

Yorkshire Bowling Association

Hi folks

Well Manic May has, yet again, lived up to its name! What a hectic month for everyone. Apart from the normal start of County Competitions and Bowls' Big Weekend, added to the mix this year were the new formats for the Walker Cup, the Balcomb Trophy, the White Rose Trophy and the Amy Rose Bowl. That meant a May more manic than usual! Lots of these competitions take place on the same day so it is impossible to get to them all - but three busy weekends saw me attend some of them.

I was lucky enough to be officiating at the Balcomb. Our Yorkshire squad did us proud, as we always knew they would. We had a very warm welcome from Redcar BC and its members but boy was it cold and windy! Summer sport???

Next was BBW - I was interviewed by phone for a news article to appear in the Yorkshire Post on Saturday 24th May. I also took part in a live interview with Kat Cowan on Radio York on the Saturday morning.

In general, the weather was kind, and I got out and about and visited clubs with David Bolt, our BDA Club Development Leader. The volunteers at the clubs worked so hard but a special shout-out has to go to Wigginton BC. Wigginton is a newly affiliated club and part of our 2025 development programme - I visited with David Bolt and Laura Harris (North Yorkshire Sport Welfare Officer) and the members were very enthusiastic about the suggestions we made. I look forward to seeing their progress.

Last weekend I was officiating at the Amy Rose Bowl at Dunnington BC - the volunteers made us very welcome and even laid on gorgeous weather. The young bowlers from several counties showed us that our sport is in safe hands. Our newly formed Angels of the North squad showed skill and stamina on the green. It was a very long day for them.

Manic May now gives way to Bonkers June - find joy in the experience, regardless of its challenges!

Lesley Dearlove – County Administrator
dearlovelesley@gmail.com



Upcoming Events

June 7

John's Trophy @ Alnwick

June 7

Alsop @ Northallerton

June 7

Middleton Cup @ Walkington

June 11

Ladies' 75th Celebration @ Northallerton

June 14

Middleton Cup @ Bolton

June 17

Over 60s County Mixed @ Retford BC, Notts

June 21

John's Trophy @ Woodlands

June 21

Alsop @ Southport

June 28

Alsop @ York Railway B&SC

June 29

Ladies' President's Tour to Scotland



Youth Section

Ladies' Youth

The Amy Rose

Just back home from the Amy Rose Regional Final at Dunnington where we saw 5 Junior Ladies who formed a Team called the Angels of the North from the Counties Cumbria, Northumberland and Yorkshire - Abbey Morton, Libby Hancock, Molly Haney, Kacee Sultman and Amica Fordy take on Durham, Lincolnshire and Lancashire.

The ladies didn't get off to a great start losing 18 points to 3 to Durham - I think the nerves and the heavy green cost them, but they came fighting back in the next game against Lincolnshire picking up 20 points to 2. So, we knew going into the last games against Lancashire they needed to get as many points as they could to stand a chance of getting to Leamington as best runner up although they managed to pick up 19 points to 4 in the last games - they ended up on a running total of 42 points.

The Angels of the North you should be so proud of yourselves. Considering you had never played together before - only meeting and forming this team in April - and to then come out best runner up on the day at Dunnington was a massive achievement. There was some fantastic bowling played by all of them on that green today they put up a **big** fight to the very end.



The final two qualification places for the Amy Rose Bowl are awarded to the two best-placed runners-up from the venues with four participating teams - Dunnington, Nuneaton and Southey. Results are:

- 🏏 Leicestershire (Nuneaton) – 46 points; +57 shots
- 🏏 Hampshire (Southey) – 44 points; +23 shots
- 🏏 Angels of the North –
Cumbria/Yorkshire/Northumberland
(Dunnington) – 40 points; +25 shots

Leicestershire and Hampshire therefore join the group winners in the Amy Rose Bowl at the Aviva National Bowls Finals.

Bring on 2026

Cressida Fordy - (a very proud) Ladies' Youth Development Officer - fordycressida@gmail.com



Men's Youth

The White Rose

On the weekend of 31st May/1st June Yorkshire's Men's Under 24 squad took on Durham, Lancashire, Cumbria and Northumberland in the White Rose Trophy, where the weekend winner would go to Leamington in the National Quarter Finals. Each match consisted of 4 games, a pairs and a triples using 5 players and then a singles and a fours using the same 5 players or we could make swaps. Yorkshire took a squad of 7, Daniel Agar (North Duffield), Tom Bielby (Harrogate), Ben and Sam Bruce (York Railway BSC), Harvey Instone, Matt and Marcus Mosley (Middlesbrough). Each game consisted of two sets and, depending on the outcome of the sets, you could either win (3pts), draw (1 pt) or lose (0pts) the game. All shots over all 4 games were then added to give a 12 pt aggregate addition.

Yorkshire opened up against Durham with a big win in the triples and a draw in the pairs (lucky last bowl cost us the win). That followed a draw in the singles and fours. We won the aggregate, so we started with an 18-3 win. Next up we played Lancashire and again won the triples but narrowly lost the pairs to their star player. After drawing the fours, we unfortunately lost the singles to an amazing performance. With the aggregate lost, we lost the match 19-4. Our final game of the Saturday was against a very strong Cumbrian team who had won their first two matches and contained national champions. We drew the pairs but lost the triples. We returned the following morning and showed great character to draw the singles and win the fours, but we lost the aggregate by just 7 shots so lost the game 17-5. Playing only for pride in our final game we played a good Northumberland side and won the pairs very well and drew the triples. A draw in the singles and fours was enough for us to sneak the aggregate and the match 18-3. Cumbria won the event and will go to Leamington, but we were second. On reflection one dominant display from one Lancashire player and us just not quite being able to get by Cumbria cost us the overall win. However, the attitude and enthusiasm of the group was tremendous all weekend. Whilst it was not to be this year we will be back better and stronger next year and we will qualify one year very soon. All the lads contributed to our successes with some terrific bowling. It was great to see we have such a strong squad, and we are building for the future. We also have 3 or 4 more that were unable to attend this weekend. Our age demographic was just 16-21 so we have 3 or 4 more years with this group to come back and get over the line, a lot of our opponents this weekend were much closer to 24. Our job, whilst trying to win the White Rose, is to ultimately make these the stars of the Middleton and Balcomb teams of the future. They were experiencing bowls in a highly competitive environment being played at a high level and as much of it was about the quality of the bowls it was also a test of character and resilience and reading the heads correctly. I was very proud of them, and the future of Yorkshire looks bright.

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



Ladies' Section

Ladies' Team Manager

Northern Trophy and Stella Logan Teams

The Ladies 'Northern Counties' leagues have got underway with excellent wins by both the Northern Trophy and Stella Logan teams.

As mentioned in the last newsletter there was a good win at Appleby by the Northern Trophy team followed up by another determined result against Northumberland at Gosforth BC, again on a sunny afternoon. The pace of the green and temperature of the afternoon made great bowling as far as Yorkshire was concerned. This match result was 4 winning rinks, 1 draw and the aggregate to achieve 8½ points. With a cumulative of 16.5 points Yorkshire is leading the Northern Trophy table after 2 games.

Congratulations to Melanie Wilkes (Northallerton BC) who received her County Badge from President Helen following the game.

The first Stella Logan (5 rinks) match played at York Railway BSC against Cumbria, saw a 4 rink win and the aggregate to make 9 points. The second game last Friday at Consett Park against Durham was a welcome switch from the intended Lyndhurst BC (due to non-county standard playing surface) and again on a sunny but breezy afternoon the Yorkshire Ladies did well, winning 3 rinks and the aggregate to make 8 points. The cumulative for the Stella is 17 points with Yorkshire leading this table too.

Details of both leagues are on the YBA website (Ladies Section)

Walker Cup

The re-vamped Walker Cup weekend at Newark BC was a disappointment and somewhat disjointed after the great start to the Northern Counties games. Due to quick changes to subs following unforeseen circumstances, the team were unsettled before arrival.

A 20-minute practice session was scheduled at lunchtime on Saturday, but Yorkshire weren't playing until 4pm so there was a lot of sitting about. Disappointingly we didn't take any points from Nottinghamshire in any of the disciplines (singles, pairs, triples, fours) and only narrowly missing out by between 1 – 4 shots in each of the games. The following day it was another early start with 9:30am games against Derbyshire. Better results, with convincing wins in the pairs and fours and a draw in the triples. The following game at lunchtime was against Lincolnshire, which we knew would be tough due to the international players in their squad. We did manage a win in the Singles, but what a thrilling conclusion to the match with Sue Allen digging in against Ruby Philpott and winning at the end. Lincolnshire struggled in their following sessions with Nottinghamshire when they won only the fours, but it was just enough to see them through to the last 8 and Leamington. I guess this is when I say, "better luck next year".

The new concept of the Walker moving from a Double Rink to a Top Team format proved a challenge. Most ladies it seems (also some of the Men in the Balcomb) would have preferred the Double Rink to continue and a new format as an additional competition. It is also questionable why the Men's Balcomb was played against the other Northern Counties teams whilst the Ladies Walker were 'relocated' into the North Midlands group. The vagaries of Bowls England geography! That said, there are lessons to be learnt from our first attempt, namely the nomination and selection process as several key ladies did not nominate.



May Bowl

On a lighter note, 34 Ladies attended the annual May Bowl at Copmanthorpe BC. This is a fun afternoon when Ladies can play a social game, get to know each other and as it is played as a 'Jumble', they can take advantage of playing different positions in the game without the worry. Well done to the winner Karen Harkin (Skelton), runner up Jill Hall (North Duffield) and joint 3rd Pauline Beecroft (Bishop Monkton) and Janet Farnsworth (Driffild Rec). There was a booby prize but 'no names no pack drill'! After the game everyone was treated to cream scones. A good afternoon had by all.

Over 60's Mixed Competition

The selection has been made for the O60's Mixed game against Nottinghamshire at Retford BC on Tuesday 17th June. This is a new competition and will give everyone a chance to play a new and competitive mixed format. The start time of the game has been revised to 11am and there is a slight team change so players are being informed, and details will be on the website.

Johns Trophy

The John's Trophy round robin kicks off this coming Saturday for the Yorkshire Ladies against Northumberland at Alnwick BC. We have quite a few valued supporters travelling with us on the coach to cheer us on and we hope to bring back a win.

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

Ladies' Competitions

The season is well underway with many rounds having been played. Thank you to everyone for sending me their results and cards quickly. All the results are updated regularly onto the YBA website.

Our first semi-final was the Senior Fours which recently took place at West Bank Park. The weather wasn't particularly kind to us, but we managed to complete the games. The finalists contesting the one place to complete at Leamington are Guisborough Priory and Swinton who were the winners of Northallerton and Thirsk respectively.

Our next semi-final will be the fours at West Bank Park on the 16th June. The teams contesting for the two places to play at Leamington are from York RI, Swinton and two from Northallerton.

Just a reminder that I will require all the trophies from last year to be returned before finals day.

Finishing on a sad note, for those that have played at West Bank Park over the years will know Keith (or "Kipper" to many). He has suddenly died and will be sorely missed by all the bowlers who played there and of course the public who called knowing they could get refreshments.

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



Play Bowls

Is your profile on Play Bowls up to date?

Every Bowls England affiliated club has a profile on the new look Play Bowls website, but is yours fully updated?

- ✚ Add your opening times
- ✚ Upload some great photos
- ✚ Ensure that relevant contact details are up to date
- ✚ Assign club roles so multiple people can help with updates
- ✚ Offer Pay & Play sessions to bring in new players and extra revenue

The platform is becoming a one-stop shop for people looking to find and join a bowls club – make sure yours stands out! Whether you've got your own website or not, your Play Bowls profile gives you a valuable online presence.

Setting up Pay & Play is free, simple, and boosts your visibility on the site – perfect for attracting new faces and using your green to its full potential.

Club secretaries will have received login details, so now's the time to jump in and make the most of your profile. <https://www.bowlsengland.com/playbowls/>

Bowls England News

The newsletter will now include a section with links to the relevant pages of the latest news from BE.

Sport England backs one governing body for flat green bowls.

Bowls England and the English Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA) are pleased to announce they have been granted funding from Sport England to explore the potential of amalgamating as one organisation. Sport England's investment will enable dedicated project management resources and expertise to be allocated to this venture, as well as legal support to help create a new governance structure and corporation. To find more information about this exciting proposal please [click here](#).

Independent Director Appointments See Changes to the Bowls England Board Click here for more information.	Bowls England select 24-person squad for British Bowls Para Series Click here for more information.	International Squad for 2025 confirmed Click here for more information.
---	---	---

That's all for now folks - please send in articles for the next newsletter by Monday 30th June. Many thanks.

Happy bowling

