

## The role of the Welfare Officer



**Colin Barr**

I have been a member of our club for over twelve years now and the Welfare Officer (formally known as Child Protection Officer) since 2011. I would like to think I have met all of our members but am aware that I have yet to meet some of the parents, guardians and newer junior members.

We have a truly lovely club and I thought I would let you know what the Welfare Officer does. Firstly, as you are probably aware, our club is affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) which means we abide by their guidance, through which we have achieved an accreditation called **TennisMark** (previously known as ClubMark). Part of this achievement involves our club reaching a high standard of operation, including having an appropriate Safeguarding policy and a Welfare Officer who has attended safeguarding training. I have attended such Safeguarding courses and have DBS (former CRB) clearance.

So, here's what the LTA says about the role of the Welfare Officer;

***Welfare Officers are pivotal to keeping children, young people and adults at risk safe whilst at their tennis venue. They also play a key role in creating a fun and inclusive environment.***

It also says that I as Welfare Officer for the club should;

1. be able to promote safeguarding at the tennis club and ensure that it is on the agenda at committee meetings
2. be approachable, a good listener, tactful and discrete and able to support those who seek advice and be able to deal with concerns in relation to children, young people and adults at risk in a calm and composed manner, treating information seriously, sensitively and confidentially
3. understand when to refer matters to external agencies and seek additional help from the LTA Safeguarding team
4. take a common-sense approach and assess situations fairly

In simple words, I am here to **protect our young and potentially vulnerable members** and ensure they enjoy playing tennis in safety and without fear or harm.

So please, should you have any concerns about the welfare of a child or vulnerable person at our club, think of me as '**your friend**' and get in touch. I am contactable on **07905 255671** or by email at [welfare.spltc@gmail.com](mailto:welfare.spltc@gmail.com) or you can speak to the LTA Safeguarding Team on 0208 487 7000 during office hours. If there is immediate danger, please call the police using 999 or 101 for a non-emergency.

*Colin.*