

THE YORKSHIRE TENNIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Presented at the Annual General Meeting
12th December 2016



The Davis Cup in Sheffield (l to r: Roger Taylor, Talib Hussain - Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Bob Lamb, Jean Lamb and John Crowther)



Children at the Aegon Challenger at Ilkley

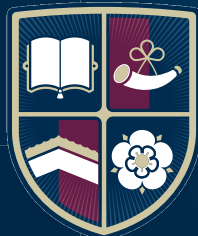


Play in progress at the Aegon Challenger

Images of the Aegon Challenger at Ilkley courtesy of Karen Ross Photography Studio

Bradford Grammar School

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We encourage and support all of our talented athletes. Our staff, in conjunction with specialist external agencies and physiotherapists, nurture the sporting and academic talents of every BGS pupil.

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What a year in sport it has been, with tennis playing a major role in its success. Andy Murray won Wimbledon and the Olympics, an outstanding achievement, and followed this by becoming World No 1 Singles player by the end of the year. To cap a remarkable year, Andy's brother Jamie also became World No 1 Doubles player with his partner Bruno Soares.

The winning of the Davis Cup at the end of last year created much more publicity and enthusiasm for our game than normal when the team went on its tour around the country. And we must remember that our own Kyle Edmunds was part of that team.

Participation is still the key word in tennis and the LTA's decision to take it back into parks was a brave one. This could not have been done without the help of cash-strapped local authorities, who had the foresight to recreate tennis in the park. The refurbishment of courts in various areas of cities up and down the County and the establishment of on-line booking systems has enabled tennis numbers to increase. Our thanks should also go to the North Regional team in Leeds and Bolton for their drive, hard work and enthusiasm to make it happen in our County.

The highlight of the year for Yorkshire was the pre-Wimbledon Aegon Challenger Tournament at Ilkley. In its second year the event proved more popular than ever, not only for spectators but also for the players themselves, who love it for the relaxed and beautiful surroundings they play in. They might not have thought that however when floods covered the whole area during December and January! It was a credit to all involved at Ilkley that everything was ready by June. The event is a showcase for Yorkshire tennis and the Ilkley club. The County and sponsors involved also deserve much credit for putting together a brilliant programme of outreach events.

During the year we have had numerous visits by the LTA President Cathie Sabin, who came up to see for herself the flood damage to a number of clubs in Yorkshire. She came up again in September to Sheffield to see the success of parks tennis in the city and to attend the opening of Graves Tennis and Leisure Centre, which had been refurbished by money from a number of partners.

Throughout the year, County teams take part in all age groups of the Aegon County Cup events from 9 and under to 18 and under, with a fair degree of success on the girls' side. The men's and ladies' teams held their places both in Division 2 of the Summer County Cup. With the Winter County Cup still to come in November, Yorkshire are currently in 5th place in the table. Our thanks go not only to the players but also to the coaches/team captains and last but not least to all of the parents for the part they play in trying to get us up to number 1.

The Schools Tennis Finals at the John Charles Centre provided a great spectacle with over 120 players taking part in teams and having lots of fun.

Finally, after three years as President, my term of office ends and I would like to thank my colleagues on the Management Committee and Council for their hard work in this year of progression. I feel very honoured to have been part of the team. I would like to offer my best wishes to my successor Chris Day of Barnsley Tennis Club, who I know will lead this County forward to greater achievements.

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 the County makes it all possible.

Bob Lamb

President - Yorkshire Tennis

The Aegon Challenger event at Ilkley



Recently completed refurbishments and part of the Centre Court for the event



The hard-working volunteer team



Men's Winner - Yen-Hsun Lu (Chinese Taipei)
Ranked 65 in the ATP Rankings



Women's Winner Evgeniya Rodina (Russia)
Ranked 104 in the WTA Rankings

The last year to 30th September 2016 has been a memorable year for British and Yorkshire tennis. At the international level, Great Britain won the 2015 Davis Cup for the first time in 79 years and Andy Murray went on to win Wimbledon and an Olympic Gold again. The GB team had another good run to the 2016 semi-final of the Davis Cup and our very own Kyle Edmund started the year qualifying for his first Grand Slam draw at the Australian Open and finishing inside the Top 50 ranked players in the world.

We were very fortunate to have the Davis Cup Trophy visit us in Yorkshire four times. The first and second times were in April when the trophy came to Sheffield and Leeds. It was followed up by a visit to the Aegon Ilkley Tournament and finally it starred at the opening of the new and refurbished Graves Tennis and Leisure Centre. Thousands of tennis fans saw the Trophy and many children had the opportunity to participate in a tennis festival as well.

On a County level Yorkshire has done well, coming 5th in the County Championship Race reflecting 'where we are' across all County teams from the Under 9s to the senior men's and women's teams. Recognising that we needed to invest in our future County senior teams we re-started County training last year. Following encouragement from LTA National Training, we have ramped up the numbers and frequency of training sessions for all players. I am convinced that this investment will pay off in the coming years and will give us a much better chance of reaching our goal of being the number 1 ranked County.

We have continued to focus on investing funds and resources into getting more people playing tennis in Yorkshire by supporting our members with funds and advice to help them achieve their own objectives. We have launched a number of initiatives to assist clubs in facility development, coach recruitment and school club links. We are proposing a 66% increase in loan funding that we make to clubs for facility development as well as incentivising them with a 10% grant allocation for the last payment as a reward for timely repayment of their loan. The relationship with the LTA North Regional Team is key to our success and we have both invested time to make sure that we work as 'one team' in Yorkshire and ensure the resources we both have are targeted in a complementary fashion. We lack a modern CRM system to manage our relationships with venues and I hope that the LTA will listen to our pleas to prioritise this for investment in the coming year.

We also continued to support the Aegon Ilkley Trophy event and in particular the Outreach Programme that saw over 1700 children have their first experience of tennis with the opportunity of watching such first class tennis. The Club is to be congratulated on running an excellent tournament that has been recognised by the LTA with increased prize money in 2017.

During the year we have had two visits from the LTA President Cathie Sabin and most recently from Michael Downey, the Chief Executive. Cathie's first visit was to rally and thank the volunteers of those clubs that had been hit by floods during Boxing Day and New Year. Both the LTA and Yorkshire Tennis released emergency funds to enable those clubs affected to undertake immediate recovery and repair work.

I believe the future is bright for Yorkshire Tennis although there remain significant challenges ahead. While the decline in participation has largely been halted, the number of 30 to 40 year old women who play tennis continues to go down. The LTA will redouble their efforts in the coming year to turn participation round and will look to the County associations to help them.

It was clear from Michael Downey's visit that the LTA will, over the next year or so, support only those funding proposals that deliver tennis through networking with schools, park courts and other clubs. The funds that the LTA do have are limited and they will look to partnership funding with the clear commitment of the local tennis providers to reach out to attract new people, especially the young, to our great sport. The young today have many options for their leisure time and we are in competition with other sports for their custom and participation. Yorkshire Tennis is a voluntary organisation managed by a Management Committee and Council supported by two part-time administrators. We only survive and prosper through the dedicated efforts of our volunteers at county, club and venue level. My sincere thanks go to them all.

It is also appropriate to thank and single out Bob Lamb who stands down as the Yorkshire Tennis President after three years. It has been a delight to work with Bob, whose quiet humour and everlasting smile make it a pleasure to know and work with him. Our grateful thanks should also go to his wife Jean who has supported him at many events over the three years. Finally we are also seeing the retirement from Council of John Forster, who has been President of the YLTA on two occasions. John has continued his involvement with schools tennis and the Management Committee with his usual courtesy, insight and energy. John has told me that he will continue to be involved with schools tennis so we shall see him around at events and meetings.

Over the last year, we have made serious attempts to get closer to our members and to ensure they take full advantage of the benefits of registration. These efforts will continue through 2017 with Yorkshire Tennis Councillors spearheading our relationships and the introduction of a county newsletter. We will continue to stay close to our members' needs and develop new products and funding programmes within our resources.

John Crowther Chairman - Yorkshire Tennis

Kyle Edmund

Kyle has moved rapidly up the ATP Singles Rankings since he entered them in 2013. He will be 22 years old in January 2017 and is the highest ranked Yorkshire player since Roger Taylor in the 1960s and 1970s.

Born in Johannesburg, he moved to Beverley, North Yorkshire at the age of 3 and started playing Tennis at 10. He took lessons by chance and after joining Beverley Tennis Club at a young age he was guided by Club Coach Tom Davies. Kyle attained his first ATP Singles Ranking in 2013 and on the 17th August 2015 he achieved a career-high ranking and entered the top 100 players in the world. In 2015 he made his Davis Cup debut for Great Britain. Since then he has moved rapidly through the rankings. He reached his highest position of 40 on the 24th October 2016 and is likely to finish the year ranked 45.

Nicknamed 'Kedders' his favourite surface is clay, his favourite shot is his forehand and his favourite tournament is Wimbledon. He is currently coached by Ryan Jones and has Ian Prangle as his fitness trainer. We wish Kyle further successes during 2017 and look forward to seeing him progress further up the ATP World Rankings.



Kyle Edmund - Image courtesy of the LTA

What another great year for British Tennis. Together, the tennis network of venues, the LTA, the Regional Team, County Association and our extended partners have continued to make great progress both on and off the court and I can't thank everyone enough for all their help and support. As I go around the clubs, education venues, parks and community hubs you can't help but be inspired by what all the volunteers and professional staff and coaches do on a daily basis - so a huge THANK YOU to everyone involved!

So what have been some of the high points for me this year?

In January we saw the resilience of many clubs and the power of community volunteers to overcome diversity when the floods came to the region. 10 clubs in Yorkshire were affected including Wetherby, York, Wheldrake and Salts and all worked so amazingly hard to minimise the impact along with the support of over £70k of funding from LTA, Yorkshire Tennis, Sport England and others.

In March we saw the Davis Cup begin one of four visits to the County, coming to venues in Hull, Ilkley, Leeds and Sheffield. Running events together with the County, over 2,500 people got to see the trophy in the County and find out more about tennis in Yorkshire.

In April coaches took the spotlight (including many from Yorkshire) with over 80 in the region signing up with Leon Smith and the Davis Cup team to be part of a team of 1,000 coaches who have now delivered 10 weeks of free coaching to over 13,000 children over the summer who were new to tennis. Over 50% have chosen to continue playing.

In May the first of the Great British Tennis Weekends again proved a significant success with 300 events across the North region attracting over 4,300 attendees. In partnership with Phil Leighton we took a roadshow to Hull and Sheffield CITCs and after visiting 20 schools each resulted in over 100 players signing up to coaching programs at each centre.

In June, Ilkley LTC delivered another fantastic flagship AEGON Trophy Challenger Event, attracting high quality players in the world top 100 and running sessions so that 1,700 children from the local communities got to experience tennis in and around the event.

Over the summer we have worked or begun work with a number of Local Authorities to develop Tennis Network plans. These included Bradford, Kirklees, Leeds, York, Sheffield, Hull and Scarborough with a view to encouraging more people to play in targeted parks and local communities. In Leeds and Sheffield we trialled new Booking and Access systems and as a result we now have over 5,000 park players on our Leeds and Sheffield databases alone!!

There have also been significant advancements in clubs using technology. Following the spring club forums nearly 50% of the clubs in the North are now using at least two modules of Clubspark or equivalent and Heaton are testing a pay and lock access system to attract the more casual players and generate new income. 50% of our clubs are connected to the Region through Facebook and those following the Region on Twitter have nearly doubled since the start of the year.

Finally, in the last month we have seen the opening of extended indoor facilities at Graves Tennis and Leisure Centre as part of the new iconic facility it has now become. In addition, in partnership with Leeds Beckett University, they played a huge part in ensuring 100 coaches had an amazing experience at our first Northern Coaches Conference.

Overall, the visibility of tennis in the North has now improved from last year. Our sport is certainly becoming more inclusive too as numbers participating in the disability networks in Leeds, Sheffield and York have doubled. It has been quite a year for tennis in the North!!

Paul Bennett



Cathie Sabin visits Salts Tennis Club (l to r - Jim Dyer, Cathie Sabin, John Ramsbottom, Pat Hardaker, John Crowther)



Cathie Sabin with representatives from the Wheldrake Tennis Club



Cathie Sabin with representatives from the Wetherby Tennis Club

	Role	Area of Focus in Region
Mia Mitchell	Regional Tennis Services Assistant	GBTW Campaign, Coaching Products and Workforce Support
Lauren Salton	Regional Tennis Services Assistant	Communications Finance and Customer Service Support
Matthew Parkinson	Regional Tennis Services Assistant	Club support
Matthew Tottey	Regional Tennis Services Assistant	Competition Support
Laurie Haines	Regional Tennis Services Assistant	Community 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	

- 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
- Austwick Tennis Club
- Bardsey Tennis Club
- Barnsley Lawn Tennis Club
- Batley ITI Tennis Club
- Beauchief Tennis Club
- Bedale Tennis Club
- Beeford Tennis Club
- Beverley & East Riding Lawn 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 and Squash Club
- Cherry Burton Tennis Club
- Cleckheaton Lawn Tennis Club
- Collingham Lawn Tennis Club
- Copmanthorpe Tennis Club
- Cottingham Lawn Tennis Club
- Cragg Vale 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
- Elland 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
- Haxby Road Sports Park
- Heaton Tennis & Squash Club
- Hessle Lawn Tennis Club
- Heworth Tennis Club
- Holmfirth Parish Church Tennis Club
- Horsforth Throstle Nest Tennis Club
- Hovingham Tennis Club
- Huddersfield Lawn Tennis & Squash Club Ltd
- Hull YPI
- 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
- Marton-cum-Grafton Tennis Club
- Mashamshire Tennis Club
- Mexborough Athletic Tennis Club
- Mirfield Tennis Club
- Mytholmroyd St Michael's Church Tennis Club
- New Earswick Tennis Club
- Northallerton Tennis Club
- Nuffield Hull Tennis Academy
- Park Tennis Club
- Pelican Park TC
- Pocklington Tennis Club
- Pool-in-Wharfedale Lawn Tennis Club
- Poppleton Lawn Tennis 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
- Rowntree Park CYC
- 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
- Sproatley Tennis Club
- St Chads (Leeds) Tennis Club
- St John Fisher Tennis Club
- Stamford Bridge Tennis Club
- 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
- Thorndiffe City Tennis Club
- Thorner Victory Hall Tennis Club
- Thornhill Tennis Club
- Todmorden Lawn Tennis Club
- Tollerton Tennis Club
- Undercliffe Lawn Tennis Club
- Upper Armley Tennis Club
- Wakefield Tennis Club
- Walton Tennis Club
- Wellholme Park Lawn 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

The Performance Network

Within the Performance Network there has been no change in terms of the 'Grant Funded Centres'. 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 (2018)
- Ilkley (2017)
- Thongsbridge (2017)
- Heaton (2017)

Players to have represented GB

- Barney Fitzpatrick
- Jayanne Palma
- Dominic Vesely
- Alex Tikhonov

Players to have attended National Camps:

- Jack Batchelor (Nuffield)
- Johannus Monday (Was Nuffield, now Merchiston School Scotland)
- Barney Fitzpatrick (Thongsbridge)
- Paul Jubb (Nuffield)
- Savannah Dada-Mascoll (Ilkley/Carnegie)
- Millie Skelton (Nuffield)
- Jayanne Palma (Heaton)
- Dominic Vesely (Thongsbridge)
- Alex Tikhonov (Thongsbridge/Nuffield)

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

- Luke Hoyland (Hallamshire/Nuffield)
- Owen Lodge (Thongsbridge)

Players to have attended North Regional Camps

From Nuffield:

- Jack Batchelor 2003
- Lleyton Scott 2003
- Michael McDougall 2003
- Sam Loughton 2004
- Joe Mazingham 2007
- Caitlin Ward 2002
- Jessica Dawson 2003
- Millie Skelton 2005
- Cheyenne Fee 2006
- Isabella Gibson 2006 (Ilkley/Nuffield)
- Eluned Owen 2006
- Daniella Piani 2007
- Molly Loughton 2007
- Jessica Thompson 2007

From Thongsbridge:

- Barney Fitzpatrick 2002
- Alex Tikhonov 2005 (Thongsbridge/Nuffield)
- Dominic Vesely 2005
- Owen Lodge 2006

- Tommy Vale 2007
- Louis Hull 2007
- Zak Lloyd 2007
- Orla Cooper 2003
- Gabby Lindley 2005
- Ellie Horne 2006
- Lucy Newman 2006
- Molly Robinson 2007

From Ilkley:

- JB Pickard 2003
- Matthew Abel 2004
- George Burgin 2007
- Harry Abel 2007
- Amber Woffindin 2002
- Savannah Dada-Mascoll 2003
- Isabella Gibson 2006 (Ilkley/Nuffield)

From Goole:

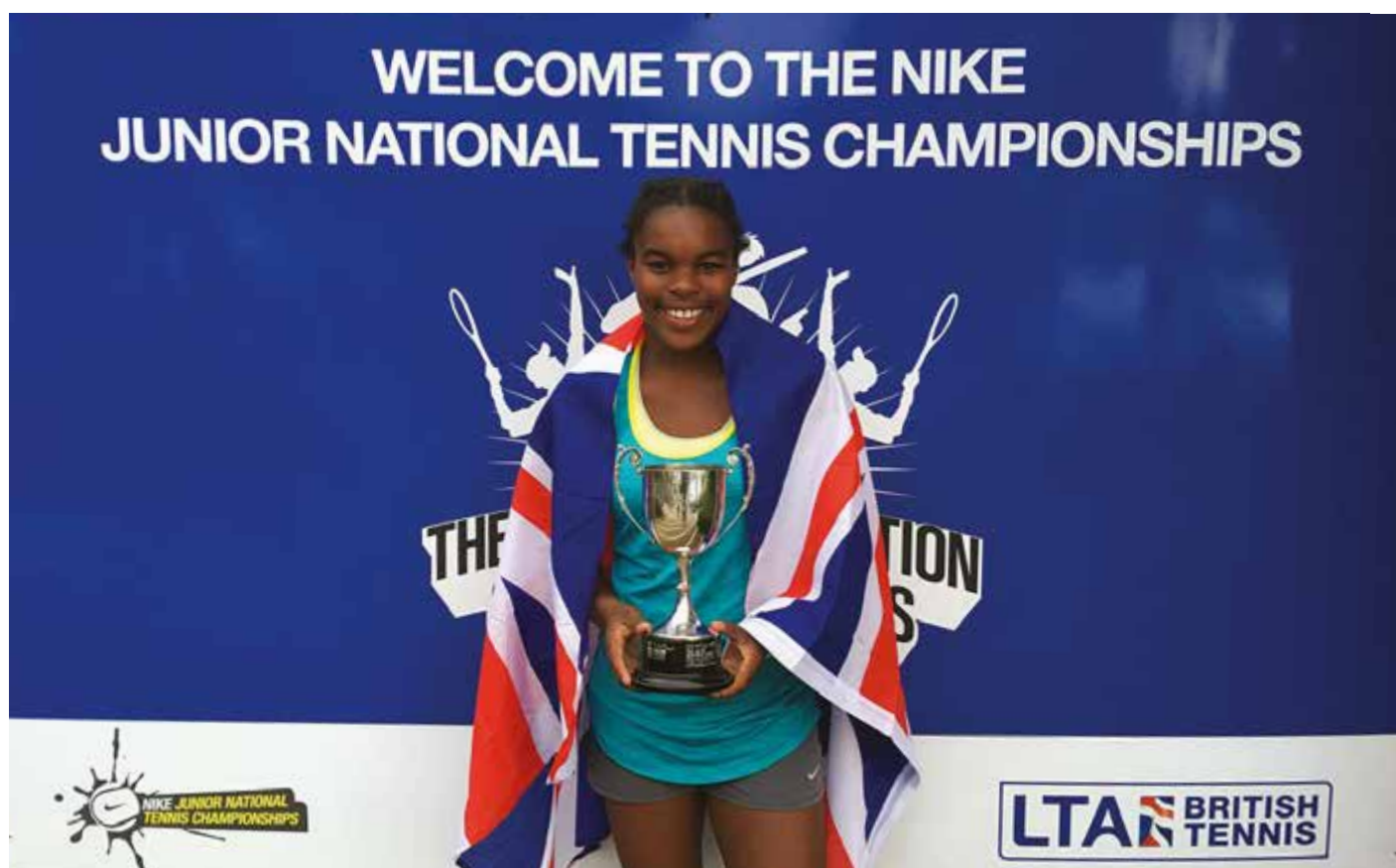
- Leona Clarkson 2002
- Lilly Cliff 2006
- Nick Pool 2006

Other Clubs:

- Jayanne Palma 2003 (Heaton)
- Joe Cox 2007 (Heaton)
- Thomas Everest-Wilcock 2006 (Graves)
- Sarah Copley 2007 (Graves)
- Luke Hoyland 2006 (Hallamshire/Nuffield)
- Emily Cheetham 2008 (Doncaster)
- Taylor Aitcheson 2008 (Batley)
- Aodhan Sopala 2007 (Huddersfield)
- Isabella Moss 2007 (Rowan Moss)

Notable Successes

- Paul Jubb
 - Winner of Grade 4 ITF Under 18 singles and doubles in Qatar
 - Runner up in Grade 4 ITF Under 18 singles in Norway.
- Savannah Dada-Mascoll
 - Winner of singles and doubles at Under 12 National Championships.
- Barney Fitzpatrick
 - Winner of Tennis Europe Event Under 14 Edinburgh
 - Runner up Under 14 National Championships
 - Winner of Grade 2 Under 14 Nottingham
 - World Junior Championships Under 14 - finished 10th
 - Won 5 out of 6 matches representing Great Britain in Under 14 Summer Cup



Savannah Dada-Mascoll, Under 12 National Champion. Image courtesy of her parents.

Schools Tennis - John Forster

Yorkshire Tennis has continued to offer significant support to schools tennis through the work of the County, Club, Community and Education (CCCE) Sub-Committee and the working group within that Committee of Di Hutchinson, Angela Crossley and myself.

There have been a number of financial measures of support, particularly the establishment of the Yorkshire Tennis Fund which encourages and helps to fund the establishment of club/school partnerships. This initiative is aimed at the under-14 age group and links with the LTA's Play Tennis Fund, which supports the 14-25 age range.

The Committee has also supported in principle measures of financial support to teachers who take on the role of league secretary. This is a crucial role in terms of creating local networks which allow for appropriate inter-school competition. Sadly, in Yorkshire, there has been continuing difficulty in filling these roles and Matthew Tottey at the LTA office has had to perform the role without the local knowledge which is essential to its success.

To mitigate this lack, the Committee has supported the establishment of a competition model in the Harrogate and District area to serve as a template for similar schemes in the rest of the County. Under this scheme, the schools in a locality form an association and fixtures are organised on agreed dates and delivered centrally at an agreed venue with professional support on the day. For instance, this summer Ashville College courts were the venue for six inter-school festivals - two each for Y8 and Y10 and one each for Y7 and Y9.

The League Secretary, Eddie Churchill from King James's School, did the preparation with help from the County Administrator, Di Hutchinson, and the events were refereed by Angela Crossley and Rob Ratcliffe. Early season weather was not helpful but the events were a huge success with seven out of nine of the district's schools participating.

Next summer we hope to extend this model to both Leeds and Bradford schools and we already have offers from the Grammar School at Leeds and Bradford Grammar School to act as hosts. These events come under the aegis of the national LTA Division 2 competition and are intended to offer play and competition to the ordinary school player whilst encouraging continued participation in tennis, hopefully leading on to club membership. They are therefore ratings-restricted. Better school players, mainly already receiving coaching through their clubs, should enter the national LTA Division 1 competition, which leads on to regional and national finals.

Yorkshire, possibly uniquely, offers Division 2 players the opportunity to represent their school in County Finals held in September at the John Charles Tennis Centre in Leeds. This is a doubles competition and schools are represented by two pairs. Schools qualify by playing in the area competitions referred to earlier. This year's event took place on September 22nd and was refereed by Angela Crossley and Rob Ratcliffe, supported by Di Hutchinson who had undertaken much of the preparation for the event. The winners and runners-up in each age group were as follows:

- Y8 Girls: Queen Mary's Topcliffe and Hayfield
- Y8 Boys: Crossley Heath and Ripon Grammar
- Y10 Girls: Hull Collegiate and Beckfoot
- Y10 Boys: Ashville College and Ripon Grammar.

For the first time this year, these schools qualified to play in a regional final organised by the LTA. At the moment this additional layer of competition has not been planned in association with the County and we shall be looking to ensure that it harmonises in terms of the nature of the competition and the standard of players.

To end on a personal note, I have been involved in schools tennis in Yorkshire since 1963 which sounds a long time! Throughout those years I have tried to ensure that tennis in schools receives the attention and support it merits. After all, every potential player attends school. There are problems for schools such as lack of involvement and the different commitments of schools in the state and independent sectors. One thinks particularly of facilities and family support. However, my experience tells me that the real differentiating factor is the individual teacher in a given school with the enthusiasm and commitment to give time to helping youngsters experience and enjoy the game. We need to identify and support those individuals.

I've been trying to identify someone ready to take on the responsibility I carry for schools tennis across the County. Once I've achieved that and feel that the future is in safe hands, I shall be bowing out though I shall, of course, continue to give active support to my local school and district.

John Forster
YLTA Councillor



Children enjoying themselves during the Aegon Challenger at Ilkley

The County Championships were once again held at the John Charles Tennis Centre, Leeds during the final week of August. 2016 saw an increase in participation from previous years and a special mention must be made to Nuffield Hull, Thongsbridge and Ilkley tennis clubs, who encouraged a large number of players to take part. Also, thanks go to Richard Gillies, Richard Furness and Calvin Betton for their continued support.

2016 also saw the introduction of area qualifying events. These were held at Beverley, Ripon and Ilkley with the finalists gaining entry into the Championships. These competitions were staged for lower-ranked players or players with little competitive experience and proved to be a big success. They will continue again in 2017.

The Championships themselves were, as always, played in a friendly yet competitive environment, with some outstanding performances. Anyone who witnessed the Men's Singles final will agree that it was a superb match of the very highest level, played in an incredible spirit - Pete and Paul - thank you!

Dave Kitchen

2016 Singles Champions

Men	Paul Jubb
Ladies	Megan Hopton
Boys U18	Paul Jubb
Girls U18	Megan Hopton
Boys U16	Matthew Clegg
Girls U16	Megan Hopton
Boys U14	J B Pickard
Girls U14	Caitlin Ward
Boys U12	Michael McDougall
Girls U12	Millie Skelton
Boys U10	Owen Lodge
Girls U10	Isabella Gibson
Boys U9	Thomas Vale
Girls U9	Daniela Piani
Boys U8	Zephram Cochrane
Girls U8	Loretta Armane

2016 Doubles Champions

Men	Conor Tordoff & Josh Gledden
Ladies	Chloe Chawner & Victoria Lapthorne
Boys U18	Matthew Clegg & Vishnu Pannikar
Girls U18	Megan Hopton & Rebecca Hill
Mixed U18	Paul Jubb & Megan Hopton
Boys U16	Adam Hillerby & Lleyton Scott
Girls U16	Caitlin Ward & Abigail Wild
Boys U14	Adam Hillerby & Lleyton Scott
Girls U14	Caitlin Ward & Millie Skelton
Mixed U14	Ronan Sahni & Leona Clarkson
Boys U12	Sam Loughton & Alex Tikhonov
Girls U12	Millie Skelton & Charlotte Margetson
Boys U10	Owen Lodge & Thomas Vale
Girls U10	Isabella Gibson & Cadence Simpson



Yorkshire Tennis President, Bob Lamb, making the presentations



Megan Hopton and Paul Jubb



Josh Gledden, Bob Lamb and Conor Tordoff



Matthew Clegg and Bob Lamb



Owen Lodge and Bob Lamb



Rebecca Hill and Megan Hopton



J B Pickard



Charlotte Margetson and Bob Lamb



Michael McDougall and Millie Skelton



Caitlin Ward and Bob Lamb



Sam Loughton and Bob Lamb

Team	Captain Steve McLoughlin		
Elliot Chang	Peter Ashley	Richard Crabtree	Kyle Brassington
Andrew Atkinson	Clay Crawford	Paul Jubb	Tom Haslam
Mike Tolman			

This was one of the most memorable Winter County Cups I can remember. It was a superb team effort with everyone playing their part.

First up were Lincolnshire. We managed to beat them comfortably thanks to a very solid performance, with all performing very well indeed.

Our next opponents were Kent. This match went on and on, with all matches being very tight indeed. Again, there were excellent efforts by all but we just lost out 5-4. It could so easily have gone the other way! This left an intriguing situation for the last day - any of three teams could be promoted but any of all four teams could be relegated!!

What ensued was one of the most exciting matches I have ever witnessed. Richard Crabtree had the most amazing win at number 6 singles - a 6-7, 7-6, 7-6 win, saving two match points in a match that lasted over three hours. The team fought so hard with the match then poised at 4-4. Elliot Chang and Kyle Brassington fought back from a set down to win the last match, securing our promotion back to Group 1.

It was an excellent achievement with some younger players making debuts and some seniors returning to the fold. The key point is there are so many players wanting to represent the County, which is excellent.

Group 1 here we come!!

Player of the week: Richard Crabtree

Saving two match points in a match lasting just short of three hours!!

Team	Captain Nicola Mooney		
Kim Atkinson	Holly Horsfall	Lidia Burrows	Georgia Craven
Megan Hopton	Katie Jessop	Nicola Mooney	Serena Nash
Jess Ren			

Fri 27th November 2015 v Surrey - Lost 8-1

This year, Ladies Group 1 was a particularly tough group, especially with the team sheets that Middlesex and Surrey had. Surrey were indeed a tough team, with their whole 'on paper' line up actually turning up and playing! We had a couple of three-set battles in the singles, with Holly taking Mel South to 6-3 in the third in a very competitive match, and Megan also getting to 6-3 in the third against Lily Ghodrati. Kim played a strong match and held on to a rubber for us as we went down 8-1.

Sat 28th November 2015 v Sussex - Won 5-4

A big match today, where the possibility of losing this match would send us into relegation straight away. We got off to a great start with Megan and Lidia going out for their singles and coming off with two wins. The tables then turned on us although Jess Ren had an epic match! So, coming out of the singles rounds, we were equal at 3-3, which is where you know the fun will start with it all being to play for in the doubles! After two of the three doubles matches going close with second-set tie breaks, we won overall beating Sussex 5-4.

Sun 29th November 2015 v Middlesex - Lost 5-1

Day three can be an interesting day, even if the odds are against you. I felt we had some momentum behind us from the close victory the previous day and that we actually had it all to play for. Having been 1-1 after the first two singles matches, the following two matches were long, hard-fought three-setters, which unfortunately we were not able to win. Then, injury prevailed and sadly we ended up 5-1 down. With everything decided already, the doubles matches were not played.

Aegon Summer County Cup 2016 - Men (Group 2 - Cromer, 18-22 July)

Team	Captain Steve McLoughlin		
Kyle Brassington	Richard Crabtree	Joe Gill	Peter Ashley
Elliot Chang	Andrew Atkinson	Josh Gledden	Paul Johnson
Michael Tolman			

Performance Award - Josh Gledden, Richard Crabtree and Elliot Chang.

Group 2 is a difficult group to get out of these days. Squad strengths can vary as players are coming and going with various tennis commitments. It is heartening to have so many players wanting to represent their County. We welcomed back Josh Gledden and new addition Paul Johnson, so the squad is evolving.

Monday vs Lancs **Won 7-2**

This was a terrific start, with Lancs really struggling to contain us. Super performances across the board resulted in a great start. It's always nice to turn the Red Rose over!!

Tuesday vs Suffolk **Lost 7-2**

This match was far closer than the scores suggest. We had chances but ultimately could not take them. I rested several players ahead of the Middlesex game next day, feeling that if we won that match we would get promotion.

Wednesday vs Middlesex **Lost 6-3**

This result could so easily have been different. We had match / set points left, right and centre but we faced a very determined opposition who just seemed to squeeze through at the right time.

Thursday vs Somerset **Won 8-1**

A fantastic reaction after the disappointment of the previous day. We really cut through this team with quality.

Friday vs Hampshire/IoW **Won 5-4**

Fresh players were brought in to finish off a weary Hampshire/Isle of Wight!!

This was a tough week although we got the start we needed. I was so pleased that more players gained more match time at this level. We are looking in far better shape to make a big push to get back into Group 1 in 2017 so we are looking forward to the Winter Group 1 in Bath.

Thank you to all of the squad for their commitment to play for Yorkshire.

Team	Captain Nicola Mooney		
Kim Atkinson	Megan Hopton	Katie Jessop	Nicola Mooney
Serena Nash	Rebecca Hill	Holly Horsfall	Olivia Noble
Sofie Woon			

This year for County Week we were once more located all the way down on the South Coast in Havant. Greeted by a fabulous, warm Summer evening, and with the forecast for great weather all week, we were all fresh and raring to go!

Our first day match was against Cheshire. Yorkshire Ladies went on and played some excellent doubles, with a couple of close and long matches in the heat, but we ended the day victorious at 7-2.

The next two days we had Hertfordshire and then Middlesex as opponents. We knew these were going to be two tough days but, as always, they were hard-fought matches with us only losing narrowly with 6-3 score lines respectively. By day three Serena had probably spent about 30 hours on court (with us getting the most out of her for our money in true Yorkshire style!) but yet there was more to come.

We fared very well against the East of Scotland, winning 7-2. Once again, two out of three matches for Serena were long three-setters!

The last day, in true County Week style, was a deciding match, but this time for relegation (Yorkshire v Berkshire). It was all very close and nerve-wracking all the way (for me anyway!) until we had clinched victory.

A big well done to everyone. A fantastic result in a tough group and a very hot week on court.

Team Captain Sam Salt			
Tommy Vale	Thomas Everest-Wilcock	George Burgin	Harry Abel
Sarah Copley	Lilly Cliff	Lucy Newman	

Overall position: 1st



Standings of 9U Mixed - 9U County Cup 2016

	Points	Played	Rubbers	Sets	Sets %	Games	Games %
1 Yorkshire	6	3	46 - 8	47 - 13	78.3%	47 - 13	78.3%
2 Northumberland	4	3	38 - 16	42 - 20	67.7%	42 - 20	67.7%
3 Durham & Cleveland	2	3	18 - 36	20 - 37	35.1%	20 - 37	35.1%
4 Cumbria	0	3	6 - 48	10 - 49	16.9%	10 - 49	16.9%

Match Scores of 9U Mixed - 9U County Cup 2016

Date/Time	Home -	Away	Score	Court
Sat 13/08/2016 10:00	Yorkshire -	Cumbria	18-0	Sunderland Tennis Centre - 1
Sat 13/08/2016 11:30	Yorkshire -	Northumberland	10-8	Sunderland Tennis Centre - 1
Sat 13/08/2016 13:00	Yorkshire -	Durham & Cleveland	18-0	Sunderland Tennis Centre - 1

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 also on the day itself. A massive thank-you must also go to the families of our squad, who gave up their time throughout the County Cup process. All seven Yorkshire representatives were an absolute credit to their County, coaches and families and everyone 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. This was definitely the fieriest u9 County Cup competition I have ever seen with the Northumberland parents chanting away on the balcony, applying pressure to the Yorkshire players.

There were many personal battles on the day but without doubt the 5-4 win against Northumberland boiled down to a true team effort with some stellar individual performances. After the boys cleaned up the singles 3-0, Sarah and Lily just fell short against two strong Northumberland girls, making it

3-2. That made it perfect timing for Lucy Newman to play out of her skin to win 7-0, 16-14 against strong opposition to put Yorkshire 4-2 up going into the doubles - a key win. At one point after the girls and mixed partnerships lost narrowly in three sets we were in the situation of being 4-4 in rubbers with Thomas and Tommy having just lost the first set of the boys doubles 5-7 and the balcony getting a bit raucous.

Up stepped Tom and Tommy. They played much braver tennis in the next two sets and really began communicating as a pair. They turned it around to win 5-7, 7-4, 7-3 and get Yorkshire the 5-4 win! In truth, this was the final as Cumbria and Durham didn't quite represent themselves with the same strength as usual.

It was a great day and fantastic to win for the second time in a row in pretty much identical fashion to last year. The team statistics speak for themselves: Tommy Vale 6/6, Thomas Everest-Wilcock 6/6, Lucy Newman 5/6, George Burgin 5/6, Sarah Copley 4/6 and Lilly Cliff 4/6.

Well done to all involved and I wish everyone the best of luck moving forwards.

Team	Captain Tom Davies		
Owen Lodge	Luke Hoyland	Thomas Naylor	Esa Butt

Qualifying Event: Graves Tennis Centre, 28/29th May

The qualifying event saw us drawn in a group with Derbyshire, Cumbria, Cheshire and Lancashire with the standard across all teams very high. Our first match was against Lancashire. Owen, Thomas and Luke all played with great intensity and very confidently, winning all of their singles matches comfortably to ensure we won our opening match. Esa and Thomas were paired together in the doubles, also winning very comfortably giving the team great confidence going into the next match. **Yorkshire 8-0 Lancashire.**

Next up for us was Cumbria, who were fielding a very strong team so we knew we had to perform to get a result against them. Team selection for this tie was extremely tough with all of the boys playing so well in the first match. Owen and Thomas both played against strong opponents. Both performed and competed exceptionally well with some great tennis displayed throughout their matches. Unfortunately, both boys lost in straight sets, but the scores did not reflect their level of tennis. Esa stepped up to play the remaining singles tie and again the level of tennis was very high. He lost two very close sets, meaning that, unfortunately, we had lost the tie. Luke and Owen played together in the doubles, winning 10-7 in the Championship tiebreak. With this win getting us a point on the board it was potentially crucial to the outcome of the weekend.

Yorkshire 2-6 Cumbria.

After a tough loss to Cumbria, all of the boys turned up in great spirits on Sunday morning and raring to go. First up was Cheshire with Owen, Luke and Esa all winning very tight matches. Showing unbelievable determination and attitude, Owen won 14-12 in the deciding tiebreak against a very good opponent whom he had never beaten before. Luke also won in the deciding tiebreak 10-3 after losing the second set to love with some smart tennis and great character. Esa again was up for the singles and, after a shaky start, managed to compose himself and turn the match around quickly, winning in straight sets. Luke and Owen again were paired together for the doubles, winning comfortably and again giving the team great confidence going into the last match of the weekend. **Yorkshire 8-0 Cheshire.**

Last up for us were Derbyshire. Going into this match there was still a mathematical chance that we could win the group, but we were very much dependent on other results going our way. Owen, Thomas and Luke all played the singles with Owen losing a tough match in straight sets and Thomas and Luke winning comfortably. Having played some great doubles over the weekend Luke and Owen again played together in the doubles, losing to a very smart doubles pair, meaning the match was tied. As the boys finished their doubles, Cumbria and Lancashire were playing their final doubles match of their tie. We needed Lancashire to win the doubles match to put us, Cumbria and Derbyshire all on the same points and game difference. Unfortunately it was not to be as Cumbria comfortably won their doubles, meaning that Derbyshire were champions. As we had tied our match with Derbyshire we had to play a doubles tiebreak decider. With the disappointment of being so close to winning, Thomas and Luke applied themselves really well and still competed to a high level despite losing a very close tiebreak. **Yorkshire 4-4 Derbyshire.**

All of the boys' attitudes and professionalism over the weekend was second to none and although we didn't win the group the level of tennis across the weekend was top drawer.

Team	Captain Georgina Jackson		
Cadence Simpson	Raphaelle Watkins-Delandro	Sophie Marshman	Erin Thomas.

Our first match was always going to be tough against hot favourites Lancashire, but we managed to get some games on the board and play some good doubles. Our next match against Isle of Man was a far easier affair, where we were able to dominate, build some confidence and win 8-0.

The following day against Cheshire was a close affair. Cadence lost a tight match to their number 1, but Sophie and Raffy were very solid and came through with ease. The doubles was a tense, topsy-turvy match but we won it, meaning that we took the match 6-2 overall.

Our final match against Durham & Cleveland was to see who would finish 2nd in the group. Erin was in fantastic form against their number 3 and got us off to a great start but unfortunately their numbers 1 and 2 were just too strong and we couldn't come through in the doubles so we finished in 3rd place overall.

The team of girls had a solid weekend in St Anne's, finishing 3rd out of 5 in their qualifying group. They secured good wins over the Isle of Man and Cheshire but lost to Durham & Cleveland and Lancashire. The girls all had a great attitude on court and hopefully they will have gained lots of experience for the future.

Team	Captain Nick Fitzpatrick	
Lleyton Scott	Alex Sadeghi	Michael McDougall
Alex Tikhonov	Sam Loughton	

25th & 26th June - Wigan Tennis Academy

I selected five players to represent Yorkshire to give us a strength-in-depth team and to provide good experience for future years for the players. It also allowed for adequate rest time, as it is a tough weekend. Lleyton Scott, Alex Sadeghi, Michael McDougall, Alex Tikhonov and Sam Loughton were the team to visit 'Uncle Tony' (Green, also the Cheshire captain) at his club in Wigan.

First up were the Isle of Man, whom we beat 8-0. There were emphatic wins for Lleyton, Alex (Sadeghi) and Sam in the singles, securing the win before a strong doubles display from IOM whom Sam & Alex (Sadeghi) only just beat in the third-set tie break 11-9.

Next up were North Wales, whom we beat 8-0. This time, strong performances from Lleyton, Mikey and Alex (Tikhonov) secured the win with Mikey and Alex T teaming up to win the doubles.

So, we were group leaders after day 1, with each player having played two matches. These were valuable experiences for all, with adequate rest available to prepare for the huge bowling fixture after dinner and, of course, Cheshire as our first match on day 2.

Without their number 1 ranked player, Cheshire were still a tough prospect, especially with Uncle Tony in charge, but our team were on good form to record an 8-0 win. Wins for Lleyton, Mikey and Alex T with Sam and Alex S very clinical in the doubles.

The final was against Lancashire, who are always tough and tight, and this was no different. Lleyton came through a marathon tie to defeat Tomas Alam in three sets. Mikey lost to an in-form Reuben Warwick and Alex T lost to Raza Ghaus after a good fight in the second set. Lancashire were 2-1 up going into the doubles.

We sneaked a win in the doubles. Lleyton and Mikey were outstanding in this 'do or die' match, winning 5-4, 5-3 against Jack McDermott & Reuben Warwick. The lads were winning the cross-court battles and intercepting well at the net to take victory.

Lancashire brought in Tomas Alam for the shoot-out. Tomas proved to be extremely solid from the back and, despite brave interceptions from our boys which on this occasion were just wide or clipped the net, we lost the shoot-out.

The tactics were right - we lost playing the right way. So close to national finals but Lancashire were worthy winners in the end!

Great weekend - well done boys!

Aegon Summer County Cup 2016 – U12 Girls Qualifying Round 25/26 June at Grantham

Team	Captain Adam DeVries		
Savannah Dada-Mascoll	Gabriella Lindley	Charlotte Margetson	Millie Skelton

Yorkshire played Cheshire and Durham & Cleveland on day 1. The girls got off to a flying start against Cheshire. This was quite a straightforward 3-0 win after the singles matches with the girls getting stuck in straight away. They then went on to win the doubles.

Durham & Cleveland put up a fight with their 3rd player Erin Howe starting to battle against Gabriella in the second set. There was a long game at 2-2, with Gabriella eventually breaking to go 3-2 up and then storm through her service game to take the final singles win. Yorkshire led 3-0 after another good win in the doubles.

Sunday was against Derbyshire to start with. All the girls were looking positive and strong and we went 3-0 up in the singles. Our doubles pair went on as we started the big match against Lancashire, but we finished another round in style with a 4-0 overall win.

Charlotte and Millie played our first two matches to start the battle against Lancashire. Charlotte lost in a tight three-set battle and Millie lost a hard-fought match for us to go 2-0 down. Savannah went on court to play their no.1, Hannah Dazley, and walked away with a solid win taking Yorkshire to 2-1, meaning we had to win the doubles to allow us the chance of a tie-break play-off. Millie and Savannah played some superb doubles and got the win so we were now at 2-2, having to go on to play the championship tie-break to decide our fate against Lancashire. However, we didn't yet know the outcome of the Lancashire against Cheshire match because they were still playing, but to ensure our fate we really needed to win the tie-breaker. Savannah and Millie composed themselves and went back on against the same pair. With a little ebb and flow in the tie-breaker the girls ended up with three match points at 9-6, but these were suddenly levelled at 9-9 and we were all feeling very tense. The girls held their nerves however and emerged victors!

Aegon Summer County Cup 2016 – U12 Girls Finals 8-10 July at Bolton

Team	Captain Adam DeVries		
Savannah Dada-Mascoll	Gabriella Lindley	Charlotte Margetson	
Mia Sibley	Millie Skelton		

On Friday 8 July the girls played their first match against Staffordshire in Group B. Savannah battled hard, ending with 12-10 in the Championship tie-break and another good win came in the doubles. We ended the day at 2-2.

On Saturday 9 July we had to play the two remaining rounds in our Group, one against Surrey, which we lost 3-1 and the other against Avon, which we won 3-1! Savannah stayed true to form from the first day, and won again with big three-set (Championship tie-break) battles.

We played East of Scotland in the play offs on the Sunday, which the girls won 3-1 to finish 3rd overall.

Well done girls.

Team Captain Kyle Brassington			
Finn Murgett	Jack Batchelor	Ronan Sahni	
Lleyton Scott	Adam Hillerby		

The 14 & under team started their short journey to Graves, Sheffield on Saturday 30th April. Yorkshire's group had three other teams in it; Derbyshire, Cheshire and Leicestershire.

We started off against Derbyshire on the Saturday morning. Ronan Sahni and Lleyton Scott started us off in our number 3 and 4 singles matches respectively. After a one and a half hour battle from both players the score was 1-1 in rubbers. This left it to Jack Batchelor and Finn Murgett to try and push us forward. Finn had a relatively straightforward win, while Jack battled for three sets, eventually losing to Derbyshire's number 2. Doubles then followed to see if we could decide the fixture with the scoreline locked at 2-2. Finn and Ronan were paired together but came off second to a strong no. 1 pair, while Jack and Adam Hillerby narrowly lost out 10-3 in the third set to end the fixture, meaning Derbyshire had won 4-2. The players felt dejected after such a long day but were looking forward to Sunday's clash against Cheshire.

After an early practice session, Yorkshire were ready to avenge yesterday's loss. Lleyton was replaced by Adam Hillerby at number 4 but the singles ended with the same scoreline as Saturday's match, deadlocked at 2-2. Jack and Finn paired up to dispatch their opponents, while Ronan and Lleyton endured stiff competition from Cheshire's second pair, eventually winning in three close sets. That meant Yorkshire won 4-2 in a reverse of yesterday's fixture. Everything was still to play for.

All four teams could have been promoted with convincing scorelines on Monday morning. Yorkshire's team were flying the County flag and in great spirits.

Unfortunately, after the first two singles we were 2-0 down. Adam came up against a strong opponent and Ronan fought well, eventually losing 10-8 in the 3rd set. Jack and Finn came out strongly, both a break up in the first set before the rain came, temporarily halting the match. Play was resumed later and Jack dispatched his opponent to claw back the deficit. Sadly Finn couldn't quite get over the line, losing in two close sets. The score was 3-1 going into the doubles. Still with a slim chance of qualifying for the finals our two doubles teams went on to warm up. Unfortunately, as the weather reports had suggested, the heavens opened and play was put back for at least one and a half hours. During this time the team were still optimistic but the rain didn't let up, meaning the match had to be called off with no doubles played. Yorkshire lost 3-1. The team were disappointed as qualification was still an option, however they accepted the result.

Yorkshire ended up 3rd in the group but are looking strong for next year's competition. Fingers crossed, the result will be decided by the tennis and not the weather next year.

Results

- Saturday - 4-2 Loss to Derbyshire
- Sunday - 4-2 Win over Cheshire
- Monday - 3-1 Loss to Leicestershire (rained off)

Aegon Summer County Cup 2016 – U14 Girls Qualifying Round - 30th April - 2nd May 2016, Sunderland

Team	Captain Laura Fisher		
Amber Woffindin	Caitlin Ward	Abigail Wild	
Jessica Dawson	Charlotte King		

The girls meant business on their qualifying weekend, beating every other County 6-0 without losing a set all weekend. This was a formidable start to take them through to the County Finals.

On Friday, the girls played their first match against North of Scotland with Caitlin, Amber, Abigail and Jessica only losing 11 matches across the whole of their four singles victories. The doubles were just as convincing, so a fantastic start for the whole team!

Day 2 was against Hereford and Worcestershire and saw another 6-0 victory. Caitlin, Amber and Abigail played the first three singles once again with Charlotte playing at number 4 today instead of Jessica, who had played in yesterday's match.

The girls also had to face Northumberland on day 2 but they played great tennis, again to win a further match 6-0 with very few games lost and Jessica back in the role of 4th singles match.

Day 3 continued in similar successful form with Caitlin beginning with a 6-0, 6-1 singles win, Amber following with a 6-0, 6-2 victory, Abigail winning 6-3, 6-4 and Jessica swiftly winning 6-0, 6-0.

Well done to all of the girls. They well and truly earned their place in the County Final.

Aegon Summer County Cup 2016 – U14 Girls Finals - 13th - 15th May 2016, Nottingham

Team	Captain Laura Fisher			
Amber Woffindin	Caitlin Ward	Jayanne Palma	Abigail Wild	
Jessica Dawson	Charlotte King			

On Friday, the girls played their first match against Nottinghamshire (on their home turf), a tough first match in Group A. Caitlin won a tough three-setter in the singles with Jayanne and Jessica winning their doubles but unfortunately it wasn't enough and Notts won 4-2.

The next match against Surrey was a reversal of fortunes with the Yorkshire girls winning 4-2 with Amber, Caitlin and Jayanne winning three out of the four singles matches and Jayanne and Jessica winning their doubles match.

On Saturday we played Wiltshire, again winning three out of the four singles matches (two close three setters won by Caitlin and Jessica). The doubles pairs of Caitlin and Jessica and Abigail and Amber both won convincingly, confirming a 5-1 win against Wiltshire and therefore qualifying for the 3rd / 4th play offs on Sunday.

The team could not have had a more defiant win against North Wales, finishing the match 6-0 and therefore finishing the weekend 3rd out of the 8 teams.

Well done to all of the girls.

Team Captain Jason Torpey			
Conor Tordoff	Joseph Newman-Billington	Ying Hou	Matthew Clegg
Max Galins	Harry Simpson	Finn Murgett	Vishnu Panikkar

Day 1 vs Middlesex

This was my first year captaining the U.18s, although I had fond memories of winning Group 1 as a player in 1999 and know it can be a fantastic atmosphere and as close to a Davis Cup environment as most juniors can expect to experience. A couple of days before the start of the event I was told that Paul Jubb and Angus Bradshaw (our number 1 and 2 players) would not be able to make the event. Paul was having a fantastic week at an ITF event in Norway, where he made the final, and Angus had twisted his knee whilst training at Millfield. So, it was always going to be a tough task to maintain Group 1 status but it did afford me the opportunity to 'blood' some of the younger players and give them the opportunity to get to know what a hostile but fun atmosphere County Cup can be.

We were playing Middlesex on the first day. You always want to get off to a strong start if possible but, without Paul and Angus it was always going to come down to whether or not we could get on the scoreboard at 4, 5 and 6. Unfortunately, Middlesex had great strength in depth and although we had experienced County players in Max Galins at 5 and Harry Simpson at 6 it wasn't enough to prevent us being 2-0 down after the first round of matches. This meant that, realistically, we needed three of the top four singles matches to have a chance of winning the tie. Both Ying Hou at 3 and Matthew Clegg at 4 performed fantastically and at one stage both were a set up and looking good to get us back to 2-2. Matt just faded physically in the 3rd but Ying produced a fantastic three set win against Brandon Drew. Joseph Newman-Billington then provided arguably the result of the weekend of any player by beating Lois Newman 7-5, 6-2 to get us back to only 3-2 down but Middlesex's number 1, Rohan Sita, was just too strong for Conor Tordoff, although in true Yorkshire style Conor kept battling to the end and very nearly forced a 3rd set.

4-2 down after the singles meant we needed to win all three doubles matches, which was always going to be difficult given the strength in the Middlesex squad. With Ying exhausted after his three hour epic I decided to bring in Finn Murgett to partner Joe and the boys produced a fantastic match to beat the Middlesex number 2 pair 7-6, 7-5. I also wanted every player in the squad to have played on day 1 so Vishnu Pannikar came in for Matt to partner Harry Simpson. Despite a valiant effort they went down 7-5, 7-5 to give Middlesex an unassailable lead. Max and Conor performed well as our top pair but the experience of Brandon Drew and Rohan Sita was too much and they went down in straight sets.

This was a day of potential 'what ifs' (especially if we'd had our full squad) but it was great that everyone got match time and Joe won both his singles and doubles, with Finn being one of the youngest players in modern memory to win a match at Group 1! **Lost 6-3**

Day 2 vs Kent

Again, it was going to be important to get off to a good start at 5 and 6 so I decided to change the line-up and bring Finn in for Max at 5, with Harry staying at 6. Harry produced some of his old magic and guts and came through in three sets to give us a 1-nil lead but despite playing moments of fantastic tennis, Finn wasn't quite able to match the result of his doubles the previous day and went down in straight sets. So, 1-1 after the first round of singles and again we probably needed two out of the next four singles to be going into the doubles with any chance of winning the tie. Despite some gutsy fighting and a lot of heart the quality of Kent's top order was just too good and they took all four of the matches to give them a winning margin of 5-1 after the singles and mean that we were relegated to Group 2 for 2017.

Although the match was over in terms of the score it did give me an opportunity to change pairings around and for the players to show me how much pride they had in trying to get as many rubbers on the board as possible. My only change was bringing in Max for Finn to partner Harry at 3rd pair. Apart from Conor and Ying at 1st pair, who came within a couple of points of beating Nicholas Brookes and Alex Juniper, it was a pretty flat display from the other two pairs. This is something the guys are going to have to learn from - not starting your next match with the baggage of the previous match still in your head, as each new match is an opportunity to perform and learn. The bigger picture of what we should be trying to create is the culture of Yorkshire players always being up for a battle, regardless of the score line, and fighting for every point and for their teammates right until the end. **Lost 8-1**

Day 3 vs Warwickshire

The final day of a long weekend when you know that, regardless of the result on the day, you're still going to be relegated can be a difficult one to get 'up' for, especially when you're playing the strongest team in the competition (their top three all had ATP points). However, I was looking for a response from the guys after yesterday and also it's sometimes not that often that you get to play players of the calibre of the Warwickshire players. Their number 6 was ranked higher in the country than our number 1! So, it was pleasing to say that, for the most part, the lads give it all they had right until the last point but ultimately the difference in class told and Warwickshire ran out 6-0 winners after the singles to make them Champions for the third year in a row. With a long drive back and with nothing dependent on the outcome of our match, the decision was made to not play the doubles. **Lost 6-0**

Overall, it was a tough weekend for the guys but it might have been a different result had Paul and Angus been available. The big positive was the opportunity to play the younger players and give them the chance to see the difference in standard and physicality of Under 18 tennis to Under 16 tennis. I know they'll all be hurting from the result but those still available for next year will want the opportunity to go out and make sure we bounce straight back and get us back to Group 1 for 2018!

Team Captain Calvin Betton			
Serena Nash	Sofie Woon	Lidia Burrows	Megan Hopton
Bronte Murgett	Zoe Judkowski	Victoria Laphorne	Rebecca Hill
Chloe Chawner			

Day 1 Yorkshire beat Hampshire/Isle of Wight 7-2

We kicked off the weekend with a potentially tricky match against Hampshire/Isle of Wight. Zoe got things started at number 6 against one of Hants' better players who was lowly ranked because of a long term injury. Zoe put in a strong fighting performance but narrowly missed out in three sets. Bronte, Megan, Lidia, Sofie and Serena all played some fine tennis to score straight sets wins to secure the tie. Chloe and Victoria came in to play the doubles and both got maiden County Cup wins. This was a strong, ominous start.

Day 2 Yorkshire beat South Wales 9-0

The girls were rampant on day two, securing the tie 5-0 after just 1 hour and 34 minutes of tennis. We went with the same team other than Victoria coming in for Zoe at number six. All the girls won their singles in straight sets. Zoe, Chloe and Rebecca came in for the doubles, again all getting wins in straight sets. We had won the tie 9-0 before midday. The referee said it was the most one-sided County Cup match he had ever seen. An excellent performance from all of the girls.

Day 3 Yorkshire beat Warwickshire 7-2

We knew a win on the final day against an old rival in Warwickshire would secure us promotion back to Group 1 for next year. Things didn't start too well though as Zoe and Megan both suffered tough losses, but Bronte pulled out a win at number five. This left us 1-2 down after three singles. The top-order girls all brought their 'A' game though, with Lidia, Sofie and Serena all winning in straight sets. Sofie's win took her to a 6-0 record in singles matches over the last two years - the only player to have achieved this. We were now 4-2 up going into the doubles. Chloe and Bronte played some excellent and tactically astute doubles to win the tie and promotion in straight sets. Sofie teamed up with Vic and Serena played with Megan to bring the tie home 7-2.

This was an excellent performance all round from all the girls, with excellent team spirit over the course of the weekend. Hopefully we can continue this form in Group 1 next year. The junior team now says goodbye to Serena and Lidia and we wish them both well. Both have been excellent servants to the Yorkshire team over the years and, more importantly, two top-class individuals.

The Aegon British Tennis Awards

2015 saw the introduction of the Aegon British Tennis Awards for the first time and these were in place of or in addition to the Yorkshire Tennis Awards. There were eight categories, initially selected by each County. The County winners were passed through to the Regional awards selection process and Regional winners then went forward to the National awards process.

The results were as follows for each award. These eight awards will become part of the LTA's calendar:

Category	County Winner	Regional Winner	National Winner
Volunteer Award	Brian Fox (Mirfield TC)	Brian Fox (Mirfield TC)	Patrick Holloway
Young Volunteer Award	Matthew Morgan (Mirfield TC)	Chris Ablewhite (Liverpool TC)	David Cheer
Aegon Coach of the Year Award	Jonny Carmichael (Nuffield Centre Hull)	Steph Eadon Boldon TC (Durham & Cleveland)	Mark Love (Purley Bury TC)
Highland Spring Club of the Year Award	Hallamshire TC (Sheffield)	Burnley TC (Lancashire)	Burnley TC (Lancashire)
Community Venue of the Year Award	Hillsborough Park (Sheffield)	Hillsborough Park (Sheffield)	Cannon Hill Park
Education Award	Leeds Beckett (University)	Leeds Beckett (University)	Edinburgh LTC (University)
Disability Programme Award	Leeds Disability Programme	Manchester Tennis Disability Network	Glasgow Disability Programme
Outstanding Achievement Award	Paul Jubb	Maureen Murphy (CullercoatsTC, Northumberland)	Olive Brown

The Yorkshire County Tennis Awards

Yorkshire Tennis is pleased to confirm that its 2016 Award Winners are as follows:

Award	Category	Award Winners
Headingley Trophy	Ladies Winter Indoor Tennis	Serena Nash
Howden Trophy	Men's Winter Tennis	Peter Ashley, Elliot Chang and Richard Crabtree
Harry Smedley Salver	Ladies County Week	Kim Atkinson
Bernard Austin Trophy	Men's County Week	Josh Gledden, Richard Crabtree and Elliot Chang
Mallen Trophy	Best Performance, Girls 18 and U	Sophie Woon
YLTA Trophy	Best Performance, Boys 18 and U	Joseph Newman-Billington
YLTA Trophy	Most Improved Player - Girls	Bronte Murgett
Brian Mitchell Trophy	Most Improved Player - Boys	J B Pickard

Team Awards

Team	Achievement
Under 9 County Week Team	Competition winners
Men's Winter County Cup	Promoted from Group 2 to Group 1
Men's Over 45s	Promoted as winners of Group 1b to Final, where lost to Surrey
Ladies Over 60s	Promoted as winners of Group 3 to Group 2
Ladies Over 70s	Promoted as winners of Group 1a to Final, where lost to Surrey

County Colours

Category	Award Winners
Ladies Tennis	Serena Nash, Holly Horsfall, Kim Atkinson, Katie Jessop, Olivia Noble
Men's Tennis	Elliot Chang and Richard Crabtree
Girls 18 and U	Olivia Noble, Serena Nash, Sophie Woon, Lidia Burrows, Holly Horsfall, Megan Hopton, Victoria Lapthorne
Boys 18 and U	Conor Tordoff, Paul Jubb
Ladies Seniors – Over 35s	Helen Myles
Ladies Seniors – Over 40s	Louise Marshman, Wendy Stirke, Catherine Baker
Ladies Seniors – Over 70s	Nola Hughes, Margaret French
Men's Seniors – Over 45s	Douglas Keen

Overall Summary - David Brown

We competed in six age groups again this year using 34 different players (32 last year and 28 the previous year). Congratulations go to the 45s team for winning Division 1B and going forward to the National Finals weekend at Dudley in November. Congratulations also go to the 55s team, who finished equal top of their Division 1B but lost out on rubber count. Commiserations go to the 60s, who finished bottom of Division 1B but had two matches which swung on very tight tie-break 3rd sets which went against them.

To highlight the strength of men's seniors' tennis in Yorkshire, David Brown from Harrogate was selected to represent England in the annual Four Nations tournament in April and Mike Breslin from Pontefract was selected to play for a combined Ireland team.

Over 35s Division 2B - 3rd place Captain - Ben Gudzelak

Alan Cutts	Ben Gudzelak	Paul Hull	Doug Keen	Paul Ranson.
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We had a late injury to the in-form Martin Calvert but Paul Hull stepped in to take his place. We started on the Friday with the North of Scotland. We lost two matches on the match tie-break, which meant we lost 3-2.

On Saturday we played Devon and the same thing happened! We lost two matches in the match tie-break and lost 3-2. During one of these we served for the match three times in the second set!

On the Sunday we had to win to stay in Division 2 as both ourselves and Cambridgeshire had lost on the first two days. At 2-2, myself and Paul Ranson had to win to stay up, which we did comfortably.

It was a very hard-fought division. A couple of points difference could have seen us promoted, but likewise we were one match away from relegation as well!

Over 45s Division 1B -1st place Captain - Andrew Hutchinson

Paul Ranson	David Mangham	Andrew Hutchinson
Richard Hutchinson	Gareth Hutchinson.	

The season couldn't have started any better with a very one-sided match against Warwickshire. All matches were won without dropping a set. The second match was against the 2015 inter-county winners, Middlesex. Playing at number 2, David lost a close three-setter but that was the only loss in a 4-1 win thanks to a great singles performance by Paul, followed by Andrew and Richard beating their first pair in straight sets.

After a 4-1 win against Staffordshire, followed by a walkover against Wiltshire, we needed to beat Hertfordshire to reach the inter-county finals in November. Again, Paul was outstanding against Dave Shann, a player who has won some high-grade senior ITF tournaments this year, and thrashed him 6-0, 6-1! That was definitely the performance of the year. We won that match 4-1, therefore winning the league and dropping only three rubbers. This was a great achievement by all the players and we go confidently into the final against Surrey in November.

Over 55s Division 1B - 2nd place Captain - Myles Collett

David Brown	Myles Collett	Dave Cole	Tim Taylor	Czes Wegrzynski
Peter Vann	Chris Day	Brian Barrowman	Paul Blackett.	

The season started precariously with the loss, for most of the campaign, of Tim Taylor, last year's No 1 singles player. Also, due to various availability issues, a total of nine players were needed to fulfil our fixtures. Despite these hurdles the season has been tremendously successful with us finishing equal top on points with Middlesex but losing out on rubber count and only losing one tight match (2-3) away to Devon.

It was a campaign of many heroic performances:

- The first match at home vs Middlesex saw Dave Cole playing no 2 singles and coming back from 6-9 down in the third set tie-break to win 11-9. This was a vital part of the team's 3-2 win.
- The third match away to Warwickshire saw Peter Vann and Czes Wegrzynski winning the second round doubles against the two no 1 singles players to clinch a hard fought 3-2 victory after having lost a tight first-round doubles match.
- The fourth match against undefeated Essex saw Paul Blackett playing his first County match and Brian Barrowman playing down from the 60's team to help out. After losing their opening doubles 6-1, 6-1 they went on to beat a very strong second-round doubles pairing of the Essex singles players which saw an incredible 3-2 victory for Yorkshire.

This is the second time in three years we have just missed out on the top position, so the challenge for next year is to go one better!

Over 60's Division 1B - 6th place (relegated) Captain - Steve Batte

Steve Batte	Myles Collett	Mike Breslin	Christopher Day
Brian Barrowman	Andy Clipson	Andrew Potter	Dave Nicholl.

The men's 60s team had changes in personnel this year with two players coming into the age group from the 55s team and two players moving into the 65s team after five years of service to the squad. This gave a squad of eight players with ratings ranging from 4.2 to 8.1. The promotion to Division One required us to put our strongest team out for all matches, which limited opportunities for all squad members.

We started the season with a home tie against Essex which we narrowly lost 3-2 with four of the five rubbers being decided by tie-breaks. For our next two fixtures we were unfortunate to lose one of our squad to international duties and one to injury. This resulted in losses to Hereford and Worcester, and Bedfordshire, both away from home. In the final two fixtures we managed to beat West of Scotland 3-2 at home but lost our final match at Hertfordshire 4-1. These results confirmed that we would be relegated from Division One for the 2017 season. The tennis in Division One was of a high standard with four teams fielding players who have represented their countries at international level.

The squad will continue to play together at the South Leeds Centre through the winter and new players are encouraged to attend.

Over 65's Division 1B - 3rd place Captain - Wilf Jessop

Wilf Jessop	Dave Whitelaw	Alan Cockman	Greg Pearson	Dave Allerton
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As the Yorkshire Men's 65s captain, I viewed the 2016 season with a touch more optimism than the previous year as I was gaining a couple of players who were moving up from the 60s. Also, one of them was (reasonably) happy to play singles! Dave Whitelaw joined me as the only other person with even the slightest desire to play singles, which meant that I had to arrange the five fixtures on dates that we were both around and hope that we both stayed fit! What I hadn't bargained for was that Steve Howard and Dave Allerton would spend pretty much the whole of the Summer on the treatment table. So, for most matches, the team picked itself, with Greg Pearson partnering the other new boy, Alan Cockman, as the regular doubles pair.

The season started well with a 4-1 win over Berkshire but this was followed by losses to both Middlesex (2-3) and Leicestershire (1-4).

With our final match to be away to the 2015 Champions, Cheshire, it looked very much like our penultimate match at home to West of Scotland would be a 'relegation decider'. I told the troops that 'all five rubbers are winnable' and my motivational skills clearly paid off, with a handsome 5-0 victory!

And so we travelled to Cheshire with no great expectations but at least with nothing to lose. John Hilton, fresh back from GB duty, proved a cut above the rest of us and duly claimed two rubbers. Then, building on a tremendous singles win by Dave Whitelaw, the team stunned the Champions with a 3-2 win!

The team therefore survived comfortably with three wins out of five. The division's end-of-season player statistics show Wilf and Dave Whitelaw at positions 2 and 3, with Greg and Alan also in the top dozen. An enjoyable, and ultimately quite successful, season.

Over 70 Division 1a - 4th place Captain - John Andrews

John Andrews	Andrew Batcup	Bob Mcilvenny	David Purchon	Fergus Gibb
John Bagnall	Keith Townson	Mike Glover	Ray Ranson	Robin Barlow

After the early season's promise of a squad of ten available players of good standard the reality was that, due to injuries and health problems (sometimes of family members) that number was quickly halved, something perhaps to be expected in septuagenarians. The fact that we managed to fulfil a difficult programme, including three away matches in the Home Counties, was an achievement in itself and I am indebted to those who could make themselves available. Robin Barlow's railway journey to Essex overcoming 'fires on the line', delays in Doncaster, chronically crowded replacement carriages, and ultimately an overnight stay in Peterborough(!) showed a commitment beyond question.

After four matches we looked doomed for relegation with a final home match against the likely (and ultimate) champions Middlesex but we pulled off a comprehensive 4-1 victory at Hallamshire, resulting in a final table position of fourth and relegating our neighbours Lancashire to the Second Division; no triumphalism in that however as they might have offered the possibility of a convenient away match in 2017!

My thanks to all those initial ten players for co-operating in pre-season practices, for support when they weren't playing, and of course for playing when possible. Special mention must be made of Ray Ranson, the oldest singles player in all the men's divisions by some margin who played all five singles matches, won two, and lost one by a small margin.

Ladies Over 35 Captain - Becky Lee

After promotion last year to Division 2 we were drawn against Dorset, Sussex and Hereford & Worcester.

Day one was a close 3-2 loss against Dorset, who ended up winning Division 2B. Day two was even closer, this time with us winning 3-2 against Sussex. Day three against Hereford & Worcester didn't start until 2pm so only one round was played, which didn't go in our favour. We lost the two singles but, by winning the doubles, we finished second in the Division so all was good in the end.

My thanks to the team – Gil Kilner, Jo Wright, Louise Marshman (who may I add played a blinding singles match against a much higher rated player) Helen Myles and reserve Lou Lister.

Ladies Over 40 Captain - Becky Lee

Our first season back in Division 1 ended on a sad note. Having won two matches against Buckinghamshire and Nottinghamshire and losing three matches against the strongest three teams (Middlesex, Hertfordshire and Sussex) we felt we would keep our place for next season in the top flight. However, Buckinghamshire ended up winning their final two matches against all the odds, even beating the eventual winners Middlesex.

The main squad of players were myself, Gil Kilner, Jo Wright, Louise Marshman, Karen Mitchell, and Catherine Baker (who travelled to Sussex and back in one day). Wendy Stirke and Lou Lister once again put themselves out, travelling down to Sussex for our last match. A big thanks to all the players and it goes without saying that the team will be pushing for promotion once again next season.

Ladies Over 50 Captain - Belinda Turnbull

Yorkshire Ladies Over 50s had a great season, their second in the top division. The team of Gill Brook, Belinda Turnbull, Sally Bickerton and Cathryn Johnson played every match! Gill won all her singles matches.

After losing to Norfolk, to whom we were away yet again, we then won every match, beating Derbyshire 3-2, Northumberland 4-1, South Wales 5-0 and Middlesex 5-0.

Next year we plan to top the division! Thanks to all the team for all their efforts.

Ladies Over 60 Captain - Janice Ashman

This year we decided to put a team into the 60s Women's competition, in which there are three divisions. Obviously we had to start in Division 3. We had some good matches and won all four, which means we go into Division 2 next year. So, well done to all the players, who approached each match positively and with determination. The team members were: Rosie Connell, Susan Brass, Sue Graney, Kath Green and Janice Ashman.

Our first match was away at Gloucestershire. They proved to be our strongest opposition though Yorkshire still won 3 - 1. The other matches (against North Wales, Derbyshire and Northumberland) were all won 4-0. This was clearly a good season but we expect there will be some tougher matches next year.

Ladies Over 65 Captain - Rosemary Carter

During March, two stalwart members of our team, Charlotte Lindsay and Sandy Atkinson, reported injuries and were unable to play this season.

For three of our matches Pauline and I had a different second couple who did not know each other, let alone having played together! However, we all enjoyed the travelling and competitive spirit.

The final match would determine who would finish top of division 1B. Together with Nottinghamshire, Suffolk and West of Scotland we all had three wins. We came second, missing out by 0.9%! We wish Suffolk 'Good Luck' for the final in November.

Pauline Knight and Rosemary Carter were supported by Sue Welch, Christine Place, Anne Titchmarch and Margaret French.

Ladies Over 70 Captain - Mary Durrans

I'm very pleased to say that we have done well this year and have finished TOP of our division! We go to Dudley on November 4th to play Surrey to decide who is the best over 70s team in England. At the time of writing this report, I'd like to think it's Yorkshire!

We had three away matches and two at home. Our first match was away against Warwickshire, where we won a solitary set. Our next match was away against Hampshire where we lost 3-1. We then beat Northumberland convincingly 4-0 at home before travelling to Shropshire and had a very exciting game, narrowly winning by one game. We thought our last match against Kent at home was going to be very tough but we won 4-0. Unfortunately one of their ladies felt unwell.

I would like to thank Jackie McBurney, Nola Hughes, Margaret French and Margaret Berrington for their support and loyalty to the team.

On a personal note, I was chosen again to represent GB at the World Team Championships, where we won a Silver Medal, just losing out to the U.S.A. Sally Beeley and I also won a Silver Medal in the individual championships, once again losing to the U.S.A.

The total number of entries to the leagues this year were 17 in the Men's League and 25 in the Ladies' League. I have to congratulate the ladies on their efforts this year; 79 matches fixed in April, 79 matches played by September and 90% of them very competitive.

Huddersfield are the Ladies' Division 1 Champions after missing out last year, remaining unbeaten during the league. York were the runners-up, whilst Roundhay and Ilkley were relegated. In Division 2, Rawdon A were the winners with Chapel Allerton promoted after last year's relegation. Batley and Wheatley Hills were relegated. Having been relegated last year, Huddersfield A and Thirsk return to Division 2 for another go, with Huddersfield A taking the Division 3 title on rubbers.

Lack of attendance at the fixture meeting by some teams is still a hindrance to the smooth running of the Men's League and the on-line entry of results still leaves a lot to be desired. Despite these problems the tennis is sometimes of a very high standard, especially at the top end of Division 1. For the first time for a number of years, Doncaster are the Men's Champions, mainly by winning three matches 5-4. Ilkley are the runners-up. Stocksbridge and Cottingham were relegated.

Huddersfield return to the top division, remaining unbeaten in Division 2, with Doncaster A runners-up. Unfortunately a lack of enthusiasm in this Division did result in some matches not being played.

Bob Lamb

	P	W	L	Rubbers Won	Sets Won	Pts
DIVISION 1						
Huddersfield	8	8	0	58	118	16
York	8	6	2	50	105	12
Rawdon	8	6	2	50	103	12
Thongsbridge	8	4	4	35	80	8
Doncaster	8	3	5	31	68	6
Rastrick	8	3	5	27	64	6
Harrogate Racquets	8	3	5	26	61	6
Roundhay	8	2	6	23	55	4
Ilkley	8	1	7	24	58	2
DIVISION 2						
Rawdon A	7	6	1	40	83	12
Chapel Allerton	7	5	2	35	74	10
Thongsbridge A	7	5	2	34	75	10
David Lloyd Leeds	7	4	3	38	82	8
Harlow	7	3	4	27	61	6
Heaton	7	2	5	30	64	4
Batley	7	2	5	25	55	4
Wheatley Hills	7	1	6	23	51	2
DIVISION 3						
Huddersfield A	5	4	1	33	69	8
Thirsk	5	4	1	24	51	8
Thongsbridge B	5	3	2	29	60	6
Rawdon B	5	2	3	22	48	4
Heaton	5	1	4	19	39	2
Huddersfield B	5	1	4	8	23	2

	P	W	L	Rubbers Won	Sets Won	Pts
DIVISION 1						
Doncaster	8	8	0	57	84	16
Ilkley	8	7	1	54	61	14
York	8	5	3	48	105	10
Chapel Allerton	8	5	3	45	89	10
Roundhay	8	4	4	38	77	8
Beverley & East Riding	8	3	5	38	83	6
Mexborough	8	2	6	27	37	4
Stocksbridge	8	2	6	19	50	4
Cottingham	8	0	8	3	9	0
DIVISION 2						
Huddersfield	6	6	0	41	87	12
Doncaster A	6	4	2	38	79	8
Scarborough	5	4	1	26	54	8
Chapel Allerton A	7	3	4	36	83	6
Roundhay A	7	3	4	31	70	6
Thornccliffe	7	2	5	21	40	4
Thongsbridge	7	2	5	17	39	4
Barnsley	5	1	4	15	32	2

Halifax Queens withdrew - record deleted.

Matches not played: Scarborough v Doncaster A, Barnsley v Huddersfield, Barnsley v Scarborough

The sun shone intermittently and the clouds scurried across the sky as stiff breezes blew and made play difficult. Some Over-65 serves boomeranged backwards but an underarm serve was never seen. Alert and experienced brains on aging bodies were able to cope. Rain forced us indoors twice but plenty of grass court tennis was enjoyed (really!) by our hardy perennial entrants.

Sadly, entries were down on last year and lowering the Over-45 age limit to Over-40 only attracted one extra entry - but he was excellent. Skills, experience and stamina were witnessed in abundance, with only one outbreak of contentious line calling. Chalk can be in or out at Chapel Allerton - it's the caller's prerogative. Play, as expected, was to a high standard.

Chapel Allerton is a great venue for this event. Club members and fellow competitors watch the outdoor games from the balcony, adding atmosphere and misplaced advice, and adjudicating when tempers are roused! It is a friendly club with excellent viewing facilities and well-kept traditional grass courts.

Stunning tennis was seen in the Over-40 singles and the excellent Dave Mangham, last year's runner-up, beat both the first and second seeds to deservedly gain his first Yorkshire closed title. As the memories fade, we all recalled our victories of years gone by. There is no need for truth when you reminisce!

Giles Hinchcliffe

Results for 2016

MS 040	Dave Mangham	beat	Steve Shipley	7-5, 7-5
MD 040	Andrew Hutchinson and Gareth Hutchinson	beat	Dave Mangham and Gynn Smith	6-3, 6-1
MS 055	David Brown	beat	Neil Hillerby	6-0, 7-5
MD 055	David Brown and Dave Cole	beat	Steve Batte and Dave Nicholl	6-3, 5-7, 10-6
MS 065	Wilf Jessop	beat	Mike Butterworth	7-5, 6-1
MD 065	Giles Hinchcliffe and Dave Whitelaw	beat	Ted Furness and Robert McIlvenny	6-3, 6-1

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Alison Steel (Tennis Administrator – appointed 1 Jan 2016)
Trevor Reed (Specific Projects)

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Mr John Crowther	Mr Graham Snowden
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Mr John Ramsbottom (by invitation)			

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 Rod Macaulay (Independent Examiner)

Rules

Chris Day (Chair)
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YLTA Initiative

John Ramsbottom (Chair)
 Graham Snowden
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 Adrian Waite
 John Crowther (co-opted during 2016)

County, Club, Community and Education

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 Chris Day
 Anna Bell
 John Forster
 Angela Crossley
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 Peter Bridgewater
 Regional representative also attends

2016 Sub-Committee Members *continued*

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 John Loughton (LTA)
 Tom Loughton (co-opted)
 Calvin Betton (co-opted during 2016)

Competitions

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 Bob Lamb
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 Giles Hinchcliffe
 John Crowther
 Diane Hutchinson
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Mrs E R Yates

Yorkshire Tennis Patron and Life Patron Benefits

1. Copy of the Yorkshire Tennis Annual Report and invitation through the agenda to AGM each year - normally held on the second Monday in December and has recently also included our Awards evening.
2. Admission to all events in Yorkshire including the County Championships but excluding the Aegon Challenger event at Ilkley (ticket details for this can be found on the LTA website). See Yorkshire Tennis website for calendar of events (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 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.
5. Opportunity to apply directly to the Yorkshire Tennis 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 2017:

1. Individual Membership - £45 per annum.
2. Individual Life Membership - £450 per person.
3. Corporate Initiative Membership - £300 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.

SUPPORTERS OF THE YORKSHIRE TENNIS INITIATIVE - Corporate Members

The following Companies and personnel have all contributed financially to Yorkshire Tennis in 2016.
We thank them most sincerely for their support.

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The information contained within this report comes from a diverse range of sources.
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.

Thelma Heaton-Collins

Sadly, Thelma passed away in Portugal in 2016 after a long illness.

Thelma was always a very keen tennis player. She joined the Liversedge Tennis Club at a very tender age and eventually became Ladies Club Captain and Match Secretary between 1957 and 1972. She was elected a Vice President of the Club in 1972.

Thelma was, in her words, 'privileged' to play for the County from 1950 to 1967 and made her County Week debut in 1954. She was awarded her colours in 1955.

She competed in many of the local Yorkshire tournaments and won many Doubles titles including the Yorkshire Ladies Doubles Championship with Charlotte Lindsay in 1963. She was also a finalist with Molly Joyce in 1962 and 1972, and again in 1973 with Sue Mappin.

Thelma's involvement with the Yorkshire Lawn Tennis Association in an official capacity came in 1967 when she was elected as Ladies District Representative for the Huddersfield area. She very quickly made her presence felt by becoming elected to the YLTA Ladies Selection Committee in 1967, Ladies Match Secretary between 1969 and 1995, and Non-Playing Ladies Captain from 1970 to 1984. During her period as Captain she was successful in winning the Inter County Grass Court Championships in 1991, Inter County Hard Court Championship in 1976 and 1980, and also the Girls 18 and Under title in 1981.

Thelma became our County President in 1979/1980. She was made a Vice President in 1983 and Hon Life Vice President in 1993 for her substantial contributions to the YLTA over a 25 year period. During her time with the YLTA, Thelma was a member of the following Sub Committees or groups:

• YLTA Coaching, Training and Development • YLTA Junior Liaison and Training • YLTA Finance and General Purposes • YLTA Disciplinary

Finally, between 1981 and 1990, Thelma was one of the three YLTA Councillors to represent Yorkshire LTA on the LTA Council. During this period she served on the Competitions and Tournament Committee and was one of the group of Councillors who investigated and monitored Senior and Junior Tournaments within the Counties, appointed by the Prudential Cup Committee, of which she was a member. Whilst on the LTA Council she was in the group of Councillors who assisted in organising the LTA's Annual Ball, held during the Wimbledon Championships.

Our condolences go out to Derek and Thelma's daughters Jill and Vicky and also to her grandson.

Marjorie Newton

It is sad to have to report that one of our Life Patrons passed away peacefully on the 19th August 2016 in the Granby Nursing Home, Harrogate. Marjorie, mother of Geoff Newton (current Executive Director of the LTA's Tennis Foundation) was the wife of the late Harold Newton, who held many positions in the YLTA from 1969, when he introduced the Patrons scheme. Harold also formed the Commercial Committee in 1979. He became our County President in 1983 and throughout this period Marjorie was one of the most loyal supporters of the County teams, regardless of the weather or venue.

A service of thanksgiving was held on Friday 21st October at the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Adel and the YLTA were represented.

Trevor Nuttall

We omitted to include in our report last year that sadly one of the County's well-known veteran players had passed away on the 17th April 2015 after a short illness. Trevor had won many local tournaments over the years in the Over 55s category and played regularly in the Over 65 and Over 70 County Championships, latterly in the 2013 event. Over the years he was a member of the Harrogate Racquets, Chapel Allerton and Ilkley clubs.

Our condolences go out to his family.

Derek Hyatt

Derek sadly passed away on 8th December 2015. He had been an active member of Ilkley Tennis Club and had featured in many local tournaments and represented the YLTA in a number of Over 55 events in the last 30 years.

Derek was born in Ilkley. By profession, he was a British artist who painted landscapes of Yorkshire in a bold palette. His works were recognised all over the UK and he received many awards in the 1950s and 1960s and exhibited regularly in the North of England. Tennis was his escape from the art world.

He is survived by his daughter, to whom we send our condolences.

Geoffrey Berrington

Geoffrey passed away peacefully after a long illness on 19th May 2016. He became involved in supporting Yorkshire Tennis from the day he met his wife Margaret (nee Cooper). Margaret was County Champion on a number of occasions and was a member of our Ladies team from 1963 to 1978. Geoff was always in support, particularly during County week.

Our thoughts are with Margaret at this difficult time.

OFFICIAL BALL FOR TENNIS LOVERS

The Babolat Team Ball is the Official Ball of the Lawn Tennis Association and has supplied the Aegon GB Pro-Series events since 2010



www.babolat.com





**For further information on tennis in Yorkshire
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Email: alisonsteeltennis@gmail.com

or alternatively contact the LTA North Region Office

Telephone: 0208 487 7040
Email: North@LTA.org.uk

Or visit our website which contains further useful information, news and results
www.lta.org.uk/in-your-area/yorkshire



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