

August 2025 Newsletter

Yorkshire Bowling Association

A Message from our Chair

Dear Members

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our sport - our sport would not be possible without the selfless support and dedication of volunteers across the County.

In addition to the Officer Nominations, we are looking for members to volunteer for short- and medium-term projects to assist with achieving the aims of the YBA. There are a variety of projects that we are hoping to undertake but we need your help and your skills to accomplish what we want to achieve.

Whether you are wanting to give back to a sport that you have enjoyed for years or whether you are a new member - there is a role for everyone, so why not give it a try? There are lots of ways to get involved, no matter what your background, skills or interests. The following list is an example of roles only and is not exhaustive. Whether you are able to volunteer for 1 hour a week or one day I would like to hear from you.

- Focus Group Member
- Marketing our sport
- Raising money through sponsorship
- Supporting club development
- Visiting unaffiliated clubs to explain the benefits
- Green keeping advice

Please get in touch if you are interested in helping to shape and support the future of the clubs within Yorkshire.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Mal Britton - YBA Chair

MBritton@yorkrailwaybsc.org.uk



Upcoming Events

August 13

National Finals at Leamington start.

Why not come and support our Yorkshire players that have qualified? Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

Important Announcement AGM - time change

The YBA AGM will still take place on **Sunday 2nd November** but at the **later time of 2pm**

**Held at York Railway
Bowls & Social Club**

ALL welcome



News

Update on the 'to water or not to water' situation...Burniston BC sought clarification from Yorkshire Water for **their** green and **their** watering system. In the reply that they received, YW acknowledged that there have been mixed messages and will now fully brief their customer service team. So, **IF** your club holds a business account and the watering of the green is essential to the maintenance and function of your facility, this activity is permitted under the current restrictions. It does appear to depend on what watering system you have, so our advice remains the same - please contact YW directly to ensure you have the correct information for **your** green. <https://www.yorkshirewater.com/contact> Many thanks to Steve at Burniston BC for your diligence.

Club Finals Days will soon be upon us - wishing all members a dry day and lots of success. Thanks must go to all of our club volunteers who work so hard behind the scenes to make these competitions possible.

Wow! What a month. Ladies' Northern Trophy Team won the Trophy; Men's team won the Alsop Trophy; Men's Finals Day; Ladies' Stella Logan team retained their title for the 3rd year running; topped off by Ladies' Finals Weekend! I'll let the relevant people give you all the information later in the newsletter, but wow what a month!

Many congratulations to all the National Finals Qualifiers. A reminder that the registered Yorkshire Uniform is now **BLUE BELOW THE WAIST**, please ensure that you have blue and NOT white packed in your Leamington suitcases.

This month the newsletter is more like a novella but there is so much exciting news to share. Have you got something you would like to share? Celebrating a success? Sharing a Best Practice? Tips on increasing membership? Please consider what you would like to see in your newsletter. Sharing what you do in your club may help other clubs, please send in contributions by Friday 12th September.

I am attending the National finals for the first two weeks - hope to see some of you there.

Warmest regards



Bowls England News

Click on the links below to see all the latest news from Bowls England

<https://www.bowlsengland.com/bowls-england-to-host-the-2027-world-bowls-championships/>

<https://www.bowlsengland.com/bowls-england-to-stream-semi-finals-and-finals-of-all-blue-riband-events-across-12-days-of-finals/>

<https://www.bowlsengland.com/14247-2/>

<https://www.bowlsengland.com/riviera-travel-signature-tours/>

<https://www.bowlsengland.com/bowls-england-announces-glasgow-2026-longlist/>



Ladies' Section

Ladies' Team Manager

Over 60's Mixed Competition

Following our impressive win against Nottinghamshire at Retford in the first game of this new competition, the wheels definitely dropped off. Our next game was a home fixture against Lincolnshire and knowing they had played their first match against Lancashire at Dunnington, we opted to play the game at York Railway BSC. The day started with some sunshine but with 10 minutes until the game started, it started to drizzle and it then came down heavier and continuously throughout. Everyone was soaked, the game was less enjoyable, and it didn't bring out the best we can offer. The game was not one to remember with our best match aggregate being -2 shots down on the first end and finishing with an alarming deficit, with some rinks on 19 ends and some on 20 ends. Only one game made the full 21 ends and that was the drawing rink skipped by Pete Lund. We'll not dwell on this as there is much excitement and news from the Ladies camp...read on...

Ladies' President's Day

Our President Helen Walker hosted a super day at Thirsk BC for all the County Team players, valued supporters and friends. No expense was spared with balloons, bunting, banners and flowers everywhere. Thank you to the Thirsk ladies who made it happen.

The day, which was sunny and warm with a slight breeze, began with a fabulous buffet lunch and drinks in the Sports Pavilion before we moved across to the green for a jumble game of 3 sessions of 6 ends each with 49 ladies playing. Yes, I know it was an odd number, but we had a card share! After the game we returned to the Sports Pavilion where a roast beef dinner was served, before prizes were awarded to the winner, Pat Potter of Copmanthorpe BC, with Karen Harkin 2nd, Emma Oates 3rd and Gayle Hartley 4th. The winner of the booby will, in true fashion, remain nameless. The spider prize of a £10 Tesco voucher was won by Maureen McLane and the money raised from this was donated to Helen's charity, the Alzheimer's Society.

After this Helen reminded us of all that had happened in her year and what was still left to achieve. Fund raising initiatives for £50 notes and Hamish's birthplace were announced (it was Rosyth) with winners receiving their prizes. Helen was presented with flowers and a gift of Swarovski Crystal Elephants from the Ladies as a lasting memento of her presidential year and cut the celebration cake made by Sue Hugill. Each lady received a gift from Helen to remind them of the day, and Helen also presented gifts to her officers as a thank you for their support during her year.

A brilliant day which everyone enjoyed. Thank-you Helen.

Northern Trophy and Stella Logan Teams

Another exceedingly hot afternoon saw the **Stella Logan team** brave the conditions at Northallerton BC for their penultimate game. Durham had withdrawn a rink from playing the rest of the season (due to illness etc.) so suddenly we were down to only 4 rinks instead of the usual five. It was likely that we would need to substitute players with reserves during the game and that proved to be the case for both teams. Durham replaced a player who travelled but was unfit for play and went home and they used their only remaining reserve on the 7th end. Yorkshire meantime replaced players on the 7th, 10th and 12th ends. Thank goodness for the umbrellas and water put out at each end of all the rinks by Northallerton.

The aggregate was negative for Yorkshire from end 3 but despite this we managed to win 2 rinks but lost overall by -19 shots. Due to the points and aggregate adjustment resulting from the change to 4 rinks it didn't damage our standing in the league as much as it could have done.



Congratulations to Alison Dalby (York Railway BSC) who received her County Badge from President Helen following the games at Northallerton BC.

The final match against Northumberland was planned for Morpeth but changed to Hexham. Back to playing 5 rinks this time, the aggregate throughout fluctuated but was always close. At 7 ends we were -12 shots down and back up to +4 shots at 11 ends, with us back down to -5 shots at 16 ends and evens at 17 ends. A thrilling finish with 3 rinks winning 6 shots and two rinks losing 3 shots to come out at +3 shots (90-87 shots). The rink wins and points for the aggregate meant we couldn't be beaten and so the ladies have won the Stella Logan for the third year running.

The final points were 37.5 to Yorkshire beating Cumbria who finished on 32 points. Well done to the team, a brilliant result but there was more to come...

The **Northern Trophy team** played the 5th match of the league at Thirsk BC against Durham. Leading the table by 7.5 points ahead of Durham, it was a must-win match to put distance between the counties. The aggregate was never in the negative as on the 1st end Yorkshire were +9 shots up and this continued to as high as +41 shots up at the 14th end. The match ended with 4 winning rinks, 1 drawing and 1 losing but with +37 shots (116-79 shots) which resulted in 9.5 points and due to the other scores between Northumberland and Cumbria meant we could not be beaten in the Northern Trophy league.

Although Cumbria didn't want to travel for the remaining game it was played on Yorkshire Day at York Railway B&SC as planned. Again, the aggregate was positive throughout except for one end and although only having 2 winning rinks they carried us to +5 shots up (100-95 shots) and 7 more points.

We won the Northern Trophy in grand style with a game to spare, with 43 points overall and our nearest rival Durham having 29.5 points. The last time we won the Northern Trophy was in 2019 so it is fabulous to get our hands on it again. The Trophy was presented to President Helen by Margaret Docherty of Cumbria (Northern Counties secretary) at tea after the match.

Thank you to York Railway BSC for all the bunting and for the fabulous cupcakes (complete with edible stickers of the Yorkshire Ladies 75 commemorative badge) which were enjoyed after the game.

After their respective final games, Yorkshire Ladies of both the Stella and Northern Trophy teams each received a Yorkshire pen to remind them of their excellent wins...and they thought they were playing for the glory!

Thank you to both teams for maximum effort, exceptional results and achieving the double.

Johns Trophy

Leading the Northern area Round Robin, we could not be complacent for the last game against Cumbria at Thirsk. Advised, with only a couple of days to go before the fixture, to consider moving it to another venue due to problems with the green at Thirsk, it was difficult to decide to go ahead as planned. Arriving at the green, it did not appear as bad as I expected. Apparently, an issue with the watering system had been problematic but was now resolved.

Early in the match we were down across all rinks and this continued through the match. I was concerned that indeed I had made a mistake in not moving the venue but the green was not the problem. All rinks were trying to keep it tight but it was a hard game against hard opposition. The 3 rinks that were up were effectively cancelling out the 3 rinks down and at end 10 we were -19 shots down. Although this improved to -8 shots, again by end 15, we were -13 shots again. It was then that our rousing supporters kicked in with massive encouragement. Towards the end it was so tight and as rinks finished the score remained close. As the last 3 rinks were finishing the green was crowded with players and spectators from both sides willing their respective teams on. The



atmosphere was electric. When the penultimate rink completed, a quick check and Sue Allen called to Marg Watson not to bowl her last wood, as although they were 2 down on the end we were in front by 8 shots so won overall by +6 shots (129 – 123 shots). What a relief! - winning the round robin with all 3 games won and 50 points (21 points ahead of Cumbria (our nearest rival) saw us through to the Quarter Final. Hurrah!

The Q/F match against Leicestershire has just completed. They opted for a neutral green at Langwith Junction in north Nottinghamshire. A very good pace to the green but variable lines reported across the rinks. The windy day did not help as the gusts resulted in wind assistance one way and a bit more push into the wind going the other way. A very hospitable club with tea and cakes galore.

The seriousness of the match could not be underestimated as a place in the semi-final at Leamington was at stake. A match of two halves was certainly played out. Yorkshire were down throughout the first half of the 21-end game, being -12 shots down at 9 ends and only 2 leading rinks. From end 15, the Yorkshire Ladies dug deep and held fast with Jane Simpson's rink picking up 7 shots on the 19th end and Sue Allen's rink 5 shots on the 20th. On the last end, 5 Yorkshire rinks picked up a single shot each and Leicestershire conceded on Marg Watson's rink as they couldn't win. Yorkshire came home with the goods and were warmly congratulated by Leicestershire.

A massive Yorkshire team hug followed with players, reserves and supporters (including our match mascot dog Gracie) as they did us proud once more with their excellent support, hats, headbands flags, etc.



Our semi-final game at Leamington will be played on Saturday 30th August against Devon. Who we are playing is not important as all are there to be beaten but we all know we need to dig in again with that famous Yorkshire grit.

To say, as Ladies Team Manager, that I am proud of what we have achieved this year so far, is an understatement. President Helen has provided us with our rallying cry “DO IT FOR YORKSHIRE” and all the Ladies have done themselves proud and fully represented our glorious county admirably. Thank you to all my players, reserves and supporters and WELL DONE everyone. It's been a blast!

Jane Simpson
YBA - Ladies Team Manager – 10/08/2025



Ladies' Competitions

Well, the season is well and truly coming to an end where does the time go? Finals Days took place on the 26th and 27th July at Thirsk with weather being kind to us and it was well supported. A big thank to Thirsk for hosting this event and for making sure everyone was fed and watered. Thank you to umpires Lesley Dearlove and Alan Smith and the markers Wendy Picard and Susie Whistler.

There were some close matches with the following results:

	Winner/s	Runner/s Up
4 Wood singles	Amica Fordy (Northallerton)	Cressida Fordy (Northallerton)
2 Wood singles	Sue Entwistle (Guisborough Priory)	Sue Allen (Thirsk)
Pairs	Alison Paxton (Driffield Rec.) Janet Farnsworth	Janet Clark (North Duffield) Jill Hall
Triples	Sue Entwistle (Guisborough Priory) Jean Smith Maria Dowson	Amica Fordy (Northallerton) Melaine Wilkes Cressida Fordy
Fours	Margaret Roberts (Swinton) Chris Atkinson Lynne Metcalfe Margaret Watson	Amica Fordy (Northallerton) Melanie Wilkes Chris Parkinson Cressida Fordy
Senior Fours	Sue Entwistle (Guisborough Priory) Alison Phillips Jean Smith Marie Dowson	Margaret Roberts (Swinton) Chris Atkinson Lynne Metcalfe Margaret Watson
Under 24 Singles	Amica Fordy (Northallerton)	Libby Hancock (Selby)
Under 24 pairs	Libby Hancock (Selby) Amica Fordy (Northallerton)	

All the above will be representing Yorkshire at Leamington except the runners up in the Senior Fours and Under 24 singles. So, we wish them all the very best of luck ("Do it for Yorkshire").



Our Inter County competitions were also held:

	Winner/s	Runner/s Up
Over 55 Singles	Gayle Hartley (Thirsk)	Cressida Fordy (Northallerton)
Over 55 Pairs	Vanessa Jameson (Northallerton) Cressida Fordy	Tina Bash (Bishop Monkton) Pauline Beecroft
Ben Triples	Melanie Wilkes (Northallerton) Chris Parkinson Cressida Fordy	Jan Patterson (Northallerton) Cathy Bassey Pat Robinson

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

Men's Section

Having held the role for around four years, Andy Humphreys is looking to step down from the YBA Men's Secretary role. He hopes to still play a part within the Inter County Team arena, but the Secretary's job is up for grabs. If you think you may be interested then why not give Andy a call, email or text (Andy.yba@outlook.com or 07900 515074). Other likely changes in the Men's Section structure should mean that this role will not be as time-consuming as it has been in the past.

Note: You can also nominate for this voluntary position via your club secretary, by entering your name in the NOMINEE section of the position.

Men's Competitions

Yorkshire Men's Finals Day was played out on Sunday 20th July at York Railway B&SC. The day started brightly with the first session seeing comfortable wins for Andy Humphreys & Gary Bunce (York Railway B&SC) in the Over 65 Pairs against Geoff Walker & Phil Reeves (York Railway B&SC) as well as Rafferty Patrick & Danny Agar (North Duffield) in the Under 24 Pairs against Matt & Marcus Mosley (Middlesbrough).

The Triples final went down to the wire with the Selby trio of Andy Boatwright, John Walker and Pete Lund scoring a three on the 17th end to go up 13-10 against Paul Morton, Lee Coutts and Ian Brickley from Harrogate. With his last bowl on the 18th end Ian Brickley dragged the jack for a three to force an extra end. More drama was to come as the final end swung one way and another before Ian Brickley produced another superb bowl with his last attempt to win the match for Harrogate.

As the clouds gathered in the second session Vincent Lien (Northallerton) won a brilliant 2 Bowl Singles final against Vinnie O'Neill (Middlesbrough) and Paul Humphreys (York Railway BSC) got off to a fantastic start and held off the challenge of Jack Bird (Nafferton) to win the 4 Bowl Singles title. And then the rain came! With a delay of over 90 minutes for continuous heavy rain and two matches at the halfway point, and four matches still to start, there was doubt over the remainder of the day. However, when the rain eased, the green had drained remarkably, and play was able to continue. The Over 65 Fours team of Les Bentley, Richard O'Halloran, Paul Morton and Gary Preston of Harrogate completed a comfortable win over Des Hodgson, Fred Hindson, Dave Wood and Sam Oliver of Skelton.

The Under 24 Singles final went down to the wire with Marcus Mosley narrowly missing a trail for four shots and the match with his last bowl leaving Danny Agar as the winner.



In the final session of the day, which remarkably started on time, Marcus Mosley completed a comfortable 2 sets to 0 win over debutant Freddie Robinson of Harrogate in the Under 18 Singles.

There was drama in the Over 55 Fours as the West Park Hull four of Ray Hilton, Shaun Kelly, Stan Thompson & Phil Blackburn narrowly missed the chance with their last bowl to force an extra end, so leaving the Brotton four of Eric Whiwell, John Tyreman, Alan Crossman and Karl Tyreman to pick up the title and a place at Leamington by one shot.

The Fours saw a comfortable victory for Steve Dilks, Mike Bruce, David Attwood and Paul Humphreys (York Railway B&SC) over Rick Clarke, Scott Rutherford, Josh Burrow and Ian Bratton (Springhead Park) and in the Pairs, Adrian Ward & Ethan Fordy from Redcar Borough Park eased away from Matt Mosley and Joe Ballantyne (Middlesbrough) to win their first county title.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our National Championship competitors the very best of luck and much success at Leamington 2025.

I must thank the volunteers of York Railway B&SC for the food, the bar, the car parking (never easy), their helpfulness and hospitality, but most importantly their green staff. I doubt many greens in the county would have drained so quickly and played so well in the final session as this did. I know we would have all liked a fast-running green, but 7 hours of heavy rain on the Saturday followed by Sunday's deluge meant that was never going to be possible.

I would also like to say a big thank you to Ben, who supported me at every Quarter Final and Semi Final night as well as the whole of Finals Day, after he had cut the green! His technical expertise with sound systems allowed a new dimension this year and one I think players quite liked. He was also instrumental in setting up the live scoring for all the QF, SF and Finals. Over the first three weeks of July that page had over 1100 hits.

I must also thank the markers, Mal, Sam and Phil for their time on the day as well as the Umpires, Lis and Alan, for their work in pretty miserable weather; I hope they've all dried off!

It was also great to see so many spectators turn up and support all those that played.

My final note would be to say how lovely it was to see so many new faces winning County titles this year. Of the 11 individual winning players in the Blue Riband events, 7 had never won a Men's County title and four of the five disciplines were won for the first time by their winner.

The Quarter Finals of the Marshall Shield were played out on Sunday 13th July. Holderness won very comfortably away at Holgate WMC and so will face Harrogate in the semi-final, as they overcame York Railway B&SC 'B'. The other half of the draw saw Nafferton ease past Dunnington and they will play Brotton, who beat Thirsk on an extra end. Semi Finals at Selby BC on Saturday 30th August in the morning with the final in the afternoon.

The Bowls England competitions are now approaching the final stages so keep a look out for Yorkshire's representatives to see how many can get to Leamington. We wish them all well.

I will be emailing out a link to a Microsoft form that I would like all county competition participants to complete as we look to reflect on 2025 and plan for 2026. I will also email out the link to Club Secretaries as I would appreciate any feedback from those that have not entered as to what we might do to encourage them to enter. All forms will be looked at and I will bring some findings and proposals to the Executive before the AGM. Finally, I would like to thank all our bowlers this year for helping me run the competitions so smoothly. Your kind words at various points in the year and at certain days and events were much appreciated.

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



Northern Counties (Men's) Report 2025

The 2025 event took place at Silloth BC, Cumbria, on 2–3 August, with players praising the green as one of the best all year.

'Each of the five Northern Counties can send either their winner or runner up in each of the six disciplines
An Under-24 rinks competition was held on Sunday, which also allows for female players'

Yorkshire took part in all but the Fours and delivered our best performance since 2013, winning three disciplines:

- **Under 24 Singles - Marcus Mosley (Middlesbrough)**
 - **Triples – Paul Morton, Lee Coutts, Ian Brickley (Harrogate)**
 - **Under 24 Rink – Amica Fordy (Northallerton), Tom Bielby (Harrogate), Matthew and Marcus Mosley (Middlesbrough)**
- Under 24 Singles - Marcus led 10–4 early, briefly trailed 10–12, then pulled away with 8 shots in 4 ends to seal a 21–13 win.
 - Two Wood Singles - Vincent Lien (Northallerton) led 12–6 after 14 ends but lost 12–14. His opponent went on to win the title.
 - Four Wood Singles – Jack Bird (Nafferton) led early, then fell behind. A dropped 4 on end 17 proved decisive in a 14–21 defeat.
 - Pairs – Matthew Mosley and Joe Ballantyne (Middlesbrough) were competitive but lost momentum after dropping a 5 on end 11, finishing 9–18.
 - Triples – A 3hr 40min contest saw Yorkshire lead, fall behind, and recover. With the match tied at the last end, the Yorkshire skip drew the winning shot under pressure to win 19-18.
 - Under 24 Rink – Yorkshire drew their opening game 6–6 after a comeback against Northumberland. They then delivered a dominant 27–0 win over Lancashire A, followed by another win over Lancashire B and a closing win against Cumbria to secure the title.

Steve Atkinson, Northern Counties Secretary



The future of our sport is in safe hands, some of our talented youth...

From left:
Amica Fordy
Matthew Mosley
Marcus Mosley
Tom Beilby



Yorkshire - Alsop Trophy Winners 2025

Finally, the Alsop Trophy is back in Yorkshire.

On behalf of Yorkshire, the dedicated players, team management and supporters - yesterday I proudly claimed the trophy from the hosting County President.

It's hard to describe how proud I am to have led such a great squad this year. There has been a fantastic team spirit on and off the green. I'm sure most will agree it has been such a fulfilling season.

Thank you to one and all give yourselves a moment to reflect on it - we go strong again in 2026. Lee Coutts - Alsop Team Captain



Last but not least - STOP PRESS...



And York Railway B&SC have done the double at Appleby. Through in the **National** Top Club! Big thank you to Appleby Bowling Club for hosting the game.

Congratulations to York Railway B&SC! Through to Leamington in the final eight of the club double rinks. Commiserations to St George's Dragons. A tight game in very tough conditions. Thanks to Redcar BC for hosting the game.



Thirsk Athletic are **Yorkshire** mixed top club champions again after beating local rivals Northallerton at Harrogate bowling club yesterday. Well done Thirsk and a special thank you to Harrogate bowling club for exceptional hospitality.

