

THE YORKSHIRE LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Presented at the Annual General Meeting
14th December 2015



The Aegon Trophy Challenger event held in Ilkley, West Yorkshire during June 2015.
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Welcome to our 2015 Annual Report. As Yorkshire Tennis President, it gives me great pleasure to write this foreword for the Report.

As the YLTA came to terms with regionalisation of the Lawn Tennis Association, many hours of discussion and planning have been spent on putting together a structure for Yorkshire Tennis. Seven sub-committees of volunteers are now in place to oversee the County scene.

The highlight of my year was the pre-Wimbledon Aegon Challenger Tournament at Ilkley in June. Probably the most auspicious tennis event ever held in Yorkshire saw international and world-ranked players provide high-quality competition. Indeed, it did provide one of the highlights of my year when on court presenting the trophy to the Men's Singles winner Denis Kudla, who took a call on his mobile phone to say he had qualified for the main draw at Wimbledon. His joy at hearing this news knew no bounds.

The event was a showcase for Yorkshire Tennis. The Ilkley club, County personnel and Sponsors involved all deserve huge credit for putting together a brilliant programme of outreach events.

Our young players have again excelled at County level this year, details of which you will read in this report, but the highlight of the year was the ladies gaining promotion during County Week by winning Division 3 at Frinton. The men had a difficult time with the poor weather but they played exceptionally well to retain their position in Division 2.

I would also like to mention the Schools Tennis Finals at the John Charles Centre in early October. It was a beautiful late summer's day with 128 boys and girls playing team tennis and having fun, but who wouldn't when playing tennis and taking a day off school!

The drive for greater participation goes on, with more clubs in Yorkshire taking part in the designated Great British Tennis Weekends. It is encouraging to see the professional team working with the local authority and putting tennis back into the parks in Sheffield with a number of events and the refurbishment of Hillsborough and High Hazel Parks.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Management Committee and Council for their unstinting work in this year of change. Thanks also go to our Sponsors and Patrons who support Yorkshire Tennis financially and to all those unsung heroes, volunteers, club officials and parents whose commitment to tennis makes it all possible.

Bob Lamb

YLTA President

2015 has been a busy year of change as we settled down the new LTA Regional team arrangements. The YLTA has been very supportive of the change but it has resulted in an increased workload for our volunteers that underlines our need to recruit new and motivated individuals who wish to play a part in the administration of tennis in Yorkshire.

We are still seeking clarification of the County versus the Region's roles but things are much clearer now and I expect that by the AGM things will be sorted and each will know and understand the role they have to play to support both the YLTA's and the LTA's objectives.

After consultation, the Management Committee has issued an Action Plan for the County with three principal objectives:

1. To support the Region in increasing participation in tennis.
2. To increase the number of registered venues in the county from 154 (now) to 190 by the end of 2018.
3. To achieve by the end of 2018, the No.1 ranking in the Aegon County Cup Race (a new initiative by the LTA to recognise the performance of County teams across all age groups with an appropriate weighting for level of competition).

To support these objectives, there are a number of sub-committees which undertake related actions and report back to the Management Committee, who co-ordinate the overall actions. In addition, the YLTA has two governance committees with one that provides a Finance and Audit role and another one which looks after the Rules.

This additional workload has resulted in the need to recruit a part-time Tennis Administrator who will service a number of committees and undertake support and project work. We welcomed Diane Hutchinson at the beginning of August and wish her every success. It is with disappointment that Trevor Reed, the YLTA Administrator has decided to take a step back from his role (which encompasses the YLTA Secretary) but hopes to stay on for some project work. We have started the recruitment process for his replacement and hope to have a person in place for the new year.

One initiative we have taken this year is for every YLTA Councillor to be allocated a number of clubs (typically 6 to 8) in their area and for them to act as a liaison for any queries. If you don't know who your Councillor is then please get in touch with us.

One particular high point of the year for me was the Aegon Ilkley Challenger Trophy that was staged at Ilkley Lawn Tennis and Squash Club. The event was a tremendous success and our congratulations must go to

Chairman Richard Bourdon and Charlie Maunder and their teams for delivering a superb event that impressed the players and the LTA alike. We anticipate a repeat of the tournament in 2016 and we will be supporting the club in their endeavours.

I hope that the AGM will approve a new everyday name for the YLTA: 'Yorkshire Tennis'. The Council believes that it is more appropriate to take 'Lawn' out of the title and drop the 'Association' for normal use. We are retaining the legal name of the Yorkshire Lawn Tennis Association and it will have to be used from time to time but we hope you will feel comfortable with 'Yorkshire Tennis' and get used to it very quickly.

No annual report would be adequate without a huge 'thank you' to all the volunteers for the selfless work they undertake for Yorkshire Tennis. I would particularly like to thank the Management Committee and the Council who have guided me along the way. A special mention must be made of John Ramsbottom who promised to help me through the year given his very extensive background in national and County affairs - life would have been so much harder without his unswerving and generous support.

Next year will be full of challenges. With the strategy now settled, it will be a year for action to support the delivery of our plans, particularly introducing thousands of new players to tennis.

John Crowther
YLTA Chairman

2015 has been a great year for British Tennis. We have seen success on the court with Andy Murray, fantastic progress made by the GB Davis Cup team and Jordanne Whiley making history by winning the US Wheelchair Singles Championship. From Yorkshire, Paul Jubb became a National Champion at 16 & U Boys level this year and Kyle Edmund broke into the world top 100. Great achievements!!

At the start of the year we launched a new National Strategy with a focus on getting 'More People to play More Often' and we are now into a full year working as a Regional team in partnership with Yorkshire LTA.

The strategy focuses on three areas; providing great service to clubs, working in partnership with Local Authorities to grow tennis in community venues, particularly parks, and also growing tennis in education venues. We launched the First Service Benefits Guide this Autumn for clubs and a new Facilities Guide in March, from which over £2.8 million has been accessed already. Stocksbridge and Harrogate Spa are examples of clubs which have successfully received financial support this year. We have improved Clubspark, a complete on-line management support tool for clubs and over 35 Yorkshire clubs have attended specific support workshops to date. More courses will continue in 2016. Activity levels continue to be high in clubs with 187 Aegon Team entries, whilst 38 venues organised Road to Wimbledon events.

Great British Tennis Weekend has been a huge success again this year with over 60% of Yorkshire clubs running events and accessing the resources. Over 3,000 participants booked on an event with many clubs converting new participants into members.

This year we have moved forward tennis development plans in Leeds and Sheffield and piloted new technology and operating models with both Local Authorities. We have recruited Rob Ratcliffe as a Leeds Parks Co-ordinator and since July tennis activity is increasing across the city parks in Sheffield. National Park Tennis Operators Premier Tennis, supported by the Local Authority and Places for People, have created an app and on-line booking system and nearly 1,000 people have registered to play on the parks, booking over 6,000 courts since mid-June.

We also saw International Tennis return to the County with Ilkley staging the Aegon Trophy Challenger event supported by the County and the Regional Team. Players ranked in the world top 150 took part in a fantastic event organised by the club. The County supported a network of pre-activities which saw 1,200 children from local schools getting the chance to play and the club engaged 110 volunteers to make the event a fantastic experience for fans – the finals weekend selling out completely.

Finally, in education the local schools competitions go from strength to strength. This year again saw over 1,600 children play in the schools primary competition and the secondary school events were again a success. 19 colleges now receive direct support from the Tennis Foundation and three Universities have a dedicated Tennis Co-ordinator.

In the new landscape of delivery in 2016, the County and Regional Team will look to build further on this year's success and introduce joint initiatives as we work together to further our aims with our many partners and clubs.

I would like to thank the Regional Team and County Volunteers for all their help this year but most importantly I would like to thank all the volunteers, clubs, venues and coaches who are working hard to grow our great sport.

Regional Personnel

	Role	Area of Focus in Region
Mia Mitchell	Regional Tennis Services Assistant (on Maternity)	Marketing & Communications lead, including campaigns
Lauren Salton	Regional Tennis Services Assistant	Finance and Customer Service Support
Matthew Parkinson	Regional Tennis Services Assistant	Club support
Matthew Tottey	Regional Tennis Services Assistant	Competition Support
Jessica Redfearn	Regional Tennis Services Assistant	Workforce and Coach Support
Matt Elkrington	Regional Tennis Disability Manager	
Rob Ratcliffe	Leeds Parks & Community Tennis Co-ordinator	
Christine Klee	Regional Tennis Competition Co-ordinator	
Laura Lattimore	Regional Tennis Education Officer	
Graeme Clarkson	Regional Facilities Manager	
Paul Bennett	Head of Region	
Gavin Sutcliffe	Regional Tennis Participation Manager	
Paul Sheard	Regional Tennis Participation Manager	

Registered Venues 2014-15

- Abbeydale Tennis Club Ltd*
- Academy Harrogate Ltd*
- Ackworth Tennis Club
- Adel Tennis Club
- Almscliffe Tennis & Bowling Club
- Alne Parish Leisure Association Tennis Club
- Alwoodley Tennis Club
- Appleton Roebuck Tennis Club
- Armley Tennis Club
- Austwick Tennis Club
- Bardsey Tennis Club
- Barnsley Lawn Tennis Club*
- Batley ITI Tennis Club
- Beauchief Tennis Club*
- Bedale Tennis Club
- Beverley & East Riding Lawn Tennis Club
- Beverley Town Tennis Club
- Boroughbridge Tennis Club
- Boston Spa School Tennis Club*
- Boston Spa Tennis Club*
- Bradfield Tennis Club
- Bramhope Tennis Club
- Brentwood Lawn Tennis Club
- Bubwith Tennis Club
- Cawood Tennis Club
- Chapel Allerton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club
- Cherry Burton Tennis Club
- Cleckheaton Lawn Tennis Club*
- Cliffe Tennis Club
- Collingham Lawn Tennis Club
- Copmanthorpe Tennis Club
- Cottingham Lawn Tennis Club*
- Craven Lawn Tennis Club
- Crosshills Tennis Club
- Cundall Manor Tennis Club
- Dacre Tennis Club
- Danby Tennis Club
- David Lloyd Hull
- David Lloyd Leeds
- David Lloyd York
- Denby Dale Tennis Club
- Doncaster Lawn Tennis Club
- Dore & Totley Tennis Club
- Dunnington Tennis Club
- Easingwold Lawn Tennis Club
- Ecclesall Lawn Tennis Club
- Eldwick Lawn Tennis Club
- Eskdale School Tennis Club
- Fulford Tennis Club
- Fulwood Tennis Club*
- Galtres Centre
- Goole Tennis Centre
- Graves Tennis & Leisure Centre
- Great Ayton Tennis Club
- Gregory Fields Tennis Club
- Grove Hill Otley Tennis Club
- Grove Lawn Tennis Club
- Hackness Tennis Club
- Hallam Grange Tennis Club
- Hallamshire Tennis & Squash Club Limited*
- Harlow Tennis Club
- Harrogate Racquets Club
- Harrogate Spa Tennis Centre*
- Heaton Tennis & Squash Club
- Hessle Lawn Tennis Club
- Heworth Tennis Club
- Holmfirth Parish Church Tennis Club
- Hornsea Tennis Club
- Horsforth Throstle Nest Tennis Club
- Hovingham Tennis Club
- Huddersfield Lawn Tennis & Squash Club Ltd**
- Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club**
- John Charles Centre for Sport
- Kirkbymoorside Tennis Club
- Kirkstall Abbey Tennis Club
- Knaresborough King James's Tennis Club
- Leake Tennis Club
- Leeds Beckett University Tennis Club
- Leeds University Union Tennis Club
- Leyburn Tennis Club
- Linton Tennis Club
- Longley Community Sports Club
- Lythe & Sandsend Tennis Club
- Malton Tennis, Bowls & Squash Club
- Market Weighton Tennis Club
- Marsden Tennis Club
- Mashamshire Tennis Club
- Mexborough Athletic Tennis Club
- Mirfield Tennis Club
- Mytholmroyd Tennis Club
- New Earswick Tennis Club
- Northallerton Tennis Club
- Nuffield Hull Tennis Academy
- Park Tennis Club
- Pocklington Tennis Club
- Pool-in-Wharfedale Lawn Tennis Club
- Poppleton Lawn Tennis Club
- Pudsey Lawn Tennis Club
- Queens Halifax Sports Club*
- Pudsey Lawn Tennis Club
- Queens Halifax Sports Club*
- Raskelf Tennis Club
- Rastrick Tennis Club
- Rawdon Golf & Lawn Tennis Club*
- Riccall Tennis Club
- Ripon Tennis Centre
- Rotherham Moorgate Lawn Tennis Club
- Roundhay Tennis Club Ltd
- Rustlings Lawn Tennis Club
- Salts Tennis Club*
- Sandal Lawn Tennis Club
- Scalby Tennis Club
- Scarborough Pindar Tennis Club
- Shadwell Tennis Club
- Shepley Tennis Club
- Sherburn Tennis Club
- Sheriff Hutton Tennis Club
- Skipton Tennis Club
- Sledmere Tennis Club
- South Cave Tennis Club
- Sowerby Tennis Club
- Spa Lawn Tennis Club
- Sproatley Tennis Club
- St Chads (Leeds) Tennis Club
- St John Fisher Tennis Club
- Stamford Bridge Tennis
- Starbeck Tennis Club
- Stocksbridge Tennis Club*
- Stokesley Tennis Club
- Strensall and Towthorpe Lawn Tennis Club
- Sutton-upon-Derwent Tennis Club
- Swanland Lawn Tennis Club*
- Tadcaster Lawn Tennis Club
- Thirsk Tennis Club
- Thongsbridge Tennis Club**
- Thorncliffe City Tennis Club
- Thomer Victory Hall Tennis Club
- Thornhill Tennis Club
- Tockwith Tennis Club
- Todmorden Lawn Tennis Club
- Tollerton Tennis Club
- Undercliffe Lawn Tennis Club
- Wakefield Tennis Club
- Walton Tennis Club
- West Tanfield Memorial Tennis Club
- Westfields Tennis Club
- Wetherby Castlegarth Lawn Tennis Club
- Wheatley Hills Tennis Club*
- Wheldrake Tennis Club
- Whitby Tennis Club
- Whitkirk Lawn Tennis Club
- Wigginton Tennis Centre
- Wistow Tennis Club
- York Sports Centre
- York Tennis Club

Tennismark Clubs

- Clubs which achieved Tennismark during 2015 are denoted above by the * symbol • Clubs denoted with a ** symbol achieved Tennismark+

Changes to the Performance Network

Within the Performance Network there has been a change in terms of naming; all Centres will now be known as 'Grant Funded Centres'. The old High Performance Centres will receive funding for three years, whereas the Performance Centres (supporting the under 12 players) will be funded on a year by year basis. These clubs form the backbone of the approach to high performance tennis and support the majority of performance players in Yorkshire. They are the hub for the better players and work with feeder clubs, thereby increasing the number of identified talented players. The Yorkshire clubs are as follows:

- Nuffield, Hull (Three years)
- Ilkley (One year)
- Thongsbridge (One year)
- Heaton (One year)

Matrix Players

There has also been a change in this area, meaning that no players will receive individual player funding via the Matrix.

Players to have attended National Camps:

- Jack Batchelor (Nuffield)
- Johannus Monday (Nuffield)
- Barney Fitzpatrick (Thongsbridge)
- Paul Jubb (Nuffield)
- Millie Skelton (Nuffield)
- Jayanne Palma (Heaton)

Players to have attended Inter-Regional Camps (Under 10)

- Millie Skelton (Nuffield)
- Alex Tikhonov (Thongsbridge)

Player to have attended National Profiling Day (Under 10)

- Dominic Vesely (Thongsbridge)
- Millie Skelton (Nuffield)

Players to have attended Regional Profiling Day (Under 9 & 8)

- Luke Hoyland (Hallamshire)
- Nick Pool (Goole)
- Lily Cliff (Goole)
- Joe Mazingham (Nuffield)
- Cheyanne Fee (Nuffield)
- Daniella Piani (Nuffield)
- Molly Loughton (Nuffield)
- Tommy Vale (Thongsbridge)
- Isabella Moss (Rowan Moss)
- Thomas Everest Wilcock (Sam Salt – Graves)
- Sarah Copley (Sam Salt – Graves)
- Aodhan Sopala (Huddersfield)
- Harry Abel (Ilkley)

Notable Success

- Paul Jubb – Winner of 16 & U Boys Nationals

Like other elements of tennis in the County, schools tennis has been impacted by the move to a regional organisation. In terms of regional responsibilities, Laura Lattimore now works with schools and colleges as LTA Education Officer, Christine Klee acts as LTA Competition Manager, and Gavin Sutcliffe and Paul Sheard are LTA Participation Managers working with local authorities to increase participation.

At Yorkshire County level, education falls within the remit of the newly formed County, Clubs, Communities and Education sub-committee, chaired by Don Stewart with John Forster carrying a specific responsibility for schools.

Primary School Tennis

At the local level, primary school tennis is largely in the hands of school games organisers who are usually part-time and are employed by the LTA. The LTA also funds the delivery of events.

Secondary School Tennis

At the secondary school stage there are two levels of competition; Year 8 and Year 10. Better players compete in the national Aegon Division One competition. This is organised locally by league secretaries, normally schoolteachers, who receive a small honorarium.

There is also a restricted ratings competition, Division Two, for the ordinary school player. This is also organised locally by the league secretaries or school games organisers, or in some cases by coaches. It progresses to a County Final organised by John Forster, Diane Hutchinson (YLTA Tennis Administrator) and refereed by Angela Crossley.

There are also national competitions for older age groups/senior students (Glanvill Cup boys' and girls' open age events).

Results of this Year's Competitions

Primary - Roll of Honour

- North Yorkshire St Mary's, Knaresborough
- Humber South Cave
- South Yorkshire Hunter's Bar
- West Yorkshire Wooldale

1,648 Year 3 and 4 pupils took part in the primary competition in 2014/15.

Secondary Schools Division 1 - Winning Schools at Area Level

South Yorkshire Year 10 Boys Hall Cross Year 8 Boys Tapton Year 8 Girls Sheffield High	Leeds/Wakefield Year 10 Boys Queen Elizabeth's Year 10 Girls Wakefield High Year 8 Boys Queen Elizabeth's Year 8 Girls Wakefield Girls' High School
Bradford/Kirklees Year 10 Boys Bradford Grammar School Year 10 Girls Bradford Grammar School Year 8 Boys Bradford Grammar School Year 8 Girls Bradford Grammar School	Harrogate District Year 10 Boys St John Fisher Year 10 Girls Harrogate Ladies Year 8 Boys St Aidan's Year 8 Girls Harrogate Ladies
North Yorkshire Year 10 Boys Ampleforth Year 10 Girls Pocklington Year 8 Girls St Olave's	

Division 2 Winning Schools at County Finals (128 players qualified from 32 schools)

- Year 10 Boys Hull Collegiate
- Year 10 Girls Hymer's College
- Year 8 Boys Rossett
- Year 8 Girls Queen Mary's, Topcliffe.

Independent Schools

Competition in the independent sector is organised by Charlie Linfield (Bradford Grammar School.)

John Forster

YLTA Councillor

This year, the Yorkshire Championships were staged during August at the John Charles Tennis Centre, Leeds.

The Championships saw an increase in entry numbers on previous years, which helped add to a great week's tennis. Plans are already afoot to expand the Championships even further for next year.

This year's event witnessed some superb matches, upsets, close encounters and juniors challenging seniors but overall the most impressive factor was how the tournament was played in such great spirit.

Well done to all Champions and Competitors and we look forward to seeing you again in 2016.

Dave Kitchen (referee)
& the tournament team

Seniors	Winner
Men's Singles	Peter Ashley
Ladies Singles	Sofie Woon
Men's Doubles	Ellis Ward & Martin Calvert
Ladies Doubles	Sofie Woon & Megan Hopton

Boys Singles	Winner
18 & Under	Paul Jubb
16 & Under	Paul Jubb
14 & Under	Jack Batchelor
12 & Under	Jack Batchelor
10 & Under	Alex Tikhonov
9 & Under	Thomas Naylor
8 & Under	Zak Lloyd

Girls Singles	Winner
18 & Under	Megan Hopton
16 & Under	Megan Hopton
14 & Under	Jayanne Palma
12 & Under	Jayanne Palma
10 & Under	Millie Skelton
9 & Under	Cadence Simpson
8 & Under	Lilly Cliff

Doubles	Winners
18 & U Boys	Max Galins Conor Tordoff
18 & U Girls	Victoria Lapthorne Sofie Woon
18 & U Mixed	Sofie Woon Aaron Yang
16 & U Boys	Lewis Cox Ben Harris
16 & U Girls	Megan Hopton Victoria Lapthorne
14 & U Boys	Lleyton Scott Oliver Vesely
14 & U Girls	Caitlin Ward Amber Woffindin
14 & U Mixed	Amber Woffindin Adam Hillerby
12 & U Boys	Lleyton Scott Oliver Vesely
12 & U Girls	Millie Skelton Caitlin Ward
10 & U Boys	Sam Loughton Alex Tikhonov

Team			
Elliot Chang	Kyle Brassington	Mike Tolman	Joe Gill
Peter Ashley	Clay Crawford,	Doug Keen,	Richard Crabtree (2 days)
Andrew Atkinson (3 days)			

This was a very tricky group this time and actually was going to provide a very good challenge. All players played and so that was very good in terms of development for the future. I intended to bring in two more juniors but unfortunately they were not available. Mike Tolman turned up trumps again and the team looked like a team. It is lovely to receive great feedback on how good the players look.

Day 1/2 vs South Wales. Lost 6-3

This match was hit by rain delays all the way through. We had serious chances in both the first and second rounds which could easily have had us at 3-3 but we restarted the match on Tuesday behind. The team performed well and gave everything. Just a wee bit more luck and converting the odd match point would have turned it the other way.

Day 2 vs South Wales and then Hampshire. Beat Hampshire 7-2

In total, five rubbers were played this day and the Yorkshire Team simply fought harder than their counterparts when physically very tired. Very pleasing indeed!

Day 3 vs Essex. Lost 9-0

A few switches to the team. Essex looked rampant in their previous matches and it felt important to save enough for the Thursday. The weather forecast for Friday was looking very ominous, so a further win would be enough to retain our place. The team missed out in several tie-breaks but Essex were very strong and dispatched two other teams in a similar fashion to Yorkshire.

Day 4 vs Cambridgeshire. Won 5-4

The team competed very well and were 4-2 up by tea but there was a torrid third round that tested nerves. Fortunately Elliot and Kyle won to take us to 5-3 up so (phew!) we were safe and with the weather forecast awful we would finish third.

Day 5 vs Norfolk. Rained off

It was disappointing not to play the last day. We had a slight mathematical chance of finishing second provided we beat Norfolk heavily. This would have been possible because their squad was seriously depleted after an exhausting Tuesday which left them with a squad of six with two or three injuries. This was not to be though.

The players were fantastic - what a great bunch of guys. There was never a dull moment, but also credit to the players who were on standby and ready to come in at the drop of a hat. It is very pleasing that they are prepared to come in without any conditions. Also, so many players wanting to play and represent their County is absolutely fantastic. Andrew Atkinson made his senior debut and the evergreen Doug Keen is still producing wins!

Player of the week: Elliot Chang

Next year the tournament is at Havant again.

Team			
Kim Atkinson	Sophie Dodds	Izzy Hearnshaw	Holly Horsfall
Katie Jessop	Olivia Noble	Jess Ren	Molly Reed

This year the Ladies team competed in Group 3, held at Frinton Tennis Club. We met Sussex on the first day, where the Ladies competed hard for a 7-2 win. Seven of the matches were fought out over three sets and having been match point down more than once the team pulled it round to take the victory. The win held us in good stead going forward throughout the week with our confidence up and having some good rubbers behind us.

On Tuesday, we faced Leicestershire, which ended in a 5-4 victory, this time with a couple of close but hard-fought matches.

On Wednesday and Thursday we had solid victories over Avon and Nottinghamshire, winning on both days 6-3.

On the final day, we played Berkshire but only managed to play three rubbers due to very heavy rain moving in from about midday. Fortunately, our fantastic wins throughout the week led us into Friday having already gained promotion, so we were just looking to win the group. Although the day couldn't be completed fully, the Ladies did what was needed to beat Berkshire and win the group!

The determination and camaraderie from all the team members was incredible and we certainly pulled through some close encounters as a team, often with some exceptional support from the side lines!

I'm very much looking forward to Division Two next year. Well done Ladies!

Nicola Mooney

Team			
Elliot Chang	Kyle Brassington	Mike Tolman	Sam Sutton
Joe Gill	Sean Evans	Peter Ashley	Clay Crawford

Division 3 was a tough group to be in, with some tough opponents and in particular very strong Middlesex and Surrey teams fielding full-time players and several world-ranked players.

Day 1 Beat Cheshire 5-4

This was a very tough match indeed with the match going almost to the wire. There were exceptional performances across the board and I must say how well Cheshire fought to keep things alive; we actually took a 5-3 lead. A typical Yorkshire performance with a 7.30pm finish. The vital fifth rubber was won by Kyle and Elliot who played a superb final set tie-breaker to get the win.

Day 2 Beat Middlesex 5-4

The pack was shuffled a little for this one. We were certainly not favourites to win this match. Again some exceptional performances. The match swung back and forth but was clinched with the doubles. There were two key three-set wins after losing the first set. In the singles, Clay Crawford and Peter Ashley stood firm under intense pressure and this gave us a chance to gain promotion back to Group 1 on the last day against Surrey. Again, another late finish and a disgruntled opposition who felt the match was theirs!

Day 3 Lost to Surrey 5-3

This was just a step too far. We had chances but, on the day, we just could not quite get Surrey under enough pressure. Sean Evans made his debut and played well against a very experienced Jeff Hunter. There was an excellent win for Kyle Brassington at No.1.

Overall it was an excellent weekend. I certainly would have taken this result if offered it beforehand. To sneak past a strong Middlesex team was a result in itself. Great contributions by all and a superb team spirit. So pleasing to see the effort and commitment on and off the court. It was a pleasure to captain this group of players once more.

Steve McLoughlin

Team			
Kim Atkinson	Sophie Dodds	Anna Fitzpatrick	Holly Horsfall
Katie Jessop	Kate Lucy	Nicola Mooney	Serena Nash
Olivia Noble	Katie O'Brien		

Results

Day 1 - Friday	Beat Warwickshire 5-4
Day 2 - Saturday	Beat Nottinghamshire 7-2
Day 3 - Sunday	Buckinghamshire 7-2

In Group 2a this year, Yorkshire ladies were privileged to compete in the new facility and County Cup venue in Grantham.

On the Friday, we met what was to be our toughest opponents in Warwickshire. After some hard-fought and very close matches in the singles we went into the doubles at 3-3. It's always nerve-wracking being level at this stage! Coming through the doubles with two convincing wins, we ended Day 1 as 5-4 victors.

Saturday and Sunday saw Yorkshire take solid wins against Nottinghamshire 7-2 and Buckinghamshire also 7-2, guaranteeing us promotion quite early on and finishing the day as winners of this group!

Group 1 now beckons back in Bath. Well done Ladies!

Nicola Mooney

Venue: **Sunderland Tennis Centre** Date: **15th August 2015** Team Captain: **Sam Salt**

Yorkshire Team

Noah Kelly	Owen Lodge	Luke Hoyland	Isabella Gibson
Cadence Simpson,	Sophie Marshman		

Players Invited to Team Training:

Joe Mazingham, Tommy Vale, Jo Anderson, Cheyenne Fee, Erin Thomas, Noah Kelly, Luke Hoyland, Thomas Everest-Wilcock, Sarah Copley, Nick Pool, Isabella Gibson, Cadence Simpson, Sienna Cooper, Esa Butt, Sophie Marshman, Millie Greenwood, Owen Lodge.

Match 1: vs Durham and Cleveland WON 9 – 0

Match 2: vs Northumberland WON 7 – 2

Match 3: vs Cumbria WON 5 – 4

Overall position: 1st

Report

Initially, I would like to congratulate every single player for their unbelievable effort and attitude in both the training sessions leading up to the day and the day itself. A massive thank you must go to the families of our squad who gave up their time throughout the County Cup process. All six Yorkshire representatives were an absolute credit to their County, coaches and families and everyone is and should be so proud of them.

A really telling factor on the day was our ability to be a team. From supporting each other on the sidelines through to the fact that every player played in every round of matches - we were a team throughout.

Every player had their own battles throughout the day - we won seven out of the ten 3rd sets we played, showing our courage and mental strength to step up when required. There were some huge wins during the day - the 5-4 win in the "final" against Cumbria saw two matches being turned around from a set and 2-0 down to win - crucial wins under such pressure.

Some key improvements we made over the day were:

- Keeping our concentration at all times - first shot to the last.
- Playing positive tennis - positive body language / verbals. How it then affected our performance positively and our opponents' performance negatively.
- Adopting smart doubles positions and committing to them.
- Loud consistent communication between partners.
- Continuing to play a positive brand of tennis throughout tight patches.
- Identifying areas of weakness and strengths in an opponent or a pair (we lost key doubles matches through allowing the obviously dominant partner to dictate the match).

It was a pleasure to captain these players and I wish them all the success possible moving forwards.

Sam Salt



Team			
Captain: Tom Loughton	Alex Tikhonov	Ben Parkin	Sam Loughton
Roman Khela			

Qualifying Event: Liverpool Tennis Centre, 30/31st May

The qualifying event saw us pitted against Lancashire, Cheshire, Cumbria and Derbyshire with only one team making it through to the final. With a terrible forecast for the Sunday, the decision was made to get as much of the event played on the Saturday as possible, which led to all of the singles being played on one day (each fixture consisted of 3 singles and 1 doubles). At the end of a marathon day, we ended 3-0 against Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire with only Cumbria taking a rubber from us. This meant that only the doubles victory against Cumbria was needed on the Sunday to take us through to the finals. Sam and Alex duly claimed a quick victory, meaning our place at the finals was booked.

The finals: Bolton Arena, 12/13/14th June

Excitement was very much in the air for the boys as we congregated at Bolton on the Friday lunchtime, not only about the tennis, but also at the prospect of spending two nights as a team at the Premier Inn! The draw had seen us placed in a round-robin group against Middlesex, Avon and the defending champions Warwickshire with the winners of the group reaching the final. Our first fixture was against the defending champions, and it proved a tough one for us. The three singles were very tough for Alex, Sam and Ben and despite all competing well they eventually succumbed to opponents who were perhaps more suited to the slow conditions of U10 green ball tennis. Heading into the doubles the match was now already decided. However, getting rubbers on the board was important to us. Despite Sam and Alex's best efforts on the court and Ben and Roman's great support, we couldn't salvage the doubles, meaning the final score was **Yorkshire 0-4 Warwickshire**.

Saturday was a new day, and after a meal at Frankie and Benny's and a good night's sleep the boys were raring to go and start afresh against Avon. Unfortunately however, the singles followed the same pattern as the previous day, with Alex, Sam and Roman all losing in straight sets, the theme again being the opponents' more patient approach paying dividends. At this stage, with this fixture lost and with morale in the team now understandably low after losing 14 sets in a row, it was a case of just trying to get a win on the board. Roman and Ben came in to the doubles and, after losing the first set, it wasn't looking good for us. However, in true Yorkshire style, and with great support from the balcony, Roman and Ben fought back to win the second set in a tie-break and then claim the match in a championship tie-break! This proved to be a key turning point during the weekend and despite the final score being **Yorkshire 1-3 Avon**, with a win now on the board, there was an overwhelming sense of positivity going in to the final group fixture against Middlesex. This continued into the singles, with Alex, Sam and the Ben each claiming solid two set victories to seal the win for us! Roman and Ben again played well in the doubles but couldn't quite repeat their heroics of earlier. Nevertheless, the final score was **Yorkshire 3-1 Middlesex** meaning we had finished third in our group which placed us against South Wales in the 5th/6th place play-off on Sunday.

Despite the boys' sense of disappointment that the weekend was nearly at an end, they were determined to finish with a bang against South Wales. Things didn't go completely to plan, with Alex and Sam both losing close matches, however Ben came to the rescue with a tense three-set win. Alex and Sam came in for the first live doubles of the weekend, which they duly won, meaning the scores were level and a deciding match tie-break was needed. Sam and Alex held their nerve to finish the weekend on a high, winning the deciding tie-break 10-8 and making the final score **Yorkshire 3-2 South Wales**. Ending the weekend in fifth place was a very creditable effort by the boys and they should take pride from recovering from a shaky start to finish very strongly!

Team			
Captain: Georgina Jackson Daniella Deighton	Millie Skelton	Gabriella Lindley	Mia Sibley

Qualifying Sheffield

Gabby and Millie both beat tough Lancashire opponents in the singles. This meant we had qualified for the National Finals.

The National Finals is made up by the top eight qualifying teams from across the country. Our first match was against Berkshire and Millie put in a strong display to beat their No. 1 player easily. Gabby came through a tough three-setter and Mia narrowly lost in three. This meant it went down to the doubles, where Gabby and Millie played some attacking tennis to win the rubber, which also meant we had won the match.

Our next match was against Avon. Again Millie sailed through her first match without losing a game, but with Gabby losing in three and Mia losing to a good No. 3, it meant we had to win the doubles to ensure we could at least get to the shoot-out. Gabby and Millie again won 4-0, 4-0 and in the doubles shoot-out we took the match tie-break convincingly, meaning we had won the match!

Our last match on the Saturday was against Surrey, who we knew would be a challenge. Millie faced an on-form Romana Bari, who played outstanding tennis, but Gabby took a good win against their No. 2 player. Daniella fought hard in her singles but lost in straight sets. So, for the second match running we needed to win the doubles to reach a shoot-out. Our doubles pairing of Millie and Gabby won in straight sets and then took the match tie-break. We were now through to the final as we had won our group.

The final against Staffordshire was a tense affair and we struggled to get going. Millie and Gabby both lost to strong opponents, but Daniella kept us in it with a strong win playing at No. 3. However, the doubles didn't go our way this time and we lost the match. Nevertheless, to finish in second place in the National Finals is a massive achievement - well done to all the girls!

Team			
Captain: Nick Fitzpatrick	Jack Batchelor	Lleyton Scott	Thomas Horsley
Joseph Fletcher	Michael McDougall		

On the weekend of the 27th and 28th June 2015 the U12 Boys took to the courts at Graves, Sheffield. Captained by Nick Fitzpatrick the team went into the weekend as underdogs, looking to battle hard in a bid to qualify for the National Finals. Yorkshire were put in a group with Isle of Man and favourites for the weekend, Cheshire. The top two would qualify for the Semi-Finals the following day.

We started our first match against Isle of Man early Saturday morning with a resounding victory, winning all four rubbers comfortably. Jack, Lleyton and Joseph won their singles ties and Thomas and Michael came through well in the doubles.

Much stronger opposition came in our second match against Cheshire, where we lost four tight matches with a notable effort from Jack, losing in the third set tie-break. Lleyton and Joseph played in the other singles and Thomas and Michael the doubles.

Going into the second day we knew two hard matches were in store and big performances were in order. That's exactly what we got, with Jack clinically taking out the Lancashire No. 1. Lleyton lost 11-9 in the third and Joseph was beaten 3&1. We were heading into the doubles 2-1 down and needing a win to take the match into a tie-break shoot-out.

Yorkshire pair of Jack and Lleyton found themselves a set down after losing the first on a tie-break. Some strong doubles 'winning the cross-court battle' helped them to take the second set. Some nervous tennis from both sides of the net saw a close tie-break but the Yorkshire boys dug deep and closed the set out 11-9.

After a short break and a chance for some much-needed advice the same pair set out for the shoot-out. This brought the strongest showing of doubles during the whole weekend, with some clinical cross-court play leading to simple volley winners at the net. Yorkshire won 10-3 to make the Yorkshire v Cheshire final.

Having already lost out to the same opponents in the group stage, the boys were looking for revenge. Jack, Lleyton and Thomas were picked for the singles. Again, Jack started strongly, winning the first set with some top tennis but a surge from the Cheshire No. 1 in the second saw the match go to a third set for the second time in two days. After a high-quality tie-break and some huge winners from the Cheshire boy Jack was beaten in what was a high-quality encounter. Lleyton was beaten by a very clinical Cheshire No. 2 who was clearly finding form. In the final singles, and needing a win to take the match to the doubles, Thomas just lost out, losing 10-5 in the third after dominating the first set.

Yorkshire were beaten by a strong Cheshire team. We were much closer on day two, showing a big improvement in desire and clear team spirit but all five team members can hold their heads high. I'm sure you'll agree with me that a very enjoyable weekend was had by all and a good experience playing as a team for Yorkshire. A big thank-you to players, parents and the YLTA for their support!

Team			
Captain: Adam de Vries	Jayanne Palma	Caitlin Ward	Jessica Dawson
Savannah Dada-Mascoll			

Venue: **Birchwood Leisure Centre, Warrington** Date: **Saturday 27th & Sun 28th June**

Group: **H: Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Durham & Cleveland, Derbyshire**

Saturday 27th June Yorkshire v Lancashire (2-6)

Yorkshire began the group with a tough tie against Lancashire, who looked like being their main rivals in terms of qualification. Palma had a difficult start against her hard-hitting opponent, Staff, and despite battling bravely went down 1-4, 2-4. Yorkshire levelled after a terrific performance by Ward at No. 2. Lancashire's Hutchings played well, showing good variety, however Ward stayed strong and came through 4-2, 5-4 (1).

At No. 3, Dawson found it tough against a consistent opponent whose game suited the slow courts perfectly and she lost in straight sets. Down two rubbers to one the doubles (Ward and Palma) gave Yorkshire a chance to level the tie. Players, captains and supporters all realised the importance of this first match and a high quality doubles match was finally won by Lancashire 4-5(4), 4-1, (10-4).

Yorkshire v Cheshire (6-2)

As if to highlight the quality of this group, Yorkshire played a good Cheshire team in their second match of the day. Palma began against Komsiiiski at No. 1. The Cheshire No. 1 played exceptionally well and just edged a quality encounter 5-4(5), 5-3. Caitlin Ward continued her impressive form by ruthlessly dispatching a well known opponent (Walker) 4-0, 4-1.

Dada-Mascoll played her first match of the weekend at No. 3 and started well, winning 4-2, 4-1 in a comprehensive manner. Yorkshire entered the doubles 2-1 up but knew that they could not be complacent in the all-important doubles. Dawson and Ward teamed up and were very solid. Once they grabbed a close first set they never looked back and secured a 5-4(7), 4-1 victory to claim the tie 6-2 overall.

Sunday 28th June Yorkshire v Derbyshire (8-0)

After two tough matches on Day One, Yorkshire wanted to secure two wins on Day Two to give themselves a chance of progressing to the finals, even though it was out of their hands. They couldn't have wished for a better start as a team of Ward, Dawson and Dada-Mascoll all won their singles for the loss of just two games! With a win secured, Dawson and Palma enjoyed the doubles and completed an 8-0 victory over Derbyshire, winning 4-1, 4-0.

Yorkshire v Durham & Cleveland (8-0)

It was looking increasingly unlikely that Yorkshire would qualify after Lancashire's win against Cheshire. Despite some close matches, Cheshire couldn't pull off an upset. Despite this disappointment, Yorkshire put in a solid performance in their final group match. Durham & Cleveland still had lots of energy and Todd played incredibly well at No. 1 to push Yorkshire's Palma all the way. Palma recovered well after losing the first to win 1-4, 4-1 (10-7). Caitlin Ward finished her weekend off with a hugely impressive 4-0, 4-0 win at No. 2 to put Yorkshire in a great position after two singles. In the final singles Dada-Mascoll matched the efforts of Ward by failing to lose a single game in another 4-0, 4-0 win. Durham & Cleveland (Todd and Darley) showed impressive resolve to put in a very strong doubles performance, particularly in the first set which Yorkshire (Dada-Mascoll and Ward) just sneaked 5-4(5). Durham & Cleveland found it hard to bounce back and lost the second set 4-0 to give Yorkshire their second 8-0 win of the day!

Summary

A really strong Yorkshire team put in some strong performances all weekend in an extremely tough group. I have no doubt Yorkshire would have finished in a strong position at the finals in Bolton and they were unfortunate to come up against the eventual champions in qualification, even though they pushed Lancashire very close!

Team			
Captain: Kyle Brassington	Matthew Clegg	Barney Fitzpatrick	Johannus Monday
Jack Batchelor	Ronan Sarni	Reuben Newman-Billington	

Qualifying 2nd and 3rd May 2015

In a tough group consisting of Yorkshire, Derbyshire and East of Scotland (all teams that made it to last year's finals) we knew that everyone had to be at their best to gain top spot.

After a tough first day against a very strong Derby side, giving special mention to Matthew Clegg and Jack Batchelor for their performance in the doubles, Yorkshire prevailed 4-2 and went into Sunday in good spirits. The boys knuckled down and in torrential conditions prevailed 6-0, only dropping one set against a tough East of Scotland side. On to the finals!

Main Draw 15th - 17th May 2015

Yorkshire were again in a difficult group consisting of Middlesex, Warwickshire and Oxfordshire. Our first match against Middlesex didn't start as planned. Our Nos. 3 and 4 succumbed to excellent play by the opposition, meaning we were 2-0 down. However, Barney and Matthew had different ideas, going on to win two excellent three-set matches taking over three hours each. Unfortunately the doubles didn't go to plan even though the boys fought extremely hard. Barney and Johannus made a great effort but eventually lost 10-5 in the third, meaning that the team lost 4-2.

Our next match against Warwickshire was another tight affair. The boys rallied together and the atmosphere was great over both match courts. Johannus played some amazing tennis but unfortunately lost 6-3 in the third set, meaning that the team eventually lost 4-2. After a post-match briefing, the boys agreed that even though the last two matches didn't go to plan, they were proud of their performances and were looking forward to taking on Oxfordshire in the morning.

All the boys performed with real intensity and guile to overcome a tricky tie against Oxfordshire. Barney pulled off a great win against their No. 2 to consolidate a 5-1 victory for the White Rose County. Morale was high heading into our next match.

Our final fixture was against Sussex and would decide who would finish 5th and 6th. Honours were even after the singles as Johannus came through in three sets to secure victory over their No. 3. The boys had given their all and fatigue was setting in. Reuben however, was feeling fresh and after we had spoken tactically about what was required he was raring to go. He paired up with Matthew and they dominated their opposition, eventually winning 6-0, 6-3. That meant Yorkshire won the tie 4-2 sealing a fifth place finish.

The boys did themselves proud over two busy weekends and if not for some tight matches that didn't quite go our way, we could have really challenged for the national title. The team will be nearly unchanged next year so we are all really pushing to improve on what was already a successful year.

Team			
Captain: Nicola Mooney	Ellie Chawner	Leona Clarkston	Amber Woofindin
Abigail Wild	Annie Stockdale	Jayanne Palmer	

This year, our U14 Girls team competed in Group C, which was held in Carlisle.

Saturday was a long and busy day with lots of matches. First we played Durham and Cleveland. Ellie Chawner, playing at No.1, battled out an exceptionally long match, which resulted in victory after a 6-4 win in the third set.

On the same day we then had to play East of Scotland. We had a resounding 4-0 victory, which was a big credit to the girls after a long day at the club which included playing on well past 9:00 in the evening!

Due to poor weather, Sunday wasn't very heavy in terms of numbers of matches, so the girls got a much needed rest morning. In the final we met Lancashire on the Monday. We needed to win this match in order for us to qualify for the finals a few weeks later. There were some incredibly hard-fought matches but, sadly for the Yorkshire girls, it wasn't to be this year and we lost 4-2.

Team	
Captain: Steve McLoughlin	Peter Ashley (Carnegie)
Angus Bradshaw (Millfield School)	Andy Atkinson (Thongsbridge / Carnegie)
Harry Simpson (Hull / Carnegie)	Connor Tordoff (Graves)
Paul Jubb (Hull)	Max Galins (Carnegie)
Gideon Fairhall (Carnegie)	

This was always going to be a test...fourth year in Group 1 and with the ruthless nature of the event. So few play at Group 1 level. So few understand the intensity of competition at this level. We were certainly favourites for the drop but it's fantastic to be able to report that bags of Yorkshire grit were on display over the three days.

Friday: beat Sussex 7-2

The rookies Jubb and Tordoff made a great start, showing real fight to edge us into a lead. The rest of the order then duly dispatched the rest of the Sussex team in the singles as panic hit their ranks and they fell away.

Saturday: lost to Warks 5-4

This really was a day of chances missed, along with an interesting tactical line up from Warks. Their No. 1 did not arrive on time, nicely pushing their order down to foil us really. But I was very happy with the fight from the guys; we just needed to be a bit better/smarter under pressure and the day/event could have been ours!

Sunday: beat Herts 5-1

This was a play-off for relegation, so both teams were up for it. Jubb and Tordoff produced! Andy Atkinson played a brilliant singles match, showing great determination. Harry won in style, completing his hat-trick of wins. Sadly, Angus could not quite do it but the stage was set for Peter Ashley to win and keep us up. He lost the first set but then stepped up and pummelled a well-thought of Munns into submission; a record of 100% singles wins over a period of five years he has been involved. A great finish for him.

Finally, great team spirit and a joy to captain, the boys learned a lot. All played, so this was a total team effort. Special thanks to Joe Abram, who gave his time free as support to the team and to Gideon Fairhall, who lost his voice because he cheered so much! Also thanks to all the players who attended training on the build-up to the event. They helped to create the level the team needed to survive in Group 1.

Team			
Captain: Calvin Betton	Lidia Burrows	Holly Horsfall	Serena Nash
Olivia Noble	Megan Hopton	Sofie Woon	Alice Thane
Victoria Lapthorne			

We knew from the off that we would be up against it this year at Bath. Between them, Surrey and Middlesex had seven current or former national champions, six girls currently ranked inside the top 200 in the world juniors with Grand Slam singles experience, and three girls currently ranked No. 1 in the country in their respective age groups. Middlesex also had the world 580-ranked woman playing for them at No.1. Still, we were determined to give it a real go and knew we had strength in depth.

Friday v Surrey

Kicking things off for us were Sofie Woon at No. 6 and Megan Hopton at 5. Megan, making her County Cup debut, was up against Jodie Lawrence Taylor - currently ranked No. 1 in the country in Megan's age group. Megan stayed calm and positive and played some outstanding attacking tennis. Amid some pretty intense gamesmanship from her opponent, Megan was superb and rallied to a 6-4, 6-3 win to put us 1-0 up.

As Megan's match was finishing it looked like our lead would be short-lived as Sofie, also making her County Cup singles debut, was 6-2, 5-2 and 40-15 down to Gemma Heath (runner up at the 16U Grade 2 event five days previously). Sofie produced some amazing fighting tennis to come back from that and win the second set 7-6. Heath then took a 4-2 lead in the deciding set. Our girls ramped up the atmosphere on the balcony though and Sofie responded remarkably, eventually taking the deciding set 7-5, putting us 2-0 up in the tie.

Things got pretty tough then though as Olivia Noble played Emily Appleton at 4 and lost in straight sets. Serena Nash went on to play Jodie Burrage at No. 3. Again, the Surrey player had too much and took a straight sets win to level the tie overall. Holly Horsfall played current U18 National Champion Jasmine Asghar at No. 2. Holly was a set down when she felt that she couldn't continue due to shin splints. 3-2 to Surrey. Lidia Burrows won for us at No. 1 against Lily Ghodrati, 6-3, 6-4. Surrey's doubles were very strong and they won all three doubles match-ups to win the tie overall.

Saturday v Kent

Sofie Woon opened things up against a higher-rated and ranked player in Rachel le Coomber at No. 6. Sofie continued her momentum from Friday though and destroyed the higher-ranked player 6-2, 6-1. Alice Thane came in at 5 but struggled with a reoccurrence of an injury and lost in straight sets.

Megan played at No. 4 against the older, higher-rated and ranked Olivia Parson. With the Kent team really trying to intimidate Megan she came up with one of the most impressive mental performances I've ever seen to win 6-4, 4-6, 7-5. That put us 2-1 up overall. Olivia came up against an on-form Florence Abbot at No. 3, whose big hitting game was too much on the fast Bath courts for Olivia. 2-2 overall.

Serena and Holly both had way too much for their opponents at 1 and 2 and put us 4-2 up after the singles. Megan and Victoria Lapthorne lost their doubles but Holly and Olivia played some very decent stuff to give us an unassailable 5-3 lead overall.

Sunday v Middlesex

With Alice and Lidia both unavailable for the match we were down to the bare bones against a very strong team. Sofie opened things up against higher-rated Danielle Dailey (winner of last week's 16U Grade 2). Dailey won the first set 6-4 on a dead net cord onto the line. Before long though Sofie was fighting back again, revved up by the girls she was unplayable in the second and third sets, eventually winning 4-6, 6-3, 6-0. Victoria Lapthorne made her singles debut at No. 6, performing well under pressure, eventually losing an extremely tight match 7-6, 7-5.

Megan continued her excellent attitude and form against world No. 500 ITF Katarina Weymouth. Weymouth, the older girl by three years, played some strong tennis on key points though to win 4 & 4. Olivia again came up against an in-form player in world 210 ITF Holly Hutchinson and lost in two close sets, putting Middlesex up 3-1. Current national champion Lauryn John-Baptiste had too much on the day for Serena, coming through 6-4, 6-2. Middlesex 4-1.

Holly played some excellent tennis at No. 1 to push Mariam Bolkvadze to 7-5 in the first set, the world top 600 women's player winning the second set 6-2 to win the tie for Middlesex 5-1. As it was the last day the dead rubber doubles weren't played.

We were disappointed to go down but knew it would be difficult. The London Counties had too much quality - eight of their players played at Junior Wimbledon last year and nine of them have world rankings inside 500.

The positives we can take from this are the performances of Megan and Sofie, both winning repeatedly as huge underdogs. Another positive is the great attitude that we brought to the event. Our girls were definitely the loudest and best supporters, as I'm sure the other teams would agree!

Overall Summary by Men's County Seniors Coordinator, David Brown

We competed in six age categories again this year, using 32 different players (28 last year) and welcoming six new players to represent Yorkshire Seniors: Andy Gillett, Alan Cutts, Dave Mangham, Tim Taylor, Andy Clipson and Andrew Potter. Congratulations to our 70s team, led by Andrew Batcup, who won their Division and gained promotion to Division 1, and also to the 60s team, led by Steve Batte, who also gained promotion to Division 1 next year by coming second. The 2016 season will now see five of our teams playing in Division 1 and one in Division 2, which is testament to the strength of men's seniors tennis in Yorkshire.

Myles Collett is standing down as 55s captain as he moves up to strengthen the 60s team next year. We thank Myles for his terrific leadership, achieving second place in both his years as 55s captain in strong Division 1 structures.

To further highlight the strength of our men's seniors tennis, at time of going to press we have five players currently ranked in the ITF world 100 with Andrew Hutchinson at 64, David Brown at 73, Myles Collett at 80, John Andrews at 85, and Wilf Jessop at 88. Andrew Hutchinson successfully captained the England 50s team in the Home Internationals in May and won the Scottish Indoor Championships in February (50s category). David Brown also won the Scottish Indoor Championships (55s category) and John Andrews won the British Indoor Championships at Dudley in the 75s category.

35s team – Div 2, 2nd place

Team		
Captain: Ben Gudzelak	Andy Gillett	Paul Ranson
Doug Keen	Alan Cutts	

Our Over 35s team finished second in Division 2. Rain on the first day prevented us playing North of Scotland, who got promoted, and this would have been the promotion match. We beat Leicestershire 4-1 on the second day with two fantastic doubles wins from both pairs. We narrowly lost 3-2 to Hants & IOW with two losses in the match tie-breaks but we were always chasing the Scottish team as they won 5-0 on the second day.

45s team – Div 1A, 2nd place

Team		
Captain: Andrew Hutchinson	Paul Ranson	Gareth Hutchinson
Richard Hutchinson	Dave Mangham	

The Over 45s Team was strengthened this year by the addition of David Mangham, who deserved his place after performing well at the Yorkshire open and closed tournaments. This shows that selection is dependent on players playing these tournaments as well as playing in the national club league or the Yorkshire doubles league.

The year started well with a 5-0 win against Gloucestershire and a superb 4-1 win against Dorset, the tournament winners from the previous year. As usual, Paul Ranson showed sublime skills against Bob Booth, their No. 1 and ex-national player.

After beating Hampshire 3-2, and gaining a resounding 5-0 win against Staffordshire, we knew we had to beat Essex (who we beat in the 2013 final) to win the league and get through to the final again. Despite Paul not being available, David played a great match against the Essex No. 2, but after squandering three match points, Andrew lost in the final set tie-break against Chris Harris. This was the deciding rubber after sharing both the doubles matches. Essex 3 Yorkshire 2 was the final result. So we ended up coming second in the league by one rally! A pretty tough result, which didn't help the journey back up the A1. However, it was a pretty successful year but we know that, with a bit of luck on match points, we can win the title next year!

55's team – Div 1A, 2nd place

Team		
Captain: Myles Collett	David Brown	Tim Taylor
Dave Cole	Peter Vann.	

Leicestershire (away) - lost 1-4. Poor early-season form coupled with a new surface (outdoor carpet clay), a strong wind and strong opposition resulted in comfortable loss. Brown and Collett gained a good scalp winning the final doubles 6-4, 6-2.

Warwickshire (home) - won 5-0. Tim Taylor was introduced to the team and won his opening singles 6-0, 6-0. There was also a good doubles win by Brown and Cole against a strong doubles pairing.

Oxfordshire (home) - won 5-0. A great fight back from the team in the first round. Yorkshire dropped the opening set in all three rubbers but came back to win third set tie-breaks. Taylor won again and Cole and Vann impressed at doubles.

West of Scotland (away) - won 4-1. Dave Cole moved up to singles and won well. Tim Taylor continued to impress at No. 1 and won his singles 10-8 in the third. New doubles combination of Collett and Vann won the important first round match.

Buckinghamshire (away) - lost 2-3. A disappointing finish. Their doubles pair were outstanding in winning both very tight matches against the traditionally strong Yorkshire doubles pairs. Taylor again excelled in singles at No. 1.

Runners-up spot for the second year. Injuries and trying conditions in match one resulted in us falling just short of the National Finals but there's always next year! Tim Taylor acquitted himself admirably in his first season.

60s team – Div 2A, 2nd place PROMOTED

Team	
Captain: Steve Batte (5 matches)	Alan Cockman (5 matches)
Mike Breslin (4 matches)	Andy Clipson (3 matches)
Andrew Potter (1 match)	Dave Whitelaw (1 match)

The year started with a couple of trial sessions to establish the squad for the coming season in Division 2A and several players new to County tennis were invited to attend.

The season started with a tough opening match at Leicester which we managed to win. The squad then went on to win all of the remaining fixtures except the Staffordshire match which was a close-fought encounter and determined the winners of the league. This meant we finished the season in the runners-up position and have gained promotion to Division One. Mike Breslin and Steve Batte achieved a 100% return in their doubles matches and were supported by Dave Whitelaw and Alan Cockman. A special mention to Andy Clipson and Andrew Potter, who both made their debuts in the County team this year following impressive performances at the pre-season trials. Many thanks also to Wilf Jessop, who helped out against Derbyshire. The men's 60s squad are continuing to play through the winter in the Midlands County League, which is held at Corby Tennis Centre, and we also hold training sessions twice monthly at South Leeds Tennis Centre, where new players are welcome to come along.

65s Team – Div 1A, 4th place

Team			
Captain: Wilf Jessop	Keith Townsend	Steve Howard	David Allerton
Greg Pearson			

Yorkshire 65s knew that they would face a daunting challenge in Division 1A, principally because of the loss of stalwart John Andrews, who this year decided to move up to (almost) his own age-group.

A glance at the fixture list suggested that three of the opposing counties - Kent, Leicester and Surrey - may well be too strong for our limited troops. And so it proved to be, but this left us to target the remaining two counties, Devon and Hertfordshire, both of whom we had to travel to within the space of one fateful week in July.

Against Devon, both singles were lost, one (Wilf Jessop) emphatically and one (Dave Allerton) very narrowly. Things looked pretty bleak when Greg Pearson, playing doubles with Steve Howard, pulled a calf muscle during their second set. Remarkably, they managed to take that set and win the champions tie-break, so keeping the match alive.

In Round 2, Steve and Greg unluckily lost a first set tie-break and, with Greg hobbling quite badly, they were thinking of conceding the rubber. However, when Wilf and Dave clinched a straight-sets win, they decided they had to play on. Amazingly, they not only levelled at set-all, but pulled off another championship tie-break win against rather bemused opponents!

We didn't expect Greg to be fit enough to turn out against Herts exactly seven days after suffering his injury, but the problem was that nobody else was available to travel! So it was the same four guys looking for an unlikely victory. This time it was Dave who crashed and burned at singles, whilst Wilf opened his singles account with a hard-fought victory. Steve and Greg pulled yet another championship tie-break victory out of the bag to give us a 2-1 lead.

Wilf and Dave then had a doubles match to forget, losing 5&5. So, once again, it was all down to Steve and Greg. They had lost the first set, but then fought back to take the second. In an epic championship tie-break, they saved THREE match points from 6-9 down; saved another at 11-12, and eventually won it 16-14!!!!

So, another miraculous victory, with survival in the top division secured for another season thanks to the Houdini-like performances of Messrs Howard and Pearson!

70s team – Captain Andrew Batcup – Div 2B, 1st place WINNERS

Team	
Captain: Andrew Batcup (Chapel Allerton)	John Andrews (Hallamshire)
Ray Ranson (Hallamshire)	Fergus Gibb (Hallamshire)
Bob McIlvenny (Rotherham)	Robin Barlow (Chapel Allerton)

Yorkshire Over 70s Men have had a very successful season, winning all their matches in Division 2B and being promoted to Division 1 in 2016. The individual match results were as follows:

- June 4 Defeated Derbyshire (away) 4-0
- June 10 Defeated Nottinghamshire (home) 4-0 (Notts unable to raise a team)
- June 17 Defeated Norfolk (home) 3-1
- June 23 Defeated Warwickshire (away) 2-2 (Yorks won 5-3 on a set count back).

Ladies Over 35s - Eastbourne

Team	
Captain: Becky Lee	Jo Wright
Helen Myles (Longley, Huddersfield)	Louise Marshman (York)
Lou Lister (Reserve)	

Two fresh faces made up 50% of the team this year in Helen Myles (Longley, Huddersfield) and Louise Marshman (York). The two others were Becky Lee and Jo Wright alongside reserve Lou Lister.

After being relegated last year promotion was high on the agenda and the team were well and truly up for it. The team remained the same throughout the weekend with Jo and Helen playing singles and Becky and Louise playing the doubles.

Day 1 v Bedfordshire (win 4-1)

Day 2 v Suffolk (win 3-2)

Day 3 v Cambridgeshire (win 4-1)

Tie-breaks were rife throughout the weekend and on the final day in the group decider against Cambridgeshire the first three rubbers were decided on championship tie-breaks. Yorkshire came out on top 2-1 and finally won the last two doubles rubbers for the title! Division 2 next year, here we come!

Ladies Over 40s

Team			
Captain: Becky Lee	Karen Mitchell	Joanne Wright	Gillian Kilner
Louise Marshman	Catherine Baker	Wendy Stirke	Lou Lister

A strong squad of players won Division 2B and gained promotion back to Division 1. Regular players included Becky Lee, Karen Mitchell, Joanne Wright, Gillian Kilner, Louise Marshman and Catherine Baker. Thanks also go to Wendy Stirke and Lou Lister for making the effort to travel to the West of Scotland over the bank holiday weekend!

Match 1 v Warwickshire	(win 4-1)	Jo, Catherine, Becky and Gil
Match 2 v Durham & Cleveland	(win 5-0)	Karen, Catherine, Becky and Gil
Match 3 v Northumberland	(win 5-0)	Gil, Jo, Becky and Louise
Match 4 v West of Scotland	(win 3-2)	Karen, Becky, Wendy and Lou
Match 5 v Cheshire	(win 5-0)	Karen, Jo, Gil and Louise

Ladies Over 50s

Team			
Captain: Belinda Turnbull	Gill Brook	Sally Bickerton	Cathryn Johnson
Wendy Stirke			

Yorkshire Ladies finished third in Division 1 in their first season back in that division, level on points with Surrey. We were close to winning the Division, only losing 2-3 to Norfolk (the eventual winners) after losing the second doubles match 9-11 in the third set tie-break. We then lost 2-3 to Surrey, again losing the second doubles match 8-10 in the third set tie-break!

We beat Kent 4-1, Hampshire & IOW 4-1 and Avon 5-0.

The players involved were Gill Brook, who won all the rubbers she played, Belinda Turnbull, Sally Bickerton, Cathryn Johnson and Wendy Stirke. Many thanks to those players and particularly to Gill, who travelled to every home match.

Ladies Over 55s

Team			
Captain: Janice Ashman	Christine Dalton	Rosie Connell	Susan Brass
Margaret Bottomley	Kath Green		

This was my first year of captaining the over 55s team and I would like to start by thanking all the players who represented us, particularly those who filled in with relatively little notice. I'd also like to thank everyone for their positive attitudes and their willingness to travel or to play singles or to play doubles with different partners for the sake of the team.

We were supposed to play five matches but two of our opponents (Dorset and South Wales) withdrew. Our first match was away at Lincolnshire and this was a very good result with Yorkshire winning 5-0.

It was much more of a battle when we played Buckinghamshire, a very close hard-fought match with the outcome being a 3-2 win.

The final match was away at Lancashire and although everyone tried hard and played competitively, Lancashire were just too strong. The match was lost 5-0 but the score did not really reflect the play and there were many close matches.

So overall, despite the loss to Lancashire, it was a good season and we had some enjoyable and tough matches.

Ladies Over 65s

Team		
Captain: Rosemary Carter	Pauline Knight	Charlotte Lindsay
Sandy Atkinson	Jacky McBurney	

We enjoyed our matches and beat Essex 3-1, Middlesex 3-1 and drew with Cheshire 2-2 but got the win down to a higher games percentage. We lost to Warwickshire 3-1 and Nottinghamshire 3-1, finishing third overall in Division 1B.

The team was Pauline Knight and Rosemary Carter, together with Charlotte Lindsay and Sandy Atkinson. Charlotte had to attend a wedding in America so Jacky McBurney travelled to Warwick with us.

Ladies Over 70s

Team		
Captain: Mary Durrans	Jackie McBurney	Margaret Berrington
Liz Cousins	Margaret French	

We have again had a successful year, finishing equal top with Cheshire and Hampshire, unfortunately losing out on games. We played Cheshire and West of Scotland away, Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire Hampshire at home.

I would like to thank my team of Jackie McBurney, Margaret Berrington, Liz Cousins and Margaret French for their support. New players are always welcome.

The total number of entries to the leagues this year were 19 in the Men's League and 25 in the Ladies League.

The lack of attendance by a small number of teams in the Men's League again proved a hindrance in fixtures being made.

In the Ladies League Division 1, Thongsbridge are our new Champions, remaining unbeaten. David Lloyd Leeds and Chapel Allerton are relegated. Having been relegated last year both Roundhay and Rastrick return to Division 1 for another go, having finished first and second in Division 2. Thirsk and Huddersfield 'A' are relegated. In Division 3, again last year's relegated teams Harlow and Batley return to the higher Division for another try.

In the Men's Division 1 the title will be shared by Chapel Allerton and Ilkley after both teams shared rubbers and sets won. Huddersfield and Thongsbridge are relegated.

In Division 2 newcomers Stocksbridge from the Sheffield area remained unbeaten to win the league from Cottingham who return to the top division after a two year absence. Unfortunately, the lack of enthusiasm in the Men's League resulted in quite a number of matches not being played.

	P	W	L	Rubbers Won	Sets Won	Pts
DIVISION 1						
Chapel Allerton	8	7	1	53	110	14
Ilkley	8	7	1	53	110	14
Beverley	8	6	2	49	106	12
York	8	5	3	46	94	10
Doncaster	7	4	3	36	61	8
Mexborough	7	2	5	19	46	4
Roundhay	8	1	7	26	53	2
** Huddersfield	7	1	6	10	24	-2
** Thongsbridge	5	0	5	5	13	-4
DIVISION 2						
Stocksbridge	9	9	0	62	129	18
Cottingham	8	6	2	51	81	12
* Barnsley	8	6	2	47	90	10
Scarborough	7	3	4	37	77	6
Halifax Queens	5	3	2	21	45	6
Thornccliffe	8	2	6	26	57	4
* Doncaster A	5	2	3	19	38	2
Roundhay A	6	0	6	12	25	0
* Thongsbridge A	4	1	3	10	24	0
*** Horsforth	4	0	4	3	9	-6

* Conceded Matches

	P	W	L	Rubbers Won	Sets Won	Pts
DIVISION 1						
Thongsbridge	8	8	0	55	115	16
Huddersfield	8	6	2	50	107	12
Rawdon	8	6	2	44	93	12
Doncaster	8	4	4	40	86	8
York	8	4	4	35	80	8
Ilkley	8	3	5	28	63	6
Harrogate Racquets	8	3	5	26	63	6
David Lloyd Leeds	8	2	6	26	59	4
Chapel Allerton	8	0	8	17	39	0
DIVISION 2						
Roundhay	7	6	1	48	99	12
Rastrick	7	6	1	42	87	12
Thongsbridge A	7	4	3	39	83	8
Wheatley Hills	7	3	4	27	63	6
*Heaton	7	4	3	25	55	6
Rawdon A	6	2	5	26	56	4
Thirsk	7	2	5	23	53	4
Huddersfield A	6	0	6	10	30	0
DIVISION 3						
Harlow	5	5	0	34	70	10
Batley	5	3	2	27	60	6
* Thongsbridge B	5	3	2	21	44	4
Huddersfield B	5	2	3	19	42	4
*Rawdon B	5	2	3	17	38	2
Heaton A	5	0	5	13	34	0

*Conceded Matches

The sun shone intermittently and the clouds scurried across the sky as stiff breezes made play harder than usual. But alert and experienced brains on ageing bodies were able to cope. Afternoon and evening matches were played outside on Chapel Allerton's excellent grass courts. As the light faded, matches were completed on the beautiful new indoor carpets and excellent white lighting.

In spite of injuries and last minute withdrawals, entries were up on last year. There were 20 entries for the over 45 singles and 8 for the over 65 singles. What honed skills in such aged talent! Play, as expected, was to a high standard.

All the matches were played competitively and in a fair spirit. Chapel Allerton is a great venue for this event. Club members and fellow competitors watch the outdoor games from the balcony, adding atmosphere, misplaced advice and variations on Hawkeye. It is a friendly club with excellent viewing facilities and well-kept traditional grass courts. Some winners were those players who enjoyed the most favourable bounces and who, coincidentally, occasionally also played the best tennis. The closest final was the O45 singles which was played to an exceptionally high standard.

This is an excellent event with stories of times gone by always being exaggerated at the post-tennis bar get-togethers. We all get better each and every year that we tell the stories. There is no need for truth when you reminisce.

Results for 2015

MS O45	Andrew Hutchinson	beat	Dave Mangham	2-6 6-3 10-5
MD O45	Andrew Hutchinson	beat	Peter Vann	6-1 6-0
	Gareth Hutchinson		Stuart Gill	
MS O55	David Brown	beat	Brian Barrowman	6-0 6-2
MD O55	David Brown	beat	Peter Vann	6-3 6-1
	Dave Cole		Wilf Jessop	
MS O65	Wilf Jessop	beat	Gianfranco Cavestro	6-0 1-6 10-5
MD O55	Ted Furness	beat	Trevor Stent	6-3 6-1
	Robert McIlvenny		Roger Webster	
WS O45	Margaret French	beat	Teresa Whittle	7-6 (5) 6-2
WD O45	Margaret French	beat	Teresa Whittle	6-1 6-1
	Kath Sheldon		Connie Hayes	

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Lillian Evelyn Moeller

Evelyn passed away on the 6th June 2015 in her 100th year after spending most of her life living in Bradford, West Yorkshire.

She was married to Curly and had two children, Brian and Anne. All the family were brought up in a tennis environment and were members of the Heaton Tennis and Squash Club in Bradford. Evelyn had become extremely well known in tennis circles within Yorkshire during the 1950's, in particular having excelled in a variety of local tournaments - Halifax Queens, Chapel Allerton, Saltaire, Heaton and Huddersfield to name a few.

She only managed to win the County Singles title on one occasion, in 1953, but was runner up in 1950, 1951 and 1952 and created a record by winning the County Doubles titles on 10 successive occasions with a few different partners from 1947 to 1956. In the Mixed event she won the title on five occasions in 1948, 1951, 1953, 1954 and 1955. She was also runner-up in 1957 and played with Harold Marsland on every occasion except one.

Evelyn captained our County Ladies team in 1959 and 1960 and then supported her family and husband Curly, who was the County's President in 1959 and represented the County on the LTA Council for a number of years. She represented England on more than one occasion during this period and played at Wimbledon in the Championships in 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1954, losing on each occasion.

The highlight of Evelyn's tennis career was playing Maureen Connelly (Little Mo) in the first round on the Centre Court at Wimbledon in 1952.

Evelyn was a very talented tennis player.

Benefits of YLTA Patrons and Life Patrons from 2015

1. Copy of the YLTA Annual Report and invitation through agenda to YLTA's AGM each year – normally held on the 2nd Monday in December and has in the last three years included our Awards evening.
2. Admission to all events in Yorkshire including the County Championships. See YLTA website for calendar of events, access through www.lta.org.uk/in-your-area/Yorkshire
3. Opportunity through application to the Chair of the Initiative Group for tickets to Davis/Federation Cup competitions by dates quoted on the LTA website.
4. We propose developing a Patrons sections on the website which will hopefully cater for feedback from Patrons.
5. We would encourage all Patrons to become British Tennis Members by application to the Chair of the Initiative Group and enjoy the further benefits provided by membership as detailed on the LTA website.
6. Opportunity to apply directly to the YLTA Patrons Association for Wimbledon Championship tickets for personal use with a guest, provided that tickets have not been acquired from other sources. A ballot will take place if demand is too great on any day during the event.

Proposed subscriptions for 2016:

1. Individual Membership - £40 per annum.
2. Individual Life Membership - £400 per person.
3. Corporate Initiative Membership - £250 per annum.
4. Donations in addition to the annual subscription to support our local activities continue to be welcome and details of the programmes supported by these additional funds will be included on our website in due course.

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We try to pull it all together as best we can, but if there are any omissions or inaccuracies, please accept our apologies.
Please make us aware of any such errors.

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