

MILTON SPORTS ASSOCIATION

MSA WHO ARE WE? What are We? The MSA was formed in 1987 on completion of the new pavilion when a committee was formed consisting of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and two members of each sports club (men's football, men's' cricket and boys' football) plus a member of the Parish Council.

We, the MSA took full control of the running and the full upkeep of the pavilion. After a few years maintenance costs and vandalism started to occur – at this time the MSA barely sufficed. So the sports clubs each gave us a donation so that we could carry out much needed repairs, from then on different people gave up a lot of their own time to carry out repairs and maintenance free of charge. This situation carried on until 1994 when the previous landlord of our local pub decided he didn't really want some of us in his public house after training and matches. This led us to ask the Parish Council if we could start a bar within the pavilion. After a few lengthy meetings and a few set-backs the Parish Council agreed to let us apply for a licence. The local Magistrates granted this with certain restrictions and rules. We had to upgrade certain areas for fire and security regulations; health regulations had also to be met. We did once again all this work with no cost to the Parish Council. Finally we opened the Bar in August 1995. Since this day we have gone from strength to strength, thus being able to carry on giving a yearly donation to the Parish Council and donations to the Sports Clubs.

We now have a members' representative on the full committee. This member relays any problems or complaints from the social members of the club. The bar stewarding work is all voluntary.

We now have two Aunt Sally teams who compete in the Wychwood league during the summer months. Both teams finished a creditable 4th in their respective divisions.

There are also two darts teams who are currently playing in the Bourton & District League. We would welcome any other sports clubs (tennis, netball, hockey etc.) into our Association. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Parish Council for giving the people of the village sports facilities second to none.

We have had building plans accepted by the Parish Council and WODC for future alterations and extensions.

Anybody is welcome to drink in the bar as long as a member signs him or her in, but if you are considering drinking there regularly, then why not become a member for a year? It costs £5.00 for a family membership and £2 for a single membership. A member can only sign you in 12 times a year.

There have been fund-raising events held in the pavilion, when The Singing Postman has appeared. This costs nothing to the members only their drinking money. We have also held a couple of Family Quiz Nights where the proceeds have been given to charity.

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Thomas Perry is hoping to organise a Junior darts competition soon, for ages between 10 and 16 years, so if you are a member or going to join and are interested, then you can telephone 01993 830177.

Finally I would like to personally thank and congratulate all the people

of the MSA past and present and the Parish Council for all their hard work over the years.

If you have any questions or would like to join the Social Club, then please contact me.

The Chairman
Robin Perry 01993 830177

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Problems In Your Neighbourhood?

Oxford Community Mediation is an independent charity. We help people throughout the county to sort out disputes. We have worked on issues ranging from parties to parking and dogs to drains. In addition to neighbour problems, we can also help people who are having difficulties with friends, workmates or other family members. We can even get involved with disputes involving community groups, schools, tenants and landlords.

Mediation is completely voluntary – we only become involved if and when people want us to. Mediators would see those involved separately at first and then, if they wanted us to, we would arrange a time and place to meet together to try and sort things out. Sometimes, people don't want us to contact their neighbour or they are fearful of meeting with them. In these cases, those involved in a dispute know the situation best and we would only help people to work out their options and the consequences. We would not pressurise anybody into something that they did not want to do.

It doesn't matter how large or small the problem is. Sometimes what seems to be a small problem can be the most difficult to live with and it is often a good idea to try and sort things out before the situation becomes too tense. Many disputes are based on misunderstandings, wrong assumptions or people thinking that they know the full story when, in fact, there are often important gaps. Sometimes, people are unhappy with the situation but feel that they cannot back down or simply do not know what to do.

Mediators help those involved to be clear about the problem and what is needed to make things better. One of the mediators' main roles is to help people to communicate effectively with each other. Mediators do not give advice nor do they take sides. We're flexible in terms of arranging times and places to meet and, at every step, the decisions are made by those involved in the dispute. We do not charge a set fee but we welcome and rely on donations, however large or small, from clients who are able to contribute. Those on low incomes would not be expected to contribute. Mediation often takes a lot of courage but it is about making things better in the long run, in a way that is satisfactory to everybody. If you would like us to visit you or you just want to find out more, you can call **Oxford Community Mediation** on **Oxford (01865) 742439** (includes a 24 hour answerphone).