

## **Yorkshire Lift the Alsop Trophy – Final Matchday Report 2025**

By Lee Coutts – Alsop Squad Captain

Normally, this space would be used for a straightforward match report — in this case, for our Alsop Trophy fixture on Saturday 19th July at Silloth, Cumbria. And while this does focus on that match, it's about more than just one result. It's about what we've built together this season — and what that effort has now delivered.

### **What a day.....**

The weather forecast for the match was poor. The Durham vs Northumberland fixture was cancelled due to the weather, and should their game go ahead, there was still a chance Northumberland could make a late push. We went into the day 7 points ahead of Cumbria, and on the face of it, 8 points would have been enough to get the job done against them.

But in the background, we knew Northumberland were still a danger. Should their game go ahead and they'd picked up the full 22 points, they could have taken the title — unless we hit at least 14 points ourselves. So the pressure was on. We weren't just playing Cumbria — we were playing to make sure Northumberland couldn't come through and take it at the last minute. That meant we needed the aggregate plus at least two rink wins. Minimum.

### **Yorkshire didn't just rise to it — we made sure of it.**

Wins on all rinks. The full 22 points. A proper performance when it mattered most.

I'm not going to pick out individuals, because the team effort was what stood out. From rink to rink, there was noise, there was intent, there was serious green craft. The whole atmosphere felt like a group of players who knew exactly what was at stake and weren't going to leave anything to chance. And the opposition didn't have much of a response to it.

This is what commitment looks like. This is what it means when a team truly works together. When we move as one, we can do something special — and this was exactly that.

It did cross my mind why we left it til the last game – I would have had much better sleep knowing it was already won :-/

### **To our groupies and home-based support**

We wouldn't be where we are without the support behind the scenes and on the sidelines. To the partners and families who stand with us, to those who follow the results, send messages, and show genuine interest — your support matters. The kind words, the shares, the encouragement on social media, the presence on the day — it all feeds into what this team has become.

### **To our YBA volunteers**

It would be naïve to assume these things happen without the selfless dedication and commitment from our County officers. Their season starts well before the first jack is cast and continues through winter albeit a little more relaxed. A big personal thankyou to Sam

and Andy whose endless commitment and dedication constantly nurture Gents vision and development.

**After 25 years, the Alsop Trophy is finally back in Yorkshire. That's not just a result — that's a big moment.**

We'll hopefully be organizing a proper get-together once the Trophy is back on our turf to properly take stock of this huge achievement— Until then enjoy the remainder of your season .....

**To sign off...**

Thank you to everyone who's helped us get here — the players, selectors, reserves, supporters, friends, families. This is what Yorkshire bowls can do when we pull together as one.

*We are Yorkshire — and we are Alsop Trophy Champions.*