

Yorkshire Bowling Association

Hi folks

Manic May did give way to Bonkers June - hope you all enjoyed the dry weather that enabled us to get out and bowl.

However, the lovely dry weather has also left us with a water shortage and a hosepipe ban. Graham Instone, our Head Greens Adviser has contacted Yorkshire Water, and I am pleased to confirm that you CAN use a hosepipe or watering system to water your bowling greens. This applies just to the playing surfaces themselves and not to the surrounding gardens and areas.

Please can I remind you that we do have a Greens Advisory Team very eager to help you with advice if you are struggling to maintain your green, just get in touch.

YOUR COUNTY NEEDS YOU

It's nearly that time of year when I will be sending out nomination forms for ALL the officer positions within the YBA. At present, all the roles are for a 12 month period and we would very much welcome nominations for these roles.

As well as the officer roles, we are also asking for expressions of interest to support the running of the YBA. We are specifically looking for Admin/Secretarial skills; Marketing and Sponsorship skills; Project Management skills; Green Keeping skills. However, if you have a small amount of time to spare and think you can help in any way then please contact me.

All roles within the YBA are voluntary and are non-gender specific.

Looking forward to hearing from some of you.

Kind regards

Lesley Dearlove – County Administrator
dearlovelesley@gmail.com



Upcoming Events

July 12

**John's Trophy
@ Thirsk BC**

July 15

**Over 60's Mixed
Competition**

@ York Railway B&SC

July 19

Alsop Trophy @ Silloth

July 20

**Men's Finals Day @ York
Railway B&SC**

July 26

**Ladies' Finals Weekend
@ Thirsk BC**

This is a 2-day event

August 4

BDA Week of Learning

Bowls Development Alliance - Week of Learning

The Week of Learning Programme offers free webinars to members of any club affiliated to Bowls England, the English Indoor Bowling Association, the English Short Mat Bowling Association or the British Crown Green Bowling Association.

Running from Monday 4th August until Friday 8th August. Topics include:

- Getting Your Club Online
- Club Health Checker – How to Complete It
- Future Planning
- Raising Money
- Engaging Your Community

For information or to sign up to the webinars click [here](#).

Bowls England

Tickets for the finals in Leamington are on sale. Why not come and support our Yorkshire players that have qualified? Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

Aviva National Bowls Finals tickets available
The Aviva National Bowls Finals is back... Get your tickets now!

AVIVA NATIONAL BOWLS FINALS CLUB ZONE
23 FREE SESSIONS
EXPERT SPEAKERS
13 - 31 AUGUST
SIGN UP NOW

Club Zone is back!
23 Free Sessions. Expert Advice. Free Finals Tickets.

Club Zone provides a great opportunity to those club and county volunteers to learn more about key topics, delivered by a lineup of expert speakers. So, if you want to increase your club's membership, want to generate additional income or receive first-hand advice on greens maintenance, then you are invited to our Club Zone programme at this year's Aviva National Bowls Finals.

Topics include coaching, officiating, First Aid Essentials, growing income and much more. Each session is limited to a maximum of 50 people (two guests per club per session) with spaces allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, click [here](#).



Youth Development

Under 18 singles

5 boys and 2 girls took part in the Under 18 singles at York Railway BSC with two progressing to County Finals Day. Group A saw the opening matches drawn, before Sam Bruce and Freddie Robinson won both their remaining games. In a tense last few ends Freddie managed to claim the group win by 6 shots on overall shots difference. Group B was similarly tense with Rafferty Patrick needing to win his final match by 12 shots to win the group, but he fell short by just 3 shots, thus leaving Marcus Mosley as the other qualifier. Well done to all those that took part and hopefully we will see more entries next year.

Under 18 Singles Final Tables								
Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	PTS
F Robinson	3	2	1		51	26	25	5
S Bruce	3	2	1		44	25	19	5
D Jones	3		1	2	33	48	-15	1
J Craven	3		1	2	19	48	-29	1

The two group winners will play in the final on County Finals on Sunday July 20th at York Railway BSC.

Group B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	PTS
M Mosley	2	1	1		32	18	14	3
R Patrick	2	1	1		29	18	11	3
L Hancock	2			2	10	35	-25	0

Fixtures		Played over 2 sets of 7 ends					
		Set 1	Set 2	Set Score			
S Bruce	v	F Robinson	7	4	6	7	1-1
J Craven	v	D Jones	1	11	7	6	1-1
S Bruce	v	J Craven	9	3	7	3	2-0
F Robinson	v	D Jones	11	4	14	4	2-0
S Bruce	v	D Jones	7	4	8	4	2-0
F Robinson	v	J Craven	9	2	6	3	2-0

Fixtures		Played over 2 sets of 7 ends					
			Set 1	Set 2	Set Score		
M Mosley	v	R Patrick	9	6	3	8	1-1
M Mosley	v	L Hancock	11	1	9	3	2-0
R Patrick	v	L Hancock	8	1	7	5	2-0

Under 24s

In sweltering conditions, the Under 24s competed at York Railway BSC over one day to find our Pairs and Singles qualifiers for Finals Day. The morning pairs saw Rafferty Patrick and Danny Agar from North Duffield win both games comfortably to progress. The final group game saw Matt and Marcus Mosley ease away from Sam and Ben Bruce over the last 3 ends to seal the other final spot. In the afternoon singles, as the boys, parents, and markers started to flag in the heat, we witnessed two incredible semi-finals. Semi Final 1 saw a dramatic finish as Danny Agar snatched victory from Rafferty Patrick with his last bowl to seal a 21-19 win, when he was match down. An equally tense semi-final 2 saw brothers Matt and Marcus Mosley battle for the other spot with Marcus edging a game of high quality 21-18. The winners of both the County Finals will represent Yorkshire at Leamington in August.

Over 60's Mixed Competition

A trip to Retford to play Nottinghamshire for our first attempt in this new Bowls England competition. A nice little green but oh what runs on the grass!

Due to the mixed format a number of players had not met before playing together in the game but most gelled which was reflected in their banter, encouragement and scores. A tight finish was in store after being +20 shots up at 12 ends and then only +1 shot up at 18 ends and it could have gone either way.

On one of the latter ends, Gary Bunce's teams' bowls were surrounding the jack but a bowl in from the opposition saw Gary move the bowl out and then draw in himself to claim a six. At the same time John Phillips' rink scored a single shot to improve our aggregate chances of winning. Pete Lund's team dug in deep to keep it tight and avoid all six rinks having to play the dreaded extra end. Winning the game at 21 ends by 7 shots, we now have a home fixture against Lincolnshire on Tuesday 15th July at York Railway B&SC (details on the YBA website). Supporters are very welcome as usual.



Ladies' Section

Ladies' Team Manager

After our excellent start to the Northern Trophy and Stella Logan leagues, the Stella match at Bishop Monkton against Northumberland proved a challenge, with Yorkshire Ladies only managing one winning and one drawing rink to garner 1½ points. Other rinks were close but on that occasion no cigar! Northumberland were cock -a-hoop at showing us a “clean pair of heels on our home turf” but that made us all the more determined for the return fixture against them at Morpeth in July.

The following Stella match was played on an intensely hot afternoon against Cumbria after a steady ride over the A66 to Penrith Friars BC in the centre of town. A slow start across all rinks, with only one rink in front at 8 ends and with a negative aggregate of -11 shots. Pulling back up, saw the aggregate draw over the next 2 ends. Feeling the heat, a Yorkshire player had to leave the green at 12 ends handing over to one of our reserves to complete the game. From there the ladies picked up to +9 shots at 12 ends but slipped back to +1 at 17 ends. A thrilling finish on the two last rinks in play saw our ladies retain the aggregate by just 2 shots, which resulted in a 79-77 win, with 2 of the 5 rinks winning. The team officials and spectators were worn out with the heat and the match excitement!

The Northern Trophy team played at Darlington Woodlands against Durham in mid-June and although another lovely day, it was not a good game for some. Early in the game the aggregate was well up at +21 shots but slipped back to -2 by end 9, then came up again to +11 but slipped back in the closing ends of the game to finish 100-106 shots down with 3 rinks winning and 3 missing out. The next game, at Borough Park, against Northumberland was a more positive experience with 5 winning rinks. The aggregate was never in the negative but was only 3 shots up at 16 ends however it finished at 18 ends with Yorkshire +20 shots at 111-91.

Currently the Northern and Stella teams are leading their leagues with all to play for in their final games. The Northern Trophy are leading Durham by 7.5 shots whilst the Stella are leading Northumberland by 6.5 shots. Details of both leagues are on the YBA website (Ladies Section)

Congratulations to Sally Scott (Bishop Monkton BC) and Karen Ovington (Brotton BC) who received their County Badge from President Helen following the games at Bishop Monkton BC and Darlington Woodlands BC respectively.

Johns Trophy

What a day! Set off with high hopes (in the 1st of 3 round robin matches) but some trepidation following the previous day's Stella Logan result. We didn't get far with the coach fan belt causing issues and part of the team spending an hour on an A19 slip road north of Thirsk. The Thornaby pickup were fine however as they were being fed and watered at Anson Farm. Finally, all on board and on our way, we arrived only marginally late at Alnwick BC in Northumberland. Quick change and we were on the green. Poor weather on the way up gave over to a dry Alnwick but this soon changed on arrival, and we got soaked. Some rinks set off well and some didn't, but all dug in hard for the long game. All the ladies were acutely aware of needing to remain positive and make each wood count, especially on the last few ends. The aggregate was up, then evaporating but we won by 18 shots (121-103). With 3 winning rinks the match points were 16-6 to Yorkshire. Well done to Yorkshire who showed Northumberland “a clean pairs of heels”! and were 2nd in the round robin table 2 shots behind Durham.



The next game against Durham at Darlington Woodlands was a must win game, especially as the aggregate carries 10 points of the 22 on offer and the previous Norther Trophy game against Durham at Darlington Woodlands had not delivered the hoped for result. A game of two halves it certainly was, as the first half was in negative aggregate but changed to positive from end 9. The Yorkshire Ladies didn't look back winning out at 21 ends with 4 winning rinks and +17 shots (116-99), scooping 18 points and putting Yorkshire in the lead on the round robin with 34 points.

The 3rd round robin game against Cumbria is on Saturday 12th July at Thirsk and although Yorkshire have a good lead in the table, there still needs to be a sterling performance to secure progress to the next stage of the competition, as either of our two rivals could pip us to the post. As usual we have had a very strong band of supporters who are very welcome at Thirsk to cheer us on. (details on the YBA website).

Ladies' County Day

Blessed with sunshine the Ladies' County Day at Northallerton got off to a brilliant start. This year we were able to celebrate 75 years of ladies bowling for Yorkshire under the two Yorkshire associations. The YCWBA (Yorkshire County Women's Bowling Association) was formed in 1950 at Zetland Park Bowling Club and although the YCWBA amalgamated with the men to form the current YBA, it was good to bring our ladies together to celebrate this 75-year milestone.

The club, decked with banners, bunting and balloons, welcomed 62 people, with 48 ladies playing a jumble game. YBA Chairman Mal Britton and his wife Lyn also came along briefly to support our celebrations, as did some of our former Presidents and players. In addition, President Helen had put together an exhibition of ladies' bowls memorabilia from years past (including the original chain of office, a dressed mannequin, lignum vitae woods and County yearbooks) and Janet Farnsworth wore the old County uniform from another era (the one we wore when I started as a Yorkshire County rookie 26 years ago). Hard to imagine bowling in a stiff shirt and tie and formal hat now! – how did we do that? President Helen's speech after the game included a significant list of the Yorkshire Ladies individual and team achievements and honours at National and International level and what a list it was. We should be rightly proud of our predecessors. Yes, it was another era but the ladies, over the years have laid the foundations and given a robust framework to take forward.

The winners of the Bowls Jumble competition were 1st - Sue Woollams, 2nd - Sharon Atkinson, 3rd - Sue Allen, 4th - Sue Hugill, and I won't mention the winner of the Booby! During the game there was also a Spider competition with Janet Farnsworth winning a £10 Tesco voucher.

The raffle provided some sought after prizes such as a Betty's voucher and books from Waterstones and was very well supported raising £394. All prizes were kindly donated by businesses such as Barkers, Betty's and Lewis & Cooper.

At the end of the afternoon's bowling a cream tea was served by the Northallerton ladies and there was an impromptu appearance by 'Angus McKiltup' (aka Sue Hugill with help from Pauline Beecroft) who read a verse as a nod to Helen's Scottish roots and her charity mascot for the year. The celebration cake was cut and served, and each lady received a 'Celebration 75' badge as a keepsake and reminder of what can be achieved by Yorkshire Ladies.

The day was organised by a small team along with me so thanks to Helen Walker, Cressida Fordy, Vivien Wilton-Middlemass and Lesley Dearlove for all their hard work in making it a success. What a fantastic day!





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

Ladies' Competitions

The fours semi-finals have recently taken place at West Bank Park with two teams from Northallerton one from Swinton and the other team from York RB&SC.

The two Northallerton Teams played against each other with the team skipped by Cressida Fordy winning. The other semi-final was against Swinton and York RB&SC with Swinton winning through to Leamington along with Cressida Fordy's Northallerton team.

The 4 wood singles early rounds took place on the 14th June on a lovely day and matches progressed continuously throughout the day down to the last 8 players. The quarter and semi-finals were played on 5th July and after some excellent bowling one match taking 2 hours 45mins the finalists are mother and daughter Cressida and Amica Fordy from Northallerton who will represent Yorkshire at Leamington.

The 2 wood singles were held on the 28th June and we swiftly got through the rounds until the semi-finals where Sue Allen from Thirsk and Sue Entwistle from Guisborough Priory were the winners and they will represent Yorkshire at Leamington.

Congratulations to all the finalists and thank you to everyone who marked.

Benevolent Triples

Please be aware that there will be no food at West Bank Park at the Benevolent Triples, only drinks will be available. There will be a raffle so prizes would be appreciated.

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



Men's Section

Middleton

The Men's Middleton Cup team has had a tough first two matches this year losing to both Durham and Lancashire. They travel to Cumbria on the 5th July for another tough match on a wonderful but challenging green at Wigton BC. Whilst this season Middleton Cup venture has not gone as we would have hoped there are many positives not least the number of younger bowlers who are gaining experience in this highly competitive national tournament. The Team Manager Sam Winter has pledged to continue with developing these younger bowlers for the future and Yorkshire will build a strong future through this policy.

Alsop Trophy

The Men's Alsop Trophy team are flying high sitting at the top of the table at this time.

POSITION	TEAM	POINTS	SHOTS +	SHOTS -	DIFF +/-	PLAYED
1	Yorkshire	53	357	296	+61	3
2	Cumbria	40	238	162	+76	2
3	Northumberland	28	225	173	+52	2
4	Durham	8	215	259	-44	2
5	Lancashire	3	171	316	-145	3

With one key match against Cumbria at Silloth on the 19th July the team are hopeful of capturing the Alsop Trophy this year.

Both the Middleton and Alsop Squads commit time, effort and money to represent our County and win or lose they do so with passion. Thanks guys keep on doing your best!!!

Keep your eyes peeled on the YBA website for more information on all of these events.

Men's Competitions

As we get towards the "business end" of the season some of our County Finals Day spots have been taken and others are getting closer.

Over 65s

In thankfully cool conditions Thirsk welcomed our remaining 8 Over 65 Fours and Pairs teams over 2 days of intense bowling. At the end of the first day Sam Oliver's Skelton team (the 2024 Champions) won all three group games including a tight "winner takes all" final game against Jim Thompson's team from Filey Southdene to qualify. In the other group Gary Preston's team from Harrogate also impressively won all three of their group games to qualify. The second day saw Geoff Walker and Phil Reeves from York Railway BSC win all three of their pairs games including a very tight final "winner takes all" game against Steve Davison to progress from Group A. In Group B it went down to shots difference as Andy Humphreys and Gary Bunce also from York Railway BSC held off Peter Harrison from Hutton Rudby by 10 shots despite losing to them in the last game.



Marshall Shield

The first round of the Marshall Shield also took place on the same hot Sunday as the Under 24s. Holgate WMC won a fantastic game against York Railway BSC 'A' by just one shot. Having led for much of the game by over 10 shots Holgate were pegged back in dramatic fashion and an extra end looked likely with one bowl each left, only for Holgate to draw the winner. An attempt to take the winner out was successful but the jack was displaced and York Railway only got 1 shot rather than the 2 they needed to force the extra end. Holgate WMC will now play Holderness, who got the better of Walkington by 9 shots.

Harrogate also had a close game beating Springhead Park by just 5 shots. They will now play York Railway BSC 'B' who themselves also staged a superb comeback; 13 shots down at halfway they clawed their way back to win by just 5 shots. In the other half of the draw Nafferton edged out Filey Southdene over the last 4 ends winning by just 4 shots. They will play Dunnington who had a commanding 15 shot win against Hornsea. The final two matches saw Brotton win very comfortably at Northallerton and they will now play Thirsk Athletic who won a very tight game to knock out the holders Selby by just 4 shots. Quarter Finals to be played on Sunday 13th July with the winners going to Finals Day on Saturday 30th August.

County Competitions

There was some excellent bowling and tight matches in the County Quarter Finals. A huge thank you to York Railway BSC and Dunnington for providing excellent surfaces to play the games on.

Results and live scoring of all the County Quarter and Semi Finals is available on the YBA website in the Final Stages 2025 tab. [Men's Quarter & Semi Finals - Yorkshire Bowling Association - Yorkshire Bowling Association, York](#)

County Finals Day is on Sunday 20th July at York Railway BSC with matches starting at 10:00, 1:30 and 4:30.

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

That's all for now folks - a reminder that this is YOUR newsletter, please send in articles for the August Newsletter by Wednesday 30th July.

Please don't forget that your County needs you - consider volunteering to support our growth.

Many thanks.

Happy bowling

