

**ANNE HYDE - SECRETARY**

I have lived most of my life in and around the outskirts of London. My parents introduced me to the game of tennis as a young child and I fell in love with the game.

From the age of 12, I spent time travelling the country playing in tournaments and represented Middlesex at both junior and senior level. At 16, I became the School Girl Champion of Great Britain and then left school at 17 to follow a career as a professional tennis coach. This took me to The Netherlands where I spent three years both coaching at a club in Zootermeer and playing professionally for a club in Rotterdam. Over the years, I also represented Hertfordshire and Great Britain.

At the age of 40, due to knee injuries, I had to stop coaching and competing and retrained as a College Lecturer in Sport. Through lecturing, I taught some of the Under 18 Watford Football players which started my interest in football. We were given some free tickets to watch some Watford games which I enjoyed. My husband, who had been supporting Arsenal since he was a boy said to me ‘If you want to watch a decent team, then we need to go and watch Arsenal’. From that point, I never looked back.

I am a season ticket holder and my husband and I go to every home and away match. I have represented the Arsenal disabled supporters on the Supporters Forum Representative for the past two years which gives us an opportunity to raise issues. Through this role, I was asked to reform the Arsenal Disabled Supporters’ Association which with other disabled supporters we have done. I am extremely grateful to all the people who have volunteered to represent the disabled supporters through the Arsenal Disabled Supporters Association and we are all working tirelessly to make the Association the force it should be.