



## Chairs Report AGM 2016

This has been a busy year for Sound Tennis Sussex, along with our regular sessions, highlights have included.....

Hosting our 2<sup>nd</sup> Friendly with London Metro sports. We won the trophy back.

Some of us have competed in regional tournaments and plan to compete in the National's in October.

We enjoyed a tour of Wimbledon in March.

### Currently

In Brighton we have two indoor venues only which we use. having only two indoor venues means we are limited to when we can play by the time slots given to us by the venues. There are a lot more out door courts spread around Brighton and Hove. it is great to play outside however it is weather dependant not just rain but winds over 20mph makes sound balls difficult to use.

We are restricted by the funds we obtain to how much we can spend on courts and coaching. We have over

the last year used King Alfred mainly for leisurely sessions and Withdean for coaching sessions both two times a month.

An estimated 500 people in the UK currently play sound tennis which is the most in any country but not many when you think of the number of VIP's adults in the UK is almost two million, that's approximately one person in 30 (RNIB Ref.).

This may not seem many but everything starts from somewhere and we have big ambitions. Improving wellbeing and reducing isolation is key.

There is a desire for competitive play and leisurely play both are valid. we will continue to provide for both.

Choice to compete in sports for blind and visually impaired people is not so much a new thing but having a choice to compete continues to be limited.

The committee in particular Paul have been working hard in continuing to find funding so that we all can play tennis and take part in opportunities locally and Nationally. A great deal of work and time is given in organising.

Thanks to Jane Thomas who has been meticulous in her lesson planning to make sure all players and volunteers get the most out of our coached sessions.

Thanks to Helen Mitchell for making STS members most welcome at Southwick. We continue to have lots of fun and practise outdoors.

A huge thanks to Paul who again over the past year has worked so hard with dedication liaising, arranging, book keeping and lots more behind the scenes.

Without our volunteers particularly Steve and Ray the courts would be a lonely place. A huge thanks to you all.

Christine Laurence

Chair STS