

Yorkshire Bowling Association

Hi folks

We are having glorious weather, and I hope you are able to take advantage of it by getting on the bowling green and having fun. What a lovely start to our season.

Lots of news for you again this month - lots of events coming up starting with the Ladies' Walker Cup at Newark and the Men's Balcomb Trophy at Redcar, Borough Park. We are hoping that some of the Balcomb matches will be streamed by our friends at WRONG BIAS - Bowls Podcast. Please support the players if you can - either in person at Newark or Redcar or by tuning in to the live stream.

Likewise, please try and support our young players in the Ladies' Amy Rose or the Men's White Rose Regional Finals. We have some great young talent that hold the future of our sport in their hands.

Good luck to all those in competitions but the most important thing is just to enjoy your bowling however you choose to play

Lesley Dearlove – County Administrator
dearlovelesley@gmail.com



There's a party going on right here - A celebration to last throughout the years - So bring your good times and your laughter too. We gonna celebrate your party with you.

Celebration Time - Wednesday 11th June at Northallerton

The ladies' section is celebrating their 75th Anniversary this year. All ladies from any YBA affiliated club are invited to the celebration. Just email Jane Simpson ybajanes@btinternet.com if you would like to come and join the fun. For the great price of £4 you will be treated to a fun afternoon of bowling, tea and scones and a raffle (prizes will be supplied) - there maybe 1 or 2 surprises thrown in as well! Places are limited (due to H&S) so get your nominations in as the list is filling up.



Upcoming Events

May 17

2-day events

Ladies' Walker Cup

Venue: Newark

Men's Balcomb Trophy

Venue: Borough Park

May 23

Start of Bowls' Big Weekend

May 31

1-day event

Ladies' Amy Rose - Regional Final

Venue: Dunnington BC

May 31

2-day event

Men's White Rose - Regional Final

Venue: Northallerton



Aviva National Finals

13th - 31st August

Tickets are on sale for this event.

<https://www.bowlsengland.com/>

Youth Development

Youth Development Day – Selby BC – Saturday 10th May 2025

Saturday's Youth Development Day at Selby Bowling Club was a brilliant opportunity for young bowlers to connect with the county youth programme and enjoy a relaxed, supportive atmosphere. While several White Rose squad members were understandably unavailable - with the White Rose squad day being held quite close together.

The session began with warm-up/alignment and delivery drills, giving coaches the chance to offer guidance and highlight areas for development. The young bowlers were responsive and eager to learn. The main session, led by Youth Development Manager Cressida Fordy, focused on applying skills through fun, game-based activities using target mats and skittles. It offered a creative and engaging way for bowlers to reinforce learning while building teamwork and confidence. To round off the session, they took part in a game of Aussie Pairs (2-4-2), adding a competitive edge and giving them a chance to put their sharpened skills into practice.

Thank you to the parents and guardians who brought their young players and supported from the sidelines. Their support is vital and always appreciated.

Special thanks to Lee Hancock of Selby BC for his support on the day. Thanks also to Amica Fordy for her involvement and participation on the day. It's always encouraging to see youth bowlers who have come through the Yorkshire development pathway returning to guide and inspire the next generation coming through.

It was a surprise to see YBA Executive Chair Mal Britton on the side-lines, praising the energy and commitment shown in developing Yorkshire's young bowlers we appreciate the support he brings to Youth Development.

As County Coach, I'm excited about what lies ahead for our youth section. We've seen great promise and enthusiasm at recent sessions. Moving forward, we need to widen our welcome to aspiring young bowlers and our development days must remain open to all - boys and girls, from any background or club (affiliated or otherwise).

Thanks again to Selby BC for their warm hospitality. Development days like this help grow and sustain youth bowls across Yorkshire.

If your club has a young bowler keen to take part, we'd love to hear from you!

Lee Coutts, County Coach - leecoutts.yba@gmail.com



Ladies' Youth



We have selected our Amy Rose Team to play against Durham, Lancashire and Lincolnshire on Saturday 31st May at Dunnington.

Molly Haney, Amica Fordy, Libby Hancock, Kacee Sultman, Abby Morton

Good Luck Girls - we are very proud of you.

Cressida Fordy - Ladies' Youth Development Officer - fordycressida@gmail.com

Men's Youth

The White Rose

Sunday 27th April saw the first White Rose (Under 24 boys) Squad Day organised by our County Coach, Lee Coutts and assisted by Sam Winter (Men's Team Manager), Cressida Fordy (Ladies' Youth Development Officer) and me.

The sun shone, the Northallerton green bowled well and it was an excellent day of activities finished off with a couple of hard fought matches. The boys did really well, and the day gave us the opportunity to develop some good team spirit and see how the boys performed in a variety of situations.

Sam said, "I was quite surprised by the level of these young lads considering the amount of time some have been playing and how early it is in the season."

We now turn our attention to the actual White Rose Regional Qualification weekend on Saturday 31st May and Sunday 1st June also at Northallerton Bowling Club. A gruelling weekend of 5 matches each day against Lancashire, Northumberland, Cumbria and two Durham teams. Against each county the boys will play a pairs and a triples followed by a singles and a fours with 3 points on offer for each discipline and 12 for the overall match.

I will be managing the team for 2025, and I know the boys would love any support over the weekend to make it feel like a set of home games.

All the details will be in the Junior section of the website.

Michael Bruce - White Rose Team Manager - mikebruce.yba@gmail.com



Ladies' Section

Ladies' Team Manager

The Roses Challenge - Lancashire v Yorkshire

The first game of the Ladies' season kicked off with a six rink Friendly at Bolton.

This was played in blistering sunshine (isn't it supposed to rain on that side of the Pennines?) and well supported.

It was played on a dubious artificial surface, so Yorkshire were expecting a challenge from the start.

We had a good game although Rink 1 finished at 13/15 ends due to two Yorkshire Ladies coming off with potential heat stroke and the Lancashire skip had to give up due to a headache. The three ladies felt better once out of the sun.

All other rinks finished at 15 ends with a convincing Yorkshire win 93-68 and winning 4 out of 6 rinks.

Everyone was treated to a Cream Tea afterwards, before heading back to God's Own County (once we were able to get the coach through the locked gate!).

Get Together

The YBA Ladies Northern Counties Teams pre-match Get Together day at York Railway BSC was sunny with a breeze. There was a lot to do with ladies milling about and greeting each other after the long winter absence, County books and chalks to sell, scorecards and game to organise and coach seats to secure for our supporters for upcoming matches.

We started with a short introduction and very warm welcome to President Helen who then welcomed all the Ladies to Yorkshire Bowling Association. Her main ask (in the style of Sean Bean and others) was to "DO IT FOR YORKSHIRE!".

We had 48 ladies attend the day with 44 able to play in 4 rinks of Fours and two rinks of Triples. In previous years we have had three Northern Trophy playing against the other three etc. but this year I changed it up to be a straight game of Northern Trophy team versus Stella Logan team for a bit of extra fun and foster a competitive edge.

Before the game, I gave a quick run-down of the required etiquette, points of note (especially for our new ladies) and looked for interest in having a development day with the County Coach. The development day was well accepted especially by some of our new ladies, and several took the pre-prepared etiquette sheet away to study. I re-enforced that we are there to win but to ensure we also have fun, support our teammates and play as a team both in our rinks and overall.

The Northern Trophy team won the game by 4 rinks to 2 and 84 shots to 57.

After the game we had refreshments, and I finally got my lunch at 4:10pm! Janet Farnsworth ran the raffle, which raised £133 (brilliant amount) and Cressida Fordy handed out the new Ladies' 'Blue Below the Waist' kit. Thanks to Cressida for organising all the Ladies' new attire in such short timescales.

President Helen closed the day with individual gifts for all the Ladies attending.



Northern Trophy Match versus Cumbria at Appleby



A lovely trip across the northern Pennines to Appleby in glorious sunshine for our opening Northern Trophy match against Cumbria. Thankfully all the Ladies remembered they were wearing 'blue below the waist' and how smart we all looked. We arrived at Appleby early so did not have to rush with plenty of time to have lunch in the sun and have our team photo taken.

The match was a convincing win with 4 rinks to Yorkshire and 2 for Cumbria and 95 to 74 shots. So, 8 points for the first game puts us at the top of the league table but the acid test is being able to stay there, so here's hoping! Although the Appleby rinks were challenging this year, the weather was much better than the previous Sunday at Appleby when the Northern Counties Ladies held the Champions' Day.

Walker Cup and Johns' Trophy

The Yorkshire Ladies play in the new format Walker Cup this coming weekend (both days) at Newark Northern BC and will take a coach to the Johns' Trophy match against Northumberland at Alnwick on Saturday 7th June (pickup at York, Thirsk and Thornaby). Supporters are welcome at both venues but booking a place on the coach for the Johns is essential. Book with Jane on ybajanes@btinternet.com

All in all, a good start to the season.

Jane Simpson - Ladies' Team Manager - ybajanes@btinternet.com



Ladies' Competitions

I attended with many Yorkshire supporters the Northern Counties Championships held on 4th May at Appleby, Cumbria. Yorkshire was represented in all disciplines.

Singles - Sue Allen

Pairs - Alison Paxton and Janet Farnsworth

Triples - Judith Smith, Jeanette Daly, and Gayle Hartley

Fours - Val Thornton, June Ogden, Lynne Tattersall, and Pauline Cooper

Three of our teams won through to the finals but unfortunately the triples were beaten in the semi-final.

There was success in the finals with Sue Allen winning the singles against Cumbria. Our pairs were beaten by Durham.

The fours final was very exciting with Yorkshire well behind to come back to be only one down playing the last end. They laid two shots until the Cumbrian skip moved the jack, and it was down to a close measure which the umpire conceded he could not declare a winning shot, so it was a tied end and therefore Yorkshire lost by one...so close.

A big thank you to Appleby club for all their organisation of the event with refreshments available all through the day.

Reminders

Remember for each competition the first drawn in each pair shall be termed the 'challenger' and the second the 'opponent'. Unless competitions are being played on selected dates the challenger shall, at the latest in respect of any round to be played, at least seven days before that round closure, offer their opponent at least two dates, none of which shall be the last day of the period of the round nor be on the same day as a county match or county competition fixed date match.

The time for commencing a match shall be mutually agreed but no player shall be compelled to accept a time earlier than 6pm or later than 6:30pm Monday to Friday; or earlier than 9:30am or later than 6:30pm on weekends.

The challenger in singles matches will provide a marker and failure to do so will mean forfeiture of the round.

Also remember that there must be a draw for the rink before the game starts. At least two rinks must be put in the draw. (Laws of the Sport - Law 1.3)

In the event of inclement weather and no play/no further play being possible, please contact the Ladies' Competition Secretary immediately to decide the course of action to be taken. (BE Rules and Regulations. Page 45 - Appendix F)

Helen Walker - Ladies' Competition Secretary - helencs.yba@gmail.com



Men's Section

Middleton Cup Squad Development Day – Building Shared Purpose

Venue and Setup

Yarm Bowls Club hosted a well-attended and well-organised Middleton Development Day on Sunday 4th May. As the only all-weather green in the county (unaffiliated), Yarm presented a fresh challenge — its compact dimensions and pace offered a useful simulation ahead of this season's Middleton fixture against Lancashire at Bolton BC.

Team Building with Purpose

The event brought together current squad members and potential reserves for a purposeful session focused on tactical awareness and team connection. Activities centred on early-game performance and final-end intensity - moments where momentum and match control are often won or lost.

Open Dialogue

A group Q&A with Team Manager Sam Winter gave players a rare opportunity to share suggestions and feedback. The positive and open discussion highlighted the evolving approach of Yorkshire's men's programme and the shared ambition within the group.

Local Support and Thanks

Despite the breezy, freezing conditions, the day was warmly received by both players and the members of Yarm Bowls Club. Spectators showed fantastic support - watching from the sidelines, taking photographs, and offering encouraging words on the quality of play.

The Yorkshire Bowling Association extends its sincere thanks to Yarm for their warm hospitality. The players clearly valued the experience, and the Association looks forward to working with the club again for future development events.

Alsop Cup Squad Development and Selection Day - Sunday 25th May

York Railway Bowls and Social Club, York

Arrive 10:00am for a 10:30am start

Yorkshire Bowling Association invites players to attend the Alsop Cup Development & Selection Day - open to current squad members and those hoping to be considered for this season's Alsop Trophy fixtures.

The session will focus on performance, tactical awareness, and effective rink combinations. It also provides a chance to engage with coaching staff and selectors to better understand the direction of the county setup.

Sign up: <https://forms.gle/Y6ndqTiX7D3WyERd>

Sam Winter - Men's Team Manager samwinter1979@hotmail.co.uk



Men's Competitions

Now that the season has started can I thank those that have played County competition matches and have text or emailed me results. I will always reply so you know I have got it. Please can I ask that you give me the names of everyone who played in the match so I can make sure nobody breaks any rules on substitutions.

Michael Bruce - Yorkshire Men's Competition Secretary - mikebruce.yba@gmail.com

Safeguarding

I am pleased to announce that **ALL** the YBA Affiliated clubs now have a Safeguarding Officer in place and that Yorkshire hit the target of 100% by May 1st, 2025. I would like to say a big thank you to all clubs for their hard work in achieving this - it hasn't gone unnoticed.

Mick O'Donnell, County Safeguarding Officer, modonnell@yorkrailwaybsc.org.uk

Bowls England News

Benefits of Affiliation Guide

Affiliated clubs have access to a wide range of support and services, from National participation campaigns to funding advice, club management, volunteer training and legal support.

We're pleased to share our new-look Benefits of Affiliation Guide, designed to help you and your members get the most from your affiliation with Bowls England.

We encourage you to use this guide with your members to demonstrate and promote the value of the benefits on offer.

To find the guide, please [click here](#).



That's all for now folks - please send in articles for the June Newsletter by Friday 20th May. Many thanks.

Happy bowling

