

## **Sue Neville**

For over 50 years Sue Neville has been an outstanding volunteer and servant of Orchard LTC in Welwyn Garden City. Moving to the town with her young family in the early 1970s she immediately joined the tennis club. Her involvement and passion for Orchard was total from day one. She immersed herself in club life, together with her family – enjoying lots of social and competitive tennis and joining the club’s Committee. Living close to the club Sue was perfectly placed to pick up all manner of daily practical responsibilities; from being key holder, to match-ball distributor – all of which she did most happily.

Sue has that rare ability and drive to turn ideas into reality. In the 1980s she set up short tennis lessons in a local community centre - a new activity for juniors at that time.

Sue has been the most brilliant asset to the club. As Membership Secretary for over 20 years, and then Club Treasurer, she has delivered so much across the board, always striving to make the club the best it can be. She has advanced the game of tennis at grassroots level for so many fortunate players of all ages

In 1992 Sue identified the need for a ladies’ league in Hertfordshire that was more relaxed and less demanding than existing competitions thus the “Orchard Ladies Friendly League” was born. Started from scratch the league is now enjoyed by up to 30 clubs across Hertfordshire. Sue manages it with a light, flexible hand and creates an arena which ladies feel genuinely comfortable stepping in to. Often as their first foray into competitive tennis, before moving on to mixed play and LTA leagues. Sue continues to run this amazing league single-handedly, donating all entry fees to Orchard.

Sue has understandably lightened her load in recent years, but remains the most helpful and wise person, with unparalleled knowledge of the club’s history and needs. The club would not have thrived as it has for all these years without her unswerving dedication. She is truly an unsung hero of our great sport.