

## The role of the Welfare Officer



**Diana Seagrove**

I have been a member of our club for two years and I became the Welfare Officer (formally known as Child Protection Officer) in March 2021. I hope to get to know all our members better over the next year and meet the parents, guardians and newer junior members.

I received a very warm welcomed to this club and I am sure other new members have felt the same way. 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 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.

**The welfare of children or vulnerable people at our club is everyone's responsibility**, so if you have any concerns, regardless of what it is, think of me as **'your friend'** and get in touch. I am contactable on **07754583079** or by email at [spltcwelfare@Outlook.com](mailto:spltcwelfare@Outlook.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.

*Diana.*