

# Yorkshire Bowling Association

Hi all

Well what a few weeks that has been - packed with quality bowling and great socialising as we come to the end of another outdoor season.

Apart from the great social side of our sport, we also saw Club Finals, Inter-club Finals, County Finals and National Finals. A great end to the season. Sadly we didn't see much summer weather but that didn't spoil the fun that we all have playing our wonderful sport.

I spent a week down at Leamington during the National Finals - always a great atmosphere and this year was no different.

With my other hat on, I spent time on the greens marking some of the singles games. What a pleasure that always is - I marked some cracking good games.

It's here that I want to say a big thank you to all the unsung heroes that are our Umpires and Markers - very well represented by Yorkshire. They give so much of their time for this event. Covering each other when necessary, changing duties with the change of programme at the drop of a hat - a real sense of camaraderie, something I'm proud to be part of.

Yorkshire's own Bernie and Maxine, were running the Umpire's Office - but the real top dog in charge was Gracie!

What a superb job **all** the volunteers do - the event would not happen without them. Congratulations to you all.

Well, that's it for this year. The newsletters will start again before the start of next season. I will, of course send any relevant information to your club secretaries via email.

Kindest regards

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## Upcoming Events

### October 7

#### Ladies' Autumn Meeting

12:30 at York & District Indoor BC

### October 15

#### Ladies' Celebration Lunch

York Pavilion Hotel

### November 10

#### YBA - AGM

10:30 at York Railway B&SC

## EBUA Mascot (Boss!)



## Ladies' Section

### Northern Counties League

The Stella Logan team played on the 9<sup>th</sup> August and won the last match of the season at Bishop Monkton - playing a very strong Durham team. Durham had won the Northern Trophy League beating Yorkshire into 2<sup>nd</sup> place (by just 9 shots over 6 matches) and they were certainly out for the double. The Yorkshire ladies proved too much for them and won the match to bring home the trophy for the second year running.



The photo shows the triumphant team with President Pauline Beecroft and Team Manager Janet Farnsworth.

It was fitting that the deciding match was played on the President's home green.

### National Finals - Stand Out Stars

Anyone who qualifies for the National Finals deserves our congratulations, some stand out performances this year:

**Champion of Champions** - Sue Allen (Swinton) won through 4 tough rounds to earn herself a place in the final against Steff Branfield (Somerset). Sue lost 21-16 in the final playing 26 ends.

**Ladies' Pairs** - Alison Paxton and Janet Farnsworth (Driffild Rec.) had some close games to reach the semi-final stage - losing out to Katherine Hawes-Watts, Lorraine Kuhler (Oxfordshire) who went on to win the pairs championship.

**Ladies' Senior Pairs** - Di Kirby, Alison Paxton, Liz Pollard and Janet Farnsworth (Driffild Rec.) had a good run in this competition, managing to reach the quarter-final stage.

**Many congratulations to you all.**



## Men's Section

### The 2024 Season by Andy Humphreys Men's Secretary

In last month's YBA Newsletter our Team Manager, Sam Winter, took stock of the performance of the County teams this season. Apart from endorsing his comments I don't plan to add anything further on what has been a great start to a new regime. Sam provides an energy and commitment to his role as Team Manager that is tangible. Along with key members of the Men's Section team, some very real steps towards professionalising the county teams have occurred this season. The first of a new style Development Day took place with 12 bowlers engaging in discussion and bowling to consider just how to transfer from a largely reactive club level bowling performance to a pro-active approach, that would be required for bowling at the County level. All the feedback indicated that this session was most beneficial and we will be holding more such events next season. So seldom do players get to reflect on aspects of the game that, under analysis, offer real learning and game improvement.

Additionally, we held a Trial Day during which 32 players had their every wood scored against the same criteria that is used at the International trials. The data obtained from this exercise has been fascinating and those individuals who requested feedback have found their personal performance analysis most useful. Whilst only one event of this nature took place this year, the benefits in seeing just how players, rinks and teams played against a set of useable data means that further such events will take place next season and as the data grows individuals will be able to see trends in their play and identify areas for improvement.

Improving your own bowling performance should not just be of interest to County level bowlers. All bowlers, whether competitive or social, wish to bowl well. That is one reason why the appointment of Lee Coutts as the YBA County Coach is such a big step forward. Lee has a mammoth task ahead of him and will need to work with existing and new coaches across the County to ensure that the kind of development opportunities that the County Squads are now seeing emerge are there for all bowlers.

These steps towards a more professionalised sport have been spoken of for many years but this season I believe we have turned the corner and moved from talking about improving and developing players, to a position where we are engaging in actual activities to make things happen.

Finally in a sport that should have no barriers to anyone competing against anyone else, a small step towards 'open' competition is awaiting ratification at the Northern Counties (NC) Men's AGM in October this year. The NC's Executive group met recently and endorsed the view that should counties wish to field ladies in the Alsop Trophy then they should feel free to do so. The Alsop Trophy is played between Lancashire, Cumbria, Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire in a six rink format. This opportunity will not be celebrated by everyone but the Yorkshire Men's Section will be delighted to see ladies, who reach the County Team standard, playing alongside their male colleagues in next year's Alsop Trophy. I am sure we will learn from each other and, just as in the many leagues around Yorkshire that routinely have ladies and men playing alongside each other, this will be a small but important step towards open bowling events.

Nomination details for the 2025 season will be notified in the New Year once we have provisional fixture dates available.



## YBA Men's 2024 Competitions

The finals of the Men's competitions were held at Walkington BC on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July, our thanks go to the club for providing an excellent playing surface together with refreshments.

There were no fewer than 11 different clubs competing in the 11 disciplines on the day, with competitors from 8 of these clubs winning trophies.

The winners/runners up from 6 of the above disciplines went forward 2 weeks later to represent the County in the Northern Counties Championships at Houghton Dairy Lane BC in County Durham. Congratulations to Stevie Slaughter (Middlesbrough) on becoming NC Singles Champion, whilst Peter Lund and Andy Boatwright (Selby) were Runners Up in the Pairs.

The show then moved on to the National Championships at Leamington sadly we didn't return with any trophies this year. Several of the players were experiencing Leamington and the National Championship atmosphere for the first time, it is certainly a world away from anything they will have seen at their own clubs. Old stalwart Mark Walton and Ben Render have seen it all before and accompanied by club mate Jack Bird the Nafferton trio reached the quarter-final of the Triples, well done.

Thanks go to all YBA clubs who provided their facilities for the early stages of the competitions.

### The Marshall Shield

The Marshall Shield was contested at Thirsk B.C, on Saturday 31st August, where we were looked after by a great crew of ladies who kept us fed and watered during the day.

To Steve and Malcolm many thanks for providing an excellent green worthy of any finals day.

The semi-final results in the morning were:

Holgate 37 - 59 Springhead

Dunnington 37 - 56 Selby

After a short interval the final commenced. It was so close that after 10 ends the scores were level across the three rinks. Selby then started to take control, with some excellent bowls in front of a great crowd that stayed to the end.

The final score saw John Phillips Selby team overcome Colin Turks Springhead Park team 54 - 36.

Special thanks to Dave Dearlove for his expertise as umpire yet again, after his busy week at Leamington.

Photos on next page.



Selby winning the trophy for the first time in their history.



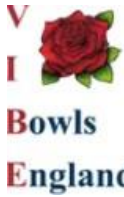
Immediate Past County President Mr. Alan Smith presented the trophies.



## Top Club

The YBA Top Club is a mixed inter-club competition, open to all affiliated clubs. In this, the second year, we had 14 entries. The final was played in sunshine at Thirsk BC on 10<sup>th</sup> August. The winning club was Shipton by Beningbrough BC lead by team captain John Backhouse.





Visually Impaired Bowls England held their National Outdoor Triples event over 5 days in August.

At York Railway & Social Club. Our Yorkshire Ladies' President, Pauline, attended as our Yorkshire representative. We are hoping we can welcome them back in 2025.



## easyfundraising – the fundraising option other clubs recommend

Any clubs looking to boost their club funds should take a look at easyfunding, it costs nothing and is easy to use. One YBA club has raised over **£850 since May 2021**, they have 35 people in their group and remember they can be any family member not even a member of the club. The scheme works around online shopping, anything from groceries to holiday. Raising this kind of money has paid 30 members' affiliation for 3 years! What have you got to lose?

For more information, go to the Bowls England website:

<https://www.bowlsengland.com/easyfundraising/>

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And that folks is a wrap! Looking forward to another fun packed season next year! Enjoy the winter - look after yourselves and each other.

