

# **YORKSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION**



**ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019**

# **REPORTS**

**Chairman**

**Chairman of Schools' and Youth Committee**

**Accounts**

**(submitted separately at meeting)**

**Tournament Report**

**Match Secretary**

**1st Team Manager**

**2nd Team Manager**

**3rd Team Manager**

**4th Team Manager**

**5th Team Manager**

**SCC Final Tables**

**17-U21 Team Manager**

**U18 Team Manager**

**U16 Team Manager**

**U14 Team Manager**

**Masters' Coordinator**

**Yorkshire League Secretary**

**Affiliation Secretary**

**Development Report**

## **Chairman's Report**

It has been a year of contrasting fortunes for Yorkshire senior teams. Success at the bottom and disappointment at the top! Player unavailability for our first team meant that our young squad struggled all season to keep out of the relegation zone and almost did, just to lose out in the last weekend by one rubber. They will drop to the lower division for the first time. The 2nd and 3rd teams managed a few wins but again lost players to higher teams but retained their Division 1 places. However, in the restructured leagues for next season the 2nd team move up to the Championship League (one below Premier) where they will join our 1st team! It was much better news for our 4th and 5th teams. Their excellent performances all season ensured promotion for both teams returning to Division 2 North. Thank you to all the players who represented a team this year and to the managers for doing a sterling job in difficult circumstances.

Our U21 team lost a number of players this year and it proved difficult to put a team together but the players that represented Yorkshire in the ECC tournament gave a good account of themselves to finish ahead of their seeding. Thank you to Ian Bucknell for managing the team and for Roger Cook's excellent organisation of the tournament.

After many years in the role of County Match Secretary and team manager Ray Garnier has decided to retire. He has done an amazing job and we will miss him greatly. His organisation of the senior teams has been done with thoroughness and his record keeping impeccable. We were especially grateful that despite going through a heart operation he kept on with the role to ensure continuity. We wish him every happiness and good health in the future. We also thank Steve Parry, who along with his wife Nicola, is stepping down from county badminton after many years of playing and volunteering.

On the National scene Yorkshire players Gabby Adcock, Marcus Ellis and Chloe Birch continue to do well and are currently aiming to qualify for next year's Olympic Games.

John Ellis has again had a busy year as Chairman of the Schools and Youth Committee and the juniors have had an extremely busy and fairly successful year. It needs a large number of volunteers to enable all of the events to run and John has had a good number this year whom he has thanked in his report. The reintroduction of squad training last year with experienced coaches and enthusiastic managers is beginning to impact and Yorkshire juniors are on the road to dominance again. It has been particularly pleasing to see a number of juniors make the transition into the adult game and achieve a place in a senior team and to win the majority of their matches.

The Masters season has been a busy one also with teams in all age groups up to 70+. Brian Wright is standing down as the Masters' Committee Chairman. He has been pivotal in the formation of the committee and its policies and the organisation of the Gold Tournament. We wish him well. Welcome on board to Ian Hunter who has taken on the role and is already involved in planning for next season.

The Residential Summer school at Bootham was a successful week last August and it is again very well subscribed for this year. A huge thank you to Helen Cleary for doing an amazing job as the school's administrator and pastoral lead. She is

standing down this year and will be sorely missed by us all. Nicola Read has taken on the role and will work with me during the week of the school.

Babolat continues to sponsor the county and we are extremely grateful for their support. Steve Chappell moved on this year and was replaced with Peter Mills. We continue to be very grateful for free/discounted shuttles, free kit for the ICT team and an allocation of shirts for the SCC teams and the Summer School.

Helen Cleary is our Kit Manager and has done a super job ensuring kit is received, allocated and printed. We have missed not having Denis and Helen at the tournaments this year with their shop and stringing services. Sample kit was made available on racks at the RI for managers to bring out at tournaments but this has not proved to be successful and will be reviewed.

Special thanks to Janet Wobey and Mavis Bryan who have run YBA's, Silver, Bronze and Copper tournaments this year all of which have helped raise valuable funds for the County.

The Yorkshire Council has continued to meet during the season and Nicola Read County Secretary has worked hard to coordinate many aspects of the County's business. Russell Binns moved to Rugby during the season but continued as County Treasurer as a replacement could not be found. He is happy to carry on in the role from afar until we find a replacement. Roger Cook has again been our representative at BE General meetings and Coaching Secretary. Nick Rogers has done an excellent job coordinating the Yorkshire League, overseeing Division 3 matches and being the County Affiliation Secretary. Thanks to all Council and Executive members for their hard work this year.

**GORDON MILNE**

**CHAIRMAN**

## **Schools and Youth Report**

Another season as Chairman of the Schools and Youth (Junior) Committee has drawn to a close and I would like to start my report with a number of thank yous.

First to David Wobey who managed to get the Shires League matches arranged in record time which helped team managers to try and ensure players were aware and available. Unfortunately there were a couple of clashes that needed to overcome. Also to Janet Wobey who arranged all the tournament sanctions, venue bookings, shuttle and medal deliveries.

I would also like to thank the people who volunteered to run tournaments for YBA and in particular Janet Wobey, Ray Yeng, David Pooley, Mark Whitaker, Ashley Reed and John Ibbetson. Apologies to anyone I have missed off. There is always room for more volunteers though. Any parent who would like to join our committee would be most welcome.

I would like to congratulate Helen Calverley on her efforts as Under 18 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Manager. The team achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place at RIO and at ICT losing narrowly to Leicestershire on both occasions. Helen has insisted on loyalty from her players and has shown loyalty in return and, as a result, team spirit was back in evidence as was our ability to win rubbers that, on paper, experts would not expect us to do so. This was most evident at the Shires League Final when they again finished third having beaten Essex and Surrey having narrowly lost to Buckinghamshire in the semi-finals.

The Under 16 Team had a good season finishing top of the Shires League table before finishing 6<sup>th</sup> at the Finals when they were deprived of three regular players. They won the Anglo Scottish League (Under 15) event again. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Shires League team won 3 matches to finish 16<sup>th</sup> in the league and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Shires League team won 2 matches to finish 21<sup>st</sup> in the league.

The Under 14 Team have had a good season to date!! The first team finished top of the Shires League table before finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the finals having lost narrowly 11-9 to eventual winners Berkshire in the semi-finals. The second team finished 13<sup>th</sup> in the league. They won the Yorkshire U14 Team Event the following weekend and the Cerryg Davies Mixed Doubles team event the weekend after that.

The Under 13 team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> behind Lothian at Largs, 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Anglo Scottish in Newcastle and won the North Midway Badminton League.

This season was not as successful in terms of results but was more about the development of squad members due to the unavailability of first team members throughout the season. I am sure this has been beneficial to those who were called up.

The Under 12 first team finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the Shires League table and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Shires League Finals. The team was young and inexperienced at the start of the season and we were without two boys for the finals but the whole squad led by Sia Pandit and Mia Fox improved and developed well from their experiences. The second team finished 9<sup>th</sup> in the Shires League table and again the whole squad developed throughout the season.

Let us make Yorkshire Junior Badminton great again!!! If you want to help, let me know.

**John Ellis      Schools and Youth Chairman**

## Yorkshire Tournaments

The **Yorkshire Restricted** was held on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at York RI.

The winners and runners up were-

MS – Josh Young	Nathan Rossiter
WS – Cici Lu	Hannah Boden
MD – Mark Middleton & James Youle	Nathan Rossiter & Matt Steel
WD – Emily Arksey & Charlotte Willmore	Vicky Brewis & Cici Lu
XD – Nathan Rossiter & Emily Robinson	James Yule & Cici Lu

The 2<sup>nd</sup> **Yorkshire Bronze** was held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at York RI. The winners and runners up were-

MS – Tharin Sachayansrisakul	Shane Wilson
WS – Sarah Pulley	Tracy Parker
MD – Danny Hyde & Michael Johnston	Oliver Harris & Steve Strickland
WD – Angel Chow & Cici Lu	Nam Lloyd & Laura Wall
XD – Jacob White & Fay Andrews	Scott Oates & Georgia Hughes

The following Yorkshire Tournaments will be held in 2019/20 at York RI. Further details and entry forms will be available on the Badminton England website.

**Yorkshire Restricted** 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Yorkshire Silver** 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**Yorkshire Bronze** 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Yorkshire Copper** (BE 4<sup>th</sup> tier) 11<sup>th</sup> July 2020

There are also the following tournaments in our area- See BE website

**Harrogate Silver** 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Hull Copper** (BE 4<sup>th</sup> tier) 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019

**Hull Bronze** 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**Hull Silver** 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020

The Yorkshire Masters Gold Event (veterans) will be held from Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February until Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March at York RI.

Yorkshire will also hold junior tournaments for various age groups at York RI throughout the season. Further details and entry forms will be available on the Badminton England website.

U14 Closed 8<sup>th</sup> September

U16 Closed 15<sup>th</sup> September

U18 Closed 22<sup>nd</sup> September

U12 Closed 13<sup>th</sup> October

U17 Silver 26<sup>th</sup> October

U13 Bronze 1<sup>st</sup> December

U15 Silver 4<sup>th</sup> January

U19 Bronze 5<sup>th</sup> January

RIO 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> January

U17 Bronze 8<sup>th</sup> February

U15 Bronze 9<sup>th</sup> February

Bonanza 25<sup>th</sup> April

U14 9<sup>th</sup> May

U14 Team Event 10<sup>th</sup> May

U16 16<sup>th</sup> May

U16 Team Event 17<sup>th</sup> May

Cerryg Davies 13<sup>th</sup> June

Inter Area 20<sup>th</sup> June

**Nick Read (Secretary)**

## Match Secretary's Report

Once again, we have experienced a very difficult season with the loss of key players through injury/illness/other. This has been the case across all our teams and has been the source of considerable player movement. However, it is pleasing to report an excellent integration of several juniors into the senior teams.

### **SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The National League (Premiership) matches continue to be played over three separate weekends at the NBC. The Regional League (Division 1) is split into two sections (North & South) with eight teams per section playing their matches regionally including a play-off for promotion to the Premiership. Divisions 2 - 4 have four sections, also with eight teams, and with promotion/relegation across each section. The 17- U21 English County Challenge is played over one weekend, late in the season, and is hosted by Yorkshire.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Team (Premiership) NINTH**

A very disappointing season for our 1<sup>st</sup> Team; weakened with the loss of key players meant several new faces in the team. Lack of Premiership experience caused the loss of the majority of matches and resulted unfortunately in a relegation place.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Team (Division 1 North) FIFTH**

Loss of several players to the 1<sup>st</sup> Team from the beginning of the season posed the probable conflict of tough games against experienced county first teams. Fifth place in the section was, under the circumstances, a satisfactory placement.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Team (Division 1 North) SEVENTH**

A difficult debut for our newest Team Managers, Matt Steel and Ollie Cohen. They have led and encouraged the team by example and achieved solid performances from all their players. The pleasing news is they will retain their place in Division 1 North next season.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Team (Division 3 North) WINNERS**

What an outstanding season this team has had. They have won the majority of their games handsomely and fully deserve their promotional place – well done to all concerned!

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Team (Division 3 North) RUNNERS-UP**

A new learning curve for our latest Team Manager – Gordon Milne (deputising for Russell Binns). A very pleasing final position having won most of their games resulting in probable promotion.

#### **17-U21 Team (English County Challenge) SEVENTH**

Major problems raising a team following a number of players becoming unavailable. Excellent help from local coaches to find replacements. A very good effort from the whole team resulted in a creditable seventh place overall.

### **TROPHY NOMINATIONS**

1 <sup>st</sup> Team	Ken Davidson Award:	Sam Smith
2 <sup>nd</sup> Team	Jimmy Cox Salver:	Steve Strickland
3 <sup>rd</sup> Team	Bill Holwill Memorial Salver:	Vicki Brewis
4 <sup>th</sup> Team	SAF Pat Rycroft Plate:	Laura Wall
5 <sup>th</sup> Team	M Bryan Salver:	Rachael Farrington
U21 Team	Margo Winter Salver:	Kate Walker

## COLOUR NOMINATIONS

1 <sup>st</sup> Team	Sam Smith, James Youle
2 <sup>nd</sup> Team	Steve Strickland, Beki Boyle, Tracy Parker
3 <sup>rd</sup> Team	Tom Summers, Matt Train, Emily Arksey, Charlotte Willmore
4 <sup>th</sup> Team	Nathan Hale, Alex James, Laura Wall, Kate Walker, Lucy Walker
5 <sup>th</sup> Team	Jamie Ellis, Rachael Farrington
U21 Team	Tom Burkill, George Richards, Nathan Hale, Brannon Lee Chong, Jess Robinson, Emily Stephenson

## APPEARANCES

250 Appearances	None		
200 Appearances	None		
150 Appearances	None		
100 Appearances	Lucy Kidd	101	2003-2019
50 Appearances	Steve Strickland	54	2011-2019
	Emily Arksey	51	2011-2019
	Charlotte Willmore	50	2012-2019

## TOP TEN TYKES

Nicola Parry (Smith)	258	1987-2019	Nitin Panesar	224	1984-2018
Sarah Panesar (Petch)	238	1989-2019	Alex Marritt	172	1997-2019
Justine Evans (Willmott)	171	1985-2010	Steve Parry	150	1984-2013
Susan Prosser (Barbour)	147	1990-2019	Brian Keefe	144	1952-1980
Hayley Ludlam	122	1988-2006	Mike Adams	140	1980-2017
Charlotte Lindsay	117	1956-1981	Stuart Illingworth	139	1989-2012
Lisa Garnier	111	1987-2008	Steve Foster	132	1994-2017
Jenny Day	107	2000-2014	Glenn Coburn	124	1985-2011
Steph Martin (Barwick)	102	2005-2018	Russell Binns	124	2001-2019
Lucy Kidd (Milne)	101	2003-2019	James Allinson	122	2000-2019

## **FRIENDLY**

During the close season we approached several of our juniors with a view to integrating them into senior teams. A friendly match was arranged with Lancashire, who also were encouraging junior interest. Two matches were played in a loose SCC format which we won on both occasions. The pleasing result from this event was the majority of those juniors have now entered the senior ranks.

## **PLAYER NEWS**

A special welcome to the following players who have recently returned to the county scene: James Babington, Phil Sunderland, Sue Prosser and Dawn Johnson. Congratulations to Lucy Kidd and Kate Ouseph – both of whom gave birth to their first child at the beginning of the season. Best wishes to Nicola Parry who has finally decided to hang her county racquet up after 258 appearances – what a record!

## **SELECTION COMMITTEE**

We meet for our team selections on several occasions during the season, followed by numerous e-mails and telephone calls on a regular basis. My thanks to all members of the Panel, our deliberations can be quite lengthy, for their sterling support. Our volunteers are the envy of other counties. Finally, I would add that Steve Parry and myself will both be retiring at the end of this season.

## **Ray Garnier**

### **Yorkshire County 1st**

Despite the determination, talent and strong team spirit of the Yorkshire players we were unable to retain our position in the Premiership. Whilst on paper our squad is capable of placing higher in the table, unfortunately we were hampered by illness and injury and unable to field a full-strength team at any point. Across the whole season I cannot fault our players who fought their hardest and competed in many extra rubbers and events for which they do not train.

In the first weekend alone, we had 8 matches which finished with setting in the 3rd set and we only took one of these.

The level of the Premiership is high, if we are not at full strength it is a battle to contest some of the matches.

Weekend 1.

Yorkshire 5 - 6 Avon

Yorkshire 3 - 8 Hertfordshire

Yorkshire 5 - 6 Leicestershire

In the first weekend we were missing our men's singles line up with Josh and myself out of action and whilst Nathan was playing, he was suffering from a throat infection. We had super subs Alex Fowler and Andy Ellis play the matches on the Saturday. Herts in particular had a strong line up fielding many former internationals and two Olympic medallists! The matches were closely contested however fortune was not on our side, out of seven rubbers which finished setting in the 3rd set we lost six and took one (thanks to a gritty performance from Cici!). Herts finished top of the table and looked good for taking the title at this stage. On Sunday we suffered further injuries with Nathan having to withdraw, we battled to another 6-5 loss with Sam showing his strength in playing three rubbers in this tie.

Weekend 2.

Yorkshire 5 - 6 Leinster

Yorkshire 5 - 6 Glasgow and North Strathclyde

Yorkshire 4 - 7 Middlesex

For the second weekend we had our men back to full strength taking seven of the nine men's singles however we were down to the minimum number of ladies. Unfortunately, our opposition on this weekend demonstrated their strength in the doubles and mixed events taking many of these rubbers. On the Sunday we faced a strong Middlesex team looking to defend their title and thanks to the insight and advice of Charlotte we took some important points. Josh had an excellent weekend taking 5/6 rubbers combining well with Mark.

Weekend 3.

Yorkshire 5 - 6 Sussex

Yorkshire 9 - 2 Buckinghamshire

Yorkshire 5 - 6 Surrey

The final weekend was again a battle to field a competitive team, with several of the men's players out of action. Josh was unable to play due to a stress fracture; Sam was playing with an ankle sprain and I was recovering from sickness a couple of days earlier. We did have an excellent line up of ladies with Sian and Vanessa available and Kate returning to the team. Andy Ellis again supported the team as super sub for the first match despite moving house at the time! The first match against Sussex highlighted our position as we lost all the men's rubbers but took all of our ladies and mixed games. In the second match of the weekend we played a very heavily loaded Buckinghamshire team fielding a team of junior and senior internationals which resulted in our biggest loss with the girls again winning the points. We played Surrey on the Sunday and despite a couple of wins from the men's side we finished with a 5-6 loss, our sixth of the season. A special mention to Mark who came out of singles retirement for this weekend and along with James played three rubbers per match.

Looking to next season in the newly formed 'Championship' division we will face strong opposition from Derby and perhaps Notts however we are confident we will bounce back up. The tough season has brought our team closer together, and with the return of some of our more experienced players for next season to combine with our fast-developing young players I am hopeful of an excellent performance next year.

**Thanks**

**ALEX MARRITT**

## **Second Team Report**

Team:	Jamie Bonsels	Beki Boyle
	Stephen Day	Sarah Panesar
	Jason Marshall	Nicola Parry TC
	Mike Reid	Emma Smethurst
	Steve Strickland	

Reserves:	James Allinson	Romilly Calvert (Tied)
	William Atkin (Tied)	Dawn Johnson
	Matt Train	Lucy Kidd
		Tracy Parker (Tied)
		Sue Prosser

Several of our top players have elected to play for a French or German club which prevents them playing in the SCC. This has brought about increased movement of players from the lower teams with new faces in all our teams.

**First weekend: Wright Robinson School, Manchester.**

**Yorkshire 3: Won 9-2      Nottinghamshire 1: Lost 3-8**

First match of the season and a trek over the Pennines to a new venue in Manchester. Good facilities in an 8 Court hall with plenty of car-parking space for the supporters. James Allinson brought in to replace Jamie and Tracy brought in to help with Women's Singles. First match against our 3<sup>rd</sup> Team with their new managerial team of Matt Steel and Ollie Cohen. All the Men's Singles won comfortably in two ends, however, our first Women's Singles lost with a long three-setter for Beki against Vicki Brewis. Tracy continued the winning streak with a comfortable win over Emily Arksey. Jason and Mike gained a convincing Men's Doubles win against the two Matts – Train and Steel, however, the second Men's went to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Team with a spirited display by Tom Summers and Alex James against our two Steves – Day and Strickland. Two straight wins for our Women's Doubles pairs and the Mixed pairs gave us our first win of the season.

Our second match against Nottinghamshire 1 was a considerably tougher contest. Notts were a totally different and very experienced outfit from last season with several players who had represented their county at Premiership level. The score-line belies the standard of the majority of the games with several ending up as three-setters – notably; Jason and Mike's display against Peter Mills and Matt Stacey; Sarah and Nicola's against Serena Midha and Kerri Scott and Mike and Nicola's against Neil White and Alex Langley in probably the longest and final game of the match. It was a pleasure to experience a contest between two sides playing to a high standard and in a very good spirit – a great advertisement for our sport.

**Second weekend: Wright Robinson School, Manchester.**

**Staffordshire 1: Won 8-3      Cheshire 1: Lost 3-8**

Second round of matches and a trek over the Pennines once again. Jamie, Emma and Sarah unavailable; Tracy Parker brought in again and tied, with Will Atkin and Romilly Calvert as additional replacements. First match against Staffs and the anticipation of a good win for the team. A good start from the men with all singles going our way. Women's Singles halved with a good first win for Romilly. Solid performances followed by our Men's Doubles pairs to put us in a winning position. Disappointment for the girls with both Women's Doubles going to Staffs. Further success from our Mixed Doubles pairs meant a very positive win with 8 points banked.

Our second match against a Cheshire team, who were probably smarting having been relegated from the Premiership the previous season – a tough match anticipated. Promising start with good Men's Singles wins for Jason and Will. Disappointment for our girls with both Women's Singles going to Cheshire. Men's Doubles halved with a hard-fought win for our two Steves. Further disappointment for our girls with both Women's Doubles going to Cheshire. Solid performances from our Mixed pairs with two long 3-

enders – unfortunately Cheshire again coming out on top. Just 3 points from the match with the only comfort having lost to a team who were likely to be in the play-off at the end of the season.

NB: It should be noted that Cheshire did gain promotion back to the Premiership in the Play-offs.

### **Final weekend: Leigh Indoor Sports Centre, Wigan.**

#### **Lancashire 1: Lost 2-9      Derbyshire 1: Lost 5-6      Ulster 1: W 8-3**

Final weekend and another trip across the Pennines, this time to the excellent Leigh Sports Village. Disappointment with the loss of Jamie, Jason, Mark (just back from injury), Beki, Sarah and Emma. Will and Romilly brought in again and tied, and Matt Train to complete the team. First match against Lancashire 1 and a tough match anticipated. All the Singles going to Lancashire but a very spirited performance by Romilly, finally losing out in the third end. Men's Doubles shared with Steve Day and Steve Strickland gaining the upper hand in a second three-ender. Women's Doubles going to Lancashire, but our second pair, Tracy and Nicola were unlucky to lose out in a close three-ender. Mixed Doubles shared with a positive win for Steve Strickland and Lucy Kidd. Second match, and a close encounter anticipated due to our weakened team. Good start from Steve Day, winning the first Men's Singles, thereafter Derbyshire taking the remaining Singles. Men's Doubles shared with Steve and Steve winning another three-ender. Women's Doubles shared with Tracy and Nicola winning another close three-ender. Good news from our Mixed pairs with two positive wins from two more three-enders.

Final match of the season and a positive result anticipated. An excellent start with all the Men's Singles banked. Ulster then narrowed the gap by taking both the Women's Singles. Our Doubles experience then came to the fore with both Men's Doubles, second Women's Doubles and both Mixed Doubles going our way to give us a very convincing win. Despite our heavily weakened team we gained enough points to retain fifth place in the section and the opportunity to progress into the proposed Championship for 2019-20.

On a sad note I would inform Council that Steve Parry ATM, Nicola Parry Team Captain (258 Appearances) and myself will be retiring at the close of this season. We have, collectively, supported and represented Yorkshire for many seasons from Junior to Senior ranks and I would take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for their advice and support in all that time. Finally, my very best wishes to all our players; they have the potential to play at the highest level so with hard work and a positive attitude I'm sure they can achieve that greatness.

### **Trophy Nomination**

Jimmy Cox Salver: Steve Strickland

**Ray Garnier**

**Steve Parry ATM**

## Third Team Report

Team:	Matt Steel	Vicki Brewis
	Oliver Cohen	Charlotte Willmore
	Will Atkin	Emily Arksey
	Matt Train	Tracy Parker (Tied to 2 <sup>nd</sup> team all season)
	James Allinson	Lauren Allinson
	Tom Summers	

Reserves:	Alex James	Katherine Arksey
	Brannon Lee Chong	Shaye Frances
		Amanda Barrett

This was another season in the strong Division 1 north for our 3<sup>rd</sup> team with a blend of experienced players from this division and a number of juniors stepping up into the division for the first time. A change in management was brought about due to James Allinson stepping down, however he remained an asset to the team on court as well as by supporting new managers Matt Steel and Oliver Cohen in their debut season. From the offset we appreciated the season would be challenging due to the high standard in this division (all first teams apart from the 2 Yorkshire teams), as well as the upcoming restructure of the new county divisions moving forwards.

### **First weekend @ Manchester – Wright Robinson School**

#### **Yorkshire 2: Loss 9-2**

#### **Lancashire 1: Loss 9-2**

A few late changes to our team led to Tracy Parker and James Allinson moving into the 2<sup>nd</sup> team for this round of matches. Unfortunately, Ollie Cohen was absent due to prior work commitments. This resulted in Alex James and Amanda Barrett coming into the team. We appreciate both of their efforts throughout the day and they both contributed to the team by picking up rubbers.

The season opener against the Yorkshire 2<sup>nd</sup> team is always tough, and this year was no exception. There were many close games against the 2<sup>nd</sup> team with 3 or 4 that could have swung our way. Vicki Brewis picked up a win at 1<sup>st</sup> women's singles as well as Tom Summers and Alex James winning at 2<sup>nd</sup> men's Doubles.

The second game of the day was against a strong Lancashire team who dominated the singles picking up all 5 rubbers. Coming back from 5 rubbers down was always going to be a challenge but we applaud the team for their fighting spirit and togetherness. They all continued to support each other and made sure we left with two rubbers. Charlotte Willmore and Amanda Barrett took 2<sup>nd</sup> ladies doubles with Alex James and Emily Arksey taking 2<sup>nd</sup> mixed.

### **Second weekend @ Manchester – Wright Robinson School**

#### **Cheshire 1: Loss 9-2**

#### **Staffordshire 1: Win 6-5**

Challenges with the higher teams once again resulted in Tracy Parker playing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> team which ultimately tied her to the team. Will Atkin also joined Tracy in the 2<sup>nd</sup> team. James Allinson was unavailable due to childcare. Due to the unforeseen circumstances in teams above ours occurring at short notice, this led to the 3<sup>rd</sup> team having just 4 men and 4 women. Despite these difficulties it must be highlighted the exceptional togetherness of the team. All went above and beyond competing and winning matches in disciplines they don't train for. A special mention goes to Matt Train who somehow managed to play the maximum of 6 rubbers in the weekend, winning 50% - including his 6<sup>th</sup> match of the day while running on empty.

Cheshire fielded a strong team who were looking for immediate promotion to the premiership having been relegated last season. Again, our strength was in the doubles

disciplines with Matt Steel and Ollie Cohen winning top men's doubles and Lauren Allinson and Vicki Brewis winning at 2<sup>nd</sup> Ladies Doubles.

Staffordshire were a team we have played many times over the last few seasons. It should be noted we were challenged on our team selection despite picking players in the same order played in previous seasons. This added extra motivation for many members of the team and led to our best performance of the season to this point, picking up a tremendous 6-5 victory. A turn in fortune in the singles provided victories for Matt Train, Matt Steel and Emily Arksey, with our other rubbers coming from both men's doubles as well as top mixed. We should highlight Matt Train for winning all 3 rubbers in this match partnering Tom Summers and Vicki Brewis.

### **Final weekend @ Leigh Sports Village**

**Nottinghamshire 1: Lost 10-1**

**Ulster 1: Won 8-3**

**Derbyshire 1: Lost 8-3**

Once again Will Atkin's services were required in the second team, alongside Matt Train (note Tracey Parker was also tied to them). Lauren Allinson unfortunately had prior childcare arrangements and so was unable to play. In their absence a 3<sup>rd</sup> team debut was awarded to Katherine Arksey, with Shaye Frances and Brannon Lee Chong making their first Yorkshire senior appearances.

Nottinghamshire first team had clear promotion ambitions from the offset this season and therefore we knew this match would be challenging. A lot of the scores don't do justice to the fighting nature of our players to win matches. However, Nottinghamshire were too strong for us and we only managed to pick up the one rubber - Ollie Cohen at second men's singles.

Our mentality was tested moving forwards as we next had to play a team we knew we had potential to beat. Clearly, we were all disappointed in the heavy loss to Nottinghamshire but players put this to one side to beat Ulster 8-3. Once again, every member of the team put in all they had to offer. After going 2-0 up in the first round of singles, Ulster then won 3 in a row. However as demonstrated previously we knew our strengths lay in the doubles and Ulster did not pick up another rubber as the match progressed from the singles.

We finished our season by playing Derbyshire. Unfortunately, despite playing with the same confidence and quality as in our previous match, we were unable to produce a similar score line. Brannon Lee Chong played fantastically in his singles to win. Elsewhere Charlotte Wilmore and Vicki Brewis won a Ladies Doubles and Tom Summers and Katherine Arksey took second mixed.

This was a tough season for the team but there are certainly some highlights and positives to be taken forwards. In particular the fighting nature of our team was exceptional. Faced against more experienced and higher ranked opponents, our team never gave in and even when losing rubbers, did so fighting. Our team was highly resilient, I think the second weekend showed this. When we realised we only had 4 men and women, people did not shy from playing extra rubbers, or disciplines they were not used to - rather the opposite. People relished the pressure and opportunity to play more. Off the court our players bonded and supported each other. It has been a pleasure to manage this group of badminton players and after the league restructures, I have no doubt they will excel in the new Division 1 North next year.

**Trophy Nomination** – Vicki Brewis. For leading from the front, winning rubbers across every weekend - in all disciplines - and fighting in every match.

Special thanks to Ray Garnier and Steve Parry for their support, guidance and knowledge to us both in our maiden season as managers. With your help it has been a pleasure for us to step into the role this season

**Matt Steel and Oliver Cohen, 3rd Team Managers**

## 4th Team Report

A super season although not unexpected after last season's disappointing relegation. Clearly a huge difference between division 2 and 3, we went the season unbeaten winning all 7 fixtures and winning the league comfortably. With some experienced county stalwarts making themselves unavailable, it gave the selectors an easy decision selecting a side of very talented juniors and a few returning experienced players. We had a good mix and, for the first time in a long time as we have been really struggling to fill at this level, some lady singles players. All the players' results and enthusiasm to play were excellent. The only real blip was we were lacking in men's singles players, often using doubles players to fill in, so credit to Nathan Hale, Alex James and James Babington for all stepping in and having good results. In the men's doubles we were fine - James and Phil Sunderland proving they are a very strong experienced pair. Nathan, Alex and Mark Harrison playing predominantly the other pair between them as availability allowed and were all too strong at this level. The ladies were all fantastic, Laura Wall, Lucy Walker, Jasmine Lidster and Kate Walker playing the bulk of the matches as Romilly Calvert and Katherine Arksey were used by higher teams and just played the first weekend.

Player of the season: Laura Wall

All in all, a pleasure to manage this team.

Thanks and good luck to Ray Garnier on his retirement, the work he has done for Yorkshire Badminton is quite staggering, a huge loss.

**Ian Bucknell**  
**Team Manager**

## 5th Team Report

Following last season's relegation, we were hopeful of some improved results in Division 3. The team did not disappoint and finished the season in a comfortable second place to winners the Yorkshire 4th team. This means that both teams are promoted and have regained their Division 2 places - an excellent and well-deserved outcome.

The 5th team composed of experienced seniors and players from the junior ranks with a number of players making their senior debuts. Seven matches were played, and the team had 5 convincing wins and only 2 loses. It was particularly pleasing that our record in the singles matches was 25 wins out of 35.

Everyone played with great commitment and determination and it was a fairly settled squad all season. Choosing a recipient of the M Bryan Salver was not an easy task but, in the end, I awarded it to Rachael Farrington.

Players this season were:

Oliver Stapleton	Grace Sachdeva
Andrew Milne	Kirstin Milne
Nikko Cheung	Rachael Farrington
Jamie Ellis	Kirsty Ellis
Russell Binns	Kate Walker
James Croll	Natalie Jones
Tom Snape	Kim Stevens
	Wanminon Lloyd

5th Team colours were awarded to Jamie Ellis and Rachael Farrington.

**Gordon Milne**

## SCC LEAGUE TABLES 2018-19

<b>Premiership</b>	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
1 Middlesex	9	9	0	66	33	66
2 Hertfordshire	9	7	2	62	37	62
3 Buckinghamshire	9	4	5	54	45	54
4 Leicestershire	9	6	3	51	48	51
5 Surrey	9	5	4	51	48	51
6 Leinster	9	4	5	46	53	46
7 Sussex	9	3	6	46	53	46
8 Avon	9	4	5	42	57	42
<b>9 Yorkshire</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>41</b>
10 Glasgow & Nth Strathclyde	9	1	8	36	63	36

<b>Division 1 North</b>	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
1 Cheshire	7	7	0	52	25	52
2 Nottinghamshire	7	6	1	51	26	51
3 Lancashire	7	4	3	48	29	48
4 Derbyshire	7	5	2	44	33	44
<b>5 Yorkshire 2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>38</b>
6 Staffordshire	7	1	6	27	50	27
<b>7 Yorkshire 3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>24</b>
8 Ulster	7	0	7	24	53	24

<b>Division 2 North</b>	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
1 Lanarkshire	7	6	1	54	23	54
2 Northumberland	7	7	0	52	25	52
3 Lothian	7	4	3	46	31	46
4 Cheshire 2	7	3	4	42	35	42
5 Lancashire 2	7	4	3	41	36	41
6 Durham	7	2	5	36	41	36
7 Lancashire 3	7	1	6	20	57	20
8 Cumbria	7	1	6	17	60	17
<b>Division 3 North</b>	P	W	L	F	A	Pts

<b>1 Yorkshire 4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>2 Yorkshire 5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>50</b>
3 Cheshire 3	7	5	2	45	32	45
4 Lothian 2	5	3	2	31	24	31
5 Derbyshire 3	7	2	5	31	46	31
6 Nottinghamshire 3	5	2	3	25	30	25
7 Lanarkshire 2	7	0	7	18	59	18
8 Isle of Man	5	1	4	17	38	17

### **17 - U21 ECC Final Standings (2018-19)**

- 1 Lancashire
- 2 Devon
- 3 Derbyshire
- 4 Essex
- 5 Avon
- 6 Kent
- 7 Yorkshire
- 8 Oxfordshire
- 9 Norfolk
- 10 Lincolnshire
- 11 Cheshire
- 12 Isle of Man
- 13 Leinster
- 14 Gloucestershire
- 15 Leicestershire
- 16 Lancashire 2

## **17 – 21 Report**

Availability and trying to raise a team this season can only be described as a nightmare, but full credit to all the players who represented us. After last season's success we lost the majority of the team who were selected for our first team making them unavailable this year as the rules of the competition stated no premiership players. I feared the worst as most of the other counties were clearly strong and, in some cases, strengthened from previous seasons, but I can only describe our players as magnificent.

We came 7th out of the 16 competing counties with a very inexperienced team at senior county level. Individually there were some super performances and quite a few have put a strong case for selection for the county next season. We beat Gloucestershire 4-2 and the

Isle of Man 4-2 but lost to a very good Essex team 5-1 on the Saturday. Finishing 2nd we played for positions 5-8 on the Sunday. Even though we were strengthened with Nathan Hale for the Sunday we lost to Kent 6-0, who were too strong for us. We bounced back with a super 4-2 win against Oxfordshire which was unexpected so the 7th place finish was most pleasing.

Team

Brannon Le Chong

George Richards

Tom Burkill

Nathan Hale

Kate Walker

Jess Robinson

Judith Peatman

Emily Stephenson

Player of the Tournament: Kate Walker

**Ian Bucknell**

**Team Manager**

## **Under 18 Team Manager's Report**

### **Shires League**

This season it was very difficult to pick a first and second team due to the talent we have had in our squad, all players who have played for Yorkshire U18s this year have done themselves proud and we have had a very successful year in the Shires League. The second team did very well winning 4 matches (Lancashire, Northumberland, Cumbria and Lincolnshire) and only losing 2, 1 of which was to Yorkshire 1! For our second team to finish 17<sup>th</sup> out of 38 counties is fantastic. The first team won all 6 matches against Northumberland, Derbyshire, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Cumbria and Yorkshire 2 to qualify for Shires Finals. Second team players played up in some of the first team matches so the whole season has really been a squad effort and it has been fantastic to see them gel on court no matter who they are playing with. Well done squad!

### **RIO**

We knew RIO would be tough this year, but we were determined to make an account of ourselves and show people what we are capable of!

Our group on the first day was a tough one comprising of Leicestershire, Lothian and Surrey, first up Leicestershire. It was a tough match with us coming out with a 7-8 loss, full credit must go to Leicestershire who battled hard, we had some lessons to learn! Next up was Lothian which has always been a good match. We came straight out of the block fighting and posted a 14-1 victory. Our final match of day 1 was against a tough Surrey team, this was a must win if we were to get through to the top 4 playoffs on day 2. Amazing fight, team spirit and determination from the players meant we came away with a 12-3 win, every singles player fought hard.

Into day 2 we had Hertfordshire and Warwickshire to play, first up was Hertfordshire. We knew we needed a big win and a huge effort from the player saw us take another 12-3 win! Our final match against Warwickshire we knew would be extremely difficult, lots of the rubbers went to 3 ends, but unfortunately it wasn't to be, the final score being a 4-11 loss.

With all the results taken into account we came a credible 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Throughout the weekend both Alex Marritt and myself saw some fantastic team spirit and fight from the team, and we all learnt lessons from our loss to Leicestershire. Overall a successful weekend and a good building point for ICT. A huge well done to the team, we are very proud of you all.

## **ICT**

Selecting the team for ICT this season was extremely difficult with so many players impressing over the season. Even though it makes selecting the final 10 players tough we need to keep this strength in depth, and all keep fighting for selection otherwise we can become complacent. I would just like to say that every single player who has played for and trained with the U18s this season has contributed and is a part of our ICT.

Day 1 and our first box comprised of the Isle of Man, Gloucestershire and Devon. Although the first day can be easier, we knew we had to be ready to go post some big wins to show everyone we meant business. We knew we were better than our 7<sup>th</sup> seeding and we determined to prove it. Scores were 10-0 wins against both IoM and Glos and an 8-2 win against Devon. Good start.

Finishing top of our box on day 1 meant we were to play Essex (2<sup>nd</sup> seed), Hampshire and Surrey (both 9/16 seeds). The motivation within the team was high but I don't think we knew quite what a day we were about to have. Unbelievable performances from each and every single player started from our first match and carried on throughout the day. The team spirit and togetherness were simply amazing, with every player fighting for each other and Yorkshire. Personally I played every shot with them! We ended the day with 6-4 wins against Hampshire and Surrey. Essex finished 5-5. Going into the last girls doubles at 4-5 down I was confident we would take it and knew we had to win in 2 to take the match. Alex Foster had worked out exactly how many points we needed to keep Essex to but he was under strict instructions to not tell myself, Alex M or the players! When we won the girls doubles in my heart, I knew we'd done enough but wasn't quite aware of how close it was. The team swarmed the desk and then started screaming, we won by 4 POINTS!! In ICT every single point counts.

On the final 2 days we were on a high, competing for the top 4 where we know we belong! The top box comprised of ourselves, Leicestershire, Hampshire and Warwickshire. Our first match against Hampshire and we stood up again to take the match 6-4. Next up a strong Warwickshire side, we battled hard but lost 1-9, however in all the games we weren't far off with some extremely close rubbers. Our last match of ICT was a grudge match against Leicestershire. We were pumped up for it but unfortunately succumbed to a close 4-6 defeat, we'll get them next year!

We finished 3<sup>rd</sup> after being seeded 7<sup>th</sup>, and definitely proved to people we belong back at the top. I would like to say that I am amazingly proud of the fantastic team we took to ICT, every single one of them stood up to be counted and brought unbelievable team spirit. Over the 4 days they came together and played out of their skin for each other. They showed true Yorkshire grit. Alex M, Alex F and I would like to say it was a pleasure being part of their team.

## **Shires Finals**

The 1<sup>st</sup> team qualified for Shires Finals this year, but it was really a squad effort with lots of second team players playing up in various matches to get us there.

We were drawn against Essex in the first round and we knew they'd want to get revenge for ICT; however we weren't going to let them. The match finished 11-9 to Yorkshire and we were again into the top 4 play offs! Buckinghamshire was next we came away with a 7-13 loss, however we had some very close rubbers and it could have been very different on another day, we definitely scared them! On to play Surrey to decide 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place. The team made it 3 wins out of 3 over Surrey this season taking it 11-9 to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. Great way to finish a great season!

## **Thank You's**

I'd like to take a minute to thank a few people.

- Firstly, to John Ellis who has been an invaluable help and support for my first season as Manager and Coach.
- Next, I'd like to thank Angela Nettleton who has helped out at training, given me advice and generally being a great support to myself and the squad.
- Parents, thank you for supporting myself and the players all season, without you we would be stuck! The noise you've made, and your unwavering support of Yorkshire has been great.
- A huge thank you must go to Alex Marritt and Alex Foster; I feel that the two of them and myself have created a strong coaching and support team for Yorkshire U18s for many years to come. Alex M's knowledge and calmness has been a great asset this season at RIO, ICT and Shires Finals. Alex F's motivational support, enthusiasm and general belief in Yorkshire and this team of players I know has been a great inspiration to a lot of them.
- Finally, the players. Thank you for your hard work, your fight, your unwillingness to accept people's preseason predictions, and your attitude. You've been a pleasure to coach and manage and definitely kept me on my toes (nearly giving me a heart attack against Essex at ICT!!). A special mention must go to Archit Sachdeva, our ICT captain. His ability to lead his team from the front is second to none and I know all his teammates will agree. I will miss those of you who are moving out of U18s, but I know you'll be successful. I have thoroughly enjoyed every second.

U18 Girl Player of the Year: Romilly Calvert

U18 Boy Player of the Year: Owen Walker

U18 Squad Player of the Year: Tom McCrae

U18 Most Improved Player: Emily Stephenson

U17 Most Improved Player: Russell Yeng

U18 Special Award: Archit Sachdeva

U18 Special Award: Michael Featherstone

**Helen Calverley**

**U18 Team Manager & Coach**

## **U16 Annual Report**

### **Shires Badminton**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Team**

The 1st Team had an awesome season winning all the league matches with the loss of only 3 rubbers and one of those was against Yorkshire 3 and finishing in an unassailable 1<sup>st</sup> position. The Shires Final as always is unpredictable with its draw. We were matched with Leicestershire and with 3 top players missing – this was always going to be tough. We lost 15-5 from the eventual winners on the day. We ended up 6<sup>th</sup> on the day.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Team**

The 2nd Team had a large squad of rotating players but equally had a strong team this year. The team performed well throughout the season gaining an impressive 7 points and a position of 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Team**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Team had a huge amount of success and started with an impressive win against the 2<sup>nd</sup> team and one of the few teams to take any rubbers off Yorkshire 1. They finished in a very respectable 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **North Midway U15**

Unfortunately, this event did not take place this year due to loss of the venue.

### **Anglo-Scottish U15**

The Yorkshire team this year was, with one exception, as strong as Yorkshire could be. The weekend was an interesting event with Cheshire putting a significant challenge. Once that result was won it came down to waiting for the last match against Lothian and unusually it was, in the end, a very comfortable win.

### **U16 Team Event**

The team event involved 6 teams this year so a round robin event was run.

The result was that Yorkshire 1 won the event, even conceding 1 rubber in each match due to being 1 player down for the whole day.

### **Under 16 Yorkshire Open**

EVENTS - Yorkshire Players

**Boys' Singles** Matthew Evison

**Bronze Medal**

**Girls' Singles** Lucy Walker

**Bronze Medal**

**Boys' Doubles**

**Finley Richardson & Alex Speakman**

**Gold Medal**

**Girls' Doubles**

**No Medals**

### **Under 16 Yorkshire Championship**

Event	Winner	Runner up
Boys' Singles	Vidun Wedegedera	Asish Chittamaru
Girls' Singles	Katherine Arksey	Emily Harper
Boys' Doubles	Fred Robertson & Vidun Wedegedera	Alex Speakman & Finley Richardson
Girls' Doubles	Katherine Arksey & Grace Sachdeva	Asmi Shembekar & Emily Harper
Mixed Doubles	Katherine Arksey & Vidun Wedegedera	Grace Sachdeva & Fred Robertson
B Boys' Singles	Anthony Zhao	Roddy Robinson
B Girls' Singles	Nhi Pham	Isla McKinnin-Stones
B Boys' Doubles	Lewis Wadsworth & Roddy Robinson	Maciek Nuprejczyk & Thomas Leah

## **Appreciation**

I must end my report for thanking all the parents that have assisted me during the season-running teams, booking hotels, running the café. Yorkshire is a family and can only run with the continued support of all the parents.

THANK YOU

U16 Girl Player of the Year: Katherine Arksey

U16 Boy Player of the Year: Krithicck Sivakumaar

U16 Squad Player of the Year: Finlay Richardson

U16 Most Improved Player: Ben Whitaker

U15 Most Improved Player: Isaac Thomas

U16 Special Award: Alex Speakman

U16 Special Award: Joe Firth

## **Ashley Reed**

### **Under 14 Report**

This season saw 61 players (32 boys and 29 girls) represent Yorkshire across the under 11/12/13/14 age groups with of them making their Yorkshire debuts and earning Yorkshire Badminton Team Member pin badges. I would like to thank Sara Bowers, David Pooley, Greg Thomas, Alan Camp, Ian Bates, Daniel Woolfson and Emily Robinson for managing teams when I was double booked, incapacitated or on holiday. Also thanks to Mark Whitaker, David Pooley, Janet Wobey and Raymond Yeng for running tournaments on behalf of YBA.

### **Shires League**

Under12

This season we entered two teams in this event. The first team won five of their six matches against Yorkshire 2, Lancashire, Cheshire, Norfolk and Nottinghamshire and losing to Leicestershire. They finished fifth in the league qualifying for the finals. In the finals they lost 15-5 to the eventual winners Hertfordshire in the first round, then beat Essex 13-7 before losing to Berkshire 16-4 to finish in sixth place. The squad featured four under 11s.

The second team won four of their six matches against Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire and Norfolk losing to Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire 1. The team finished ninth in the league just missing out on a top eight invitation to the Finals.

Under 14

The first team finished top of the league comprehensively beating Lancashire 1, Lancashire 2, Derbyshire Northumberland and Nottinghamshire with Cheshire forced to concede a match and qualified for the finals automatically. In the first round they beat Hertfordshire 14-6, they then lost a tight match 11-9 to eventual winners Berkshire before convincingly beating Nottinghamshire 19-1 to finish third.

The second team finished thirteenth narrowly missing out on a play off invitation (given to teams finishing fifth to twelfth). They were awarded victories over Cheshire and Lincolnshire who could not field teams, beat Northumberland and Lancashire 2 and lost to Lancashire 1 and Leicestershire. Five of this squad played a number of first team matches to help their qualification.

### **North Midway League**

This league was unable to run as last year due to the unavailability of the venue.

Leicestershire kindly arranged 2 under 13 events and a primary event. The first under 13 event clashed with the YBA Under 13 Bronze at York and we were unable to send teams as a result. Two teams were sent to the second event with the first team winning all their

matches, the second young team finished seventh of eight teams and gained valuable experience.

Yorkshire also fielded two teams in the primary event. Both sides were young, and they finished fourth and eighth respectively. Again, valuable experience was gained by all players.

These events are aimed to develop squad players and I hope the League will return next season at all four age groups.

### **Anglo Scottish League**

Yorkshire was forced to field an inexperienced team for the five-team event at Newcastle in February. The team finished third beating Cumbria and Northumberland and losing to Lanarkshire (the eventual winners) and Lothian.

### **Largs**

This eight-team event took place over Spring Bank Holiday weekend. The team were without our strongest girls but played brilliantly and were well behaved all weekend. We lost narrowly to Lothian 7-3 in the final, having battled to beat Clyde and Highlands. The team also had good wins over Borders, West of Scotland, Cumbria and Northumberland.

### **Cerryg Davies Mixed Team Event**

Once again, the Under 14 team won the team event with Hugh Simpson and Grace Sachdeva narrowly beating Salah Siraj and Jessica Radley in the final. The Under 13 team finished third equal led by Sumedh Chittamuru and Angie Zhu who were third in the event.

### **Leicester Doubles**

This event takes place annually in October and this season Grace Sachdeva and Sia Pandit won the girls' doubles (first Yorkshire win since 2008) and Sumedh Chittamuru and Ethan Fox won the boys' doubles (first Yorkshire win since 2002 – Mark Middleton and Daniel Shiels).

### **Isle of Man**

As reported last year, this event was held back until September. The singles events were won by Alex Speakman and Trinity Toombs. Yorkshire won the team event beating Isle of Man 10-0 and Lothian 7-3.

U14 Girl Player of the Year: Angie Zhu

U14 Boy Player of the Year: Sumedh Chittamuru

U14 Squad Player of the Year: Molly Whitaker

U14 Most Improved Player: Maddie Cropley

U13 Most Improved Player: Zoe Gergopoulos

U14 Special Award: Salah Siraj

U14 Special Award: Jessica Radley

U12 Girl Player of the Year: Sia Pandit

U12 Boy Player of the Year: Tahmid Ahmed

U12 Squad Player of the Year: Lily Broadhead

U12 Most Improved Player: Suvir Muniyal

U11 Most Improved Player: Mia Fox

U12 Special Award: Alice Pooley

U12 Special Award: Lee Websdale\_Priestley

**John Ellis**

**U14 Team Manager**

## **Masters Badminton Report 2018-19**

Once again, a big thank you to the team captains without whom the teams could not function. They are Jenny Adrian, Nicky Coggins, Mark Needham, Ian Hunter, Gordon Milne, Viv Young, Margaret Sinclair and Helen Atkinson.

This season Yorkshire entered 7 teams into the Inter-County Challenge and the Inter-County League. This is the maximum number of teams possible representing one in each age group, and the most Yorkshire have entered for some years. Masters badminton in Yorkshire is thriving and going from strength to strength.

Practice sessions were held at York RI followed by a captains' meeting on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September. This was the first captains' meeting which was chaired by Gordon Milne. It was felt that the meeting was useful in sorting out the squads for each age group. A second practice session on 6<sup>th</sup> January was arranged at Pontefract Squash and Leisure Club at which 68 players attended.

### **Inter- County Challenge**

Yorkshire teams played at Wolverhampton, Milton Keynes and Worcester this year. A total of 3 Yorkshire teams won with the O45 bouncing back into the Premier Division after just 1 year in the Division 1A. The 50s and 55s won whilst the 60s came second despite winning more rubbers than the declared winners. A quirk of the current rules.

### **Inter-County League Finals**

Four Yorkshire teams reached the finals including O40, O45, O50 and O55. The O40s emerged as winners in their age group once again with the O50s and O55s achieving a draw in both cases but losing on rubbers.

### **Masters Award**

The Masters Award this year goes to the O50 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in 5 years

### **Yorkshire Masters Gold.**

The Masters Gold event attracted over 270 players from England Scotland and 1 from Austria, but unfortunately drew some level of criticism from players and BE. All of the points raised will be addressed for the next tournament.

### **Masters' Coordinator**

This is my last season as coordinator. A final committee meeting was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> May to discuss teams to be entered in the ICL and ICC, and any requests to play outside the age group. I feel the last 5 years has seen a renewed interest in Masters' Badminton in Yorkshire and a solid basis on which to go forward. Ian Hunter will take over this role from June 2019 onwards and I wish him all the best.

## **Yorkshire League**

I believe that this is the first season since I took over as Secretary in 1999 that there were no conceded matches in the first and second divisions. Several matches were played with short teams though.

The completion and receipt of scorecards remains an issue with some clubs who should remember that both need to complete and send one in within 7 days.

### **Division 1**

As is becoming a pattern, Doncaster A retained their title without losing a match. Their squad has a sound nucleus and the other players maintain a high standard.

Horsforth A will return to Division 2 having no victories along with Chesterfield Firth A who were relegated as both Richmond and Harrogate A recorded victories in their last matches.

### Division 2

Chesterfield Firth B had an excellent season losing only once. In the end there was the same scenario as last season with the 2 Horsforth teams. Finishing second was Sheffield Brunswick although Kippax would have overtaken them had they not lost the last mixed 21 19 in the 3rd set in their last match.

Clifton A had a season to forget and finished bottom with no wins. Bridlington A very nearly survived but also lost the last mixed 21 19 in the 3rd set in their last match meaning they drew instead of winning the match.

### Division 3

Sadly, there were 4 conceded matches in the division but at least prior notice was given. Playing at York RI is a plus except for the parking nightmare and it is possible that 2019-2020 will be the last time!!

Cleveland Cobras emerged as winners with East Leeds B as runners up.

**Nick Rogers**

## **Affiliation Report**

A much easier season than 2017/18 with no need to contact Jenna at Badminton England or the membership department.

However, if you pay as a coach and wish to play county and or tournaments please remember to add the compete fee when renewing.

On the Badminton England system Yorkshire has 120 clubs listed. Tykes has 68 members.

Prices for 2019 2020 will be:

Compete senior: £24 plus county fee

Compete Junior: £14 plus county fee

Play: £12 plus county fee

Club with 1 to 8 members £60

Club with 9 to 20 members £80

Club with 21 to 50 members £100

Club with 50 or more £120.

**Nick Rogers**

## **Yorkshire Development Report 2018/19**

It has been a busy year in Yorkshire for badminton with lots of new clubs and sessions being set up in all corners of the county. This would not have been possible without the outstanding work from our volunteers. Below is a small overview of the work which has been achieved in the last 12 months. There has been a lot of excellent work and I would personally like to thank all involved in badminton for their continued effort and support.

### **Primary Badminton**

We have gone from strength to strength across the county with our new racket pack programme. We have delivered in 105 schools across the county using our volunteer and full-time coaches to continue to inspire the next generation of badminton players. We have delivered countless festivals as part of our new templates with more Schools Games Organisers coming on board and delivering badminton at primary age than ever before.

We successfully worked with Leeds United and Leeds Active Schools to deliver the first ever disability Racket Pack festival, this was delivered in January to 90 children at Garforth Leisure Centre with the support of Leeds CBN. We have set up 6 new primary badminton sessions across the county as additional exit routes into clubs for new primary age players to start on their club journey. We ran multiple teacher training workshops across the county which are upskilling primary school teachers to deliver badminton with confidence in their own schools.

## **Secondary Badminton**

The National School Badminton Championships were a huge success running well in all 4 areas of the county. It was the first year that Badminton England ran the whole event and I would like to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers who made this a success. The regional finals were held at York RI with all 4 winners from Sheffield going on to Milton Keynes to represent Yorkshire in the National Finals.

We have recently launched our secondary school support pathway for teachers which will aim to develop and grow the number of schools engaging with badminton and give more support to schools looking to improve their delivery and growth of badminton.

## **Clubs**

We had 3 new clubs set up this year which I have worked closely with to increase their membership and develop their structure to ensure they are sustainable. We have also re-invested in 8 clubs across the county which have been brilliant to work with. The clubs have been looking to either, expand their current structure or increase the size of their membership. The flagship club has been Cleveland Cobras who have increased their number of sessions and members by running a new women and girls, Social and Primary Racket pack sessions. The dedication and commitment by the club has been excellent and they have been brilliant to work with. The club membership across the county has increased from the previous season with more clubs affiliating to Badminton England and more members enjoying the benefits of the club and individual membership.

## **Coaches**

We have supported 9 coaches through their level 1 or 2 coaching bursaries this year with all these coaches delivering additional sessions or increasing the current capacity of their current sessions. We have also successfully ran the Young Leaders Academy in Sheffield which a number of young people from Yorkshire attended. These have then gone back into their clubs and supported the club coaches more effectively.

As mentioned, this is only a small snapshot of the work we have undertaken across Yorkshire. It has been a hugely successful year! As we review the numbers and look back, we have invested upwards of £45k into clubs, coaches, leagues, HUB, CBN's and centres in the past 24 months and this will continue to increase each year! A massive thank you to everyone who has been involved in developing badminton and if you wish to be involved in the future please don't hesitate to contact me on the details below.

Many thanks

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