

# Yorkshire Bowling Association

Hi folks

I hope you are all looking forward to the new season - the weather is certainly in our favour at the moment, fingers crossed it stays that way. There is so much information to give you in this, our first newsletter of 2025, pull up a chair, get yourselves a hot beverage - happy reading.

Lesley Dearlove – County Administrator  
[dearlovelesley@gmail.com](mailto:dearlovelesley@gmail.com)

### A Message from our Chair

The new outdoor season is upon us. I hope you all enjoy your bowling and are successful at whatever level you play.

I also hope that throughout the season all Clubs, and their members, will abide by their Bowls Code of Conduct and deal with any forms of misconduct or misbehaviour on or off the green. Do not be frightened by reporting such instances and nipping them in the bud. The County is here to help if you need it.

I can also announce that our Yorkshire kit will be brought more in line with other progressive counties. Most players representing Yorkshire will go onto the green wearing navy blue below the waist rather than the traditional white. This is the start of a sea change in our appearance and image as a county, with more to come in the near future. Watch this space.

Finally, you may remember I set a challenge last time round, to identify the place in the photo to get some free tickets to Leamington this year. Well, no one was successful! The answer was Vancouver.

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



## Upcoming Events

### April 14

Launch of BE Play Bowls website

### May 10

Junior Development Day (venue tbc)

### May 23

Start of Bowls' Big Weekend

## Important Announcement

After 9 years in the role, Vivien Wilton-Middlemass has announced she will be standing down as Ladies' Secretary at the end of this current season.

We would like to thank Vivien for her hard work and dedication during this time.

We are seeking to recruit a new Ladies' Secretary. If you are interested in this vacancy, you can find out more by contacting Vivien.

[vivien.yba@gmail.com](mailto:vivien.yba@gmail.com)



## Ladies' Section

Well Spring is finally here, and our Yorkshire Ladies are ready to kick off our 2025 Outdoor Bowling Season with a friendly against Lancashire. The away match will be held at Bolton, Lancs on 30th April. The Lancashire ladies enjoyed their match with us so much last year that they have asked for a home and an away match this season. Details for the second home match will be announced later in the year.

Next on the ladies' calendar is the Yorkshire Ladies' County Teams Get Together on 2nd May.

On the 4th May we have the Ladies' Northern Counties Championships to be held at Appleby and visitors are most welcome.

There is a Ladies' May Bowl Day on 21st May 2025 to be hosted by Copmanthorpe BC. This is a friendly bowling day and is open to ladies of all affiliated clubs. If you are interested, please contact our Ladies Team Manager Jane Simpson on [jane.c.simpson@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.c.simpson@btinternet.com)

We also are holding our Yorkshire Ladies' County Day on 11th June hosted at Northallerton BC. This is a lovely friendly day again open to All ladies of affiliated clubs. Come along and meet new friends.

Our lady President's tour will be in Scotland this year and will be from 29th June to 4th July.

Later in the year we will again be holding our Ladies' Annual Presentation of Trophies Luncheon at York Pavilion Hotel, Fulford York.

Let's hope we have a good successful season, and the weather is kind to us.

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

## Ladies' Competitions

Thank you to everyone who sent in entries, they have increased this year in all disciplines except the fours and senior fours.

There have been several changes to the competitions, one being that the 4 wood singles will take place as usual at West Bank Park where **all** competitors will play and not at two venues as before.

Also, the Edith Stone Champion of Champions is later this year due to the Johns' Trophy now being a round robin event with 3 matches to play - these are being played on a Saturday.

I have been part of a working group looking at the competition rules which required updating, these will be available on the website when agreed by the YBA executive committee.

Good luck to everyone in their individual competitions.

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



## Ladies' Team Manager

Hi, Jane Simpson here!

As the new YBA Ladies Team Manager I would like to introduce myself and let you know what is happening with YBA Ladies Bowls.

Many of you already know me but for those who don't, I have been a bowler for over 30 years starting (like many do) at a small village club in Riccall near York (the same club that Indoor World Champion Rebecca Field – now Wilgress, started out at when she was at primary school). I moved on to Selby BC, where I currently play, and have been in the County team for over 25 years. I qualified as a marker in my early days but sadly could not dedicate the time to switch to Umpire due to work commitments at the time, but the measuring experience I learnt has never been wasted. I play outdoors, indoors and short mat so have an all-round understanding of the game and have spent time assisting new members (in all disciplines) to find their feet on the rink.

Taking over the Team Manager role after last season, I have found it to be at an exciting time as Bowls England and the Bowls Development Alliance (and other National bodies) are making great efforts to grow the Sport for one and all. As part of their initiatives, all aspects of the Sport are being reviewed and developed to ensure it is accessible, inclusive, performance based, fun and fit for the future.

As a progressive County, we have access to this immense resource and their support to grow our own talent pool here in Yorkshire. There is a wealth of bowling experience and talent across the County so YBA will be looking to retain and develop our experienced players and identify and develop our newer talent whilst providing a pathway for higher level selection.

New formats have been introduced for the Walker Cup (Ladies) and Balcomb (Men) so the Double Rink format has disappeared (which is a shame) but the introduction of a 'Top Club' format will give a renewed focus and be able to draw on our player's strengths whilst still being a team. These will be played over a weekend at regional venues to create a concentrated competition and give opportunity to Bowls England to assess County talent. As we move towards a more integrated County, the introduction of a National Over 60s Mixed Inter County competition will, I am sure, prove to be popular for nominations.

We are never too old to learn, and we are never too old to pass on our collective experience to those coming through so the Coaching Culture being adopted at a higher level will, I am sure, feed down and ensure that we make the most of our extensive bowling expertise. Coaching bursaries are available for those wanting to pursue this vital role so why not consider it?

This is just a snapshot but as the Ladies Team Manager I am particularly keen to ensure our two Ladies teams are tight knit, up for the challenge, continue to develop, perform to the best of their ability and most of all continue to have fun.

Wishing all a great season.

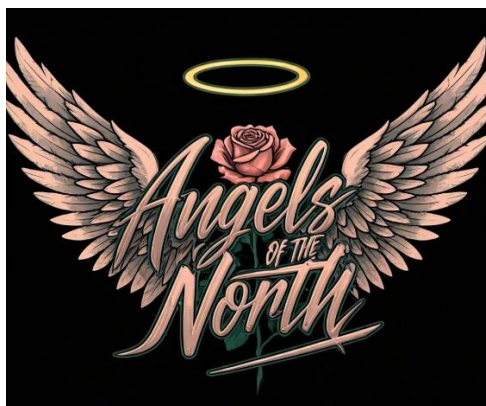
Jane Simpson - Ladies' Team Manager - [ybajanes@btinternet.com](mailto:ybajanes@btinternet.com)



## Ladies' Youth Development

The Amy Rose this year is going to look very different for 2 reasons. We have a new format - singles, pairs, triples and fours. Also, this year Bowls England have agreed that counties can merge due to some counties only having small numbers of ladies under 24

Yorkshire, Cumbria and Northumberland have merged and have formed a team which is going to be called - **Angels of the North**. We have a get-together planned on Sunday 4th May at Appleby in the afternoon.



If there are any other junior ladies out there under the age of 24 who would like to come along to both events, please let me know.

We do have Junior Development days planned keep a look out for dates/venues on the Bowls Yorkshire page on Facebook.

The Regional Final for Amy Rose is Saturday 31st May at Dunnington

Amy Rose Bowl									
Dunnington Schedule									
Amy Rose Bowl - Saturday 31st May									
Saturday	930 - 1045			1100 - 1215			1315 - 1430		
	Pairs	CB-YK-NL	Durham	Singles	CB-YK-NL	Durham	Triples	Lincs	CB-YK-NL
	Pairs	Lancs	Lincs	Singles	Lancs	Lincs	Triples	Durham	Lancs
	Pairs			Singles			Triples		
	Triples	CB-YK-NL	Durham	Fours	CB-YK-NL	Durham	Pairs	Lincs	CB-YK-NL
	Triples	Lancs	Lincs	Fours	Lancs	Lincs	Pairs	Durham	Lancs
Saturday	1445 - 1600			1615 - 1730			1745 - 1900		
	Fours	Lincs	CB-YK-NL	Triples	CB-YK-NL	Lancs	Singles	CB-YK-NL	Lancs
	Fours	Durham	Lancs	Triples	Lincs	Durham	Singles	Lincs	Durham
	Fours			Triples			Singles		
	Singles	Lincs	CB-YK-NL	Pairs	CB-YK-NL	Lancs	Fours	CB-YK-NL	Lancs
	Singles	Durham	Lancs	Pairs	Lincs	Durham	Fours	Lincs	Durham

Key: CB-YK-NL (Cumbria, Yorkshire & Northumberland)

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



## Men's Section

It must be spring it's snowing outside!! Irrespective of the weather we will shortly be switching the warmth of indoor bowling for the character building outdoors!! The YBA Men's backroom staff have seen a few changes over the winter period. Sam Winter remains the Team Manager, but he has a new Alsop Captain in Lee Coutts, who takes over from Graham Stephenson who we sincerely thank for such loyal and vital support in the role over many years. We also have a new Youth Development Manager in Dave Attwood who takes over from Phil Parsons who has helped so many young bowlers develop over very many years. Dave will bring his experience from managing national youth squads into our County, working with Cressida Fordy (Ladies' Youth Development Manager) and Lee Coutts (YBA County Coach). Mike Bruce is the YBA Men's Competition Secretary, ([mikebruce.yba@gmail.com](mailto:mikebruce.yba@gmail.com)) a key role for all who enjoy the various competitions that are available for players at a national and County level. (Please note the 2025 competition draws are now available in the Men's Section of the YBA website.)

Our County Teams will be playing for Yorkshire in various National Competitions:

**Balcomb Trophy** - to be held at Borough Park, Redcar BC on the weekend of the 17/18th May. This year sees a new format - gone is the double rink and in are Singles/Pairs/Triples and Fours. More details on the website in due course but we will be doing battle with the Northern Counties of Northumberland, Durham, Cumbria and Lancashire, seeking to qualify for the semi-finals at Leamington.

**Middleton Cup** - Four matches to get through on a round robin basis this year: Lancashire (14th June) & Cumbria (5th July) both away and Northumbria (12th July) and Durham (7th June) at home (Selby BC). An early season Squad Day will be held on the all-weather surface at Yarm BC (more details to follow).

**Alsop Trophy** - Having just missed out on the Alsop Trophy last year we aim to go one place better this season with the usual fixtures against Cumbria, Lancashire, Northumberland and Durham. All match details will be listed on our website.

**White Rose** - Our U24 squad will be in action as this event takes place on a regional basis with singles/pairs/triples and fours over the weekend of 31st May and the 1<sup>st</sup> June at Northallerton BC. Yorkshire will be taking on Durham, Cumbria, Northumberland and Lancashire

**Mixed Inter County** - A new BE National competition for players over 60. Six rinks (12 men 12 ladies), more details to follow.

Many dates here for both players' and spectators' diaries - more info to come via Bowls Yorkshire (Facebook) and our YBA website.

If you are interested in nominating play for Yorkshire, just head over to the YBA website and fill in the nomination form [County Nominations-Yorkshire Bowling Association-Yorkshire Bowling Association, York](#).

Finally, the long-awaited shift towards a new YBA kit starts in 2025 with navy blue below the waist. More information will follow shortly on this matter, so don't go buying new white shorts/trousers for the 2025 season!!

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



## Men's Competitions

The draws for the 2025 Men's County Competitions took place at the start of March and they are all on the County website. All entrants have been emailed with the relevant draws and have also had the relevant zone entrant contact details email to them. Contact details can also be accessed through the secure portal on the website. Yorkshire are one of only 9 counties whose entries for 2025 have gone up from both a 2022 and a 2024 baseline. That's really encouraging as the strength of the county lies in as many bowlers as possible playing top level competitive bowls. We will know whether we qualify for two entrants in each discipline at the National Finals at Leamington in the next few weeks, but the signs are very optimistic.

As the bowling greens now start to open and competitors look towards offering or accepting dates this is a good opportunity to remind everyone of the points made in my email to entrants:

1. I have used the number of entries in each zone to determine the number of qualifiers for the Quarter Finals. In each discipline the ratios were the same; 3 qualifiers each for Zones 1 & 4 and 1 each for zones 2 & 3.
2. I have staggered the closing dates for the 2 Bowl Singles, 4 Bowl Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours so that none fall on the same day. Each draw sheet has the correct closing dates on them.
3. This year I have decided to alternate the venue for each Quarter Final and Semi Final so one round will be played at Dunnington and one at York Railway. Details of this can be found on the website.
4. Inevitably there are some byes through the first round. In order to try and make it fairer, those without a bye, if they win, will play most of their matches at home if they keep winning.
5. The Over 55 Fours will play down to a final and has been drawn roughly in zones.
6. The Over 65 Pairs and Fours has also been drawn and will be played at 4 different venues in Phase 1, before the Quarter and Semi Finals at Thirsk.
7. In Zones 3 & 4 the 2 Bowl singles are on fixed dates; Zone 3 at Driffield on Sunday 8th June and Zone 4 at York Railway on Sunday 22nd June.
8. The Under 24 Singles and Pairs will also be on a fixed date and I will send out details to those that have entered once that has been finalised with the new YBA Youth Development Officer, David Attwood. We will try and make those dates after the GCSE and A Level exam season.
9. County Finals Day was due to be played in Zone 3 this year at Driffield Bowling Club, but they have unfortunately double booked their green. I have therefore taken the decision to use Zone 4 and the York Railway Bowls & Social Club for our Finals Day on Sunday 20th July. We will hopefully revert back to Zone 3 in 2026.
10. Remember for each competition the first drawn in each pair shall be termed the 'challenger' and the second the 'opponent'. Unless competitions are being played on selected dates the challenger shall, at the latest in respect of any round to be played, at least seven days before that round closure, offer their opponent at least two dates, none of which shall be the last day of the period of the round nor be on the same day as a county match or county competition fixed date match. The time for commencing a match



shall be mutually agreed but no player shall be compelled to accept a time earlier than 6pm Monday to Friday or 3pm on Saturdays and Sundays, nor later than 6:30pm on any day. The challenger in singles matches will provide a marker and failure to do so will mean forfeiture of the round. In the event of a match being rained off etc. and the players not being able to agree another date, they should inform the Men's Competitions Secretary immediately.

11. Also remember that there must be a draw for the rink before the game starts. At least two rinks must be put in the draw.

All other rules can be found in the constitution on the county website.

I hope you all have an enjoyable season, and I look forward to seeing how all the competitions progress during 2025.

Best of luck

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

## Men's Youth Development

The White Rose Trophy has a new format from this year - singles, pairs, triples and fours.

The White Rose Regional Final is being held at Northallerton Bowls Club on 31st May/1st June.

The schedule is as follows:

White Rose															
Northallaton Schedule															
White Rose Trophy - Saturday 31st May															
Saturday	930 - 1045			1100 - 1215			1315 - 1430			1445 - 1600			1615 - 1730		
	Pairs	Yorks	Durham A	Singles	Yorks	Durham A	Triples	Durham B	N-Land	Fours	Durham B	N-Land	Pairs	Lancs	N-Land
	Pairs	Durham B	Lancs	Singles	Durham B	Lancs	Triples	Lancs	Yorks	Fours	Lancs	Yorks	Triples	Durham A	Durham B
	Pairs	N-Land	Cumb	Singles	N-Land	Cumb	Triples	Durham A	Cumb	Fours	Durham A	Cumb	Pairs	Yorks	Cumb
	Triples	Yorks	Durham A	Fours	Yorks	Durham A	Pairs	Durham B	N-Land	Singles	Durham B	N-Land	Triples	Lancs	N-Land
	Triples	Durham B	Lancs	Fours	Durham B	Lancs	Pairs	Lancs	Yorks	Singles	Lancs	Yorks	Pairs	Durham A	Durham B
	Triples	N-Land	Cumb	Fours	N-Land	Cumb	Pairs	Durham A	Cumb	Singles	Durham A	Cumb	Triples	Yorks	Cumb
White Rose Trophy - Sunday 1st June															
Sunday	930 - 1045			1100 - 1215			1315 - 1430			1445 - 1600			1615 - 1730		
	Singles	Lancs	N-Land	Pairs	N-Land	Yorks	Singles	N-Land	Yorks	Triples	Cumb	Lancs	Fours	Cumb	Lancs
	Singles	Durham A	Durham B	Pairs	Cumb	Durham B	Singles	Cumb	Durham B	Triples	Yorks	Durham B	Fours	Yorks	Durham B
	Singles	Yorks	Cumb	Pairs	Lancs	Durham A	Singles	Lancs	Durham A	Triples	N-Land	Durham A	Fours	N-Land	Durham A
	Fours	Lancs	N-Land	Triples	N-Land	Yorks	Fours	N-Land	Yorks	Pairs	Cumb	Lancs	Singles	Cumb	Lancs
	Fours	Durham A	Durham B	Triples	Cumb	Durham B	Fours	Cumb	Durham B	Pairs	Yorks	Durham B	Singles	Yorks	Durham B
Fours	Yorks	Cumb	Triples	Lancs	Durham A	Fours	Lancs	Durham A	Pairs	N-Land	Durham A	Singles	N-Land	Durham A	



## Safeguarding

Many thanks to all the clubs that have completed the Safeguarding Register. We are 99.9% of the way there. If your club's circumstances change, please update the register.

<https://www.bowlsengland.com/safeguarding-register/>

All Yorkshire clubs now have a Safeguarding Officer in place or in training. That is a great achievement and means that Yorkshire has hit the deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025.

Any queries about Safeguarding, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Mick O'Donnell - County Safeguarding Officer - [modonnell@yorkrailwaybsc.org.uk](mailto:modonnell@yorkrailwaybsc.org.uk)

## Discipline and Grievance

**A reminder:** If your club/county is affiliated to Bowls England, it must always follow the procedures set out in **Regulation 9** when dealing with complaints alleging misconduct. In its rules, your club/county must include provision that it will adopt and follow all the procedures in Regulation 9, 9A and 9B when dealing with any type of disciplinary/misconduct issues. This is a qualification of membership to Bowls England and can be found in Regulation 2.5.2.

All the relevant documentation (including a User Guide) can be found on the BE website:

<https://www.bowlsengland.com/disciplinary-and-misconduct-important-information/>

Please don't hesitate to contact the County Disciplinary Team with any queries. Mal Britton, Lesley Dearlove and Vivien Wilton-Middlemass.

## Bowls England News

### Aviva National Finals 13<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> August

Tickets are now on sale for this event. <https://www.bowlsengland.com/>

### International Area Scouts

Bowls England is delighted to announce the appointment of eight International Area Scouts and two International Para Scouts to join the recently announced Performance Team ahead of the 2025 season. International Area and Para Scouts have a crucial role in our evolving performance pathway – providing a vital link between counties, coaches and International Team Managers and will assist in the selection of all Bowls England international teams by offering data, advice and insight on the development and performance of the talent pool of bowlers in England.

Congratulations to: Bernie Hill - South Cave BC, Yorkshire and Shayne Rimmer - Heaton Hall BC & Southport BC, Lancashire who have been appointed for the North.



## Play Bowls

BE are pleased to announce that the updated Play Bowls site will launch to all affiliated clubs the week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> April. The site has undergone significant development, the purpose of which was to create a more comprehensive club finder for current and potential players whilst also creating a 'one stop shop' for all club data.

This will enable clubs to better publicise themselves among the bowls community – whilst offering potential new players an easy way to find nearby clubs and everything they have to offer, from 'Pay and Play' and Bowls Bash sessions to full memberships.

Clubs will also be able to provide additional information about their facilities, and to input contact information for key personnel including Secretary, Greenkeeper and Safeguarding Officer that can then be used by counties and Bowls England to provide relevant updates.

### What's New

The site now includes all affiliated clubs, regardless of whether they are signed up to offer 'Pay and Play' sessions. This creates a single place for potential players to visit and a simple system for them to find a club local to them.

Clubs can assign editing capabilities to those with roles in their club, therefore, sharing the responsibility of keeping this information up to date. Roles can opt in to Bowls England communications relating directly to their position at the club - for example, the greenkeeper can opt in to receive 'Cutting Edge' and the Safeguarding Officer to the 'Safeguarding Bulletin'.

### What's Next

From Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April, emails will be sent from BE to clubs informing them of the updates made. A login will then be automatically sent to those who are listed as the main contact (likely the secretary) - these contacts have come from the current Bowls England website.

BE will ask clubs to log on to their profile and ensure all details are up to date, to input roles held at their club (to share responsibility of the club profile) and consider signing up as a 'Pay and Play' club (to generate additional revenue and have a more prominent listing on the site).

Aligned with the launch of the new club finder on Play Bowls, the club pages on the Bowls England website will be shut down, the log in for the site will be turned off with no content hidden and everything will point to Play Bowls for those wishing to find clubs. Therefore, updates to club details will no longer be required on [bowlsengland.com](https://bowlsengland.com).

You can find out more about the developments at [bowlsengland.com/playbowls](https://bowlsengland.com/playbowls), including a list of FAQs.

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That's the end of this gargantuan Newsletter - enjoy your bowling, Happy Easter. May the sun shine and your bowls run true. If you don't win your games - make sure you win some new friends.

