

COACH REPORT, JANE THOMAS, SOUND TENNIS SUSSEX AGM  
JUNE 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018

Another fantastic year for STS has passed and there are so many positives to report.

**VOLUNTEERS:** the key to the success of STS is our amazing volunteers. Jenny I know does great things at the satellite sessions. We have this past year welcomed Kelvin and Tim to our volunteer workforce, who along with Ollie bring technical skills to the sessions and I thank you all for your excellent hard work and commitment. **HOWEVER,** I cannot imagine STS without the 2 stalwarts who are the backbone of everything we do; Ray and Steve I cannot thank you enough for what you do. I push you around from pillar to post. Your help extends beyond the tennis court especially with the care you give to our B1 players. Some weeks you don't even get to hit a ball but you continue in excellent spirits.

**PAUL:** I am going to repeat what I have said in previous years and that is what a wonderful job is being done by Paul; I have never worked for an organisation previously with someone as organised and inclusive as Paul at the helm. Paul always involves others with decision making. He is always looking and succeeds at finding ways to improve STS, find new facilities and generate income from sponsorship and other sources. From my perspective Paul always listens and reacts pro-actively to my suggestions etc... for eg: when we were looking to move to Brighton Active, as usual I managed to find a few potential snags, which I ran by Paul who managed to iron them out with the management and resolve. For eg: I didn't see carpet as suitable surface for VI tennis and Paul managed to secure the acrylic courts.

**SESSIONS:** It is fantastic to see so many sessions on offer at a variety of venues and especially the social play at King Alfred. Once again full praise to Paul for setting up these sessions and his ongoing association with Pav and Ave.

PLAYERS: Last year at the AGM we discussed how we could attract new players and this remains a challenge. However, with the move to BA we have seen 2 Eastbourne players attend our sessions and some new B1/B2 players. It is also great to see Maria make the journey from London when she can. I am sure there are extra players at KA too. Once again many congratulations to Chris Baily on international success, however, I was disappointed to hear that he had funded his own trip as under international classification his sight is too good to be funded, this at a time when Chris has had to give up membership of his regular tennis club and no longer play in their matches due his deteriorating eyesight and now he is having to find new ways to play VI tennis and spot the ball for the same reason. All our players are showing excellent improvement in their games and from that I am sure you are getting more and more from your tennis

BALLS: I think the balls are a victim of a relatively new sport that is still growing. The new ball idea I saw on Facebook sounds even worse than the ones we are currently stuck with. Hopefully one day a solution will be found. Thanks to a suggestion from Eastbourne we are now using some bright yellow balls from Decathlon that look like and respond similar to ST balls although they don't have a bell. I know Paul can see these reasonably well.

I try to give Paul 2 dates a month to provide coaching and I apologise that this is not always possible as supporting The Seagulls, my own tennis matches and of course holidays can get in the way sometimes. It was great that coaching continued on one particular weekend last winter when I was unwell and Ollie was available to come in my place. Likewise apart from the disappointment of my car letting me down for the Brighton tournament, my weekends are busy so it is difficult for me to attend other tournaments that you play in.

I also added how impressed I was with the players' level of fitness which they have been working on; especially pointing out Paul's achievements in the parkrun