

YORKSHIRE TENNIS



2023

ANNUAL REVIEW



Babolat.

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THE GAME**

STRIKE



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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	Chair: Steve Jones	3
	President's Address	4
UPDATES	Club Engagement	6
	Communities Engagement	8
	Performance	9
RESULTS	County Cup	10
	Yorkshire County Seniors	15
	Competitions	16
	Yorkshire Tennis Championships	17
UPDATES	Padel	19
	Coach Engagement & Schools Competition	20
	Yorkshire Tennis Initiative	21
ACHIEVEMENTS	Awards	23
SAFEGUARDING	Safeguarding	26
FINANCE	Finance Director's Report	27
THE TEAM	Yorkshire Tennis Limited	28

Cover photo: (front cover) Serena Nash; (back cover, left to right): Richard Crabtree with the Ladies' Winter County Cup Team; Sarah Copley; Joseph Newman-Billington; Luke Johnson; Jordan Reed-Thomas, Elena Bompieri & Orla Cooper.

The information contained in this document 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.



■ Bronte Murgett
and Molly Robinson

INTRODUCTION



Steve Jones
Chair, Yorkshire Tennis

Welcome to this Annual Review 2023 which is streamlined from previous years. We hope to still capture all the key things but make it easier for you to read. In my first full year as Chair of Yorkshire Tennis in the new set up as a limited company, my main thought is what a year! So much activity by so many people. It's rewarding and inspiring as a volunteer when I see our players, teams, coaches and clubs performing so well in this great county.

“What a year, with so many achievements by so many people!”

This annual review summarises many of our key achievements which I will let my colleagues communicate. However, I'd like to offer many congratulations and thanks to everyone who has contributed to these successes. All of this has only been made possible by you, the players, the coaches, the clubs, the officials and our committed volunteers in Yorkshire, with plenty of new faces and approaches.

Of course, the scope of what Yorkshire Tennis can achieve is limited largely by the income we receive for which we are very grateful. Partnership income and sponsorship levels have a direct impact on our activities and we continue to take a fresh look at how we raise these funds.

At Yorkshire Tennis we plan to meet the challenges and opportunities of 2024

energetically and head on. Consistent with our Board's instinct for transparency, we plan to build on the activities, successes and strategies of 2023. These plans are available on our website www.yorkshiretennis.org.uk.

Thanks to those who've already put their hand up as volunteers and are finding their feet within our organisation. The door remains widely open to those who have a passion to help out in this wonderful sport we all enjoy. I encourage you to take the time to read on and find out more detail on the significant and impactful activity happening in both tennis and padel across Yorkshire. You can also find out more on our website or social media sites and are welcome to email me anytime with your questions, comments or suggestions via chair@yorkshiretennis.org.uk



■ Finn Murgett

President's Address



**Geoff Newton OBE
President, Yorkshire
Tennis**

Congratulations to all who have made 2023 another tremendous year for Yorkshire Tennis. In this my last year as President, I'd like to thank all colleagues on the various Boards over the years and all other volunteers for their support. I can honestly say it's been a real privilege to serve the county I've spent so many years in and playing for.

There have been so many achievements during my years as President. The most significant has to be our success in winning the County Cup Race in 2022, coupled with both the men's and ladies' teams winning the Winter County Cup for the first time ever in 2023. Great credit must go to the players, coaches and all those involved, led by Karen Mitchell, our Head of Performance.

These unique achievements were celebrated at the start of the Ilkley Trophy where over 100 medals were presented.

Also, at the tennis awards, the Winter County Cup teams received the Yorkshire President's Award.

I've also been delighted to see The Ilkley Tournament go from strength to strength in no small part due to Rik Smith, Chair of Ilkley LTSC. It's a beacon for professional tennis and not just in Yorkshire. I hope it will continue to bring top class players to the county and inspire new generations of players. And, of course, it's so positive to see padel as a fast-growing sport in the county now too.

To recognise achievements, both on and off the court, we launched the Yorkshire Tennis Hall of Fame in 2023, masterminded by John

Crowther. Many past players, administrators and guests attended the celebration at Ilkley LTSC from far and wide. In this way, we are maintaining the heritage of Yorkshire tennis.

Sport changes lives and this is reflected at our annual Awards Evenings where the increasing range of awards and diversity of recipients shows how strong our sports are in Yorkshire.

While I'll no longer be President, I'll stay connected and close to Yorkshire Tennis and continue to support in any way I can. Finally, I wish Steve Jones, current Chair, and the team every success in guiding the county to even more success in future years. The county is in safe hands.



■ Boys 8&U County Cup Team



■ Girls 8&U County Cup Team



■ Geoff Newton with Karen Mitchell and Steve Jones



■ Geoff Newton with Max Hodkinson



■ Inaugural Yorkshire Hall of Fame, Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club



“
In my final year as
President, I'd like to thank
everyone involved for
their commitment.”

■ Ilkley Trophy



**Chris French, Chair
Club Engagement
Committee**

**Thanks to the following
volunteers who make up the
Club Engagement committee:
Pete Bridgewater, Katie
Draper, Andy Lucas, Jim
Mellor, Elizabeth Opie, Alison
Steel, Nat Wright.**

Yorkshire Tennis is committed to doing all we can to help clubs and their committees develop in a sustainable way and increase the number of people playing tennis. The Club Engagement team was set up

to support just this. Work is very much still in its infancy but Champions have been appointed to listen to what clubs need and share what Yorkshire Tennis has to offer.

The Champions' role has many different facets such as to increase participation in tennis as well as padel; be the liaison between Yorkshire Tennis and the LTA and the clubs so they can be informed of any news; to support clubs and advise them on things like development, safeguarding and coaching. If the answer cannot be immediately given, the Champions are in a position to signpost to someone with expert knowledge in that field.

We've split the county into seven geographical areas, each with its own Champion. The Champions, who are all volunteers, are heavily involved with ensuring clubs benefit from being Associate Members of Yorkshire Tennis as well as assisting clubs with their development and any support they require which

includes Advantage Yorkshire, an interest-free loan scheme. The Advantage Yorkshire scheme can loan £300,000 over three years to support clubs with projects to cover;

- Physical infrastructure
- Coaching and playing programmes
- Coach development
- LTA Youth through links to schools and other outreach projects, competitions, inclusion and diversity projects

Several clubs in the county have already submitted applications to Yorkshire Tennis for a number of different projects including lighting and court resurfacing. In the coming year there will be a series of forums throughout the county for clubs to attend. These will offer the chance to network over a tea or coffee and ask any questions of representatives from Yorkshire Tennis and the LTA. We hope to see you there and very much look forward to helping your club be even more successful.

“
We look forward to
helping your club be
even more successful.
”



Meet your Champions

(LtoR) Andy Lucas, Kirklees and Calderdale • Elizabeth Opie, York area • Katie Draper, Harrogate and Skipton • Pete Bridgewater, Hull and East Riding • Nat Wright, Yorkshire West • Jim Mellor, North Yorkshire East • Alison Steel, South Yorkshire



Nat Wright,
Chair, Communities
Engagement Committee

Thanks to the following volunteers who make up the Communities Engagement committee: Louise Assioun, Ross MacLeod, Joanne Middleton, Vignesh Murali, Caitlin Parker, Zsuzsi Puskas, Alice Robson, Zaf Shah.

Over the last year the Communities Engagement committee has been working hard in supporting the uptake of tennis in Yorkshire from an ever broader demographic. We have three core workstreams.

“ We’re working hard to support the uptake of tennis from an ever broader demographic. ”

First, we have implemented pilots across Yorkshire to support:

- Free tennis coaching for less advantaged primary school aged children in receipt of “pupil premium” status in a school in Leeds
- Initiatives to support women embarking on a career in tennis coaching in South Yorkshire
- Training of women PE teachers to support the uptake and retention of schoolgirls into tennis in Pocklington
- The start-up of RAC-KITS, an initiative to recycle tennis equipment
- A Yorkshire-wide project regarding educating the coaching workforce in areas of neurodiversity and disability with a Champion in Brentwood delivering tennis coaching to individuals with special educational needs, learning disabilities, autism, visual impairment or requiring a wheelchair

Our second workstream entails developing the Yorkshire Tennis Equality and Diversity

Strategy. Following an initial meeting with the national lead, work is now starting at pace to develop the strategy. We expect to have rich input from individuals across a wide variety of minority groups.

Finally, as a committee, we take seriously our responsibilities for raised personal awareness and growth so that we can champion inclusivity across the whole region. To this end, since the last edition of Yorkshire Tennis’ Tramlines newsletter, we have learned from talks from the following individuals:

Mark Bullock, a former national coach of wheelchair tennis who now provides coaching to schoolchildren with special educational needs

Chris Marshall who, whilst initially from Yorkshire, is London based and won the National Parks coach of the year award. Chris has coached 1,400 children from lower income families to engage in tennis by offering heavily supplemented group coaching places. Chris aspires to roll his model out in Yorkshire venues.



■ Weekly inclusive tennis session at Pocklington Tennis Club



**Karen Mitchell,
Chair, Performance
Committee**

**Thanks to the following
volunteers who make up the
Performance committee: Andy
Hutchinson, Sally Bickerton
Steve McLoughlin, Richard
Crabtree, Steve Holmes, Nicola
Mooney**

What a year 2023 has been on the court for all at Yorkshire Tennis. There have been many highlights starting in February with the 18&U girls being national runners-up, followed by the 8&Us winning their County Cup event. The 10&U boys became North Area Champions, with the 10&U girls, 11&U boys and 12&U boys all making the finals. In the Seniors, the 035 men were national runners-up; the 035 ladies won promotion to Group 1; the 055 men were national finalists; the 060 ladies were National Champions and the 075 men were promoted to Group 1.

The ladies' and men's Summer County Week teams saw the ladies promoted to Group 1

and the men losing by one match to be relegated to Group 2. We were all very proud of the ladies' and men's Winter County Cup teams who won Group 1 for the first time in our history together to be crowned National Champions in November in Sheffield. All in all, a fantastic set of results for Yorkshire.

I would like to thank captains, county trainers, players, parents, clubs and volunteers, alongside Steve Holmes, Sam Salt, Richard Crabtree, Rosie Nicholl, Helen Longstaff, Sally Bickerton and Andrew Hutchinson for their hard work and dedication. Overall, we came second in the County Cup Race, an excellent achievement.

We've also seen lots of players active in Junior ITF, British Tour and Challenger events as well as ATP tournaments and representing England and Great Britain. Congratulations to you all, we are so proud of everyone. This is my final report as Performance Chair and I would like to thank all who have supported Yorkshire Tennis and me over my time in the role. Your contribution has had a direct effect on the success we are enjoying in all the county teams. Thank you and all the very best for 2024.

**For more information on
county training at any age
group please contact:**
yorkshirecountytennis@hotmail.com

**“ All in all, a fantastic set
of results for Yorkshire.**



■ Girls 10&U County Cup Team

RESULTS

County Cup



■ Ladies' Winter County Cup Team



■ 12&U Boys County Cup Team



■ Men's 075s County Cup Team



■ Men's 055s County Cup Team



■ Ladies' 060s County Cup Team

RESULTS

County Cup



■ Men's Winter County Cup Team

Event	Captain	Team	Results	Outcome
Winter County Cup – Men 2023 Group 1	Steve McLoughlin	Luke Johnson, Johannus Monday, Finn Murgett, Sean Hodkin, Jordan Reed-Thomas, Joseph Newman-Billington, Scott Hillerby, Ying Hou, Vassili Psaltopoulos, Richard Crabtree	Essex, Won 8-1; Lancashire, Won 9-0; Kent, Won 6-0 Position, 1st	National Champions
Winter County Cup – Ladies 2023 Group 1	Richard Crabtree	Elena Bompieri, Bronte Murgett, Alice Brook, Molly Robinson, Lidia Burrows, Serena Nash, Sophie Woon, Sarah Copley, Orla Cooper	Hampshire & IOW, Won 7-2; Northumberland, Won 6-3; Surrey, Won 6-2 Position, 1st	National Champions
Summer County Cup – Men 2023 Group 1	Steve McLoughlin	Luke Johnson, Finn Murgett, Matthew Clegg, Jordan Reed-Thomas, Sean Hodkin, Matthis Ross, Joe Gill, Richard Crabtree, Adam Hillerby, Scott Hillerby	Hertfordshire, Lost 4-5; Surrey, Lost 1-8; Kent, Won 5-4; Suffolk, Won 8-1; East of Scotland, Lost 2-7 Position, 5th	Relegated to Group 2
Summer County Cup – Ladies 2023 Group 2	Elliot Chang	Rebecca Hill, Serena Nash, Sarah Copley, Elena Bompieri, Katie O'Brien, Alice Brook, Millie Skelton, Lidia Burrows, Eleanore Lake, Molly Robinson	Norfolk, Won 5-4; Middlesex, Lost 0-9; Avon, Won 5-4; Cheshire, Won 6-3; Kent, Won 6-3 Position, 2nd	Runners up, Promotion to Group 1



■ Ladies' Summer County Cup Team

RESULTS

County Cup

Event	Captain	Team	Results	Outcome
8&U North County Cup 2023	Paul Hull, Georgina Jackson	Yorkshire A, Boys: Hugo Asmussen, Hunter Henderson, Leo Hall, Isaac Ellis	Yorkshire: B, Won 4-0; C, Won 4-0; Durham & Cleveland A, Won 4-0; B, Won 4-0; Northumberland A, Won 4-0; B, Won 4-0	1st
		Yorkshire A, Girls: Amal Khan, Ala Kaliszewicz, Ella Grace Chan, Izabella Lewis	Yorkshire: B, Won 3-1; C, Won 4-0; Durham & Cleveland A, Won 3-1; B, Won 4-0; Northumberland A, Won 4-0; B, Won 4-0	1st
		Yorkshire B, Boys: Charlie Crabtree, Sebastian Pitcher, Monty Truss, Charlie Daniels	Yorkshire: A, Lost 0-4; C, Draw 2-2; Durham & Cleveland A, Won 4-0; B, Won 4-0; Northumberland A, Won 4-0; B, Won 4-0	2nd
		Yorkshire B, Girls: Georgia Vorberg, Aanya Bhamra, Elissa Morton, Antoinette Koprowska	Yorkshire: A, Lost 1-3; C, Won 4-0; Durham & Cleveland A, Won 3-1; B, Won 4-0; Northumberland A, Won 4-0; B, Won 4-0	2nd
		Yorkshire C, Boys: Ibraheem Aslam, Taj Aslam, Joseph Rafael, Ralph Parkes	Yorkshire: A, Lost 0-4; B, Draw 2-2; Durham & Cleveland A, Won 4-0; B, Won 4-0; Northumberland A, Won 4-0; B, Won 4-0	3rd
		Yorkshire C, Girls: Jasmeen Mattu, Sophie Robinson, Isla Mitchell, Isabella Wilkinson	Yorkshire: A, Lost 0-4; B, Lost 0-4; Durham & Cleveland A, Draw 2-2; B, Draw 2-2; Northumberland A, Lost 1-3; B, Won 4-0	5th
9&U Boys County Cup 2023	Sam Salt	Sammy Goldthorpe, George He, Joel Morton, Seb Brock	Qualifying: Isle of Man, Won 6-0; Cheshire, Won 5-1; Nottinghamshire, Won 5-1 Finals: Cambridgeshire, Won 3-3 (after shootout); West of Scotland, Won 4-2; Warwickshire, Lost 2-4; Northumberland, Won 6-0	North Area Finals: Runners-up
9&U Girls County Cup 2023	Paul Johnson	Isabella Egglestone, Amal Khan, Thea Hodkinson, Ala Kaliszewicz, Hannah Lazenby	Qualifying: Cheshire, Lost 3-4; Nottinghamshire, Won 5-1	
10&U Boys County Cup 2023	Jake Prime	Max Hodkinson, Piotr Janda, Seb Beetlestone, Harrison McHugh, Lucas Mitchell	Qualifying: Cumbria, Won 6-0; Northumberland, Won 6-0; Durham & Cleveland, Won 6-0 Finals: Cheshire, Won 6-0; Cambridgeshire, Won 4-2; Warwickshire, Won 5-1; East of Scotland, Won 5-1	Qualifying: Winners North Area Finals: Champions
10&U Girls County Cup 2023	Ellie Makin	Emmanuella Idemudia, Alessia Piani, Nayvie Simpson, Isabella Egglestone, Thea Hodkinson, Lottie Willett	Qualifying: Cheshire, Won 6-0; Herefordshire & Worcestershire, Won 4-2; Derbyshire, Won 5-1 Finals: Lancashire, Lost 1-5; Warwickshire, Lost 1-5; North of Scotland, Won 6-0; Nottinghamshire, Lost 3-3 (after shootout)	Qualifying: Winners North Area Finals: 4th
11&U Boys County Cup 2023	Ben Crichton	Maxim Sokol, Max Hodkinson, Sam Hawkins, Alex Crowther, Piotr Janda	Qualifying: Direct entry to Finals Finals: Middlesex, Won 4-2; Kent, Lost 3-3 (after shootout); Dorset, Won 5-0; Cambridgeshire, Won 4-2	National Finals: 3rd
11&U Girls County Cup 2023	Joseph Newman-Billington	Isabella Asmussen, Molly Dear, Emmanuella Idemudia, Sylvie Nichols, Tilly Sullivan	Qualifying: Middlesex, Lost 1-5; Warwickshire, Won 3-3 (after shootout); East of Scotland, Won 4-2	Qualifying: 2nd
12&U Boys County Cup 2023	Ben Crichton	Maxim Sokol, Max Hodkinson, Neo Hodkinson, Reuben Revell, Ben Winterbottom	Qualifying: Direct entry to Finals Finals: Essex, Lost 3-3 (after shootout); East of Scotland, Won 4-2; Surrey, Won 3-3 (after shootout); Kent, Won 4-1	National Finals: 5th

RESULTS

County Cup

■ Johannus Monday



Event	Captain	Team	Results	Outcome
12&U Girls County Cup 2023	Nicola Tweedy	Sabeedah Khan, Roberta Gaskell, Olushola Adenekan, Olivia Jackowska, Jameela Terzic	Qualifying: Hampshire & IOW, Won 5-1; Warwickshire, Won 6-0; Lancashire, Lost 1-5	Qualifying 2nd
14&U Boys County Cup 2023	Josh Gledden	Jan Janda, Isaac Sallu, Charlie Taylor, Harry Foster, Oliver Wilson	Qualifying: Warwickshire, Won 4-2; Cheshire, Lost 1-5; West of Scotland, Draw 2-2	Qualifying 3rd
14&U Girls County Cup 2023	Jackie Holden	Sevil Parviz, Bella Swanborough, Evie Parkin, Sabeedah Khan, Amelia Baranska	Qualifying: Lancashire, Lost 2-4; North of Scotland, Won 4-2; Cheshire, Draw 2-2	Qualifying 2nd
18&U Boys County Cup 2023 Group 2a	Elliot Chang	Scott Hillerby, Luke Hoyland, Louis Hull, Harry Abel, Joe Mazingham, Alex Tikhonov, Thomas Naylor, Max McGregor, Henry Redfern	North of Scotland, Lost 4-5; Essex, Won 8-1; Devon, Won 9-0	Position 2nd
18&U Girls County Cup 2023 Group 1	Calvin Betton	Daniela Piani, Sarah Copley, Molly Robinson, Millie Skelton, Alice Brook, Sophie Marshman, Sevil Parviz, Holly Huby	Cheshire, Won 8-1; Surrey, Lost 3-6; Middlesex, Won 5-2	National Runners-Up

RESULTS

County Cup



■ 11&U Boys County Cup Team



■ 11&U Girls County Cup Team



■ 9&U Boys County Cup Team



■ 12&U Girls County Cup Team



■ 14&U Girls County Cup Team



■ 9&U Girls County Cup Team



■ 14&U Boys County Cup Team



■ 18&U Boys County Cup Team

Yorkshire County Seniors

Event	Captain	Team	Results	Outcome
Men's 35&O County Cup 2023, Group 1	Ben Gudzelak	Peter Hall, Richard Crabtree, Ben Gudzelak, Michael Tolman	Kent, Won 3-2; Surrey, Lost 2-3; West of Scotland, Won 4-1	National Runners-up
Ladies 35&O County Cup 2023, Group 2b	Carina May	Carina May, Joanna Craven, Danielle Purdie, Nicola Mooney	Sussex, Won 3-2; Bedfordshire, Won 2-1; Durham & Cleveland, Won 3-0	Promotion to Group 1
Ladies 40&O County Cup 2023, Group 2b	Sarah Everest-Ford	Jill Le Pla, Helen Hirst, Natalie Gill, Nicky Brind, Helen Myles, Suzie Azoulay, Sarah Everest-Ford, Joanne Fitzpatrick, Louise Marshman, Jenny French, Suzie Ren, Karla Hernandez, Judith Langdon, Elena Waterhouse	Buckinghamshire, Lost 1-4; H'fordshire & W'shire, Won 4-1; Nottinghamshire, Lost 2-3; East of Scotland, Lost 0-5	
Men's 45&O County Cup 2023, Group 1a	Steve Shipley	Paul Ranson, Simon Frieze, Steve Shipley, James Parrish, Christopher Truss, John Dunseath, Martin Calvert, Dave Kitchen, Andrew Hutchinson, Richard Abel, David Meyerowitz	Staffordshire, Won 4-1; Leicestershire, Lost 0-5; Durham & Cleveland, Won 5-0; Cheshire, Won 3-2; Cambridgeshire, Won 4-1	
Men's 50&O County Cup 2023, Group 2b	Dave Mangham	Dave Mangham, Adam Jameel, Gary Bridgeman, Czes Wegrzynski, Alistair Budd	Durham & Cleveland, Lost 2-3; Lancashire, Lost 1-4	
Ladies 50&O County Cup 2023, Group 1a	Becky Lee	Becky Lee, Gillian Kilner, Karen Mitchell, Kath Davies, Wendy Stirke, Joanne Wright, Catherine Baker, Louise Lister, Sarah Swift	H'fordshire & W'shire, Won 5-0; Cambridgeshire, Lost 2-3; Warwickshire, Won 5-0; Nottinghamshire, Lost 2-3; Lancashire, Won 5-0	
Men's 55&O County Cup 2023, Group 1a	Andrew Hutchinson	Paul Ranson, Mark Coombes, Richard Hutchinson, Andrew Hutchinson, Cord Spilker, Paul Layfield	Group: Lancashire, Won 5-0; Leicestershire, Won 4-1; Staffordshire, Won 5-0; Cambridgeshire, Won 5-0; Playoff Final: Surrey, Lost 2-3	Group: Winners Playoff Final: Runners-up
Ladies 55&O County Cup 2023, Group 2b	Clare Johnson	Clare Johnson, Katherine Elgar, Judith Abel, Helen Cowrick, Mel Dix, Sarah Swift, Gayle Audley	Durham & Cleveland, Won 3-2; Lincolnshire, Lost 2-3; Nottinghamshire, Won 4-1; Warwickshire, Won 3-2	
Men's 60&O County Cup 2023, Group 2b	Paul Layfield	Paul Layfield, Ian Blakeman, Gareth Hutchinson, Peter Vann, Paul Blackett, Simon Oldham	Cambridgeshire, Won 4-1; Suffolk, Lost 2-3; Staffordshire, Won 3-2; Bedfordshire, Won 4-1	
Ladies 60&O County Cup 2023, Group 1a	Belinda Turnbull	Gillian Brook, Belinda Turnbull, Cathryn Johnson, Wendy Stirke, Sally Bickerton	Group: Lincolnshire, Won 5-0; Lancashire, Won 5-0; Norfolk, Won 3-2; Buckinghamshire, Won 5-0; Playoff Final: Hampshire & IOW – Won 3-0	Group: Winners Playoff Final: Champions
Men's 65&O County Cup 2023, Group 1a	Myles Collett	Peter Vann, Brian Barrowman, James Mellor, David Brown, Andrew Mears, Myles Collett	Lancashire, Won 5-0; Cheshire, Won 4-1; Hertfordshire, Won 3-2; Buckinghamshire, Lost 2-3;	
Ladies 65&O County Cup 2023, Group 2b	Janice Ashman	Susan Graney, Rosie Connell, Janice Ashman, Susan Brass, Christine Dalton	Shropshire, Lost 2-2 (on sets); Northumberland, Won 2-2 (on sets); Lincolnshire, Won 2-2 (on sets); H'fordshire & W'shire, Lost 2-2 (on 1st round count back)	
Men's 70&O County Cup 2023, Group 1b	Steve Batte	Steve Batte, Andrew Potter, Michael Adams, Alan Cockman, Mike Butterworth, Geoff Wright	Dorset, Lost 1-4; Nott'shire, Lost 1-4; Buckinghamshire, Won 3-2; Hampshire & IOW, Lost 1-4; Oxfordshire, Won 5-0 (W/O)	
Ladies 70&O County Cup 2023, Group 1a	Rosemary Carter	Audrey Reed, Susan Welch, Rosemary Carter, Pauline Knight	Warwickshire, Lost 0-4; Cheshire, Lost 3-1; Lancashire, Lost 3-1; Shropshire, Won 2-2 (on sets)	
Men's 75&O County Cup 2023, Group 2b	Wilf Jessop	Wilf Jessop, Gregory Pearson, John Andrews, Giles Hinchcliffe	Essex, Won 4-0; Hertfordshire, Won 3-1; Norfolk, Won 4-0	Promotion to Group 1



**Stephen Plant,
Competitions
Co-ordinator**

In my first year in this role we've seen quite a few changes in the competitions that Yorkshire Tennis have overseen and run in 2023. This year there were three main categories of events:

The Yorkshire County Championships 2023

A new committee helped to oversee this tournament, led by Christine Randall-Klee from the LTA. The committee did a fantastic job of putting on the 2023 event. There was also a new referee, Tom Lemon, expertly running the

championships on a daily basis which saw 249 entries over 37 events. The Seniors' event was run at Huddersfield by Becky Lee and saw an additional 56 entries over 18 events.

Congratulations to all the Yorkshire County Tennis Championships 2023 Winners

The Babolat Yorkshire Doubles League 2023

This league continues to be run by Trevor Stent (Chair) along with Heidi Wragg (League Secretary) and saw 15 men's and 18 ladies' teams competing across two divisions. This really is a great league to participate in and we welcome more clubs from all parts of Yorkshire doing so in 2024. I'm always open to feedback about what would encourage more clubs to enter.

Congratulations to the 2023 winning clubs and runners-up detailed in the table below.

The Youth and National Leagues, Summer 2023

These leagues saw a healthy 160 teams from 37 venues and

a total of 599 players taking part with 96% of the matches played. Georgina Jackson continues to do an excellent job running the Yorkshire National League and was, rightly, awarded National League Organiser of the Year. Yorkshire is very lucky to have Georgina as she does so much for our county and competitions.

We'd love to see even more tennis players across Yorkshire get involved in these events and competing in general. For further details or to get involved in helping competitions in Yorkshire, contact Steve Plant on steveplant10@hotmail.com. Additionally, we're here to help with advice and support for clubs or individuals wanting to get involved in running competitions.

Event	Winner	Runner up
Men's Division 1	David Lloyd Club, York Men's 1	York Tennis Club Men's 1
Men's Division 2	Ecclesall Lawn Tennis Club	Rotherham Moorgate Lawn Tennis Club
Women's Division 1	Huddersfield Lawn Tennis Club A	Roundhay Tennis Club Women's 1
Women's Division 2	Wheatley Hills Tennis Club	Rastrick Tennis Club

Yorkshire Tennis Championships

2023 County Singles Champions

Men	Jordan Reed-Thomas	10&U Girls	Emmanuella Idemudia
Ladies	Molly Robinson	9&U Boys	Joel Morton
18&U Boys	Scott Hillerby	9&U Girls	Amal Khan
18&U Girls	Molly Robinson	8&U Boys	Leo Hall
16&U Boys	Theo Webster	8&U Girls	Ala Kaliszewicz
16&U Girls	Scarlett Smeltz	Men's Wheelchair	Lucas Town
14&U Boys	Toby Shaw	35&O Men	Matthew Parry
14&U Girls	Sabeegah Khan	35&O Ladies	Danielle Purdie
12&U Boys	Max Hodgkinson	40&O Men	Matthew Parry
12&U Girls	Roberta Gaskell	50&O Men	Steve Shipley
11&U Boys	Samuel Hawkins	55&O Men	Dave Mangham
11&U Girls	Emmanuella Idemudia	65&O Men	Brian Barrowman
10&U Boys	Seb Beetlestone		



“Whether you want to compete more or help set up competitions or run your own, get in touch.”

■ Jordan Reed-Thomas

Yorkshire Tennis Championships

2023 County Doubles Champions

Men	Tom Horsfall & Vassili Psaltopoulos
Ladies	Elena Bompieri & Molly Robinson
Mixed	Jordan Reed-Thomas & Elena Bompieri
18&U Boys	Samuel Earley & Scott Hillerby
18&U Girls	Bethany Pratt & Molly Robinson
18&U Mixed	Samuel Earley & Elizabeth Tate
16&U Boys	Thomas Nailor & Toby Shaw
16&U Girls	Ava Moss & Bethany Pratt
14&U Boys	Toby Shaw & Oliver Wilson
14&U Girls	Holly Hull & Isabella Swanborough
14&U Mixed	Toby Shaw & Bethany Pratt
12&U Boys	Max Hodkinson & Neo Hodkinson
12&U Girls	Isabella Asmussen & Sylvie Nichols
11&U Boys	Seb Beetlestone & Lucas Mitchell
11&U Girls	Emmanuella Idemudia & Victory Idemudia
10&U Boys	Seb Beetlestone & Lucas Mitchell
10&U Girls	Emmanuella Idemudia & Natalia Mcsherry
40&O Men	James Blackburn & Gregory Nicholson
40&O Ladies	Jill le Pla & Kathryn Place
50&O Men	Gary Bridgeman & Dave Mangham



■ Emmanuella Idemudia and Isabella Asmussen



■ Neo and Max Hodkinson



■ Molly Robinson



■ Lucas Town



**Peter Vann, Chair,
Padel Committee**

Thanks to the following volunteers who make up the Padel committee: Richard Bancroft, Simon Bickerton, Angela Wood, John Dunseath, Natalie Gill, Mark Hinchcliffe, Nicola Horn

Growth of padel has surpassed the 2023 expectation of 30 courts reported in last Tramlines. By the end of 2023, Yorkshire had 40 courts; public knowledge of padel is at a very high level and the audiences are not limited to racket sports communities; padel's addictive nature feeds what is already a large appetite, and one which has much more potential.

Yorkshire Padel committee identified three objectives in 2023:

- To significantly increase intermediate/beginner participation with the creation of the Yorkshire Padel Club League
- To hold the first LTA accredited Yorkshire County Closed Padel Championships

- To create a separate dedicated padel identity within Yorkshire Tennis

During 2023 Yorkshire started to develop what will become, in 2024, a firm foothold in the creation of a Northern Powerhouse for Padel.

We already have more players, more clubs, more courts, more coaches and more successes than any county association in the UK – and this is just the beginning.

Yorkshire Ladies won the open age group National County Championship hosted at Rocket Padel Bristol.

Our Men's team were narrowly beaten in an extremely close final on a championship tie-break in the same competition.

First and second in what was an inaugural national event is an incredible platform to build from during 2024.



■ Yorkshire Ladies' Padel Team

“We’re creating a Northern Powerhouse for padel in Yorkshire and this is just the beginning.”

”



**Angela Wood, Chair,
Coach Engagement &
Schools Competition
Committee**

**Thanks to the following
volunteers who make up the
Coach Engagement and
Schools Competition
committee: Sophie Cousins,
Jo Cunliffe, Paul Holtby, Paul
Johnson, Jill le Pla, Steve
McLoughlin, Alice Robson**

In 2023 the Coach Development Centre at Leeds Beckett University provided a full suite of courses to grow the number of coaches as well as providing continuous professional development for

the experienced coaches in the county. A real highlight was 60 coaches attending the LTA coach forum co-delivered by the LTA, our county and the Coach Development Centre bringing coaches together for on court workshops and off court networking. Alice Robson has grown and developed a female coaching network group organising sessions three to four times a year on topics wanted by the group. With over 30 members now this group goes from strength to strength.

We have a very healthy number of LTA qualified coaches in Yorkshire:

- 82 Level 2 coaches
- 116 Level 3 coaches
- 72 Level 4 coaches
- 15 Level 5 coaches

Padel coaching courses have also been launched in 2023 with the Padel Instructor (Level 2) and Intro to Padel Continuous Professional Development kicking off. If you

would like more information regarding coaching in Yorkshire, email: acrossley@yorkshiretennis.org.uk

Yorkshire Tennis continues to work with schools across the county. We have a network of schools' tennis competition league organisers who are the lead on the LTA Schools secondary schools competitions and have been looking at ways of improving entry levels across the county. If your school is interested in entering next summer go to: www.lta.org.uk/compete/junior/schools-competitions/ Every school is encouraged to join the LTA Schools programme and to take part in an online or in person continuous professional development course. This gives each school £250 towards coaching from a local coach or equipment from Zsig, a specialist supplier for mini-tennis and learners. To find out more, please visit: www.lta.org.uk/roles-and-venues/schools/

**“ It’s an exciting
time to be
a coach in
Yorkshire.
”**



■ Coaches Forum at Leeds Beckett University

Yorkshire Tennis Initiative



**Chris Day, Chair,
Initiative Committee**

**Thanks to the following
volunteers who make up the
Initiative committee: Steve
Jones, Geoff Newton, Bob
Lockwood, Jane Reed-Thomas,
Ann Rushworth, Adrian Waite.**

I am pleased to be able to chair
the Initiative committee at
Yorkshire Tennis and would like

to thank everyone involved in
helping build sustainable and
mutually beneficial
relationships with our
partners. We thank each and
every one of them for their
support which makes a real
difference.

- Babolat (Ball Sponsor)
- Age Partnership Ltd
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Marketing Ltd
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(Group) Ltd
- NIC Services Group Ltd
- Pure Retirement Ltd
- Springfield Healthcare Ltd

Benefits of becoming a Partner
We have some fantastic
Partners many of whom have

been with us over many years.
However, we're always on the
lookout for new ones too and
would welcome interest from
companies who want to be
associated with a strong brand
with strong values like
Yorkshire Tennis.

Any support you can give will
help us to achieve our goals
and so help the communities in
which we live. This may, on its
own, give you a huge sense of
pride and satisfaction while
helping you achieve your own
social and corporate
responsibility goals.

Additionally, you will benefit
from:

- publicity from being
associated with Yorkshire
Tennis and our positive
values
- access to tickets for major
tennis events



■ Matthew Brough and Emily Clarke being interviewed at Wimbledon

Yorkshire Tennis Initiative

- being able to use the Yorkshire Tennis brand
- thanks and recognition for your support via our county website and social media

How to become a Partner

If you would like further information or would like to discuss how to enter into a Partnership Agreement with Yorkshire Tennis, then email Chris Day via: marketing@yorkshiretennis.org.uk

We are happy to have one-to-one discussions about developing a mutually beneficial relationship. Additionally, we have some limited corporate sponsorship opportunities available.



■ 10&U Boys County Cup Team

Finally, I would like to also thank our patrons who continue to provide donations to Yorkshire Tennis and to whom we are exceptionally grateful. For a full list of Life

Patrons or if you would like to know more about how to become one please visit our website: www.yorkshiretennis.org.uk/patrons/

As a Yorkshire Tennis partner your backing will be used to support:

- Grassroots tennis in Yorkshire
- County training so that our players can compete effectively
- County teams competing in County Cup competitions
- The organisation of and prizes for the Yorkshire County Championships
- The county's elite players who need support to progress
- Coaching and equipment costs for county programmes
- Inclusion and diversity initiatives aimed at opening up the game



■ Luke Johnson

ACHIEVEMENTS

2023 LTA Tennis Awards

■ LTA Club of the Year, Rawdon Golf & Lawn Tennis Club



Award	Yorkshire Winners	Yorkshire Highly Commended	North Region Winners
Club of the Year	Rawdon Golf & Lawn Tennis Club	Great Ayton Tennis Club	Rawdon Golf & Lawn Tennis Club
Development Coach of the Year	Ellie Makin	Patrick Di Maio	
Performance Coach of the Year	Joshua Gledden	Calvin Betton	Joshua Gledden
Connecting Communities Award	Doncaster Community Tennis Programme		Doncaster Community Tennis Programme
Competition of the Year Award	Sheffield & District Senior Tournament		
Tennis For All (Inclusion) Award	South Yorkshire Visually Impaired Tennis Club		
School of the Year	Ashville College	Bradford Grammar & St Peter's, York	Ashville College
University of the Year	Leeds Beckett University		Leeds Beckett University
Official of the Year	Tom Plowman		
Volunteer of the Year	Janiece Wallace		



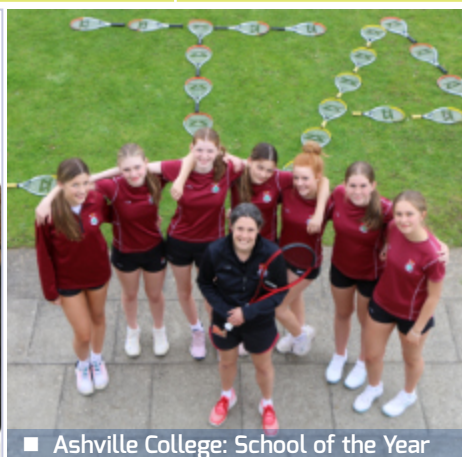
■ Doncaster: Connecting Communities



■ South Yorkshire VITC: Tennis For All



■ Development Coach of the Year: Ellie Makin



■ Ashville College: School of the Year

ACHIEVEMENTS

2023 Yorkshire Tennis Awards

Award	Trophy	Award winner
Ladies Winter County Cup	Headingley Trophy	Molly Robinson
Men's Winter County Cup	Howden Trophy	2023 Men's Winter County Cup Team
Best Performance Girls 18&U County Cup	Mallen Trophy	Millie Skelton
Best Performance Boys 18&U County Cup	YLTA Trophy	Alex Tikhonov
Ladies Summer County Cup	Harry Smedley Salver	Elena Bompieri
Men's Summer County Cup	Bernard Austin Trophy	Luke Johnson
Most Improved Player – Girls	YLTA Trophy	Molly Robinson
Most Improved Player - Boys	Brian Mitchell Trophy	Joseph Mazingham

2023 National Tennis Team Awards

Award	Team
Ladies 60&O County Cup National Champions	Belinda Turnbull (Captain), Gill Brook, Wendy Stirke, Cathryn Johnson, Sally Bickerton



2023 National Padel Team Awards

Award	Team
UK Padel Ladies County Champions	Natalie Gill (Captain), Sophie Cousins, Angela Wood, Elspeth Edwards, Sally Fisher

2023 International Tennis Awards

Award	Winner
Special Olympics World Games: Men's Singles Gold Medal Winner and Mixed Doubles Bronze Medal Winner	Matthew Brough
Special Olympics World Games: Mixed Doubles Bronze Medal Winner	Emily Clarke
World Deaf Tennis Championships: Mixed Doubles Silver Medal Winner	Phoebe Suthers



2023 Yorkshire Tennis Awards

Yorkshire Tennis President's Award

Team	Winners
2023 Men's Winter County Cup Team	Steve McLoughlin (Captain), Joseph Newman-Billington, Finn Murgett, Johannus Monday, Sean Hodkin, Jordan Reed-Thomas, Ying Hou, Scott Hillerby, Luke Johnson, Vassili Psaltopoulos, Richard Crabtree
2023 Ladies' Winter County Cup Team	Richard Crabtree (Captain), Karen Mitchell (Vice Captain), Nicola Mooney (Vice Captain), Sarah Copley, Bronte Murgett, Elena Bompieri, Alice Brook, Molly Robinson, Lidia Burrows, Serena Nash, Sofie Woon, Orla Cooper
Highly Commended	Ben Howarth, Brentwood Tennis Club, Mike Alsop and Maggie Alsop, Hessle Tennis Club, Craven Lawn Tennis Club Committee



■ Craven Lawn Tennis Club



■ Roberta Gaskell,
12&U Girls Singles
Champion



■ Molly Robinson



■ Ladies' Winter County Cup Team

2023 Yorkshire County Colours

Award	Winner
Men's County Colours	Johannus Monday, Scott Hillerby
Ladies' County Colours	Sarah Copley, Bronte Murgett, Elena Bompieri, Alice Brook, Molly Robinson, Lidia Burrows, Serena Nash, Sofie Woon, Orla Cooper
Ladies' Seniors County Colours	Danielle Purdie
Junior County Colours – Girls	Millie Skelton, Sophie Marshman

SAFEGUARDING



Rosie Nicholl & Helen Longstaff, County Safeguarding Officers

Tennis clubs are vital spaces where everyone's safety, especially that of children and vulnerable individuals, should be a top priority. To achieve this, clubs need to take proactive steps to maintain safeguarding standards.

First off, it's crucial for clubs to keep an updated list of all coaches and assistants involved in club activities. This means adding or removing

individuals promptly as needed throughout the year. By doing this, clubs ensure that only authorised personnel are part of activities involving children and vulnerable individuals, reducing potential risks.

Secondly, conducting thorough risk assessments is essential. Clubs and coaches should assess risks for coaching sessions and events using available templates and guidelines. Resources are readily available to help clubs conduct effective risk assessments for competitions involving children and young people, as well as safeguarding within venues. Prioritising risk management allows clubs to create safer environments and minimise potential hazards. Club templates can be found here: www.lta.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding/overview/

Event and competition information can be found here: www.lta.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding/competitions/children-and-young-people/

Lastly, planned upgrades to the LTA website will make safeguarding resources more accessible for clubs. Streamlining the process of finding relevant content will give clubs easier access to essential tools and information to strengthen their safeguarding procedures.

In conclusion, by following these key points, tennis clubs can create safer environments that prioritise the well-being of



■ Helen Longstaff

all participants. With ongoing education, proactive risk management, and accessible resources, clubs can confidently handle safeguarding matters and maintain the highest standards of care.

Helen and Rosie are the County Safeguarding Officers for Yorkshire Tennis. They can be contacted on: safeguarding@yorkshiretennis.org.uk

“ Everyone’s safety, especially that of children and vulnerable individuals, should be a top priority. ”



Bob Lockwood
Chair, Audit & Finance
Committee

**Thanks to the following
volunteers who make up the
Audit & Finance committee:
Chris Day, Bridget Hutchinson,
Brian Smith**

The LTA indicated a few years ago that, to improve governance, it would prefer county tennis organisations to become legal entities rather than associations. In accordance with this preference, Yorkshire Tennis Limited took over from Yorkshire Lawn Tennis Association the organisation and promotion of tennis and padel tennis in Yorkshire on 6th December 2022. The figures presented in the 2023 Accounts, therefore, cover the period from 6th December 2022 to 31st December 2023.

Our 2023 Accounts show that over this period we had income of approximately £262,000 and expenditure of approximately £266,000 resulting in a small deficit of around £4,000.

Approximately 34% of our income comes in the form of a grant from the LTA which they require us to spend on running Yorkshire Tennis Limited, encouraging participation in tennis from as broad a spectrum of participants as possible, arranging competitions and promoting performance among players in Yorkshire.

A further 50% of our income comes from Partners. Their support is greatly appreciated and makes possible a huge part of the work we do. We are very fortunate to have their support.

Around 5% of our income comes from entrance fees to competitions that we organise.

Finally, 11% of our income comes from contributions from players for the high-quality training that Yorkshire Tennis provides and subsidises for them.

Of our expenditure, around 9% is spent on running Yorkshire Tennis Limited, 23% on encouraging participation, 36% on arranging and financing competitions and 32% on providing the high-quality training necessary to ensure Yorkshire tennis is and remains one of the top tennis counties in the country.

Our balance sheet remains strong. We have £178,000 of interest-free loans to clubs to help them develop and improve their facilities. We have also made a large sum available to finance further loans and are encouraging Yorkshire tennis

and padel clubs to apply for loans. We have £421,000 in cash reserves, sufficient to support our activities and finance the new loans we are offering, and £128,000 of net liabilities.

We are currently budgeting for a small deficit in 2024 in our desire to fully promote tennis and padel tennis in Yorkshire. Such a deficit is well covered by our reserves. Please follow the link to view our 2023 budget:

[YTL-Accounts-for-Website-2024.pdf](#)
(yorkshiretennis.org.uk)

“
**Our balance
sheet remains
strong.**”

Board of Directors in 2023

Chair	Steve Jones
Vice Chair	Chris Day
Finance Director	Bob Lockwood
Board Member	Angela Wood
Board Member	Karen Mitchell
Board Member	Adrian Waite

Board Attendees

Geoff Newton OBE
Chris French
Stephen Plant
Jane Reed-Thomas
Zaf Shah
Peter Vann
Nat Wright

Yorkshire Tennis is most grateful for the support of our Presidents and Vice-Presidents. Please follow the links here for a list of their names:

[Yorkshire-Tennis-Presidents.pdf \(yorkshiretennis.org.uk\)](#)

[Vice-Presidents-of-Yorkshire-Tennis-as-at-April-2024-1.pdf \(yorkshiretennis.org.uk\)](#)

APPENDIX

Winter County Cup 2023	Men	30
	Ladies	31
Summer County Cup 2023	Ladies	33
	Men	34
County Cup Reports 2023	8&U Boys & Girls	35
	9&U Girls	36
	9&U Boys	38
	10&U Girls	39
	10&U Boys	40
	11&U Girls	41
	11&U Boys	42
	12&U Girls	44
	12&U Boys	45
	14&U Girls	48
	14&U Boys	49
	18&U Girls	50
	18&U Boys	50
Yorkshire Men's County Seniors 2023	35&O	52
	45&O	52
	55&O	53
	60&O	53
	65&O	54
	70&O	54
	75&O	54
Yorkshire Ladies County Seniors 2023	35&O	55
	40&O	55
	50&O	56
	55&O	56
	60&O	57
	65&O	57
	70&O	58

Winter County Cup 2023



■ Above, L to R: Jordan Reed-Thomas, Finn Murgett, Sean Hodkin, Ying Hou, Vassili Psaltapoulos, Steve McLoughlin (captain), Johannes Monday, Scott Hillerby, Joe Newman-Billington, Luke Johnson

Men's Winter County Cup

Group & Competition venue:

Group 1, Graves Health & Sports Centre, Sheffield

Dates: 24-26 November 2023

Captain: **Steve McLoughlin**

Team members: Luke Johnson, Johannes Monday, Finn Murgett, Sean Hodkin, Jordan Reed-Thomas, Joseph Newman-Billington, Scott Hillerby, Ying Hou, Vassili Psaltapoulos, Richard Crabtree

Day 1 vs Essex

Tough start against last year's champions, with great resilience shown throughout the day, when things got tight the team responded so well and ran out 8-1 winners.

Day 2 vs Lancs

Very good day, at the end of this day we ran out 9-0 winners and everyone had played which was excellent

again with a couple of three set wins, so all the tough challenges the team came through.

Day 3 vs Kent

This was to clinch the title and was actually tricky in moments but after going into a 6-0 lead the men's event was concluded.

There were many exceptional performances and a fantastic team spirit. The players represented the county very well indeed and were a pleasure to captain. They were the best team both when playing and when supporting. Players travelled from distance to represent the county which bodes well for the county for the future. Also worth noting so many players are wanting to represent the county which is a great thing! Finally, to win Group 1 is rare and this is only the third time Yorkshire Men have achieved



this fantastic feat – well done team and thank you for all the support over the three days.

Results

Essex: Won 8-1

Lancashire: Won 9-0

Kent: Won 6-0



Ladies' Winter County Cup

Group & Competition venue:
Group 1, Graves Health & Sports Centre, Sheffield
Dates: 24-26 November 2023
Captain: Richard Crabtree
Vice-captains: Karen Mitchell, Nicola Mooney

Team members: Elena Bompieri, Bronte Murgett, Alice Brook, Molly Robinson, Lidia Burrows, Serena Nash, Sofie Woon, Sarah Copley, Orla Cooper

There was a great team spirit amongst the squad from the start. There was a nice mix of experience and youth in the squad with many of the players having represented the team in the successful group two promotion campaign in the summer.

Day 1 saw Yorkshire take on Hampshire. The expectation amongst the squad was high but they knew in group one there is very little margin for error. Molly got the team off to a flying start with a comprehensive win. Elena was battling away and after an edgy start came back strong with a three set victory. Next up was Sarah and Lidia playing against strong opponents.

Sarah played very well at the crucial times coming out with a close two set victory. Lidia was embroiled in a long physical battle which lasted 3hrs 15 minutes. She managed to wear her opponent down and came back from 4-5 down in the third set to win 7-5 with some great Yorkshire support helping her to get over the line. Next was Bronte who was playing a very strong opponent in Esther Adeshina, it was a high quality encounter with

Esther just edging it 6-4 in the deciding set. Meanwhile Orla was battling hard in the number one position, she came back from a set down to seal an unassailable 5-1 lead. The ladies played some strong doubles to seal a 7-2 win. A great first day with all nine players contributing!

Day 2 saw us take on a good Northumberland team who had defeated Surrey on day one. Molly and Elena got the team off to a flying start with comprehensive singles wins. We knew there would be tough challenges ahead but it was great to have a 2-0 lead early on in the match. Sarah put up a good fight but was up against an inspired opponent who came through in two close sets. Lidia and Bronte played very solid matches to put Yorkshire 4-1 up. Orla played great tennis but unfortunately lost out to an experienced and

Winter County Cup 2023



■ Above. L to R: Karen Mitchell (vice-captain), Sofie Woon, Lidia Burrows, Sarah Copley, Alice Brook, Bronte Murgett, Serena Nash, Molly Robinson, Orla Cooper, Elena Bompieri, Richard Crabtree (captain)

high level opponent leaving us 4-2 up going into doubles. We were very aware of how strong Northumberland's doubles is and were ready to try and finish the match. After being a break down early on in the first set, Bronte and Molly came through with a 6-2, 6-4 victory to seal the match for Yorkshire. The match finished 6-3 to Yorkshire, one more win on the final day needed!

Day three left three teams including ourselves still able to win the title with our opponents Surrey being one of them. Molly and Sarah were ruthless and yet again showed our strength in depth with two comprehensive victories. Next up were Lidia and Bronte. After a great start Lidia was worn down by a resilient opponent to go down in three sets. Bronte put in a very solid performance against a top junior coming out with a 6-3, 6-3 win. Orla came back from 2-5 down in the first set to take the 7-5, 6-3 victory. Serena playing her first singles



of the weekend was beaten by a very strong Surrey number one. This left us with a 4-2 lead needing one doubles to clinch the title. Bronte and Molly playing at number three doubles played very well, clinching the match with a 6-1, 6-1 victory. This was closely followed by another win for Yorkshire with Orla and Elena taking a 6-2, 6-0 win. Overall a 6-2 victory! It was a pleasure to captain this team and a big thanks to

assistant captains Karen Mitchell and Nicola Mooney for all their great support. The whole team were excellent both on and off the court and a credit to Yorkshire tennis. A thoroughly enjoyable weekend especially with the men coming out as champions making it a Yorkshire double.

Results

Hampshire & IOW: Won 7-2

Northumberland: Won 6-3

Surrey: Won 6-2

Ladies' Summer County Cup

Group & Competition venue:
Group 2, Nottingham Tennis Centre

Dates: 24-28 July

Captain: Elliot Chang

Vice-captains: Karen Mitchell,
Nicola Mooney

Team members: Rebecca Hill,
Serena Nash, Sarah Copley,
Elena Bompieri, Katie O'Brien,
Alice Brook, Millie Skelton,
Lidia Burrows, Eleanore Lake,
Molly Robinson

The girls and captains were very much looking forward to a great week in Nottingham and taking the first opportunity to bounce back from the disappointment of relegation last year and gain promotion back to Group 1 in Eastbourne. With myself as captain for the first time and a few new younger faces making their debuts in the team it was key for the team to establish a good bond and what our best pairs would be as early as possible.

Getting off to a good start is always crucial so it was good to see the girls show great energy and fight right from the start. Having Katie O'Brien in the team for day one was a massive boost and partnering with Millie Skelton managed to get two crucial rubbers for the team, saving multiple match points and producing some great tennis in the big moments.



■ L to R: Eleanore Lake, Molly Robinson, Sarah Copley, Millie Skelton, Serena Nash, Elena Bompieri, Rebecca Hill, Lidia Burrows, Alice Brook, Elliot Chang (captain)

Elena Bompieri and Sarah Copley followed in a similar vein again securing two rubbers. Norfolk's number one pair had won 15/15 the previous year so was always going to be a tough ask and they duly took three rubbers. Serena Nash and Rebecca Hill produced a fantastic performance in the key rubber to win 10-4 in the match tie break and put us 4-2 up going into the last round. The match was clinched by Millie & Katie delivering the start we wanted.

Day two saw an extremely tough task taking on Middlesex, a team made up of full-time professionals and Junior Grand Slam level players. The girls fought valiantly and forced two match tie breaks, but on a rain interrupted day that went on past 8pm we unfortunately succumbed to a 9-0 loss. The important thing now was that the team responded to the disappointment of Tuesday in the right way.

We still had a great chance of promotion behind Middlesex

and faced Avon on the Wednesday. Millie had been struggling with blisters and was unable to continue so Lidia Burrows came into the team.

After some mixing of the pairs, Alice Brook made her Women's County Cup debut in style, winning both of her matches alongside Elena whilst Lidia went one better, taking all three and contributing hugely towards a hard fought 5-4 team win.

The bodies were tired by Thursday, but we had set ourselves up well for promotion which was still in our hands if we could beat Cheshire & Kent. After a tough start Yorkshire were 2-1 down and needed a strong response from the girls. They stepped up and took all three rubbers in the middle round to put us 4-2 up going into the last round, a period of time that really crushed the belief of their opposition.

Yorkshire took the win 6-3 to put us within touching distance

Summer County Cup 2023

of securing promotion back to Group 1.

Our final test came against Kent and with Serena Nash not available, who had played all week, we were under no illusions it was going to be another tough encounter. Kent had a slim chance of survival so it was important to get on top of them early. Sarah Copley and Rebecca Hill narrowly came through a match tie break 10-7 to put us 2-1 up after round one.

In round two it was Millie and Lidia's turn to come through a close encounter again getting us over the line 10-5 and leaving us within one rubber of promotion. This was secured at the first time of asking by Lidia and Millie rounding off a fantastic week of tennis.

A rain interrupted county week with no play on the grass as it might have been but nonetheless the quality of play and level of commitment to the cause from all the players was extremely high.

Results

Norfolk: Won 5-4

Middlesex: Lost 0-9

Avon: Won 5-4

Cheshire: Won 6-3

Kent: Won 6-3

Men's Summer County Cup

Group & Competition venue:

Group1, Eastbourne

Dates: 24-28 July

Captain: Steve McLoughlin

Vice-captain: Joe Gill

Team members: Luke Johnson, Finn Murgett, Matthew Clegg, Jordan Reed-Thomas, Matthis Ross, Sean Hodkin, Adam Hiilerby, Scott Hillerby, Richard Crabtree, Joe Gill

Well, a tough week, constant rain and again a very tight week with fine margins ultimately being relegated by a rubber. The irony was we were third in the league at 1pm on Friday then fifth at 6pm. There are positives from the week. A younger team with some new players and lots of players pushing themselves forward to play and represent the county. The team gave everything and were a credit to themselves and Yorkshire, at this level it's just down to fine margins and we came out on the wrong side of it unfortunately.

Results

Hertfordshire: Lost 4-5

Surrey: Lost 1-8

Kent: Won 5-4

Suffolk: Won 8-1

East of Scotland: Lost 2-7

County Cup 2023



8&U Boys & Girls

Competition venue:
Thongsbridge Tennis Club
Date: 22 April

Team Captain: Paul Hull,
Georgina Jackson

Thongsbridge Tennis Club played host to this year's 8&U County Cup competition and if this event is anything to go by then the future of Yorkshire tennis is most certainly in good hands.

Players came together from three northern counties – Yorkshire, Durham and

Cleveland and Northumberland and as with any county event, the excitement in all those selected to participate was clear to see, especially as for most this was the first introduction to this type of competition.

With three boys and three girls teams representing Yorkshire (24 children in total) it was always going to be interesting to see how our strength in depth compared to the other participating counties – our players certainly did not disappoint.

Right from the start a stand out feature of the Yorkshire teams was the camaraderie on display amongst players with

high fives and positive energy in abundance. Having worked on this in county training sessions it was all the more satisfying to see players so young putting it into practice and help provide a competitive edge against our opponents for the day.

In terms of the results, Yorkshire were simply too strong. In the boys event, the A, B & C teams took the top three placings with all members of the Yorkshire A team remaining individually unbeaten for the entire competition. Likewise in the Girls competition the Yorkshire A team reigned supreme again winning all matches and only losing two individual rubbers

County Cup 2023



all day – a superb effort. The girls B team followed suit by taking second place and the C team finishing a well deserved fifth place.

As already mentioned, from a coaches point of view, watching the players put their individual skills, techniques and tactics, into practice on the match court (including some that were honed in county training sessions) was extremely rewarding and made for a great day of competitive action.

I have no doubt that the day itself would not have been such a success without the continued support shown from several others. I would

therefore like to thank the families of all the players who have supported training sessions held throughout this year and given up their time to bring their child to this event at Thongsbridge. Every Yorkshire player was a credit to their county, coaches and family and they deserve to be really proud of their efforts.

A final thank you goes to all the scorers and fellow team captain and referee on the day, Georgina Jackson who made the event run so smoothly.

It was a real privilege to captain this group of players and I look forward to seeing how each and every player's tennis journey unfolds in the

future. Hopefully I will be seeing them represent Yorkshire for many more years to come.

9&U Girls

Competition venue:
John Charles, Leeds
Date: 26 March

Captain: Paul Johnson

Vice-captain: Alice Robson

Team members: Isabella Egglestone, Thea Hodkinson, Amal Khan, Ala Kaliszewicz, Hannah Lazenby

We had a great day at the County Cup qualifying. The girls were fantastic and fought hard in all situations throughout the day. It was nice to give a few of them their first County Cup experience and great to see them give such a great account of themselves.

The start of the day was scrambled with outdoor courts being booked for the event, but they were not suitable for matchplay. Thanks to Nicola Tweedy for moving her County Training session outside so that we could move inside for the matches. There was some confusion over Orange lines which also caused a slightly late start to the day, but it was good to be able to play inside particularly with other counties travelling from further afield than ourselves.

The day started off with singles first against both

County Cup 2023



■ Above, L to R: Paul Johnson (C), Hannah Lazenby, Isabella Egglestone, Amal Khan, Thea Hodkinson, Ala Kaliszewicz, Alice Robson (VC)

counties. We started against Cheshire and immediately knew that it would be a tough encounter. With Ala going down 4-2 in a tough match with some long drawn-out points and Isabella losing her set 4-1, not quite being able to finish off the points. Both of the other girls were fighters and managed to get a lot of balls back in court and put the pressure on us. Thea then managed to get Yorkshire's first point on the board with a 4-1 win and a solid performance against a good opponent. The hopes of going into doubles level then rested on Amal, who came out on top winning 4-2. After a nervy start she managed to hit more aggressively into the spaces as the set went on and showed her quality under pressure.

We then went into doubles, Isabella and Amal playing at number one pair and Thea and Ala playing at number two. Thea and Ala narrowly lost out 4-2 in a close set dominated by breaks of serve. Out of the five

sudden death deuces they only won one of them, which could have produced a very different outcome if this had gone the other way. However, hats off for the way that Cheshire played under pressure. Isabella and Amal won their set 4-3(8) in an up and down affair to take the overall match into a shootout. They saved multiple match points and came out on top, some great grit and showed determination under pressure.

Unfortunately, we then went on to lose the shootout 10-5. After a poor start going down 4-1 we drew level and then Cheshire won a few points on the bounce to take it out of our reach, some very good concentration showed by them and a few loose shots at key times from our girls.

The singles against Nottinghamshire was more straightforward, with both Ala and Amal winning 4-0, some very confident performances from them both, playing with

lots of aggression and flair. Thea won a tight match 4-2, managing to win more of the important points than her opponent, and Isabella going down in a very close match 4-3(5). She fought well and only just lost out the tiebreak. Despite the loss she played better in her second match compared to her first and attacked the weakness of her opponent very well.

Going into the doubles we changed up the doubles pairs slightly, with Isabella and Amal staying at number one and Thea and Hannah playing at number two. Both matches were very straight forward and great concentration showed by all the girls.

Despite the disappointment of not quite qualifying for the finals we were pleased by the constant application by all the girls. They kept their cool under pressure and carried themselves very well. Going forwards things to consider are developing tactical awareness: in doubles, when to use the 'both back' tactic and when to go one up one back, and in singles, to play more to the weakness of the opponents.

We look forward to coming back next year to go again and try to qualify for the finals with some fresh faces.

Results

Cheshire: Lost 3-4

Nottinghamshire: Won 5-1

9&U Boys

Competition venue:
Qualifying, John Charles, Leeds
Finals, Loughborough
Dates: 26 March & 23 April

Captain: Sam Salt
Vice-captain: Reuben
Newman-Billington
Team members: Seb Brock,
George He, Sammy Goldthorpe,
Joel Morton

After going undefeated in the qualifying playoffs, Yorkshire 9&U Boys came into the regional finals full of confidence. With Seb leading the team at number one fresh from his recent grade two victory, Yorkshire had great depth heading into the competition.

The day started early at 9am, where the team warmed up ready for a gruelling day of tennis. The format of the matches was a singular FAST4 set, making the matches short, pressurised and exciting.

The first opponent was Cambridgeshire. Sammy battled hard but narrowly missed out at number four, whilst George kept his focus to take the win at three. Joel played well but unfortunately took his only singles loss of the day, and Seb managed to problem solve to win his singles. Seb's match point lasted around 100 shots, with Seb eventually dropping the ball short and passing his opponent to level the tie at 2-2



■ Above, L to R: Reuben Newman-Billington (VC), Seb Brock, George He, Joel Morton, Sammy Goldthorpe, Sam Salt (C)

leading into doubles. Joel and Sammy played efficient, no-nonsense doubles to win the fixture and take Yorkshire one win from victory.

Unfortunately, Seb and George came up short against a strong pair. This saw the tie go to a dramatic shootout at 3-3. Seb and Sammy bravely stepped up and delivered a heroic 10-6 win, including two aces and a missile return down the line from Sammy to seal a huge win.

Next, Yorkshire went up against Warwickshire, perhaps the strongest team in the competition. Sammy started proceedings, giving everything but narrowly missing out. George then played easily one of the longest FAST4 sets of all time, fighting exceptionally hard and playing very well. Tennis is a tough sport, and unfortunately for George it was not to be. Joel then played a fantastic match, making very few unforced errors and playing positive, ruthless tennis

to keep Yorkshire alive in the tie. Seb played against a tricky opponent and lost in a high-quality contest. In the doubles, Sammy and Joel played a team that were simply too good, whilst Seb and George played brilliantly to take out Warwick's first pair. Overall, it was a hard fought 4-2 loss.

Yorkshire regrouped terrifically to face off against a strong West of Scotland side. Sammy, George and Joel all played consistent and aggressive tennis to take care of business in their singles. Seb played very well but took a difficult loss to a tricky opponent. In the doubles, both pairs found great form, but it was the Sheffield pairing of Seb and George who managed to take the win, whilst Joel and Sammy unfortunately fell short on this occasion. Overall, another impressive win for Yorkshire.

The final fixture of the day saw Yorkshire take on Northumberland. Every member of the team was

County Cup 2023

focussed and determined as they won every single match in this final fixture of the day. It was a fitting end to a performance by the boys that they should be proud of.

After a total of 24 matches played, consisting of 16 singles and 8 doubles, Yorkshire finished in second place in the Northern regional finals. Losing only one match out of four, Sammy, George, Joel and Seb did their county proud. Encouraged by supportive parents and team captains Sam and Reuben, it was a great day for Yorkshire Tennis and we look forward to coming back even stronger next year!

Results

Qualifying

Isle of Man: Won 6-0

Cheshire: Won 5-1

Nottinghamshire: Won 5-1

Finals

**Cambridgeshire: Won 3-3
(after shoot-out)**

West of Scotland: Won 4-2

Warwickshire: Lost 2-4

Northumberland: Won 6-0

10&U Girls

Competition venue:

Qualifying, Malvern

Finals, Wrexham

Dates: 19/20 May & 10/11 June

Captain: Ellie Makin

Vice-captain: Jack Pullan

Team members: Emmanuella Idemudia, Alessia Piani, Nayvie Simpson, Isabella Egglestone, Thea Hodkinson, Lottie Willett

Qualifying was a very convincing weekend for the 10&U team this year. First match of the weekend for Yorkshire was against Derbyshire, with a strong 5-1 win, then to take on the next strongest team Herefordshire & Worcestershire with a comfortable 4-2 win. All the girls digging in and playing a very high standard on the first day especially against the home team. The girls stood strong and the results showed how hard they worked on a

very hot summer's day.

Day two playing Cheshire with a 6-0 win to finish off an outstanding performance from all five players.

Finals Wrexham

The 10&U Girls County Cup was held at Boston Tennis Centre, with the four other teams in Yorkshire's group being Lancashire, North of Scotland, Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire. The team consisted of Emmanuella, Alessia, Nayvie, Isabella and Lottie.

The girls faced Lancashire in their first match on Saturday. After playing some great tennis and very long matches unfortunately, overall in singles and doubles they lost 5-1 to a very solid team. All the girls showed fantastic attitudes throughout every match, both on and off the court supporting each other. Next round of matches on the Saturday was against Warwickshire who were a very strong team to take on. Each player was faced with tough



■ Pictured (L to R): Emmanuella Idemudia, Ellie Makin (C), Thea Hodkinson, Isabella Egglestone, Jack Pullan (VC), Nayvie Simpson, Alessia Piani

County Cup 2023

opponents but gave it a good go. They all had extremely positive attitudes and fought right till then end, but unfortunately losing out 1-5.

A highlight of the day was Lottie, who showed great focus and determination on court giving everything she had in the doubles with Isabella. Even though it was a tough match you wouldn't have known the score from the side line as they played the match point by point. Well done girls! Although the girls didn't manage to win the match, they all played some great tennis

and should be very proud of how they carried themselves throughout the day.

The final day saw the girls face North of Scotland taking a convincing win 6-0 getting the girls hyped up for the final push of the weekend. Last round of the day, Yorkshire against Nottinghamshire; tough matches ahead but all girls were ready for it. Our final match brought the score to 3-3 so a shootout was on the cards. Emmanuella and Isabella were selected to take on the challenge but just let it slip away with the final score a

3-4 defeat losing out on a medal position finishing fourth. Overall, a fantastic effort by everyone. Well done girls!

Results

Qualifying

Cheshire: Won 6-0

Herefordshire &

Worcestershire: Won 4-2

Derbyshire: Won 5-1

North Area Finals

Lancashire: Lost 1-5

Warwickshire: Lost 1-5

North of Scotland: Won 6-0

Nottinghamshire: Lost 3-3 (after shoot-out)

10&U Boys

Competition venue:
Qualifying, John Charles, Leeds
Finals, Loughborough
Dates: 10/11 June

Captain: Jake Prime
Vice-captain: Ben Crichton
Team members: Max
Hodkinson, Seb Beetlestone,
Piotr Janda, Harrison McHugh,
Lucas Mitchell

The Yorkshire 10&U Boys team showcased their outstanding talent and teamwork during the North Area Finals held at Wirral Tennis & Sports Centre. Despite facing tough weather conditions due to a June heatwave, the team displayed exceptional resilience and determination throughout the tournament, ultimately securing the title of North Area County Champions.



Qualifying

In the qualifying event held in Lytham St Annes, the Yorkshire 10&U Boys team demonstrated their dominance by comfortably winning all their matches against Durham and Cleveland, Northumberland, and Cumbria. This impressive

performance in the group stage set the stage for their success in the subsequent North Area Finals.

Finals

The North Area Finals consisted of a round-robin format, with Yorkshire

County Cup 2023

competing against Cambridge, Cheshire, East of Scotland, and Warwickshire. The Yorkshire 10&U Boys team exhibited remarkable team spirit and delivered outstanding performances, overcoming challenging opponents and adverse hot weather conditions.

Results:

Qualifying

Cumbria: Won 6-0

Durham & Cleveland: Won 6-0

Northumberland: Won 6-0

North Area Finals

Cheshire: Won 6-0

Cambridgeshire: Won 4-2

Warwickshire: Won 5-1

East of Scotland: Won 5-1

11&U Girls

Competition venue:
John Charles, Leeds
Dates: 17/18 June

Captain: Joseph

Newman-Billington

Vice-captain: Ellie Makin

Team members: Sylvie
Nicholls, Isabella Asmussen,
Molly Dear, Tilly Sullivan,
Emmanuella Idemudia

In a weekend filled with temperamental weather, tense match tiebreaks and some hard-fought points, Yorkshire's girls finished second place in their group of four teams in the Group 1b North play offs.

The first day they faced a very strong Middlesex team. The



■ Pictured,
(L to R):
Emmanuella
Idemudia, Joseph
Newman-Billington
(C), Tilly Sullivan,
Molly Dear, Isabella
Asmussen, Ellie
Makin (VC), Sylvie
Nichols

team were evidently nervy to start their County Cup but grew into the fixture with some excellent perseverance and resolve. Molly and Tilly took two hard-fought losses at three and four, then Isabella and Sylvie came in at one and two with some good momentum gained from the previous two girls' fighting spirit and raced into early 2-0 leads. In two battling performances, they both lost a match by fine margins, with Isabella's match going to a match tiebreak and Sylvie losing two tight sets.

In the doubles, Sylvie and Tilly took a tough loss to very strong Middlesex girls, but Molly and Isabella teamed up to take an important and deserved rubber with a straight sets win over the Middlesex second pair.

In the second fixture against Warwickshire, which occurred on the same day as the fixture against Middlesex, we raced into a 2-0 lead thanks to two emphatic wins from Molly and Emmanuella for the loss of only a couple games each.

Isabella and Sylvie then stepped in against two very strong singles players on the Warwickshire team and lost in two competitive matches, levelling the scores at 2-2.

For doubles, Tilly and Molly teamed up at 2 pair and took a resounding straight sets win, which left Emmanuella and Isabella to complete the win at 3-2 to Yorkshire. Despite a fantastic performance, they lost their match in a match tiebreak, which meant the fixture had to be decided by a shootout. For the second time in a day, Molly and Isabella teamed up in a nerve-racking tiebreak to ten on some slippery tarmac to finish the day. After giving the fans a minor scare by going 9-8 down from 8-5 up, the team pulled through to take the shootout win 11-9, with the winning shot being a brilliant low backhand passing shot from Isabella.

On Sunday, we faced East of Scotland with the potential to still win our group if results went our way in the other fixture, so the girls were fired up and keen to make a fast

County Cup 2023

start. Emmanuella and Molly began the day with two convincing straight sets wins to put us 2-0 up. Isabella then fought hard to a tough loss against an inspired opponent, but Sylvie secured a well-deserved singles win to put us 3-1 up after a fantastic hustling performance.

Unfortunately by this point it was no longer mathematically possible to win promotion to the national finals in Wrexham, but that did not stop the girls from producing some fantastic energy in the doubles to secure a second place finish. Molly made it four doubles wins out of four for her weekend with a straight sets win with Tilly, who played some excellent attacking tennis in this match. Isabella and Sylvie then fought hard but missed out by the finest margins in their doubles with a match tiebreak loss, but we were delighted to have secured the win by this point.

The girls put up an excellent fight throughout the weekend and thoroughly earned their second place finish. Had we faced Middlesex on the final day, after we had learned a lot with every match played, we may well have pushed them closer, but the girls did themselves proud and showed unwavering team spirit with their support for one another and dedication to the team.

Results

Middlesex: Lost 1-5

**Warwickshire: Won 3-3
(after shootout)**

East of Scotland: Won 4-2



■ L to R: Jake Prime (VC), Alex Crowther, Max Hodkinson, Maxim Sokol, Sam Hawkins, Piotr Janda, Ben Crichton (C)

11&U Boys

Competition venue:

Finals, Wrexham

Dates: 7-9 July

Captain: Ben Crichton

Vice-Captain: Jake Prime

**Team Members: Maxim Sokol,
Max Hodkinson, Sam Hawkins,
Alex Crowther, Piotr Janda**

Due to the outstanding results of last year's 11&U boys, the team were awarded direct entry to the finals in Wrexham and were drawn in a group with Kent, Middlesex and Dorset.

Yorkshire v Middlesex

In the singles the boys put in some dominant performances, winning five out of eight sets to love, putting them 3-1 up going into the doubles. Middlesex came out fighting in the first doubles and pushed Sam and Piotr all the way winning 10-8 in the third. Only needing one more rubber, Max and Maxim calmed the nerves with a mature performance winning 4-1 4-0.

Yorkshire v Dorset

With the storm clouds forecast by the afternoon, the team knew they needed to put in some quality performances to avoid having to wait around all day for indoor courts. They must have known there was a potential bowling trip in the works as we got off to an excellent start in the singles with Piotr showing his quality ball striking skills, winning 4-0, 4-1. Not to be out done, Sam, Max and Maxim all managed to win at least one set in their matches to love. Going into the doubles we were 4-0 ahead. Alex and Piotr were first up for doubles, adding another quality performance to their tally winning, 4-0 4-1.

Unfortunately, we were unable to complete the 6-0 sweep due to the heavy rainstorm rolling in. The courts were three inches deep in water and the tennis centre was leaking so the boys made an early exit to a well-earned bowling trip.

Yorkshire v Kent

Unexpectedly the team had drawn Kent, last year's finalists along with us in the qualifying

County Cup 2023

group. The team knew this was effectively the 2023 11&U county cup final in all but name. Kent's team contained four national level boys making them a formidable team. Alex was first up in singles against Luke. Alex set a great example to the team in terms of attitude and fighting spirit. Although unable to secure the win, Alex fought to the last point, remaining calm and collected. A performance to be proud of.

Next up was Sam against Tony. Last year Sam suffered a heavy loss to Tony. However, this year he managed to push him right to the very end, again putting in a calm, collected and mature performance, playing to his strengths. Every rally was long, both boys knowing it was going to be a fight. Sam managed to win the first set, forcing mistakes with his lefty forehand. Tony came back in the second, staying strong and consistent. The tiebreak was hard fought but Tony managed to edge ahead, winning 10-5.

2-0 down going into the third singles, Max was up against Matyas, who came out attacking. However, Max stood strong like a brick wall and didn't allow a single ball to go past him. Max managed to frustrate his opponent into trying to play bigger and bigger, forcing more and more mistakes. In the end Max proved far too consistent and won 4-0 4-1.

Next up was Maxim against a very strong Darnay. Maxim had to fight hard for the first set with it going to a tiebreak. Once

in the tiebreak, Maxim played very smartly, moving his opponent around, bringing him to the net, passing him and lobbing him. In the second set Maxim managed to break his opponent's spirit, to get on top and take control of each game, frustrating his opponent into trying to over hit.

It was 2-2 going into the doubles and it looked like the match might be going to a shootout like last year's 10&U final. Kent's second pair proved too experienced and strong for ours, winning 4-0 4-1 which meant it was down to Max and Maxim to contest the match and they did so brilliantly, getting the score to 3-3, in what was some of the best 11&U doubles I've seen.

The net coverage was excellent from both teams and Maxim even managed to hit around the net post winner. The match was tied at one set all which meant a tiebreak. Max and Maxim got off to a lightning start going 4-0 up but Kent fought back to go 8-6 up. Looking down and out, the boys managed to find some inspiration and managed to put the tiebreak back to 11-9, which was met with a roar by the boys and crowd. This meant the match was going to a shootout, just like last year's 10&U final.

Maxim and Sam were selected. Both teams were neck and neck till 6-6. Once again Kent pulled ahead to go 9-6 but the boys managed to dig deep and pull it back to 9-9. Both teams went back and forth, having match points but the other

team saving them. At 14-13 to Kent, they managed to find an unbelievable, stretching drop volley and secure the win. The Yorkshire boys were heartbroken but can be proud of themselves, having left everything on the court.

Yorkshire v Cambridgeshire - In the 3rd/4th play off, the boys had to pick themselves up knowing that they were within touching distance of beating the eventual champions. Although a bit down from their loss to Kent, they regrouped and proved to be dominant on the singles court again, going 3-1 up into doubles. Piotr and Alex were first up to try and secure the win, but Cambridgeshire came out fighting and pulled off a tiebreak win, 10-7 in the third. Some excellent volleys from both Cambridgeshire boys at key points, proved to be the deciding factor. Max and Maxim were left with the task of finishing things off. A strong performance pulled us over the line, effective volleying and consistent hitting from back were the key factors.

Overall, even though the boys just came short of beating their fiercest rivals, they can all be proud of their performances, much improved from the previous year at 10&U finals in Bath. Their attitudes were excellent throughout and represented the county well.

Results

Middlesex: Won 4-2

Kent: Lost 3-3 (after shootout)

Dorset: Won 5-0

Cambridgeshire: Won 4-2

12&U Girls

Competition venue:

Graves, Sheffield

Dates: 16/17 September

Captain: Nic Tweedy

Vice-captain: Ryan Carrick

Team members: Sabeedah Khan, Olivia Jackowska, Roberta Gaskell, Olushola Adenekan, Jameela Terzic

Well done to all the players for their fantastic determination and unity over the weekend. I would also like to thank all the families of the players for their support leading up to and throughout the weekend. All five Yorkshire team members should be proud of their efforts.

The team started Saturday with strong singles performances from all five players against Warwickshire and Hampshire & IOW, going 4-0 up against both. The girls put on a clinical performance in both doubles matches against Warwickshire leading to an impressive 6-0 win. Our final matches of the day were both doubles vs. Hampshire and IOW.

It was great to see the level of intensity that the girls maintained with Roberta and Olivia winning their match 4-1, 4-0 and Sabeedah and Jameela losing a tight first set 4-3 (9) against tough opponents, resulting in a 5-1 win overall.

Sunday saw us take on Lancashire, who had also won both matches the day before. Despite a late finish and an



■ L to R: Ryan Carrick (VC), Sabeedah Khan, Olushola Adenekan, Roberta Gaskell, Olivia Jackowska, Jameela Terzic, Nic Tweedy (C)

early start, it was great to see the professionalism from all of the girls when preparing for the matches. After going 3-1 down after some tough singles matches, we needed to win both doubles to take us to a shoot-out for the chance of qualifying to the finals. The players showed great camaraderie and fire in the doubles, with both pairs taking the matches to a third set tie break after being a set down and unfortunately lost out 10-8 and 11-9 on tie break respectively.

Some key achievements we made over the weekend were:

- We had discussed at practice how we wished to be as a team over the weekend. The players led the discussion and we concluded on key words: inclusive, communication, respect, effort and fight. The players did themselves proud by showing great effort to achieve these throughout.

- Off court, players were excellent at supporting their teammates who were on court competing.
- Playing positive and aggressive doubles.
- Being responsive to feedback given by the captains within or in between matches.
- Fighting for each point and chasing down each ball.

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

Results

Warwickshire: Won 6-0

Hampshire & IOW: Won 5-1

Lancashire: Lost 1-5

County Cup 2023



■ L to R: Ed Appleyard (VC), Neo Hodkinson, Ben Winterbottom, Max Hodkinson, Maxim Sokol, Reuben Revell, Ben Crichton (C)

12&U Boys

Competition venue:

Finals, Nottingham

Dates: 29 Sept to 1 October

Captain: Ben Crichton

Vice-Captain: Ed Appleyard

Team members: Maxim Sokol, Max Hodkinson, Reuben Revell, Neo Hodkinson, Ben Winterbottom

The team gained direct acceptance to this year's final, meaning there was no qualifying to attend. Yorkshire were placed in a group with last year's winners Surrey, Essex and qualifiers East of Scotland

Yorkshire v Essex

Reuben was selected to play at

fourth seed to start things off. Reuben got off to an excellent start going 3-1 up but Essex's number four came back with an inspired performance, reducing his error count and stepping into the court more. Essex won the first rubber 4-3 4-1.

Neo was up next to bring things back to 1-1. Neo's match was a tense affair with Essex's player getting off to a good start but Neo managed to pull things back and send the match to a 10 point tie-break. A very vocal tiebreak, in which boys cheered themselves on, Neo managed to get over the line winning 10-8.

At second seed, Max was up against a heavy hitting player. He managed to play his usual game of absorbing pressure

and counter punching when the moment was right. Despite lots of power, Essex's player couldn't find a way through Max resulting in a 2-1 lead for Yorkshire.

Maxim came up against one of the highest ranked players in the UK, a player who hit a great ball with great consistency. Essex's number one seed's ability to move the ball around the court proved too much, with Maxim making a few too many errors. All square after the singles at two rubbers each.

Going into the doubles, Ben and Neo were nominated as second seeds with Max and Maxim at first seeds. Ben and Neo got off to a shaky start with the first set tiebreak, but their superior movement around

the court paid off taking the tiebreak and the second set. 3-2 lead for Yorkshire.

Max and Neo were up against a tough pair of Essex's number one and two. The match was tight and went the whole distance, all the way to 10-8 in the third to Essex. 3-3 scoreline resulting in a shootout to determine the victory.

After both playing super doubles, Ben and Maxim were nominated to play the shootout. The boys got off to a great start and dominated the net going 3-1 up. The boys continued to move well at the net, but Essex managed to get a few reaction volleys that just landed in their favour. The shift in momentum stunned Ben and Maxim who went a bit more passive and eventually Essex became the dominant net pair and won 10-6.

A tough start but all to play for.

Yorkshire v East of Scotland

The singles against Scotland got off to an interesting start with a very fiery match between Ben and Scotland's number four seed. Both players were very explosive in their play. Scotland's number four, was a very streaky player, doing some unbelievable things around the court followed by a string of errors. Eventually the Scottish player managed to put together some great shots on big points and killer deuces and managed to win the tie 0-1.

The Hodgkinson brothers played their singles next, both cruising

through their matches, proving very hard to break down and putting the team in a good position - 2-1

Maxim was the final singles match against a player that didn't look like he had a lot of weapons but his ability to retrieve and defend was a weapon, in itself. It took a lot of determination and patience, but Maxim eventually found a way through his defences and won the tie. 3-1 to Yorkshire.

Doubles pairs lined up as Max and Maxim and Ben and Neo. Ben and Neo once again managed to prove dominant around the net despite some good stuff from the Scotland team. They won their doubles 4-3 4-2, digging in and remaining strong on killer deuce points. In a shock result, Max and Maxim lost 4-0, 4-0 to East of Scotland's first pair who showed great skill around the net.

Yorkshire v Surrey

The boys knew that due to other results, if they beat Surrey they still had a chance of qualifying as group winners.

Ben was up first against Surrey's number four seed. Ben tried his very best and showed glimmers of breaking down the Surrey players' defences but his ability to absorb pressure and send the ball back deep every time, caused Ben to try and over hit resulting in errors. A top effort but 1-0 to Surrey.

Neo and Max were up again at the same time. Both brothers playing very similar players

who were very solid and moved the ball around the court well. The Hodgkinsons once again proved harder to break down, missing very few balls and counter attacking with some amazing shots. Cheering each other on, they managed to win both matches, putting Yorkshire 2-1 up.

Maxim once again came up against a top national level player. The level of physicality in this match between the two players was top drawer. Maxim's backhand was excellent, keeping him in points and providing him with lots of winners. After an excellent battle, the Surrey player managed to come out on top but Maxim could be very proud of himself.

In the doubles, the pairs were Ben and Maxim and Max and Neo. Ben and Maxim got off to a slow start in the second doubles, being out rallied by the Surrey pair. In the second set they managed to dominate the net more and really take it to their opponents. The set went all the way to a tiebreak. Even though they were making the right moves, the boys missed a few key volleys, giving Surrey the advantage. 3-2 to Surrey

Max and Neo, stepped on to court with excellent court presence and dominated their match from the first ball, although the powerful Surrey number one wasn't as confident around the net. The boys spotted this weakness and targeted him, putting him under too much pressure. 3-3 and a shootout again!

County Cup 2023

Maxim and Neo were selected for the shootout. The boys went into the shootout highly motivated and up for a battle. Surrey's number one and four seeds were put together. Once again recognising the Surrey number one's weakness around the net, the boys targeted him well and dominated the rallies and net play. A 10-7 win was met with huge applause from the crowd and big roars from the boys.

Unfortunately, due to the Scotland team fielding a weaker team against Essex and the boys having dropped a few rubbers against Scotland, the Yorkshire team missed out on first by two rubbers and missed out on second place by one rubber. After a valiant effort we ended up third in the group.

Although disappointed the boys still knew they had to secure fifth place. This wouldn't be easy as they were up against a strong Kent team.

Yorkshire v Kent

On a rainy morning, both teams who probably should have been competing for first and second found themselves competing for fifth and sixth. Going into the match, the Yorkshire team looked much more up for the tie than the Kent players. Reuben got things off to an excellent start winning his singles and putting us 1-0 up. A key rubber.

Both Hodkinsons, once again put in excellent performances against quality players. Their opponents were unable to break them down, Max

particularly playing superbly, missing virtually nothing and winning 4-1, 4-0 leaving Yorkshire leading 3-0.

Maxim's match had an unfortunate ending. After battling hard all weekend, he had to retire from his match, struggling to serve and hit through his forehand with an elbow injury. 3-1 Yorkshire.

As the rain set in further and indoor courts became harder to come by, I managed to convince the referee to give us a court to play our hopefully deciding doubles match. Max and Neo were placed at second seeds and managed to dispatch their opponents from down south with ease, winning 4-0 4-0 and finishing off the weekend's campaign.

Overall, not the result the boys wanted, falling short by the finest of margins. Winning three matches over the weekend and coming fifth was hard to take, but the boys remained positive all weekend and put their best effort in, representing the county well.

Results

Essex: Lost 3-3

(after shootout)

East of Scotland: Won 4-2

Surrey: Won 3-3

(after shootout)

Kent: Won 4-1

14&U Girls

Competition venue:
Bury, Greater Manchester
Dates: 29/30 April

Captain: Jackie Holden
Vice-Captain: Jake Fisher
Team members: Sevil Parviz, Bella Swanborough, Evie Parkin, Amelia Baranska, Sabeegah Khan

It was a weekend of learning for both the players and coaches. Jake and I enjoyed spending time with the girls both on and off the court. There was a lot to be proud of placing second overall behind Lancashire and a lot for us to work on as a group.

Saturday saw us face favourites Lancashire with strong players throughout their line-up. Both Evie and Amelia started a little tentatively, both dropping their opening sets. Amelia fought back to take the second set but lost the deciding set breaker, while Evie battled hard but lost in straight sets. Sevil and Bella then went on with Sevil getting a point on the board for Yorkshire with a confident and clinical display, while Bella came from a set down to even things up but then couldn't recover from a very slow start in the deciding set breaker.

Trailing 3-1 the match was then put on hold while we faced up against the East of Scotland in singles. Sabeegah came into the line-up and made a great debut in 14&U tennis, winning

■ L to R: Evie Parkin, Amelia Baranska, Sabeegah Khan, Sevil Parviz, Bella Swanborough



her match with good energy. Evie also responded well to the disappointment of her loss to Lancashire, executing the game plan very well and giving us a 2-0 lead. Bella came up against a strong opponent and lost in straight sets while Sevil put in another good performance coming through against a talented and unpredictable Scottish number one.

So with a 3-1 deficit against Lancashire and a 3-1 lead against East of Scotland we went on for doubles against Lancashire. Sevil and Evie got off to a great start and never looked back bringing the overall score to 3-2 but Amelia and Bella lost another nail-biting deciding set breaker to finish the match 4-2.

The same pairs then went on to complete the match against East of Scotland. Both rubbers went into deciding set breakers, with Sevil and Evie losing it 10-7 and Amelia and Bella winning theirs 10-7 giving us a 4-2 win.

At the end of day one, all four

teams had won one match and lost one match, so it was all to play for on Sunday.

Unfortunately, the weather wasn't kind on Sunday for our match against Cheshire with rain making the courts very slippery. All singles went on at the same time and Sevil and Evie got us two early points on the board. After a very strong start which saw Amelia win the first set 4-0, she lost the second set by the same score and then lost yet another deciding set breaker.

Meanwhile Bella battled hard to take her singles into a deciding set breaker but lost a hard-fought contest bringing the match score to 2-2. Sevil and Evie and Bella and Sabeegah took to the courts for doubles with both doubles going into deciding set breakers. Sevil and Evie had match points but were unable to close it out but Sabeegah and Bella won their doubles bringing the match level at 3-3. A doubles tiebreak shoot-out to decide the match had to be abandoned due to the weather

County Cup 2023

but the result wouldn't have changed the outcome of the group with Lancashire beating East of Scotland to secure a place in the finals.

Yorkshire finished second overall and if we had managed to win a few more of those tough final set breakers we could have booked a place in Nottingham in a few weeks' time.

As it was, it wasn't to be, but the team had a lot to be proud of and we all had an enjoyable weekend.

Results:

Lancashire: Lost 2-4

East of Scotland: Won 4-2

Cheshire: Draw 3-3

14&U Boys

Competition venue:
Lymm Tennis Club
Dates: 29/30 April

Captain: Joshua Gledden

Vice-Captain: Ed Appleyard

Team members: Jan Janda, Isaac Sallu, Oliver Wilson, Charlie Taylor, Harry Foster

The boys had a great weekend full of ups and downs (and some dodgy weather). Ed and I enjoyed the weekend with the boys both on and off the court, and after a hard fought three ties we ended up placing 3rd behind a strong Cheshire Team and West of Scotland. The boys should be proud of their efforts, and it is exciting to think that four of the five boys can still play next year so were all playing up.



■ L to R: Isaac Sallu, Harry Foster, Jan Janda, Charlie Taylor

Saturday saw us face Warwickshire and we got off to a rocky start with Oliver and Charlie both losing out at three and four to some good opponents after a slightly slow start which they couldn't quite recover from, but both battled hard. Next up was Isaac who started well and stayed on top throughout, this was followed by a dominant performance by Jan to get us back to 2-2.

The 2-2 draw was then put on hold while we faced favourites Cheshire, Harry came in at four and put in a brilliant performance to get us a 1-0 lead while Oliver played some fantastic stuff but unfortunately lost out in straight sets. Isaac then played at two vs an older opponent and despite his best efforts came up short. At one seed there was a close battle which Cheshire came out on top, although Jan could be very proud of his efforts.

Next up was the doubles against Warwickshire with Isaac and Oliver securing a convincing win at two before Jan and Harry then closed out

a 4-2 win for Yorkshire with a fantastic double's performance.

Then it was time to attempt a comeback against Cheshire from 1-3 and we tried to mix up the pairs with Jan and Isaac at one, Harry and Oliver at two.

Unfortunately, Cheshire had a similar plan, and we came out second best in both doubles which

meant a 1-5 defeat. We had lots to be proud of from the performances and with four players a year younger we felt positive about the efforts out on the court despite the loss.

Day two was a rainy day from the start for our tie with West of Scotland which started with a win for Harry on what looked like an ice rink at times, and a defeat for Charlie who struggled with what were difficult conditions for all. Isaac managed to fight to a three-set victory, while Jan struggled for rhythm and lost in straight sets. The weather was then too bad and with Cheshire already crowned champions the referee and captains made the call to leave the matches and all head home.

It was a great weekend of learning for all involved, and we will come back stronger next year and hopefully secure a spot at the finals!

Results

Warwickshire: Won 4-2

Cheshire: Lost 1-5

West of Scotland: Draw 2-2

18&U Girls

Competition venue: Bath
Dates: 3-5 March

Captain: Calvin Betton

Vice-Captain: Joanna Craven

Team members: Daniela Piani, Sarah Copley, Molly Robinson, Millie Skelton, Alice Brook, Sophie Marshman, Sevil Parviz, Holly Huby

Yorkshire vs Cheshire

We got the weekend off to a great start with all of Sophie, Alice, Millie, Molly, Sarah and Daniella winning their singles comfortably, for the loss of just one set in total. We took two out of the three doubles to win the tie 8-1 and set us up well for Saturday.

Yorkshire vs Surrey

Surrey started the tournament as heavy favourites and fielded perhaps the strongest team ever put out in this event. Sevil and Alice came up against very strong opponents, and despite a good effort, both ended in defeat. Strong performances from Molly and Millie, both winning in straight sets, put us back on level terms though at 2-2.

Daniella and Sarah though both came across opponents ranked inside the world's top 100 juniors and both lost despite a good effort. 2-4 with the doubles to play. Sophie and Millie teamed up at third pair and won a real humdinger 10-7 in the third set breaker, to make the tie 3-4.

Unfortunately, Surrey's

superior strength showed through and they won the other two doubles to win the tie 6-3.

Yorkshire vs Middlesex

So it was to be a 2nd place / relegation play off between us and our nemesis Middlesex, who have beaten us 5-4 in both of the previous two years. Sophie lost at five to give Middlesex a 1-0 lead.

Sevil put in a phenomenal performance though to beat a girl four years older than her, 6-4 in the third set in a match lasting three hours. 1-1. Molly lost at three to leave Middlesex with a 2-1 lead, and then Millie injured her shoulder in the first game of the match, so couldn't serve over arm. She put on a tactical master class though to still get the win and level the tie. Sarah came through a close match to give us a 3-2 lead and then Daniela won in straight sets to give us a 4-2 lead. Millie and Sophie then teamed up again to give us the win and secure second place overall.

Results

Cheshire: Won 8-1

Surrey: Lost 3-6

Middlesex: Won 5-2

18&U Boys

Competition venue:
Graves, Sheffield
Dates: 3-5 March

Captain: Elliot Chang

Vice-Captain: Paul Johnson

Team members: Scott Hillerby, Luke Hoyland, Louis Hull, Harry Abel, Joe Mazingham, Alex Tikhonov, Thomas Naylor, Max McGregor, Henry Redfern

It was another enjoyable weekend captaining a great group of young Yorkshire boys at this year's 18&U County Cup. As ever the level was high and we knew heading into it we would need to be at our best to be successful.

The first day saw us face a strong North of Scotland team with strong players high up the order and we were under no illusions a fast start was necessary to apply the pressure. We raced out to a 3-0 lead after solid performances from Alex, Joe and Harry. It was good to see the boys with prior experience of what it takes at county cup leading from the front.

Singles one, two and three were however a tough ask based on ranking and even though Louis had started well taking the first set in his match, he eventually succumbed to a 6-4 in the third loss after almost three hours. Soon after Scott suffered the same fate narrowly losing 7-6 in the third set after again leaving it all out there from the

County Cup 2023

■ L to R: Max McGregor, Thomas Naylor, Louis Hull, Joseph Mazingham, Harry Abel, Alex Tikhonov, Henry Redfern, Scott Hillerby, Luke Hoyland



team. This shifted the momentum back in North of Scotland's favour and it was 3-3 going into the doubles.

Alex and Joe took the win at doubles three before Luke & Scott lost to a very strong pair at doubles two. This meant the match went down to the last rubber with Harry and Thomas playing at doubles one. The boys won the first set with some confident movement at the net and great ball striking. North of Scotland's number one player however used all of his experience in leading the second set fight back which forced a deciding tie-break to decide the rubber and the match.

Yorkshire got off to a great start but in the end went down 10-6 after some very strong serving from their opponents.

Overall it was a tough loss for the team to take after three rubbers being decided in third sets and two of them needing deciding tie-breaks. The team had given everything they had and it was important that we recovered quickly in order to bounce back strong for the next two fixtures.

Going into Saturday against Essex we knew we needed to respond in the right way and give ourselves an outside chance of promotion by keeping the pressure on the Scots. Again we were strong lower down the order and got off to the perfect start with good wins from Joe and Alex and in particular Harry who managed to close out 6-4 in the third after over three hours on court. This time there was no let up as Louis and Luke quickly closed out the tie,

putting us 5-0 up, it was also important on the rubber count we finished Essex off with every rubber valuable. A clean sweep across all three doubles was very strong from the boys and was the perfect response to a narrow loss on Friday. Paul and I couldn't have asked for more and it was set up well to face Devon on Sunday who had lost both so far.

Going into Sunday we had half an eye on North of Scotland as any slip up from them and we could clinch promotion back to group one. They were in a tight contest early on with Essex whilst we continued our good form from the day before winning all six singles and putting the pressure on them as much as we could.

Unfortunately as the day played out North of Scotland came through strongly which secured their promotion. The Yorkshire boys however remained professional and finished off a dominant 9-0 win against Devon to give us two wins out of three. Special thanks go to Alex and Scott for their performances in the 18&U team over the past two to three years and we will be back stronger next year no doubt with some fresh faces going into battle.

Results

North of Scotland: Lost 4-5

Essex: Won 8-1

Devon: Won 9-0

Men's 35&O

County Cup, Group 1

Captain: Ben Gudzelak

Team members: Peter Hall, Richard Crabtree, Ben Gudzelak, Michael Tolman

The team suffered a last-minute blow when Martin Calvert had to withdraw and wasn't able to come to Eastbourne. This left us facing Kent, Surrey and West of Scotland with just 4 players: Richard Crabtree, Ben Gudzelak, Pete Hall and Mike Tolman, which on the face of it appeared to be a very daunting proposition.

The Friday was rained off apart from half a set of the first match meaning the format was reduced to fast 4 (2 sets to 4, tiebreak at 3-3 and sudden death deuce, with a match tiebreak if 1 set all).

First up was Kent, our old rivals, Pete lost, Rich won, me and Mike won 1 and lost 1, so it went down to a deciding doubles match with Rich and Pete pulling out a massive win with another close match-tiebreak.

Following that we played Surrey, and the first four matches went the same way as against Kent with Rich and Pete in the deciding doubles. At 6-3 up in the match tiebreak it was looking good, but Surrey played some really good points to narrowly beat us 10-8.

That emotional rollercoaster left us in an interesting position with a straight shoot out between us and West of Scotland, with the winner staying up and the loser getting relegated. Again, Pete lost, Rich won and me and Mike won our first doubles match meaning we were 2-1 up. The organisers decided to get the last 2 doubles matches on court at the same time as other courts were coming free. With tremendous support from our families we managed to dig deep and win both remaining doubles matches meaning we ended up runners-up, in fact we were just 2 points from winning the title had we sneaked the match tiebreak against Surrey.

Everyone played their part with special mentions to Rich Crabtree, who had played county week only a few weeks before but gave his time and every ounce of effort to win 3 fantastic singles matches against very good opponents and also pick up 2 doubles wins. This is his second year playing for the over 35s and I think we're still waiting for him to miss a shot! Also, Pete deserves a big mention for stepping in as reserve and stepping up in a big way with the win with Rich in the deciding doubles against Kent.

We will be giving it our all next year to try and win the title!

Results

Kent: Won 3-2

Surrey: Lost 2-3

West of Scotland: Won 4-1

Men's 45&O

County Cup, Group 1a

Captain: Steve Shipley

Team members: Paul Ranson, Simon Frieze, Steve Shipley, James Parrish, Christopher Truss, John Dunseath, Martin Calvert, Dave Kitchen, Andrew Hutchinson, Richard Abel, David Meyerowitz

With the two Yorkshire legends, Paul Ranson and Richard Hutchinson, moving up to the 55&O age group, retaining our national crown was always going to be a tall order. However, an influx of fresh talent helped the 45&Os have another successful season. Debutants Dave Kitchen, Simon Frieze, James Parrish, Chris Truss, John Dunseath and Richard Abel joined the ever-brilliant Martin Calvert, myself, Steve Shipley, plus Paul Ranson and Andy Hutchinson playing their one match 'down' from the 55&Os to produce wins against Staffordshire, Durham & Cleveland and Cheshire. With just the one loss, a win in our final match against Cambridgeshire would see us joint-top of the table on points with Cheshire, although, sadly we would fall just short of the final on rubber difference.

Results

Staffordshire: Won 4-1

Leicestershire: Lost 0-5

Durham & Cleveland: Won 5-0

Cheshire: Won 3-2

Cambridgeshire: Won 4-1

Men's County Seniors



■ L to R: Men's 55&O: Andy Hutchinson, Paul Ranson, Mark Coombes, Richard Hutchinson

Men's 55&O

County Cup, Group 1a

Captain: Andy Hutchinson

Team members: Paul Ranson, Mark Coombes, Richard Hutchinson, Andy Hutchinson, Cord Spilker, Paul Layfield, Roger Kuhlmann

After winning the national title for the last two years, and three of the team moving up an age group, Andy Hutchinson took over the captaincy from Paul Layfield. Thanks to Richard Hutchinson and Paul Ranson moving up from the successful 45s team into the team, and the introduction of Cord Spilker (a county team winner in the 45s age group several years ago) Roger Kuhlmann and Mark Coombes, we were hopeful of a successful season.

We started with a convincing 5-0 win against Lancashire. We then had the difficult challenge

of playing Leicestershire away (who were finalists last year) without our number one, Paul. After a superb performance by the whole team, a special mention to Cord, who took no prisoners with his world class backhand (the best one at 8-all in the final tie-break!) and won both his singles and doubles matches. The team won 4-1.

Two more 5-0 wins against Staffordshire and Cambridge have propelled us to the national finals in October. In the final we came across a very strong Surrey side and after losing two really close doubles matches, we lost 2-3 after a very tense day!

However, an awesome team effort throughout the season.

Results

Lancashire: Won 5-0

Leicestershire: Won 4-1

Staffordshire: Won 5-0

Cambridgeshire: Won 5-0

Playoff Final

Surrey: Lost 2-3

Men's 60&O

County Cup, Group 2a

Captain: Paul Layfield

Team members: Paul Layfield, Ian Blakeman, Gareth Hutchinson, Peter Vann, Paul Blackett, Simon Oldham

It was a disappointing start to the campaign in division 2, losing narrowly to Sussex in Felixstowe 2-3, mainly down to a serious injury during the match to Ian Blakeman. We then went on to win all three of our last matches, finishing in second place and hopefully getting promotion for next year. Special thanks to Paul Layfield with seven wins, Gareth Hutchinson with six wins and Paul Blackett with two wins. Simon Oldham and Peter Vann played a match each with wins in the tie too!

Results

Sussex: Lost 2-3

Cambridgeshire: Won 4-1

Staffordshire: Won 3-2

Bedfordshire: Won 4-1

Men's County Seniors

Men's 65&O

County Cup, Group 1a

Captain: Myles Collett

Team members: Peter Vann, Brian Barrowman, James Mellor, David Brown, Andrew Mears, Myles Collett

Yorkshire finished a creditable third in the League for 2023. This was despite our No1 player David Brown playing valiantly with injuries all season.

Having lost our first two matches to Warwickshire (champions) and Bucks both 2-3, we had to win our remaining three matches to stay up. A 3-2 win away at Herts ensured our league position after superb wins 4-1 against Cheshire and a resounding 5-0 win away at Lancashire, always satisfying!!

Peter Vann was outstanding in his management of his doubles partners throughout the year: Andy Mears, Brian Barrowman and Jim Mellor. Brian also performed strongly when called upon to play singles.

With a fit squad I expect we can push for the title in 2024.

Results

Warwickshire: Lost 2-3
Buckinghamshire: Lost 2-3
Hertfordshire: Won 3-2
Cheshire: Won 4-1
Lancashire: Won 5-0



■ L to R, Mon's 75&O: Greg Pearson, John Andrews, Wilf Jessop, Giles Hinchcliffe

Men's 70&O

County Cup, Group 1b

Captain: Steve Batte

Team members: Steve Batte, Andrew Potter, Michael Adams, Alan Cockman, Mike Butterworth, Geoff Wright

The squad was diminished by the decision to enter a men's 75&O team in the County Cup. This required a search for additional players to maintain a squad of six players. The division comprised six teams, with five matches to arrange; fortunately, three home games played at Nuffield Academy in Hull and two away matches at Hampshire/Isle of Wight, and Buckinghamshire. Wins against Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire were enough to secure a place in division one for the 2024 season.

I would like to thank all of the

squad members, Alan Cockman (Thongsbridge), Andrew Potter (York), Geoff Wright (Ilkley), Mike Butterworth (Chapel Allerton) and Mike Adams (David Lloyd Hull) for their commitment.

Results

Dorset: Lost 1-4;
Nottinghamshire: Lost 1-4;
Buckinghamshire: Won 3-2;
Hampshire & IOW: Lost 1-4;
Oxfordshire: Won 5-0 (W/O)

Men's 75&O

County Cup, Group 2b

Captain: Wilf Jessop

Team members: Wilf Jessop, Gregory Pearson, John Andrews, Giles Hinchcliffe

For the first time in living memory (unless John Andrews knows different), Yorkshire fielded a 75&O team. Not having to find two willing

Ladies County Seniors

singles players any more was clearly going to be a bonus! We put forward a pretty convincing case for not having to start in the bottom group – and were duly placed in Group 2b.

Lincolnshire withdrew, leaving us with just three matches. We played our two away matches over consecutive days, recording a 4-0 win against Essex, followed by a rather tougher 3-1 victory over Hertfordshire. The final match was a 4-0 home win over Norfolk.

Wilf Jessop and Greg Pearson managed to avoid dropping any sets over the 3 matches whilst John Andrews and Giles Hinchcliffe just dropped a single rubber.

Next year will see us competing at the top level, a challenge we shall all look forward to.

Results

Essex: Won 4-0

Hertfordshire: Won 3-1

Norfolk: Won 4-0

Ladies 35&O

County Cup, Group 2

Captain: Carina May

Team members: Carina May, Joanna Craven, Danielle Purdie, Nicola Mooney

The team returned to Group 2 at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne with a squad comprising of Carina May, Nicola Mooney, Danielle Purdie and, making her debut, Jo Craven. After a day's delay because of rain and shortened matches as a result, we started with a tight 3-2 victory over Sussex, courtesy of excellent doubles and singles victories from Jo and a fantastic doubles win for Dani and Nic.

Our second match against Bedfordshire saw the score

tied at 1-1 after the singles, with a win for Carina at number 2 and a very narrow defeat in the top singles. Due to the rain, only one doubles match was being played so it all came down to Dani and Nic. They delivered with a massive comeback from a set down to take the deciding tiebreak 10-8 – never in doubt!

We knew we had to win the final match against Durham & Cleveland to secure promotion to Group 1 and did so without losing a rubber. Thank you to the team for all the hard work (and sore bodies as a result!) and a fun and successful weekend. We are looking forward to the challenge of Group 1 next year.

Results

Sussex: Won 3-2

Bedfordshire: Won 2-1

Durham & Cleveland: Won 3-0

Ladies 40&O

County Cup, Group 2b

Captain: Sarah Everest

Team members: Jill Le Pla, Helen Hirst, Natalie Gill, Nicky Brind, Helen Myles, Suzie Azoulay, Sarah Everest-Ford, Joanne Fitzpatrick, Louise Marshman, Jenny French, Suzie Ren, Karla Hernandez, Judith Langdon, Elena Waterhouse

It seems to be a constant theme but another challenging season, with player availability, train strikes and the distance for away fixtures such as

Scotland! We started the season with an away match at Buckinghamshire. We lost 1-4 but some very close matches with match points lost and tie break battles. Our second match was played at home in Leeds against Hereford and Worcestershire, which we won 4-1, having to concede the last rubber due to illness. Our third match was at home, played in Sheffield against Nottingham, narrowly losing 3-2.

Our final match which proved to be the hardest to arrange was against East of Scotland. We were all set to play at the end of July but then the train strikes meant we had to rearrange. This was very

Ladies County Seniors

frustrating due to the limited offer of fixtures from the opposition and limited availability from the team made it very difficult to find a new date. Finally, a date was agreed for September and we had three players, then Suzie unfortunately got tennis elbow so we were down to two players. I didn't want to concede the match so I am very grateful for the players from Hallamshire tennis club that stepped up to play, not having played for the team before. Unfortunately, on the day Scotland were just too strong and we lost 4-0.

As it's my last year as captain, I want to thank all the team for playing and hopefully a less challenging season for the next captain.

Results

Buckinghamshire: Lost 1-4
H'fordshire & W'shire: Won 4-1
Nottinghamshire: Lost 2-3
East of Scotland: Lost 0-5

Ladies 50&0

County Cup, Group 1a

Captain: Becky Lee

Team members: Becky Lee, Gillian Kilner, Karen Mitchell, Kath Davies, Wendy Stirke, Joanne Wright, Catherine Baker, Louise Lister, Sarah Swift

After winning our group last year the team were optimistic going into the season in Group 1a. We were given two home fixtures against Lancashire

and Cambridgeshire and three away fixtures against Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire and Herefordshire & Worcestershire.

Overall, our amazing squad of players won three matches all with a score line of 5-0 and lost two matches both narrow defeats of 2-3, which meant Yorkshire Ladies finished 2023 in third place.

Thanks to everyone for playing. Onwards and upwards to next season.

Results

Hertfordshire & Worcestershire: Won 5-0
Cambridgeshire: Lost 2-3
Warwickshire: Won 5-0
Nottinghamshire: Lost 2-3
Lancashire: Won 5-0

Ladies 55&0

County Cup, Group 2b

Captain: Clare Johnson

Team members: Clare Johnson, Katherine Elgar, Judith Abel, Helen Cowlrick, Mel Dix, Sarah Swift, Gayle Audley

This is the first season for our team, and it was an honour to be captain. All our fixtures were arranged for July with two being on the first weekend.

Our first match was at home against Durham and Cleveland. Fortunately, indoor courts had been arranged at JCCS. This was a close match with wins in all the doubles rubbers though defeats in the singles. Judith

and Helen were a strong doubles pair. Kate and I played the singles, concluding the singles defeat with a victory in the doubles. Result was 3-2.

Next day we headed off to Lincolnshire; Judith this time partnering Mel. Kate and I again played the singles rubbers. Lincolnshire were a strong team captained by Jane Hunter. This was our only defeat, losing 2-3 overall. We played on artificial clay during a very windy day. It was a great effort from all who played.

Saturday 15 July it was back to John Charles, Leeds to host Nottingham, and this was our best overall match result winning 4-1. A great effort from the pairing of Helen and Judith winning the doubles rubbers. Sarah and I playing singles and doubles.

Sunday 30 July took our team to Kenilworth tennis club in Warwickshire. The team this time comprised again of Judith and Helen as doubles pair. Gayle and I were the singles and doubles players. Thanks again to winning all the doubles rubbers we won the match overall 3-2. The last rubber was decided on a championship tie break 10-8 to Yorkshire (so close).

We finished second in the table overall. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all the players who helped make this a very successful first season. A particular thank you to Judith who was able to play all the matches, though not forgetting the efforts of every single player who has

Ladies County Seniors

contributed to such a great set of results.

Results

Durham & Cleveland, Won 3-2

Lincolnshire, Lost 2-3

Nottinghamshire, Won 4-1

Warwickshire, Won 3-2

Ladies 60&O

County Cup, Group 1a

Captain: Belinda Turnbull

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

Yorkshire Ladies 60&Os have had a fantastic year as we were undefeated, beating Norfolk 3-2, Lancashire 5-0, Lincolnshire 5-0 and Buckinghamshire 5-0. In the Group 1 playoff final held at Graves Tennis Centre on Saturday 28 October we had a resounding victory against Hampshire & IOW, winning 3-0 to become champions! Many thanks to my wonderful, committed team!

Results

Group

Lincolnshire: Won 5-0

Lancashire: Won 5-0

Norfolk: Won 3-2

Buckinghamshire: Won 5-0

Playoff Final

Hampshire & IOW: Won 3-0



■ Pictured, L to R: Belinda Turnbull, Cathryn Johnson, Gill Brook, Wendy Stirke

Ladies 65&O

County Cup, Group 2b

Captain: Janice Ashman

Team members: Susan Graney, Rosie Connell, Janice Ashman, Susan Brass, Christine Dalton

This was another difficult season in that we again had a number of injuries: Kath Green was out for the whole season with a shoulder injury, as was Margaret Bottomley and Susan Brass and Christine Dalton were struggling at the start of the season with different injuries but still played a rubber each in the first match to help us to field a team. In spite of the problems, though, we still had a good and interesting season.

All four matches were 2-2. In the first we lost to Shropshire on a set count; we beat Northumberland on a set count; and we beat Lincolnshire on a set count. The final match was against

Hereford and Worcestershire who were unbeaten this season. Our result against them was really close (and better than any other county) with our team having the same number of sets and games. Unfortunately, in such an event, the first round is what counts and Hereford and Worcestershire had a two game advantage at that point in the game. Although this seemed a harsh way to lose, in the end we were not unhappy. We had had some fantastic tennis and our results mean that we stay in Group 2 next year.

Over the season there were some really good results with Janice Ashman and Sue Graney having two 6-0, 6-0 matches, Susan Brass and Rosie Connell managing to take a set in Northumberland which secured our victory, with Susan Brass and Christine Dalton playing really well against the second pair in the Hereford and Worcestershire team to help us in the game count. So thank you to all

Ladies County Seniors

Yorkshire players who took part this year, sometimes putting yourselves out over and beyond.

Results

Shropshire: Lost 2-2 (on sets)

Northumberland: Won 2-2 (on sets)

Lincolnshire: Won 2-2 (on sets)

Hereford & Worcestershire: Lost 2-2 (on 1st round count back)

Ladies 70&0

County Cup, Group 1b

Captain: Rosemary Carter

Team members: Sue Welch, Audrey Reed, Pauline Knight, Rosemary Carter

We lost our first two matches - both were away - the first at Warwickshire 4-0 and the other at Cheshire 3-1, with Sue and Audrey managing to win a rubber. Our remaining two matches were at home. We beat Lancashire 3-1 and Shropshire result was 2-2 with sets 5-4 in our favour.



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