennis for All Award. From grass roots to performance and inclusivity, we hopefully have given the new LTA President a taste of tennis life in Northamptonshire.



## SUFFOLK by Julia Waters

Our tour started at East Bergholt Club, for our awards presentation and finished at the Newmarket Club with Stowmarket Club, Wortham Club and Culford School in between. The 5 court Stowmarket club was particularly impressive with courts all full of walking tennis, red tennis, wheelchair tennis and club doubles and a buzzy atmosphere off court and delicious home-made cakes. At Culford School we were treated to a tour of the school, and talked to coaches who are running a very impressive programme for the students. At Newmarket, we were impressed by two home-grown, young coaches running excellent junior sessions. The highlight of the day was at Wortham Club, where members of my own tennis club were running a tennis marathon fundraiser for the LTA Tennis Foundation. I had played in the 5-8am slot in the rain before taking Sandi on her tour and then when Sandi arrived, the heavens opened again. It was good time to go inside for Sandi to present another award and sample a sumptuous feast made by the members.



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# WORTHAM FUNDRAISER FOR LTA TENNIS FOUNDATION

by Tom Gibbins

Following a workshop at the LTA Council Meeting in March, looking at how member organisations can work together with the Foundation team to raise awareness of the Foundation locally, how they could help raise funds and how they could help identify relevant organisations to apply for grants, a 'mini think tank' has been formed to take this forward. Many thanks to Simon Jones, Hannah Ward, Phil Veasey, Julie Wych and Julia Waters for stepping up and joining the group.

## "£3,228.95 RASED"

Julia got off to a flying start by persuading her club, Wortham, to run an event, nominating the LTA Tennis Foundation as their chosen charity. They raised £3,228.95 by staging a Tennis Marathon where club members played continuously from 5am to 10pm, with a tombola and auction. There's more to come with fundraising activity taking place alongside their Ladies Doubles Tournament in July. Thanks so much to Julia and all at Wortham that took part – a great example of what can be done to grow the funds available to support the Foundation's mission!

The Foundation has recently announced its first round of grants - £1.5m over the next three years to projects all focussed on improving lives through tennis. Click below to read more.

**CLICK HERE** 



# DEAF AWARENESS WEEK

Deaf Awareness Week 2023 was 1-8 May, aiming to raise awareness of the communication needs of deaf and hard of hearing people, promote greater access to communication tools and services, and encourage a more inclusive society where deaf people have equal access to communication.

# CHARLIE DENTON NOMINATED FOR SPORT PERSONALITY AWARD

On 1 July, British deaf tennis star Charlie Denton from Gloucestershire and winner of the Gloucestershire young person of the year in 2020, will line-up alongside some of the biggest and best deaf athletes in the country as a nominee for Young Deaf Sports Personality of the Year at the Deaf Sports Personality of the Year Awards at Twickenham Stadium. To read more click HERE.



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#### PRESIDENT OF YARM TENNIS CLUB

# GELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF MANAGING

#### THE NORTH EAST HEARING IMPAIRED FESTIVAL

Some 30 years ago, Yarm Tennis Club's President and former coach, 88-year-old John Schofield established a festival for hearing impaired players. From John: "Some 30 years ago I was approached by the local Deaf Society to arrange a tennis event for children. I set up a North East Hearing Impaired tennis tournament which was sponsored and organised on behalf of Durham & Cleveland County LTA. This annual event has been supported from schools all over the north with numbers often totalling over 100. Covid put a stop to it, but encouraged by the LTA's desire to start it up again and the schools happy to start where we left off in 2020, a competition was arranged for 28 March 2023 and had an entry of 34. This year pupils from 9 schools took part in fun matches in groups according to age, with 3 finals with winners coming from 3 different schools. Thanks to help from Anne Clayton, skills and games kept everyone occupied".

"

## "I put hours into it and I'm in no way complaining about that. I do it because I love it."

"



# NEW WHEELCHAIRS IN LINCOLNSHIRE

by John Copsey

Following a successful Sport England grant of  $\pounds 5,000$  applied for via Active Lincolnshire, we have been able to purchase 8 wheelchairs to further promote inclusive participation in tennis in Lincolnshire. A big shout out to Tony Knappett at We Do Tennis for his tremendous enthusiasm and support. Over two days at Louth Tennis & Sports Centre, who gave the courts free of charge, Tony worked with our Disability Tennis Team, and other coaches and players, to help both on court delivery and lay a strong foundation for us to build on.



Although the project is Lincolnshire wide, we have identified two primary centres in Sleaford and Louth with a third planned for a club in Lincoln. Subsequently, thanks to a further grant of £500 from Lincolnshire Tennis, we have been able to purchase a further two multisport chairs. These are currently based at Boston TC where wheelchair tennis is already established and with the aim of growing participation. To help ensure that we get the best use of these chairs we are currently advertising for new members to join our Disability Tennis Team. Another big shout out to Natalie Knights, our Disability Tennis Programme Lead and Rachel Opie our Head of Participation & Growth who are making all of this happen.

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25 young people from across England, Scotland and Wales have been recruited as Young Persons Welfare Ambassadors in our 1 year pilot programme, including 1 in Scotland, 5 in the North, 5 in the Central and East, 4 in the Midlands, 5 in London and South East, 3 in South and South West and 2 in Wales. Over 60 young people were nominated by their counties or venues, and we were able to meet with them all via video call to learn a little bit more about them and how they wanted to support the role. We have already been able to join some of them on a team building day and we are looking forward to our face to face training session at Nottingham Tennis Centre in July.

The young people are very excited to get started and already have some fantastic ideas to raise awareness of safeguarding and welfare topics across their venues! Some of them will also be delivering a session at our National Safeguarding Conference in October! We will keep you updated on what they are getting up to. In the meantime, please keep an eye out across social media and our website.

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# VOLUNTEER AND PARENT COMMUNITY

#### TENNIS VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY

On the 25 April we held a Zoom Q&A session with Scott Lloyd. This was an opportunity for Scott to talk about various aspects of tennis and the work of the LTA. To see a recording of the event, just click the button here. We have many more virtual Q&A live events coming up. Please email tennis@eceltd.co.uk for further details or search for Tennis Volunteer Community on Facebook.

**CLICK HERE** 

#### **HELLO TENNIS VOLUNTEERS**

A reminder that there is an excellent resource for your new volunteers in your county or organisation and in your venues. It is a quick to read big picture insight of the LTA, what it does and where volunteers can go to for help. Essential reading for all new volunteers. Please tell your venues about it. To access, click here:

**CLICK HERE** 

#### **GOOD LUCK WITH VOLUNTEERS WEEK 1-7 JUNE**

A reminder that Volunteers Week takes place from 1 to 7 June – this is a great opportunity to recognise the contributions of volunteers in your County. Details and resources to help you, are on the CCH.

## TENNIS PARENTS COMMUNITY by Kay Gilbert

The Tennis Parents Community is approaching 1.2k members with very high engagement stats. Sunday is their most active day; noon is their most popular time for engaging. The group consistently remains at a 70% female, 30% male split. The Zoom Q&A with Barry Scollo on the subject of Performance Centres, Academies, & RPDCs, is now available as a recording to members of the group. It's not too late for parents to join the next event at the end of May, a Zoom Q&A with Dr Rod Jaques OBE, ex Director of Medical Services at the English Institute of Sport. Dr Jaques will offer expert advice on Sports Medicine particularly answering questions on injury prevention, growth & maturation, and repetitive use injuries, for junior players. Finally, we have been working on a project with a production company around two episodes of a new children's TV programme each featuring a 10U performance player who will teach a child a tennis skill. In the second of the two episodes, the junior player will represent the deaf tennis community.

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In 2022 we published an Environmental Sustainability Plan, setting out our ambition to secure a lasting future for tennis in Britain through positive action on climate change and leadership in sustainability. We want to support the wider tennis community to be more sustainable, and effectively support tennis in Britain in the face of rising energy costs, and changes to the environment. We have added some new content in the venue support toolkit to support tennis venues to start conversations and embed sustainability into their club governance. This includes a template policy statement and sustainability action plan that they can adopt, adapt and make their own, click the button below to access.

#### **CLICK HERE**

Later in the summer we are launching an initiative in partnership with Pledgeball, a charity focused on engaging sports fans, players and club members on environmental sustainability. This initiative and more about environmental sustainability will be discussed in two upcoming webinars delivered in partnership with the Tennis Volunteer Community in May. Click the buttons below to registerfor the webinars.

TUESDAY 23RD MAY @ 2PM Register here

TUESDAY 23RD MAY @ 7PM Register here

Please can everyone promote the webinars and resources to venues. Also tell them about how they can access more archived and upcoming webinars at via the link in the button below. This was all communicated to venues on 15 May through venue newsletters and will be in coach newsletters on 24 May.

**CLICK HERE** 

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#### **INCLUSIVITY AT ARC IN DEVON**

Located on Devon's North Coast, Atlantic Racquet Centre (ARC) are defining what it really means to be a sports centre at the heart of the community. With a variety of programmes for players of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, unique charity partnerships that resonate with numerous groups across the community, and a leading volunteer network, the centre lives its vision and mission to open up sport and tennis to everyone. Read more by clicking below.

**CLICK HERE** 

#### **BURNLEY CLUB LEADS THE WAY**

Another great case study of a club. Established in the 1930's, Burnley Tennis Club puts the community at the forefront of everything they do, with tennis almost taking a back seat – as they prioritise bringing people from the wider area, who wouldn't usually have an interest in tennis, into the club. Read more by clicking below.

**CLICK HERE** 



## UPDATE ON LODDON CLUB by Heather Bottomley

In the last bulletin we featured the incredible rise of the Loddon Club in Norfolk. The refurbishment of their courts is almost complete. In the past three weeks, their courts have been professionally painted for the first time ever, they have installed their own clubhouse and a club member has professionally designed, manufactured and installed a fantastic two-sided hitting wall, which can be wheeled out, into the middle of the courts, enabling four members to practise at one time. And, yes, even the refurbished net posts are blue!



The only remaining item on their 'To-Do List' is the upgrading of their existing floodlights, to low energy LED's, which is scheduled for the end of the month. This programme of refurbishment now brings the facility up to a standard whereby the club can begin to introduce both LTA Open Court & LTA Serves programs, focused and aimed at the local community. Well done Loddon.



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# DEFIBRILLATORS SAVING LIVES IN LEICESTERSHIRE

During the summer last year, Steve Markley, pictured below on the left, from Syston Northfields played a league match at Ashby Castle and during the match suffered a cardiac arrest and only survived due to the home club having a defibrillator on site. Simon Noad also in the picture was involved in Steve's resuscitation. Steve had a triple bypass and is now playing tennis again.

As Chair of Syston and Tennis Leicestershire and knowing of other incidents in the county one of which I was personally involved in, I wanted to ensure that every club in Leicestershire would have or have access to a defibrillator. We quickly established that at least 13 of our 49 clubs did indeed have defibs. Since then we have contacted all clubs to give details of where to purchase, availability of grants and training, and we now have 46 out of 49 clubs with access to this life saving equipment and we continue to work with the 3 other clubs to ensure that they will shortly install defibs. Thanks to Jan Phillips who has made this all happen. Without any doubt Steve would not be with us today if a defibrillator wasn't at hand.



## HOW MUCH SOCIAL MEDIA?

by Simon Brand

The majority of us either actively participate on social media or at least understand the power of digital platforms to inform and influence behaviour; they are ubiquitous and will no doubt play an even greater role in the future as the technology improves. It therefore makes sense for county associations and other member organisations to want to reap the benefits and establish their own social media footprint to open tennis up. However running multiple accounts with coherent, persistent and consistent messages appropriate to different target audiences is a challenge. In Somerset we considered 3 options (tech savvy member of the committee, full time contractor & hybrid – part time contractor plus committee member) and decided that employing a digital marketing expert with a tennis background working alongside a member of the committee was the optimum solution.

The transformation has been significant; prior to 2020 the Facebook page had 41 followers whereas now it's over 475; the Twitter account has over 445 followers and an average monthly impression count of over 14,000 and the website was viewed over 4,000 times in 2022. In addition we have Instagram (500+ followers) and YouTube accounts and are currently investigating the use of LinkedIn to support our partnering plan which we hope will allow us to offset the costs of employing an expert. The data shows that we are reaching far more people than ever before and this trend is likely to continue, however we cannot be certain that this interest is resulting in more players, volunteers or coaches, or is influencing behaviour or perceptions of tennis. Instinctively we know that an online presence is a positive step forward but does spending over 10% of the total annual budget on this resource represent good value for money? It would be interesting to hear your views and experiences!



# GET READY FOR WIMBLEDON ...AT HOME

This is a great idea for a gift to someone you know who is not able to attend The Championships at Wimbledon but is a big fan and will be watching at home on TV. Perhaps there is a volunteer you would like to say thank you to or just a friend. Delivered in a recylable box, the picnics are designed for 2 people. To see more, click the button below.

#### **CLICK HERE**



## **TENNIS FIRST**

by Jo Garner of Tennis First

On 29 April, we hosted a tennis showcase and mix in with Junior Australian Open semi-finalist Ranah Stoiber and Les Petits As Champion Mark Ceban at the charming members club, Phyllis Court. The event was well attended by supporters and tennis fans who were blown away by the talents of the promising young juniors.



For those of you who don't know Tennis First, it is a charity which serves up a calendar of events, whilst fundraising, to support junior tennis players who feel can go all the way and break into the top 250 ATP/WTA ranking. We have a close relationship with the LTA who invest and support us in our grant making. Over the past 6 years the charity has distributed more than  $\mathfrak L$ 1 million to more than 200 British juniors. The financial aid has helped young players to develop their game and compete internationally. So far 18 grantees have surpassed the 250 ranking milestone including Emma Raducanu, Jack Draper and Joe Salisbury. Many more grantees are currently competing on the Tour and have continued a career within tennis.

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### **NEXT BULLETIN DATES**

Deadline: 21 JULY

remember to send in your news

#### **BULLETIN SUBMISSION GUIDE**

- Word length: max 200 for News from Councillors. 300 for a feature piece.
- In one paragraph not divided up.
- Person: Address Councillors and Colleagues as WE or YOU. Not THEY.
- Ensure relevance for County volunteers. The bulletin is not for club volunteers. You may need to reference what County volunteers do to pass on to others. Avoid including names local to you but irrelevant to readers.
- 'One Team' approach. Remember we work together. Try and include references to this.
- No links to PDFs. If there is a longer document with more information, then it must live somewhere, and a link provided. Consider County Comms Hub as a possible storage place.
- PHOTOS: interesting please, preferably landscape or 2-3 I can make a collage with.
- VIDEOS: only links to LTA website, YouTube, Facebook or Twitter.