

Yorkshire Bowling Association

Hi all

Sorry, I'm a bit later this month, I have been just a little, tiny, teeny, weeny bit, ever so slightly - not that you'd hardly notice - **busy!** Put it this way, during the bowling season I live on; sandwiches, "it's not just food" food, bananas and nuts (the edible variety not the human variety).

This month you have a newsletter so packed with information and two special articles that it could be described as a newspaper, not a newsletter. The articles are from the Men's Team Manager and the County Coach - both at the end of the newsletter. So grab yourself a cuppa and have a good read.

That's it from me this time - wishing all the National Final Qualifiers the very best of luck at Leamington. You should be very proud of yourselves for getting this far, we certainly are very proud of you.

Lesley Dearlove, County Administrator

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Greens Support Team

The YBA have appointed two people as a support/advice team. Graham Instone and Wayne Osguthorpe are willing to assist you with advice on any green-keeping questions or support required.

They are available to come and visit you at your green - charge will be copious amounts of tea and biscuits.

To take advantage of this service drop me an email at: dearlovelesley@gmail.com and I'll put you in touch with Graham.

You can also find green-keeping advice on the BE website [here](#), and information on bursaries and training available [here](#).



Aviva National Finals

August 15

Every day until

September 1

Aviva National Finals

Tickets are still available

Advanced Booking Prices

£5.50 for standard days

£6.50 for premium days

Tickets available to purchase from the Bowls England [website](#).

Gate Prices

£8.50 for standard days

£9.50 for premium days

Players will receive free day passes from the gate for the duration of the event in which they have qualified.



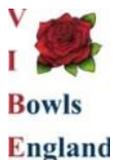
Ladies' Section

Ladies' Finals: For the first time this was a 2 day event, held on the weekend of 27th and 28th of July at Bishop Monkton. All the results are available on the YBA website.

President's Day: On Wednesday 31st July, the ladies gathered at Bishop Monkton to celebrate with President Pauline. A buffet lunch was followed by a game of bowls in the glorious sunshine. Following the game Pauline treated the ladies to a delicious meal - laughter in abundance. Thank you President Pauline.

On Friday 2nd August, the Northern Trophy ladies won their final match of the season at Thirsk, playing a very strong Durham team. Sadly, it wasn't quite enough to secure the points they needed to win the trophy. Very, very close this year: Durham 38.5 points, Yorkshire 36.5 points, Cumbria 35.5 points and Northumberland 9.5 points. Such small margins.

This coming Friday, the 9th August, the Stella Logan team will be playing their final match of the season also against Durham. The match is at Bishop Monkton, start time 1:30pm. You can be sure the team will be fighting hard to prevent Durham taking the double! Come and support if you can.



VIBE is coming to Yorkshire

We are delighted to be welcoming VIBE to Yorkshire.

Visually **I**mpaired **B**owls **E**ngland exists to promote the sport of lawn bowls for people who have a visual impairment, from complete novices to players of international standard.

They organise competitions at regional and national level and send teams to represent England in UK 'Home' Internationals, 'Friendly' Internationals (e.g. Israel) and International Blind Bowls Association World Championships.

VIBE are holding a National Outdoor Triples event from Tuesday August 12th until Friday 16th August.

Venue: York Railway & Social Club. Our Yorkshire Ladies' President, Pauline, will be attending on Tuesday 12th, along with her daughter and her visually impaired grand-daughter.

Let's make this the start of a new and lasting relationship.

You can learn more about VIBE by clicking [here](#).



UK Open Family Pairs

Report from Steve Wilson - Dunnington BC

On Saturday 3rd August the **Rink66 UK Open Family Pairs** came to Dunnington BC. With teams from North Duffield, Nafferton, Holderness, Darlington South Park, Borough Park Redcar, Hanging Heaton, Harrogate, York Railway B&SC, and Dunnington taking part.

On a sunny day we were blessed with some exceptional bowls, which saw a new format of 3 bowl pairs - 7 ends, 2 sets with a 3 end tie breaker, with many games going to a tiebreak.

A straight knockout event saw David and Jack Lockhart (Hanging Heaton) versus Andy and Paul Humphreys (York Railway B&SC) fighting their way to a place in the Grand Final. Andy and Paul coming through a tight encounter, winning 2-0 on another tiebreaker. Andy and Paul playing 67 ends in total throughout the day!!

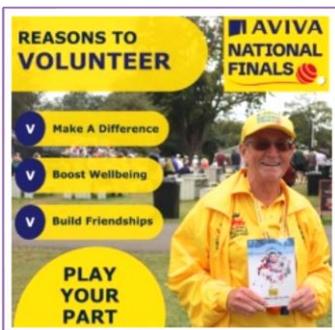
Congratulations to both who will be fighting hard for Yorkshire as they now meet Danny and Vinnie O'Neill (the Shettleston, Glasgow qualifiers) in the Grand Final at East Leaks BC on Saturday 7th September.

Thanks to:

- Rich Stoakes (Nafferton) for organising the day, and the food he organised from Morrison's.
- Dunnington BC for hosting and organising tea, coffee, drinks and ice cream.
- To our umpires David and Lesley Dearlove for standing all day in the hot temperatures.

Well done everyone, and to Andy and Paul - Bring it home!!

Volunteering



There is still time to register as a volunteer for the Aviva National Finals. If you would like to find out more about the volunteer programme, please click [here](#) or have any questions please contact Katherine Miller at volunteering@bowsendland.com.

Club Zone at Aviva National Finals

Do you want to increase your club's membership? Would you like to learn more about generating additional income or receive first-hand advice on greens maintenance?

Then Bowls England are inviting you to the Club Zone programme at this year's Aviva National Finals. They have 15 sessions hosted by expert speakers on topics which include club funding, recruitment, coaching, umpiring, greens maintenance and much more to help provide the best advice to support clubs, their committees and all members.

Each session is limited to a maximum of 50 people, with a maximum of 2 people per booking, with spaces allocated on a first-come-first-serve basis. This is to ensure that BE can support as many clubs as possible.

Every booking will receive two free tickets to the day of your Club Zone session, so you can enjoy watching the best bowlers in the country at the Aviva National Finals once your seminar has finished. To claim your free ticket(s), head to the ticket office on the day of your Club Zone session during the Aviva National Finals and you'll receive a free entry wrist band.

Click [here](#) for the Club Zone schedule.

Men's Team Manager - Overview of the season

Report from Sam Winter - Men's Team Manager

Before embarking on the role as Team Manager I was already aware that there were a number of areas requiring attention; a clear plan, a management structure, a stronger sense of team, implementation of strategy and development and selection processes. Clearly Rome was not built in a day so these items form part of my action plan for the winter break. One area I have been able to make progress on this season though is selection or to be specific player ability versus player performance.

Selection process

Based on open discussions it's not entirely clear to what extent selections have been supported by observation of game play or team requirement of particular strengths - certainly not an area for me to criticise or comment on but in my own experience facts and observation support the decisions and this is the way in which I, as a Manager, operate. During the season many will have observed me walking the side-lines during Alsop fixtures and utilising observers to take the notes and deliver data both at Middleton fixtures and domestic fixtures (yes we've been out there following up on the talent). With this information I seek to put together a Yorkshire Men's squad that is capable of competing very strongly at Northern counties competition and beyond.

A vision of a team that can hold its own and power through the toughest of games is not without its critics. At this point I am certain there will be many strong players in the County that question why others have made team sheets above them or alongside them. In essence those that play

exceptionally well at domestic and club fixtures for whatever reason are not always managing to carry the same performances into Alsop, Middleton and Balcomb fixtures. As with selection in any sport (football management being my main area of accreditation) selection is the most contentious action of any manager and one that I take very seriously. As many will have noted this season my presence at all games, bar Northumberland due to a date clash, has afforded me the opportunity to observe team and individual performances in support of an emerging plan.

When looking closer at Yorkshire's performance this season you can't overlook just how close we came in both the Middleton and Alsop competition.

- A dominant win against Cumbria in our first Middleton fixture that could have been 5 rinks at one stage had we have finished a little stronger.
- What was looking like another Yorkshire win against Durham in the second game was narrowly lost in the last few ends.
- A dominant win against Durham in the Alsop powering through on the aggregate and once again narrowly missing out on taking 4 rinks.
- A challenging battle at Selby v Lancashire to come out on top with aggregate and 4 rinks
- A gallant battle against Northumberland at Cramwell BC against an experienced side which we only fell short of by 6 shots short of lifting the trophy!

There are so many positives to take forwards and plans are in the process of being formalised to build on our achievements. We will look to put together a strategy of management and development as well as looking to devise a development pathway to promote player excellence within Yorkshire. There are so many talented bowlers in Yorkshire and we can do so much more to get the best out of each and every Yorkshire player that puts on the County shirt. The future is positive for Yorkshire men, be proud of what we have achieved this season and let's go again next.

Finally the thanks

To close this off I would like to thank all the players and nominees that have put their time in this year and especially Andrew Humphreys and Lee Coutts and Graham Stephenson for all their hard work, support and endless discussion, and the player performance team from different areas of the county for all their time and priceless reviews.

I would also personally like to wish all the best to the competitors representing Yorkshire at the National Finals you deserve to be there. Go strong.

Sam Winter

Men's Team Manager





An introduction from our newly appointed County Coach Lee Coultts, and an introduction of how this role will benefit Yorkshire Bowling.

After a very successful season of Yorkshire bowls from both the Ladies' and Men's sections, and with us in sight of the National finals, it seems an appropriate time for me to briefly introduce the Yorkshire County Coach (CC) role.

Until recently, Yorkshire has operated without a CC position, with many areas of the function either occurring unobserved or being included by default within other roles. Nationally, coaches and coaching in flat green bowls have been sporadic across counties, with pockets of thorough application as well as areas of scarcity. In any other competitive sports, coaching has been and continues to be a fundamental element that both amateurs and professionals turn to in order to reach their goals. Golfers turn to the club pro for lessons, rugby and football teams are coached twice per week and play on weekends, and swimmers and athletes train with coaches devising repetition and endurance drills. In flat green bowls, development is almost always a journey of self-discovery with tips and suggestions from the side-lines.

Yorkshire bowlers have always displayed great levels of skill and determination to qualify as a representative for our County and every year this is a credit to them. However, for many of our Yorkshire national finalists, reaching Leamington becomes the prize, and progressing to the later stages of the national finals is for the very limited few. This is a similar observation picked up within the recent BE performance review, specifically asking the question - how does an aspiring new/advancing bowler track and progress their journey from bowls activator session through to Leamington national champion and beyond? The current answer for Yorkshire is self-determination, natural ability and the occasional influence of a Coach.

Considerations of the bowler development

The topic of bowler progression and development is immense and is achieved by implementing a visible and structured system. No single bowler is the same, nor is the speed of progression. In simplified terms, we learn in our own time and achieve to the level we desire. In this, the CC role is in no way elite-focused nor age-related; it is most definitely inclusive bowls-focused and the process at all levels filters the desire and ability of those aiming higher in our sport. Any bowler should be able to assess their current ability/playing level and identify the coaching or training they require to maintain or develop their game. Competitive bowlers hungry for more competition need to be able to know what is required to up their game and how to reach out to coaches of appropriate ability to coach skills in support of their strive toward progression. At present coaching sessions are run and bowlers attend to see what they can learn to improve their game. The way in which Yorkshire need to be thinking is far more proactive in that a bowler requires assistance or to develop for competition and then seeks out coaching to achieve their goals. It will take time to create train more coaches of County ability and implement a plan of action. Progress certainly will not happen overnight however, the overall gain for Yorkshire is predicted be beneficial to performance at all levels on completion.

I am sure as you have progressed your way through what quickly has turned into a wordy newsletter piece, you have realised that what is covered here barely scratches the surface of the undertaking at hand as well as the impact that a more structured approach to coaching can make to Yorkshire's future success. There will be immense time and effort put in behind the scenes to define structure and framework in support of Yorkshire bowls' future, and I assure you Yorkshire bowlers will benefit immensely from the impact such changes will bring. I look forward to working with and for all of our current hard working coaches and will be contacting them in due course to take on board the valuable input and experience we already have around our large and great County.

All from me for now. Good luck to all club finalists and national finalists heading to Leamington.

Lee Coultts, Yorkshire County Coach (leecoultts.yba@gmail.com)

