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## End of Season 2025 Newsletter

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# Yorkshire Bowling Association

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\*How quickly September comes around each year! What a busy year it has been. I will leave you to read of Yorkshire's amazing successes further on - a season to be truly celebrated across the board.

\*This year has seen us working on a brand new and modern Constitution and a long-awaited Business Plan. Please come along to the AGM where these will be presented for your approval.

\*With the support of our Members Focus Group, work has already started on the Rules and Regulations, some unified policies (e.g. Selection Policy) and also the Management Structure of the YBA. We will ensure that all our rules and policies have written Terms of Reference and a Risk Register. Please come forward if you would like to be a part of this Focus Group - your opinions and ideas will be listened to and considered. Every member should have the opportunity to have a voice.

\*Graham Instone and Wayne Osguthorpe have had a busy season visiting clubs with advice about their playing surfaces - those clubs have been very grateful for the help and support they have given.

\*We have two new Webmasters. Mike and Ben Bruce have taken over the management of our YBA website. They will be making some changes over the winter months to enhance what we already have...watch this space.

\*Later on, you will read that both the Ladies' and the Men's Secretaries are standing down. We would like to thank both Vivien and Andy for all of their hard work and contributions over the years and wish them the very best of luck for the future.

\*It's a case of "it's goodbye from them and it's goodbye from me". Due to personal circumstances, I am standing down as Administrator at the AGM. The last two years have been an amazing journey, and I can truly say I have thoroughly enjoyed having a fulfilling role that has allowed me to meet new challenges head on. Sometimes **very** challenging but always satisfying. The role has also given me the opportunity to meet with many members, and it has highlighted the importance of the relationship aspect - building and maintaining strong relationships are key components of being an officer of the YBA. So, thank you to you all for your very valuable input, encouragement, support and very kind words.

Hope to see you during the season next year.

Warmest regards.



## Upcoming Events

### November 2

The YBA AGM will still  
take place on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
November at 2pm

Held at York Railway Bowls &  
Social Club

This is your opportunity to  
hear what is planned and have  
your say - there will be topics  
for you to vote on so please  
come and help shape the  
future of YOUR YBA. The  
agenda will be publicised  
soon.

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WE ARE



At the AGM we will reveal why  
we are HOT.

## A Message from Our Chair

Well, it is nearly one year since I took office as Chair of the YBA, and what a year it has been. I guess the job is what you make of it or want to make of it. There has been no shortage of things to do, ranging from helping clubs deal with disciplinary matters, moving the Association forward with a new Constitution and for the first time a high-level Business Plan, and improving consultation with you as members.

I would like to thank all those who have supported me throughout the year, and to offer an olive branch to those who disagree with the way I am dealing with YBA business and want the YBA to develop. To that end, please make sure you and your Club delegates attend the AGM on November 2<sup>nd</sup> to hear more about what the YBA and I have in mind moving forward. I hope I can count on your support.

Finally, there are a number of colleagues, members of the Executive, who are leaving having spent significant spells in office on your behalf. Their contribution has been invaluable to Yorkshire Bowling. I would like to thank them on behalf of the Association and yourselves. We wish them well for the future.

Mal Britton - YBA Chair - [MBritton@yorkrailwaybsc.org.uk](mailto:MBritton@yorkrailwaybsc.org.uk)

## News

### Bowls England Vacancies

Expressions of Interest are welcomed for the following opportunities:

- **Vice President (6 required)**
- **BE Board Director (Member Elected)**

The Job Descriptions and Application Forms can be found by clicking [here](#).

### Bowls Development Alliance - Week of Learning 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October

The week of Learning Programme offers free webinars and face to face sessions to members of any club affiliated to Bowls England. The topics this month are:

- Club Health Checker
- Positive Experiences for all People
- Movement Fund
- Your Culture and Values
- Safeguarding
- Creating a Marketing Strategy
- Developing an Inclusive Environment
- Crowdfunding

To find out more or register for the webinars, please click [here](#).



## Youth Section

### Highlights from 2025 Junior Season

The season started off well with a Squad/Development Day - this was a great opportunity for all our junior bowlers to get together and for managers to select players for upcoming events.

It was great to see an Amy Rose Team this year at Dunnington Bowls club - Under 24 ladies from merged counties Yorkshire, Cumbria and Northumberland narrowly missing out on a place at Leamington by 4 shots.

The White Rose took place at Northallerton Bowls Club, Cumbria came out winners on the day Yorkshire finishing in second place.

Look how close both junior Yorkshire teams came to getting to Leamington, we will come back better and stronger next year

Junior Ladies' / Men's County competitions ran successfully seeing some new juniors this year heading down to Leamington for the first time.

Also great to see some of our juniors playing at Leamington in Men's Pairs/Ladies' Singles/Men's and Ladies' Triples/Ladies Fours' and Johns Trophy.

Northern Counties: Under 24 singles winner and Under 24 rink win

The future looks very bright for our junior bowlers and may this continue.

Look out for dates for Get together for 2026, if you have any junior bowlers keen to get involved, please get in touch.

Cressida Fordy - Ladies' Youth Manager - [fordycressida@gmail.com](mailto:fordycressida@gmail.com)

## Ladies' Section

### Ladies' Secretary

As my time as YBA Ladies' Secretary comes to an end, I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you. It's been a pleasure, and I truly appreciate the experiences, collaboration, and friendships along the way. Although I'm excited about what lies ahead, I also feel a bit sad to say goodbye. I will be watching the progress of Team Yorkshire, good luck in all your endeavours.

Vivien - YBA Ladies' Secretary - [vivien.yba@gmail.com](mailto:vivien.yba@gmail.com)



## Ladies' Team Manager

### Johns Trophy

Our Leamington adventure began immediately after our impressive win against Leicestershire in the quarter-final, with congratulatory emails received from both Leicestershire Ladies and Langwith Junction BC (the club that hosted the quarter-final match).

With a coach, hotel accommodation and supporters' tickets to book and purchase for our semi-final at Leamington, it was a hectic time. All arrangements in place, we set off with every hope of doing well. Heavy and persistent rain had been forecast earlier in the week for our game day on the Saturday, however thankfully this did not materialise until later in the afternoon, so our semi was played in breezy but fair weather.

The one thing that was against us was the team we were drawn against in the semi-final. I knew from the 'get go' that Devon would be an exceptionally strong team but didn't share this with our Ladies' team so we could go into the game with the most positive attitude we could, rather than be beaten before we stepped on the rink.

The Devon ladies were on fire, as I expected. They had the rub of the green and certainly on my rink, shots came off for them and not for us and which from player feedback seemed to be the case on other rinks too at times. Devon had a sound win which they thoroughly deserved and with all credit to them they were just too good for us and went on to win the Johns Trophy against Northamptonshire. Our congratulatory message to them was warmly received.

I suspect that had our draw been different and we had faced either Wiltshire or Northamptonshire we would have won through the semi and been in the final. However, looking at it from slightly different angle, I am glad we played such a strong team, so we can position ourselves to take on these harder games in the future.

### York Evening League 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Game and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lancashire Friendly

To wind up the season we had two games planned. An anniversary match had been organised at Poppleton BC to celebrate 60 years of the York Ladies Evening League, as our President Helen is also Secretary of that league. The game venue was changed a couple of weeks before the match to York Railway BC and was scheduled for a 1:30pm start, however with all our Yorkshire Ladies ready to get on the green we became aware that several York ladies had gone to the wrong venue and for a later start time, so after a very delayed start all the ladies enjoyed a good humoured game and a nice afternoon. Yorkshire Ladies won handsomely but it was playing with friends that mattered most. The game was followed by tea and scones and a raffle.

Getting a team for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lancashire Friendly match proved difficult as our Yorkshire Ladies were either moving to playing indoors or seeking holiday relaxation but with just enough players in place, Lancashire cancelled the game, for exactly the same reasons I had encountered. Unfortunately, this would have been the very last game of our season but I'm sure after a hectic season it wasn't such a disappointing decision for some.



Although the outdoor season has finished there is still work to do with the end of season meeting and the Ladies' Selectors de-brief to complete to ensure all the player observations made during the season are captured and not forgotten over the winter down time and we can hit the ground running for selection next season.

Our final event will be the YBA Ladies' Lunch at the Pavilion Hotel, when the majority of the team and our faithful supporters can get together and really celebrate our collective success and when the Northern Trophy and Stella Logan Trophy will be formally presented.

And finally...

All in all, the Yorkshire Ladies teams have had an exceptional year. This is the building block we need to use to grow and develop our Ladies team further. There has been good humour, good games and good friendship and I could hardly have asked for more. Well done Ladies.

Jane Simpson - Ladies Team Manager - [ybajanes@btinternet.com](mailto:ybajanes@btinternet.com)

### Ladies' Competition Secretary

Well, the season has finally come to an end and what a successful and busy season we saw an increase in entries and what fabulous weather we have had.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all the ladies who played at Leamington you all did Yorkshire proud, especially the senior fours of Sue Entwistle, Alison Phillips, Jean Smith and Maria Dowson of Guisborough Priory who reached the final but to lose against a team from Warwickshire playing on their home green. Heads held high ladies you did yourselves and Yorkshire proud.

The last of the county finals have taken place:

The Anne Wilkinson was won by a joint team from Driffild Rec. and North Duffield who beat Harrogate.

Following a couple days later was the Janet Harrow which was won by Thirsk beating the joint team of Driffild Rec and North Duffield.

Both the above games were played in awful weather conditions so credit to the players for completing the matches.

Due to our success in the John's Trophy the Edith Stone Champion of Champions had to be later in the season and thanks to Northallerton Club for accommodating the late date change.

The semi-finals were played in the morning between Sally Scott (Bishop Monkton) and Cressida Fordy (Northallerton) and Angela Laskey (Selby) and Wendy Pickard (Guisborough KGV).

The final took place in the afternoon between Cressida Fordy and Wendy Pickard.

The score was 15- to Cressida when, unfortunately Wendy had to retire due to a wrist injury. We hope the wrist improves very soon Wendy. Cressida took the title of Edith Stone Champion. This is the first time in the competition's 38 years history that a member from Northallerton as won the title - Northallerton being the home green of the late Edith Stone.



The Top Club final was won by Thirsk who beat Northallerton.

Many thanks to all the ladies who took part in all the competitions this season and for your quick response in sending me the results.

Thanks also to all the clubs who offered their greens when asked and to the umpires, markers and all the supporters who attended.

Please lookout for next year's entry forms and don't forget if you are a club with a small ladies' membership you can enter the Anne Wilkinson and Janet Harrow jointly with another club in similar circumstances.

I would like to wish you all good health, keep safe and winter well - if you bowl indoors good luck and I look forward to seeing you next season.

Helen Walker - Ladies' Competition Secretary - [helencs.yba@gmail.com](mailto:helencs.yba@gmail.com)

## Men's Section

### Men's Secretary

#### County Teams Season Review

A case of 'nearly', 'not so near' and 'victory' sums up the Men's County Teams performances this season. In a new format Balcomb Trophy, Yorkshire came so close to qualifying, having dominated the first day. Many lessons were learnt, and we will do battle again in this highly competitive region next year with key knowledge of what's needed to win in this new Balcomb format.

The Middleton Cup campaign was tough with away fixtures versus Lancashire, on the tricky all-weather surface at Bolton, and Cumbria on their fortress green at Wigton.

However, after many years of waiting the Alsop Cup squad brought home the trophy, closing the campaign with an impressive win against Cumbria at the far flung but lovely bowling venue of Silloth. A huge well done to all the squad for winning this hard-fought competition. Now let's keep hold of it in 2026!!!

#### County Nominations and Selection

All players interested in playing for the county teams are encouraged to nominate through the online process that is well publicised at the beginning of every season. Representing Yorkshire must be one of the key achievements for bowlers who enjoy competitive bowling.

Selecting players for the various teams falls to our Team Manager, Sam Winter, and a group of helpers who seek to access players spread across our vast bowling county. There will always be disappointment for some who nominate but do not get selected. However, many bowlers now playing at the highest county level have shown that through effort and persistence in their own game they force their way onto the selectors' list and therefore the team sheets.



## Goodbye

After several years as the Men's Secretary, I have stood down from the role. At the time of going to press I am unaware who will pick this post up for 2026. I hope to remain involved in some capacity with the men's county teams but would like to thank all who have helped me whilst I have held the position of secretary. The Men's Section is fortunate to have excellent people in essential key roles, and I know they will ensure that the bowling dimension of the section runs effectively.

Andy Humphries - Yorkshire Men's Secretary - [andy.yba@outlook.com](mailto:andy.yba@outlook.com)

## Men's Competitions

With the outdoor bowling season coming to an end, I wanted to reflect on our county successes at Leamington in the National Finals.

Yorkshire was represented in the Over 60s Singles last 16 by Ben Christon of Thirsk. It was a tremendous achievement to qualify, but Ben narrowly lost 21-17.

In the Senior Men's Fours, the Brotton team of E Whitwell, J Tyreman, A Crossman and K Tyreman won their last 32 game against Herefordshire, then the last 16 against Durham and then their Quarter Final against Huntingdonshire, before losing out narrowly to Bedfordshire in the Semi Final. Outstanding performance.

In the Men's 2 Bowl Singles Vincent Lien of Northallerton won his first-round match against Sussex but lost in the last 32 against Northumberland.

In the Men's Junior Pairs Rafferty Patrick and Danny Agar of North Duffield lost in the first round to Sussex.

In the Men's Junior Singles Danny Agar won his last 32 match against Gloucestershire, then won his last 16 game against Kent before losing the Quarter Final 21-19 to the eventual Runner Up from Hampshire. A super performance.

In the Men's Fours, R Clarke, S Rutherford, J Burrows and I Bratton from Springhead Park lost a close first round game to a very strong Gloucestershire side. S Dilks, M Bruce, D Attwood and P Humphreys from York Railway BSC won their last 64 game against Norfolk, and then won their last 32 game against Dorset, before a narrow defeat to Devon in the last 16.

In the Men's Triples T Bielby, L Coutts and I Brickley from Harrogate lost their first-round match to Dorset. A Boatwright, J Walker and P Lund from Selby had a terrific first round win against Cambridgeshire before losing to a strong Suffolk side.

In the Men's Pairs Matt Mosley and Joe Ballantyne from Middlesbrough had an extra end victory over Cornwall before losing to Durham in the last 32. Adrian Ward and Ethan Fordy of Redcar Borough Park lost in the first round to Leicestershire.

In the Men's Singles Jack Bird from Nafferton won his first round against Wiltshire before losing in the last 32 to Northumberland by the score 21-20. Paul Humphreys also won his first-round match against Lincolnshire but came unstuck in the last 32 as well, beaten by Devon's Sam Tolchard.



In the Men's Two Fours, York Railway BSC qualified for the Quarter Finals but lost a tight game to Bedfordshire by 7 shots. The following Day York Railway BSC won their Quarter Final of the Top Club against Sussex very convincingly, winning all 5 disciplines. In the Semi Final they were beaten by the holders and eventual winners, Gerrard's Cross from Buckinghamshire. It was a tremendous run and to qualify for the QF in both club competitions is something that has not been achieved by a club from Yorkshire.

Thank you to all those who responded to my survey about how we ran the men's competitions in 2025. In light of some excellent feedback, I will meet with the Men's Section Committee and the Executive and look to answer all the suggestions that I received and then send out some proposals to 2025 entrants and club secretaries before the end of 2025. I would appreciate any responses on these proposals before we make a firm decision whether to implement them for 2026. Fixed dates for some disciplines and the venues for the Quarter and Semi Finals have got the most discussion.

Thank you for all your kind comments and support during 2025 and good luck with any indoor competitions over the winter.

Michael Bruce - Men's Competition Secretary - [mikebruce.yba@gmail.com](mailto:mikebruce.yba@gmail.com)

And finally...



Once again, I am asking for your help.

The Yorkshire Bowling Association and all the affiliated clubs cannot run without an army of volunteers. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our sport - they come from all backgrounds, offering a diverse range of skills - from accounting to tea-making to green keeping to administration to effective communication and so much more. ALL are crucial for a club's success and the success of our Association.

Whether you have a couple of hours a week or a couple of days a week please come forward to volunteer your services - we cannot run without you.

If you are interested in volunteering for YOUR Association, then please contact our Chair, Mal Britton [MBritton@yorkrailwaybsc.org.uk](mailto:MBritton@yorkrailwaybsc.org.uk)

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Have a great winter, however you chose to spend it - signing off for my very last Newsletter, wishing you all **love**, **luck**, **health** and **happiness**.

