

YORKSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It has been a very active year for the Association. Tournaments, coaching, and competitions have kept our volunteers very busy and challenged. Juniors, Seniors and Masters players have had a full season of competition and teams have achieved some excellent results. You will see later in this report that there have also been some fabulous individual achievements and performances. Thanks must go to it wasn't for our coaches, team managers and volunteers, much of what happens across the Association would not happen.

The year hasn't been without its challenges. The transfer of the bank account following Russell's departure has not been straight forward and, as I write, our new Treasurer Leanne Noone is still waiting for the account to be transferred! Thanks to Nicola Read who has been managing the account in the interim.

Problems with venues for the senior competition weekends (on the dates published at the start of the season) resulted in changes of dates and venues which was a huge headache for players and for managers. Despite this, every team still had its complement of players and each of our five teams retained their place in their respective divisions - even if it wasn't decided, in some cases, until the last weekend. The team managers have done a great job this season again now that they take more responsibility for organising their squads and managing their team on the day.

It has been a busy year for junior coaching, training and competitions. Ashley Reed and the Schools and Youth Committee, team managers (Helen Calverley, Paul Sibson and Nathan Hale), Match Secretary Dave Wobey and Tournament Secretary Janet Wobey have worked very hard to ensure many opportunities were provided for our juniors. Ashley took on responsibility for organising the Residential Summer School which was a great success and will be repeated again this August.

The Masters have again had a successful year. There have been team and individual successes at county, national and international level. The Masters Gold Tournament at York was again a resounding success and attracted well over two hundred players. Ian Hunter, Roger Cook, Jenny Greensmith and all the volunteers are to be congratulated on running such a superb event. Jenny takes over as Masters Coordinator having worked alongside Ian for the past 15 months.

Janet and Dave Wobey, Roger Cook, Nicola Read and several helpers have organised and ran a good number of senior tournaments this year, some which have made a healthy surplus to plough back into County activity.

Thank you to Lucy Kidd for organising the Yorkshire League so efficiently. The use of Sportsrganiser for online results and registration of players has worked very well and it is good to see more teams joining the League for next season.

Thanks to Babolat that has continued to sponsor the county giving a discount on shuttles and kit. Sion Kingston took over as Kit Manager and has done a great job printing and getting kit out to players.

We are sad to be losing Holly Robson from the role of North Regional Manager to a more national role. Her engagement with the County has been exemplary and we have really appreciated the quarterly newsletters she produced. They will be missed greatly.

It has been pleasing to see many Yorkshire players playing well in tournaments around the country as well as at National and International level. In the Champion of Champions event in Milton Keynes, players from Yorkshire contested four of the five finals. Jamie Bonsels was runner up in the Men's Singles, Yulia Tang won the Women's Singles then partnered Jenny Wallwork to win the Women's Doubles and Nathan Rossiter and Steve Strickland won the Men's Doubles. At the English Nationals in Nottingham, Jenny Wallwork and Chloe Birch won the Women's Doubles title ten years after Jenny's last National title. In the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham last summer, Chloe Birch and Lauren Smith took silver in the Women's Doubles and Marcus Ellis and Lauren Smith took silver in the mixed.

Finally a big thank you to Nicola Read and Roger Cook who between them look after a good proportion of county business across all age groups.

Gordon Milne Chairman

Schools and Youth Report 2022-2023

Another season as Chairman of the Schools and Youth (Junior) Committee has drawn to a close. The second year after the pandemic and the Committee have managed to start all the events that were on hold from 21-22 season. It has been a settling year which has allowed players, parents and coaches to get back into those season schedules.

The season started very positively with all age groups having a manager which has released my time from running 3 age groups last season. Helen Calverley (U18/19), Ashley Reed (U16/17), Paul Sibson (U14/15), Nathan Hale (U12/13). This has allowed me to concentrate on my u16/17 squad players this year with several new players making their debuts.

I must first thank Nicola Read who continues to work tirelessly for the junior squad ensuring that events are communicated to all players whilst still maintaining the senior responsibilities. She was also covering for the treasurer position due to numerous delays with the bank authorization. She has also been the main administrator for the Summer School which is a massive piece of work.

Dave 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. Also to Janet Wobey who arranged all the tournament sanctions, venue bookings, shuttle and medal deliveries. These events would not take place without these two – a BIG THANK YOU

There are only a few of us left running tournaments and Mark Whitaker has run several events which I am very grateful for particularly the events he has taken on with very little notice.

Another big event which we partly got running this year was the RIO – in essence a pre-ICT event. This allows players to experience the environment of a weekend Team event. There were 6 teams entered and Yorkshire came through on top. Next year the accommodation is booked and it should be 95% back to normal with the date moving back to January as well.

The u18 ICT was the first time that I have attended in all my time with Yorkshire. What a tournament and the organization that goes into it is astounding. What an experience for the players in this pinnacle event of their junior journey. The ranking was not great this year and Yorkshire lost out to Leinster – I am sure Helen will go into more details. It did highlight some frailties in the make up of the ICT team. I will try and address the structure of training over the summer.

Lastly the team managers – these people put their life on hold whilst organizing training, squad events, collaborating on team selection and keeping all the players and parents content with the progress and opportunities. THANK YOU – these people make such a difference.

Now the Summer School – I was the lead organizer during the week with Alex Marritt being the lead coach. The first season back and we wondered whether to run it at all but we did and what a success – one of the best. Seeing those faces, particularly the young ones at the challenges and improvement that they gain. Bring on 2023 camp!

Parents are so important, without them and their commitment we would not have the number of players that we do. We do need to engage with them more and encourage them to support the tournaments by volunteering to run the events. This is a 23-24 challenge for the Junior YBA Committee.

Ashley Reed (Schools and Youth Chairman)

FINANCIAL REPORT 2022-23 YORKSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION



Fund Reconciliation

Start Balance (1st August 2022) £48,746

Total Credits £84,174 Plus £853 PayPal
Total Debits -£81,999 unallocated

Net Movement £3,027

Final Balance £51,774

Cash Flow Statement

Metric	Receipts	Expenditure	Net Position
Total	£125,674	-£93,014	£32,659
Total excluding transfers	£84,174	-£81,999	£2,174
SCC	£2,268	-£10,915	-£8,647
Entry Fees	£0	-£3,850	-£3,850
Match Fees	£2,268	£0	£2,268
Expenses	£0	-£7,065	-£7,065
COUNTY ACTIVITY	£46,894	-£36,501	£10,392
Tournaments	£14,067	-£6,456	£7,610
Affiliations	£4,964	-£9	£4,955
Tykes	£0	£0	£0
Yorkshire League	£2,940	-£1,368	£1,573
Venue Hire	£0	-£725	-£725
Shuttles	£821	-£9,281	-£8,460
Expenses	£0	-£1,238	-£1,238
Kit	£1,786	-£113	£1,673
York Residential Summer School	£21,165	-£15,185	£5,980
Senior Training	£1,150	-£2,125	-£975
JUNIORS	£22,193	-£25,896	-£3,703
Junior Matches	£5,526	-£8,213	-£2,687
Junior Tournaments	£10,715	-£7,480	£3,235
Junior Training	£2,712	-£5,250	-£2,538
Venue Hire	£0	£0	£0
Shuttles	£0	£0	£0
Expenses	£0	-£1,784	-£1,784
Miscellaneous	£0	-£546	-£546
Junior Coaching Weekends	£3,240	-£2,623	£617
MASTERS	£12,519	-£8,624	£3,895
Matches	£3,038	-£3,681	-£643
Tournament	£9,301	-£4,003	£5,298
Training	£180	-£125	£55
Venue Hire	£0	£0	£0
Shuttles	£0	-£816	-£816
MISC	£41,800	-£11,077	£30,723
Bank Transfers	£41,500	-£11,015	£30,485
Unallocated	£0	£0	£0
Bank Interest/Charges	£300	-£62	£238

Financial Notes

YBA has continued to be a resilient organisation following the Covid-19 pandemic, and we have recovered well in financial terms despite costs increasing. 2022-23 has been a normal season with most of the usual county activity taking place. We have not had a fully active Treasurer in place this year due to problems with HSBC switching over the account.

Financial activity has been largely back to normal this season, with several key points to note:

1. The total funds at this stage of the season are healthy and show an increase of just over £3000 from the same time last year. The PayPal account balance is around £1500.
2. Expenses for the SCC include £2200 from last year due to a late claim but have increased due to hotels and travel being more expensive now.
3. Tournament income has been the largest in our history at just over £34k. Most tournaments have turned a positive return in terms of profit, although a couple of the smaller junior tournaments have made a slight loss. The Masters' Gold continues to be the most successful. Huge thanks must go to those who have organised and run tournaments this year as we couldn't have run all the county activities without the income from tournaments.
4. Affiliation income has increased this year bucking the trend of the last few years.
5. Several county activities run at an agreed loss due to the positive return we see elsewhere, for example, SCC, ICT, junior matches and training. We do this to ensure Yorkshire players benefit from our success in running other events.
6. Shuttle costs have been centralised. They are notoriously difficult to allocate given we usually hold and carry over stock. Details can be provided upon request as to where we have used shuttles, but they are primarily used for Yorkshire League, County Restricted, Training, Masters' and Junior matches, and Masters' Gold. We currently have around 160 dozen shuttles in stock.
7. The Yorkshire Residential Summer School will run again this season, and we are currently benefiting from entry fees with limited expenses – the final year end position will be lower than we are today (estimate ~£3-4k lower).
8. Sion Kingston took over as Kit Manager and has been printing kit and selling it for us. We currently have around 120 shirts in stock.

Tournament Secretary's Report 2022-2023

Senior Section

It is in the Senior section that we have had concerns, all of them are down to BE regulations.

Senior Silver 26/11/2022. 94 players entered resulting in 105 matches. There was a surplus of £492.16. Entry to Silver even is always lower than Bronze and Tier 4 (which used to be called Copper). BE requires a minimum of £700 prize money (unless entry in a section is very low in which case, the prize money can be reduced for that section but the reduction is minimal.) In addition, the event has to be run over 2 days which increases the cost of the courts so any surplus for a Silver event must be welcomed.

Senior Bronze 11/03/2023

This was when the size of the entry just exploded. There were far more than we could accommodate in the court time available. There were 207 entries and we refused 79. In the previous year there were 123 entries. Quite why there was such a massive increase, we don't know unless it was as events picked up after Covid.

To have an entry this big wasn't good. It wasn't pleasant having to refuse so many players, not to mention that it cost YBA about £40 in refunding them. BE regulations stipulate that selection must be based on grade, so it was the lower grade players or those without a grade at all that had to be refused.

As always in any event, the number of women entering is less, especially so in WS.

With this large entry, we made a large surplus of around £2,650 which was very welcome but didn't compensate for the unpleasantness of having to refuse so many.

Senior T4/ Copper 21/05/2023

The entry was similarly high – 195 and we refused 65. This was particularly galling. The Tier 4 events were designed for players who couldn't get into Bronze events because of their low or non-existent grade but here they were, unable to get into a Tier 4.

This year, BE had allowed that, for Tier 4 events, we could accept up to 50% on a first come basis. If this was an attempt to give low grade players a chance to get in, it didn't work. Players of all grades entered early and within 3 days of entry opening, we had the 50% in MS, again the worst affected. After that selection had to be on grade and lower grade players were again refused. Quite a few of these players were entering their first tournament, had maybe paid their BE membership and Compete fees specially and would get no refund of these. I had a very angry email from one Yorkshire player, angry with BE not YBA, who said he would never enter a Tier 4 again and I could offer him no hope of the situation changing any time soon. The surplus this time was around £2,680.

I have been complaining to BE since 2018 that the grade restrictions need adjusting so more of the higher-grade players become ineligible for the Bronze and Tier4/Copper events. Their answer for long enough has been that they are awaiting a review of the grade system. I believe the grades are being abolished altogether and instead players will just have a ranking. That may be so but if players are just transferred over to the new system and the entry restrictions are comparable, it won't solve the problem.

There are players who competed in the Hull Silver, the Yorkshire Bronze and the Yorkshire Tier 4. That can't be right when so many players couldn't get into the Tier 4 and so played none of these. This is not a criticism of the players. There are few tournaments in the North and if they can enter one without travelling long distances, it's to be expected that they would enter.

However, there is a ray of hope. Sue Storey (CEO of BE) paid us a visit at the Tier 4. She was very approachable and very clear that she was there to listen. She asked for our suggestions, and we gave them to her.

- We said the grade restrictions should be more stringent so that the better players currently eligible for Tier 4 should become ineligible and therefore pushed into Bronze events. Similarly, the better Bronze players should be pushed into Silver events.
- We said that the £700 prize money for Silver events should be replaced by medals to keep the costs down.
- We explained that the first year BE ran the Tier/4 Copper circuit, the selection was allowed to be from the bottom, so the lowest grade players were accepted and the top players refused. She thought that was a good idea but as we pointed out, BE don't allow that now.

Whether or not anything will change because of her visit remains to be seen but she did listen and made notes.

Junior Section

Understandably, with the age restrictions, the number of entries to the junior events is much lower. Surpluses, if any, are much less.

- **U17 Silver 30/10/2022** - 39 players and 64 matches. The surplus was around £380.
- **U13 Bronze 06/11/2022** - 50 players and 83 matches. Surplus £950
- **U15 Silver 18/02/2023** Entry 24 players and 36 matches. This event about broke even.
- **U17 Bronze 19/02/2023** 44 players and 69 matches. Surplus around £430.
- **U19 Bronze 26/01/2023** was a very difficult event. Perhaps the date was not well chosen although we have run it successfully at this time in previous years, but the entry was very low so the event was postponed. Later, at the last minute, the RI told us they'd double booked and the event had to be put back a day. This influenced the entries. Entry 48 and matches 51. I have no more details on this event but we were only charged half price because of double booking which helped us break even.

Badminton was never a cheap sport but with the cost of living rising so fast now, it is concerning. Holly Robson told me that some players weren't playing tournaments or for their County because they couldn't afford it.

The money that parents must lay out so their child/ren can play in the Shires League and tournaments is horrendous and then there are travel costs on top of that. It seems appropriate that the surpluses from the Copper/Ter4 and the Bronze should, to some extent, subsidise our junior events so the entry fees for these can be kept low.

Results

Yorkshire Senior Silver	Winner	Runner up
MS	Max Flynn	Harry Lines
WS	Raye Wan	Gemma Atkins
MD	Ben Jarvis & Harry Lines	Nick Hodgson & Ben Wheatley
WD	Abby Downing & Natasha Lado	Vivien Cheng & Cici Lu
XD	Phillip Pahatouridis & Cici Lu	Harry Goode & Natasha Lado

Yorkshire Senior Bronze	Winner	Runner up
MS	Finlay Smith	Joe Dehdashty
WS	Yoghithaa Amaran	Marsha Laksono
MD	Paul Mayfield & Phil Sunderland	Josh Backhouse & Ollie Cohen
WD	Emma Goddard & Aimie Whiteman	Vivien Cheng & Cici Lu
XD	Ollie Cohen & Helen Merrett	Jamie Noble & Emma Liddle

Yorkshire Senior Copper	Winner	Runner up
MS	Cheuk Yin Yeung	Will Kemp
WS	Nam Lloyd	Louise Williams
MD	Srirangarajan Narasimhan & Cheuk Yin Yeung	Paddy Clarke & Chris Hunt
WD	Emily Harper & Sue Prosser	Muyao Li & Noelle Yau
XD	Ed Fricker & Lucy Walker	Chris Hunt & Alina Natalsenko

Upcoming events in Yorkshire for the rest of 2023:

Senior

Hull Copper 10th September

Harrogate Bronze 16th & 17th September

Yorkshire Restricted 30th September & 1st
October

Hull Senior Bronze 7th October

Yorkshire Silver 25th & 26th November

Junior

Yorkshire U17 Silver 22nd October

Yorkshire U13 Bronze 29th October

Yorkshire U15 Bronze 4th November

Janet Wobey
June 2023

Match Secretary's Report

It has been a very busy season with one weekend before Christmas and two after. It is pleasing to report that there was good commitment from many players which gave a bit of stability to most teams which was reflected in some excellent results. The main achievement this season was that every team retained its position in its division.

SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Premiership and Championship League matches are played over three separate weekends over two days with total of nine matches. 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 Championship. Divisions 2 - 4 have up to 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.

1st Team (Premiership). FIFTH

Having regained our place in the Premiership League last season it was going to be a challenge to keep our place. Points were close between a number of teams going into the final weekend but our team played with passion and commitment winning two of their three matches convincingly and in the end the team finished in a very creditable 5th place with 49 points. Special mention to Jenny Wallwork for winning 14 out of 17 rubbers played, Yulia Tang who won 13 and Steve Strickland 11. Thanks to Alex Marritt for again managing the team.

2nd Team (Championship) FIFTH

An excellent season for the 2nd team. Not too many players were lost to the 1st team which resulted in a stable team and some pleasing results. The team finished in 5th place with 50 points. Oliver Cohen was our lead player in terms of wins - 14 rubbers out of 20 played. Many thanks to Mark Pratt for once again doing an excellent job as team manager.

3rd Team (Division 1 North) FIFTH

The first two weekends were difficult for the team with players being pulled up, injured or unavailable. They went into the final weekend in danger of being in the relegation area. However, three excellent wins from their three matches propelled them into 5th place with 39 points - an excellent outcome. Lucy Kidd and Laura Wall both achieved 9 wins from the 14 rubbers they played. Thanks to Lucy for being an efficient team manager.

4th Team (Division 2 North) THIRD

At one time early in the season the team looked as though it might be in with a chance of winning the division but in the end Notts 2 proved too strong and pulled away from all the other teams. Some difficulties with player availability over the season was a problem but in the end the team finished in a very creditable 3rd place with 47 points. Excellent results for Susan Prosser winning 11 rubbers from 13 played, Phil Sunderland 11 from 14 and Mia Fox with 10 from 11. Thank you to Mark Harrison for managing the team well.

5th Team (Division 2 North) SIXTH

It was another fabulous escape act from the 5th team this season. They played most of the stronger teams over the first two weekends and went into the last weekend in the relegation zone almost 10 points behind Durham. However fighting performances from all the team members in

the last three fixtures gave them a 9-2 win over Lothian 2; a close 5-6 loss to Lancs 3 which meant that in their final match on the Sunday they only had to beat Durham to jump above them and be safe from relegation. It all came down to the final mixed which Ryan Malone and Alina Natalsenko clinched 24-22, 21-15 to give the team a 6-5 victory and to jump over Durham out of the relegation zone and into 6th place. Special mention to Chin Tze Ng who won 8 out of 13 rubbers played and to young Angie Zhu who won 6 out of 7. Thanks to Gordon Milne for managing the team and to Josh Backhouse for his assistance as team captain.

17-U21 Team (English County Challenge) SECOND

Another fine set of performances from the team coming second to a strong Avon squad. Thanks to Archit Sachdeva for his fine team management in his last season in this age group. Well done to Asish Chittamuru on being nominated for the team award. Thanks go to Roger Cook and Gordon Milne for running a well organised event.

TROPHY NOMINATIONS

1st Team Ken Davidson Award: Yulia Tang

2nd Team Jimmy Cox Salver: Oliver Cohen

3rd Team Bill Holwill Memorial Salver: Lucy Kidd

4th Team SAF Pat Rycroft Plate: Susan Prosser

5th Team M Bryan Salver: Chin Tze Ng

U21 Team Margo Winter Salver: Asish Chittamuru

COLOUR NOMINATIONS

1st Team: Steve Strickland,

2nd Team: Oliver Cohen, Matt Steel, Archit Sachdeva, Romilly Calvert

3rd Team: Vidun Wedagedera, Helen Merrett, Alex James

4th Team : Ivan Spynu, Mia Fox, Yawei Li

5th Team : Will Kemp, Angie Zhu, Chin Tze Ng, Jessica Markey

U21 Team: Asish Chittamuru, Vidun Wedagedera, Thomas Crabtree

APPEARANCES

250 Appearances: None

200 Appearances: None

150 Appearances: None

100 Appearances: Steve Strickland (101)

50 Appearances: Oliver Cohen

APPEARANCES TOP TEN TYKES

WOMEN

Nicola Parry (Smith)	258	1987-2019
Sarah Panesar (Petch)	238	1989-2019
Justine Evans (Willmott)	171	1985-2010
Susan Prosser (Barbour)	163	1990-2023
Hayley Ludlam	122	1988-2006
Lucy Kidd (Milne)	118	2003-2023
Charlotte Lindsay	117	1956-1981
Lisa Garnier	111	1987-2008
Jenny Day	107	2000-2014
Steph Martin (Barwick)	102	2005-2018

MEN

Nitin Panesar	224	1984-2018
Alex Marritt	195	1997-2023
Steve Parry	150	1984-2013
Brian Keefe	144	1952-1980
Mike Adams	140	1980-2017
Stuart Illingworth	139	1989-2012
Russell Binns	135	2001-2022
Steve Foster	132	1994-2017
Glenn Coburn	124	1985-2011
James Allinson	122	2001-2019

GORDON MILNE

SCC LEAGUE TABLES 2022-23

Premiership	P	W	D	L	Pts
1 Middlesex	9	8	0	1	70
2 Buckinghamshire	9	6	0	3	61
3 Hampshire	9	7	0	2	55
4 Surrey	9	5	0	4	50
5 Yorkshire	9	5	0	4	49
6 Avon	9	4	0	5	46
7 Leicestershire	9	3	0	6	46
8 Hertfordshire	9	3	0	6	44
9 Cheshire	9	1	0	8	39
10 Lancashire	9	3	0	6	35

Championship	P	W	D	D	Pts
1 Leinster	9	9	0	0	73
2 Warwickshire	9	7	0	2	71
3 Nottinghamshire	9	8	0	1	66
4 Kent	9	5	0	4	52
5 Yorkshire 2	9	4	0	5	50
6 Sussex 1	9	5	0	4	49
7 Essex	9	3	0	6	49
8 Northumberland	9	3	0	6	33
9 Glasgow & North Strathclyde	9	1	0	8	28
10 Derbyshire	9	0	0	9	24

Division 1 North	P	W	D	L	Pts
1 Lanarkshire	7	7	0	0	55
2 Gloucestershire	7	5	0	2	52
3 Avon 2	7	4	0	3	43
4 Leicestershire 2	7	4	0	3	42
5 Yorkshire 3	7	4	0	3	37
6 Warwickshire	7	2	0	5	29
7 Lothian	7	2	0	5	27
8 Lancashire	7	0	0	7	23

Division 2 North					
Nottinghamshire 2	7	7	0	0	64
Isle of Man	7	5	0	2	48
Yorkshire 4	7	5	0	2	47
Lancashire 3	7	5	0	2	44
Cheshire 2	7	3	0	4	39
Yorkshire 5	7	2	0	5	28
Durham	7	1	0	6	26
Lothian 2	7	0	0	7	12

Under 18 Team Manager's Report -2022-2023 Season

We've had an up and down time this season at the U18 age group, despite that players and parents have supported each other throughout. The players' effort can't be faulted; there were some very, very close games and points which just didn't go our way, that on any other day would have done. I'd just like to say well done to all players this season who have played with professionalism no matter the situation. Good luck to all those moving on, and I'm looking forward to working with those staying again next season!

Shires League

2nd Team

We had a strong second team this season, with 8 boys selected as we just couldn't separate them. The team spirit in the 2nd team has been fantastic. They have trained hard, worked together and supported each other magnificently.

Our results are as follows:

- v Leics- 2-18 loss
- v Warwicks- 10-10 loss (however we won on ends, but Shires counts this as a draw which was frustrating!)
- v Cheshire- 8-12 loss
- v Yorks 1- 4-15 loss
- v Northumberland- 9-11 loss
- v Lancs- 20-0 WIN!

As you can see the match results were unbelievably close, and on another day could have gone our way. No play-offs for us this year, however had the 10-10 draw been counted as a win we may have just sneaked in, points dependent. You should all be very proud of yourselves. Very strong results.

1st Team

High hopes for this first team, as we were extremely strong, and with it being a lot of the players last season as a junior we wanted to finish on a high! All the players knew we had a job to do and in the regular season we had by far the toughest draw out of all the top teams. They more than excelled proving a lot of people what they were made of!

Our results are as follows:

- v Chesire- 16-4 WIN!
- v Yorks 2- 15-4 WIN!
- v Staffs- 16-4 WIN!
- v Lancs- 20-0 WIN!
- v Notts- 13-7 WIN!
- v Northumberland- 18-2 WIN!

We finished 2nd overall in the league having won every match, even against the toughest teams, convincingly. The team who finished first had a much easier draw than us!

A couple of players missing in The Finals due to exams we called up super sub Molly! We started off well beating a strong Leics side 12-8, coming together as a team well especially in the doubles and mixed where Leics strengths are. This meant we were in the top 4. We drew Herts next and took a strong lead; however we were played at Herts home venue. Our strong start spurred on the huge support they had and credit to the Herts players who played extremely well. As a team we fought so hard and came away on the wrong end on a few 21-20 games. It was a tough loss 9-11, but we stuck together against a crowd who were against us which I am very proud of them all for. Our 3rd/4th place match was v Avon, and the team picked themselves up after the disappointment of the previous match, supporting each other throughout. We beat Avon 11-9 with some tired bodies. In the heat of the moment I think we were disappointed, but on reflection the team spirit and fight is something they should all be proud of in the midst of their GCSEs and A-Levels. Well done team for a fab 3rd place finish.

RIO

It was the first RIO back since COVID and The Fosters have passed the RIO baton onto YBA who did a great job at restarting the event! It was a somewhat smaller event this year due to counties getting out of the habit of playing but we know they'll all be back next year!

It was a great weekend for our Yorkshire team winning all our games on day 1 meaning we were in the running for a first place finish for the first time in quite a few years. Day 2 came round and we knew we had to perform in order to bring the title home, especially against a very loud Leics team! We prepared well, and there were some great performances throughout day 2.

A massive well done to the Yorkshire 2023 RIO team finishing 1st!!

ICT

We had a very new team at ICT this year, with 6 out of the 10 selected players playing their 1st ICT! We knew it would be extremely tough, especially as the tournament was back to 4 days with an increased number of counties.

Our results on the first 2 days are as follows:

Day 1-

- v Isle of Man- 9-1 WIN
- v Kent- 9-1 WIN

Day 2-

- v Warwicks- 8-2 WIN
- v Sussex- 10-0 WIN
- v Staff- 10-0 WIN

A really strong first 2 days, but we knew that it was about to get extremely tough on day 3. What nearly everyone at the tournament thought were the best 2 teams in ourselves and Leinster were to meet on day 3. Here are our day 3 results.

Day 3-

- v Kent- 8-2 WIN
- v Leics- 6-4 WIN
- Leinster- 3-7 loss

Yes we were extremely disappointed, however, as in Shires Finals, we fought unbelievably hard and some of the games we lost could have gone either way. We were just so, so close, and I can't thank the players enough for their attitude for the rest of the tournament despite how upset I know we all were. They performed very well against a Leinster team full of Irish international players, meeting them a day early that everyone thought we should because of a tough draw.

Our main aim now was to beat everyone else we came up against to show everyone was true Yorkshire grit was about.

Day 4 results:

- v Hampshire- 7-3 WIN

It wasn't to be for us this year, but a very credible 5th place finish, only losing to the eventual winners. We pushed Leinster the most out of all their matches and I know we all believe we should have finished 2nd.

Well done to each and every player who played and showed all the ICT community that we will keep fighting even when we are disappointed. We showed what we were made of by bouncing back and winning our final match.

Thank You's

Firstly I would like to thank all the players who have represented Under 18 age group this season. They have worked their socks off, I am proud of every single one of you. Thank you for your effort this season. To the parents, we wouldn't be able to field teams and be successful without you guys. Thank you for being supporters, taxis, water bottle fillers and every other job you do!

Thank you to our ICT coaching team, who I hope will be with us again next year. Alex Marritt, Romilly Calvert and Ash Reed. I am so glad you all came with us and think we make a great team, and know we have learnt from this year so we can come back stronger next year.

Another thank you to Ash Reed again for being a fantastic support to myself this year behind the scenes, and to Alex Marritt for the same reason. You have both been amazing this season and I hope we can continue to work together!

Finally thank you to all Nick Read, Dave Wobey, Mark Whitaker and all the others involved in running YBA juniors behind the scenes, We wouldn't be able to run without you all, so thank you for making YBA work for all the players who come through the junior teams.

Helen Calverley
Under 18 Team Manager

U16/U17 ANNUAL REPORT

Shires Badminton

1st Team

The 1st Team excelled winning all their games in the League and ending up in 1st position. The Shires final clashed with exams for several players. The team performed outstandingly only to be edged out on a count back after a 10-10 draw with Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire ended up 4th on the day. There were 20 players that represented Yorkshire Shires 1st team. Guhan Balaji was the only player that played all the matches and the final winning 20 of the 32 games played. There were also 4 players that were unbeaten during the season.

2nd Team

The 2nd Team played well all season with a squad rotation and came 17th winning 3 of their 6 games. 17 players represented Yorkshire in the 2nd team. Jess Petts & Zoe Georgopolous played 16 of the possible 20 games in the League.

Anglo-Scottish U17

The Anglo Scottish took place this year but there were only 4 teams so it moved to a single day event. There were a lot of new players representing Yorkshire and as usual it came down to the clash between Lothian. After some strong games Lothian came out on top this year 10-5; a solid 2nd place.

U16 Team Event

This event was cancelled this year.

Under 16 Yorkshire Open – Yorkshire Medallists

	Boys Singles	Girls Singles		
GOLD		Anson Fong		
SILVER	Guhan Balaji	Nhu Pham		
	Mixed Doubles	Girls Doubles	Boys Doubles	
GOLD	Anson Fong Guhan Balaji	Anson Fong Nhu Pham	Anthony McEnally Joshua Milner	
SILVER	Nhu Pham Anthony McEnally	Ruby Holmes Shrena Ramakrishnan	Louis Sturman Rakshan Ramakrishnan	
BRONZE	Jemima Kingston Joshua Milner	Jemima Kingston Jess Petts		

Under 16 Yorkshire Championship has not been scheduled

Special Mention

I must make a special mention to Sumedh Chittamaru, Adam Metcalfe, Sia Pandit, Grace Sachdeva and Yawei Li who were all selected from the 16/17 squad to represent Yorkshire at the U18 ICT.

Appreciation

I must end my report for thanking all the parents that have assisted me during the season, running teams. A special thank you to Mark Whitaker, Nicola Read, Janet Wobey and Dave Wobey who support me during the season.

THANK YOU

Ashley Reed

Yorkshire U15/14 Season Report

This season has for me been an excellent season- my first aim as manager was to get the two teams to gel together and be as one team all supporting each other which I think we achieved. Hopefully the players will take this with them as they progress to other teams.

October 2022 Anglo Scottish Tournament.

The players for this event were made up of what became the second team, this was due to the unavailability of 5 first team players, the team was as follows :-

Boys. Fausto Ku, Alex Steel, Anthony McEnally, Mathew Baker, Rakshan Ramakrishnan and Aayush Gourisaria.

Girls. Lily Mae Wood, Nhu Pham, Jemima Kingston, Ruby Holmes, Maisie Broadhead and Alisha Marlin.

All their performances exceeded my expectations.

Yorkshire 14 Northumberland 10

Yorkshire 19 Cumbria 5

Yorkshire 21 Lothian 3

Yorkshire 12 Clyde 12

This was decided on the last game which we lost on the third end 7 up tie break which we lost 7 -6, we finished second on a points count back putting us in second place.

Yorkshire 2 Shires League

The second team players were Anthony McEnally, Joshua Milner, Rakshan Ramakrishnan and Aayush Gourisaria. Nhu Pham, Jemima Kingston, Maisie Broadhead and Ruby Holmes. Alisha Marlin played in the Shires Finals.

Yorkshire 2 2 Yorkshire 1 18

Yorkshire 2 18 Northumberland 2

Yorkshire 2 17 Lincolnshire 3

Yorkshire 2 13 Lancashire 7

Yorkshire 2 20 Cheshire 2 0

Yorkshire 2 20 Cheshire 1 0 Conceded

Play-offs

Yorkshire 2 11 Nottingham 9

This was decided on the last rubber which went to three and Nhu and Jemima held themselves together to win through. All the team members were playing every point with them it was amazing to see them being treated like heroes by the rest of the team at the end. Unfortunately they didn't have any success in the final, for me, they played their final against Nottingham.

Yorkshire 1 Shires League

Yorkshire 1st team :- Siddarth Mehra, Oliver Wu, Fausto Ku, Alex Steel, Lily Mae Wood, Crystal Wong, Shreya Urs and Lucy Parker.

Yorkshire 2 2 Yorkshire 1 18

Yorkshire 1 20 Northumberland 0

Lincolnshire 1 1 Yorkshire 1 19

Yorkshire 1 19 Lancashire 1

Cheshire 1 1 Yorkshire 1 19

Yorkshire 1 20 Cheshire 2 0 Conceded,

No play-off match to play.

Shires League Finals.

Yorkshire beat Surrey 1st 13 – 7 then lost 13-7 to Leicester and 12-8 to Berkshire to finish 4th overall.

A combination of 1st and 2nd team players took part in the Herts Team challenge with 10 strong teams taking part. Yorkshire finished in fourth position after winning three and losing two to both the finalists.

On an individual front all these players have all had a successful season at the age group finals. Next season has the potential to improve on this one.

Under 14 Yorkshire Open – Yorkshire Medallists

	Boys Singles	Girls Singles
GOLD		
SILVER		Shreya Urs
BRONZE	Fausto Ku	Lucy Parker Crystal Wong
	Girls Doubles	Boys Doubles
GOLD	Lucy Parker Crystal Wong	
SILVER	Saanvi Urs Shreya Urs	Phil Daniel Fausto Ku
BRONZE	Maisie Broadhead Ruby Holmes Alisha Marlin Varvara Spynu	Aayush Gourisaria Alex Steel Rakshan Ramakrishnan (Ross Abraham)

Under 14 Yorkshire Championship has not been scheduled

Paul Sibson Team Manager.

U12/13 Yorkshire Report 2022/23

Shires League

1st Team

Our U12 first team missed out on qualifying for shires finals by a mere rubber! We finished on 3 wins, 2 losses, and 1 hard fought draw against Leicestershire 1s. 13 individuals represented Yorkshire 1s this season, with a few players showing great commitment to attend every fixture and playing in all 24 possible matches. Those were Phil Daniel, Jake Harrison, James Dong, Neve Pearson, and Ayesha Haque.

2nd team

Our second team had a difficult season this year, with a total of 1 win and 5 losses in our 6 fixtures. We had a very inexperienced squad, with only 'mixed specialist' Tom Petts having represented Yorkshire in a previous occasion. We occasionally struggled to find a full team to attend each match, but the attending players compensated for the lack of numbers with their fantastic display of determination, even against some of the nations best players. 12 players represented Yorkshire 2 this year despite the small squad struggle. 3 players worked hard to deserve a call up to the Yorkshire 1st team on a few occasions this year. Those shining stars were Austin Taylor, Aadya Jain and Chloe Kidd.

U12/13 Anglo-Scottish

Like in the U16/17 age group, this years Anglo-Scottish event was reduced to one day from two, as only Northumberland, Cumbria, and Lothian could field a team. We were the only county to field a full 6 girls and 6 boys squad, this advantage was too much for even Lothian to overturn, as we convincingly won 12-4 in the final, and brought the trophy back to Yorkshire.

Primary North Midway

The U14 Yorkshire manager Paul Sibson and supportive parent Arun Urs (father of Shreya and Saanvi Urs) very kindly stood in for me at this event, as I was/am unable to attend on both days the event is staged. I have heard through a match report the outcome of the first leg, with huge thanks to Arun for such extensive detail and feedback. The first leg of the Primary North Midway was held on 25 June, which saw 8 primary age players compete against 7 other counties, and resulted in a 3rd place standing, but it's all to play for with the second leg to be played on 9th July.

Unfortunately there was no scheduled U12/13 open, team event, or restricted championships for the 22/23 season.

Gratitude

This season wouldn't be possible without the huge help and commitment that parents provide to the children and myself throughout the year. Your children are a huge credit to your patience and hard work, and I'm sure they are grateful for all the support you provide them (even if they don't mention it!).

Special thanks to the YBA heroes that do so much work behind the scenes to make the season possible, and keep the Yorkshire badminton cogs turning efficiently year on year. Those are Nicola Read, Dave Wobey, Janet Wobey and Ashley Reed.

Further appreciation needs to be given to the coaches in the Yorkshire region, without you, we wouldn't be nearly as competitive as we are, and likely wouldn't be able to put a team out at all, so thank you for hard work with the players, you're all doing a very impressive job, and it's shown by the success we have as a county.

I'm already looking forward to the 23/24 season, bring it on!

Nathan Hale

2022-3 Masters report for AGM

We entered teams in all age groups from O40s to O70s this season, in both the league and ICC.

Championship League Results

The over 45s and over 60s teams both qualified for the finals weekend in Birmingham in April. This was a significant drop from the 2021-22 season where 5 age group teams qualified, though last year we didn't have any Championship winners.

The 60s, under the captaincy of Chris Summers, beat Hampshire 11-1 in the final and with their semi-final being equally straightforward, had their closest match against Lancs in the northern group stages.

The 45s, under the captaincy of Jenny Adrian, lost to Sussex 7-5 in the final, after a catastrophic series of late player drop outs, injuries and illnesses, including during the finals weekend itself.

The other age group teams were placed as follows in their northern group:

40s 4th of 4

50s 3rd of 4

55s 4th of 4

65s 4th of 4

70s 3rd of 5

We need to find a greater number of available players in various age groups, with particular emphasis on the ladies, as their numbers post Covid have dropped significantly, and additionally the 70s in particular suffered many injuries on the ladies side.

Challenge Weekend Results (Premiership unless otherwise indicated)

40s 6th of 6 so are likely to be relegated (Essex didn't field a team so will be relegated)

45s 1st of 5, without losing any rubbers, a feat only once before achieved in the Premiership since records went online about 10-11 years ago.

50s 2nd of 4 in div 1A, so are likely to remain in this division next year.

55s 5th of 7

60s 1st of 7

65s 1st of 4 in div 1A so return to the Premiership in 2023-4.

70s 5th of 7

Catering And Courts

Matches were split between Harrogate, Hull & Pontefract this year. In practice, matches can only be played at Harrogate Racquets club when a team member is a member of the club, so in 2023-4 the 45s are likely to play their home games there.

Additionally, it may be possible this coming year to hold a few matches, plus the beginning of season practice, at York Railway Institute (RI).

Catering is provided by the venue at Hull and Pontefract, with the additional option of the team providing food when matches are at Harrogate. Catering costs rose in 2022-23 as did match fees but these appear manageable at the moment. Many teams supplemented the food by supplying their own cakes.

Captains

There have been a couple of changes in captains after the year end. Andy Huggett captains the 50s next year with this season's captain, Catherine Warrener, moving up to the 55s.

The 65s are currently without a captain for 2023-4, though a number of players have volunteered to take on parts of the role.

Gold Event

Across the 3 days, we had 42 volunteers, including players, helping out at the event plus 8 umpires and a photographer, with the volunteers looking good kitted out in their Yorkshire blue "Volunteer" zip up hoodies for easy recognition by players.

Major issues we have had with the RI in the past have almost completely disappeared with a change in their personnel. Catering is now provided by players and volunteers and brought in around £960 of the profit figure, as well as being well appreciated by the players for running to the end of each day's play. We limit parking at the RI on the weekend to those working on the event (volunteers, umpires, Maurice Robinson shop staff) because of space constraints.

Revenue for the event at York Railway Institute (RI) came in at around £9340 with approximately 250 players entering, and profit around £4900. Given that 2023 was not a year in which we host the McCoig international match beforehand, the revenue and profit numbers were very welcome, being around 25% and 76% higher than the equivalent event in 2020, which took place pre Covid without any restrictions, and only marginally below the 2021-22 figures.

The sound system is still only hired for the event, so one item worth consideration is whether the equipment should be bought by the county, given that so many other badminton events which are run at the RI could also benefit from it.

Future

Jen Greensmith has taken over as the Masters Coordinator for 2023-4 and the role will I am sure benefit from her organisational skills. As Coordinator, she also assumes responsibility for the Gold event. Depending on the demands on her time, it may become sensible to have a separate tournament director for the Gold event in future, though some steps have already been taken to involve a growing nucleus of playing and non-playing volunteers in the organisation of the event going forward.

Many thanks are due to those who have helped me during my 4 years in the role of Coordinator, including Roger, Nicola and Gordon from the county committee and Jen herself of course, together with the captains. I would like to give a special mention and thank you to Margaret Sinclair and more latterly Bruce Denison, and above all, Jenny Adrian, for their input, feedback and support which have been invaluable.

Ian Hunter

Yorkshire League 2022-23

The first division was closely fought this year and it came down to the last few matches with East Leeds eventually taking the title, beating Harrogate and East Leeds by 4 points. The second division was also close at the top with Horsforth being pipped at the post by York RI. We had four successful weekends in York for the third division, with Bridlington finishing top with 21 points.

We have five more teams joining the leagues for next season and it is really exciting to see the League growing. The divisions are being rearranged accordingly forming two divisions of 10 and one of 9.

Lucy Milne
YL Secretary

Affiliation Report

The Badminton England Go Membership system recorded the following data for YBA at the end of May 2023 (Compared to May 2022 data).

There are a total of 40 (46) organisations listed.

This is made up from 29 (39) Clubs, 6 (1) Junior Clubs, 2 Performance Centres, 2 (3) Social Sections and 1 (1) Association.

The total number of members affiliated in the County is 1,568 (1,536)
This includes all junior members.

The number of Coaches on the BE Coaching Register is 74 (62).

BE MEMBERSHIP PRICES

	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2022/23</u>
Club Player	£15.00	£13.50
Junior Player	£5.00	£4.50
Compete Player	£30.00	£26.50
Compete Junior Player	£17.00	£15.50
Coach Member	£50.00	£50.00
Compete Coach Member	£70.00	£63.00
The Racket Pack	N/A	N/A
The Racket Pack + Compete Player	£12.00	£10.00
Compete Non Resident	£15.00	£13.50
Fan Member	N/A	£10.00
Social Member	N/A	£10.00
Club Affiliation 1-8 Members	N/A	£66.00
Club Affiliation 9-20 Members	£90.00	£88.00
Club Affiliation 21-49 Members	£120.00	£110.00
Club Affiliation 50+ Members	£140.00	£132.00

Roger Cook



Yorkshire Badminton Association Badminton England Report 2022-23

I would like to thank the Yorkshire Badminton Association Committee for their continued support during 2022-23 as well as all the volunteers and coaches across the county who work tirelessly within our sport to deliver, organise and oversee activity.

Club Support

- ✋ Clubs have regularly been sent updates & information on external funding streams which may be useful (e.g. Sport England Small Grants Fund, Magic Little Grants & Arnold Clark Community Fund) with support offered from myself for bid writing and reading over bids prior to them being submitted.
- ✋ Six clubs in Yorkshire were involved in delivering activity during Badminton England's 'The Big Hit' week in September 2022 (Abbeydale Park Badminton Club, Pontefract Badminton Club, Keighley Phoenix Badminton Club, Harrogate Hawks Badminton Club, Keighley Kobras Junior Badminton Club & York Junior Badminton Club).
- ✋ I have supported Cayton Corsairs Badminton Group in Scarborough to protect their weekly No Strings session as they were in danger of losing their usual weekly slot to other sports at Pindar Leisure Centre.
- ✋ I am currently working with Beverley Badminton Club to explore opportunities to help them with increased facility costs.

School Delivery & Young People

- ✋ The key coaches who have been delivering in schools are Martin Drabble, Martin Burke & Richard Mills (Sheffield), Paul Pratt (Hull) & Helen Calverley (Halifax/Huddersfield).
- ✋ I worked with Level 1 coach, Emma Davis, to set up a new SmashUp! session for 11-18 year olds in Wensleydale (North Yorkshire), linked to Wensleydale Nomads Badminton Club.
- ✋ I have had discussions with the relevant Rackets Cubed Area Manager (Jules Silvera) and one new Rackets Cubed session was set up at Bradford University (with Level 2 coach, Tom Millbank, delivering), this was linked to Bowling Park Primary School in Bradford and started in September 2022.
The aim of the Rackets Cubed programme is to introduce primary school badminton delivery in areas of deprivation (where it will be combined with STEM school subjects then provide a meal) and have a good junior club link to transition new players into.
More information on Rackets Cubed: <https://www.racketscubed.com/our-mission>
- ✋ The Badminton England Young Leader Academy was delivered again for 2022/23 with three young leaders from Yorkshire taking part in the programme and actively volunteering within their clubs. The young leaders are: Pierce Zhong (Thornaby Pavilion Badminton Club), Yawei Li (Horsforth Junior Badminton Club) & Beth Cairns (South Wolds Badminton Club).
- ✋ The Badminton England National Youth Voice Forum was also launched in 2022 with 4 young people from Yorkshire who are currently part of the forum (Siân Phillips, Oliver Swales, Angie Zhu & Grace Sachdeva).
- ✋ 5 Racket Pack Festivals have been delivered across Yorkshire in the last year (2 in Hull, 1 in West Leeds & 2 in South Leeds). These festivals were delivered by the School Games Organisers and engaged 27 primary schools. The Leeds School Games Organisers were given a grant of £200 to help towards the costs of the Racket Pack kit bag which they will share between them and use to ensure future primary badminton delivery continues.

- 👉 33 primary schools have been engaged in total through promotion of The Racket Pack programme and work with School Games Organisers.
- 👉 Level 2 coach, Sue Prosser, received a £250 grant and a Racket Pack equipment bag to set up a new primary Racket Pack session in Selby (where there is currently no junior badminton provision). Sue is just finalising the venue and will be starting the new session as soon as possible.
- 👉 Level 2 coach, Emma Smethurst, received a £500 grant and a Racket Pack equipment bag to set up two new primary Racket Pack sessions in Bradford and Huddersfield which will be delivered in two primary schools. Plans are currently being made for these two new sessions and Emma will be looking to start delivery in September/October 2023.

Coaching

- 👉 Active coaches across the county have regular email contact from myself as they are included on my email distribution list and, over the last 12 months, I have had direct contact with 26 coaches who are actively delivering across the county.
- 👉 During 2022/23, five Coach Education courses were delivered across Yorkshire (3x Foundation Awards in Hull, Pontefract & Sheffield and 2x Level 2 courses in Sheffield & Pontefract).
- 👉 7 newly qualified coaches are actively delivering across Yorkshire (Sian Kelly, Daniel Metcalf, Katherine Arksey & Cath Turford – Foundation & Emily Harper, Ryan Malone & Louise Hutchinson – Level 2).
- 👉 In 2023/24, three Coach Education courses are planned so far (2x Foundation Awards in Hull & Pontefract and 1x Level 2 course in Pontefract).
- 👉 Once the new North Regional Manager is appointed, I will pass this information on to them and share my plan to also organise a Foundation Award and a Level 2 in Sheffield in early 2024.

No Strings Badminton

- 👉 Three new No Strings Badminton sessions (pay & play for casual players) have been set up in the last year.
- 👉 Cleveland Cobras Badminton Club received a grant of £250 to set up a new ladies' only No Strings session at Huntcliff School (Saltburn). This started in November 2022 and is running well, regularly sees 12+ players in attendance. This is delivered by Level 2 coach, Dave Johnson, and Foundation Coach, Cath Turford.
- 👉 Cayton Corsairs Badminton Group in Scarborough received a grant of £250 and an equipment bundle (rackets & shuttles) to set up a new No Strings session at Pindar Leisure Centre. This started in October 2022 and is running well and is delivered by 4 volunteers who completed the online No Strings Coordinator Training Module (Troy Hill, Kevin Lester, Dominic Brough & Josie Groves).
- 👉 Outwood Academy (Shafton) in Barnsley set up a new No Strings session in February 2023. They did not require any funding and the session is delivered by a volunteer who completed the online No Strings Coordinator Training Module (Mike Jepps).
- 👉 Level 2 coach, Emma Smethurst, received a £500 grant to set up two new No Strings sessions at Huddersfield Leisure Centre and Sedburgh Sports & Leisure Centre (Bradford). Plans are currently being made for these two new sessions and Emma will be looking to start delivery in September/October 2023.
- 👉 9 new No Strings Badminton Coordinators have been trained across Yorkshire during 2022-23 (Zainal Muhammad, Richard Burgess, Dave Johnson, Cath Turford, Troy Hill, Kevin Lester, Dominic Brough, Josie Groves & Mike Jepps) with 7 actively delivering.

Disability & Para Badminton

- 👉 £500 of funding was awarded for a new Deaf Badminton session in Pontefract. Paul Sibson set this up and it started in September 2022. Paul made connections with Wakefield & District Society for Deaf People and taster sessions were delivered during summer 2022 for both adults and children to promote the new session. Unfortunately, this session has now stopped due to low numbers.

2023 Badminton England National Volunteer & Coach Awards

👉 The National Volunteer & Coach Awards are presented annually and used to recognise the phenomenal work of the volunteer and coach workforce within the badminton community. 2023 saw a strong set of nominations for all the awards with success for Yorkshire as two very worthy young volunteers were announced as the winner and runner up respectively and an excellent grassroots coach also was announced as runner up.

👉 **Siân Phillips – Geoff Rofe Young Volunteer of the Year Award Winner –**

Since achieving her Level 1 coaching qualification, Siân volunteers every week at the Bradford Kobras Performance Centre, assisting the Head Coach. Siân also shadows her school PE teacher twice a week and observes his approach to SEND and how she may use that herself in coaching and mentoring younger players as well as leading recent assemblies on welfare and eating disorders in sport to all her peers at school. In addition, Siân has agreed to put forward and show PE teachers how to lead and coach a badminton session providing instructions on the basics of badminton & develop sessions to ensure that best practices are used in future PE lessons. Siân has been heavily involved with the Badminton England Youth Forum with a keen interest on improving player welfare for players in the sport using her own experiences to put forward ideas to the group.

👉 **Oliver Swales – Geoff Rofe Young Volunteer of the Year Award Runner Up –**

Oliver volunteers for 3 hours every week at Thornaby Pavilion Badminton Club where he helps to coach and organise the players and make sure they are enjoying their badminton and developing their skills. He has also recently started helping at the Yorkshire County under 12 team practices. Oliver also successfully applied to be part of the 2021/22 Badminton England Young Leader Academy where he attended the Academy in Milton Keynes along with other young leaders to develop his skills. He also took his voluntary role a step further and became part of Badminton England's new National Youth Voice Forum which gives young people in the badminton community the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas on how we can improve our programmes and initiatives.

👉 **Paul Pratt – Grassroots Coach of the Year Award Runner Up –**

Paul has delivered in numerous primary schools across Hull with the intention of introducing children to badminton and encouraging them to pick up a racket and have fun. He currently runs and coaches Hull Junior Badminton Club and Beverley Junior Badminton Club, both of which feed players into the Hull Performance Centre.

Paul set up and currently delivers two adult pay and play sessions which run with 30+ players attending each week and he coaches the Hull University Social Badminton Club to get more people playing at the university.

In 2022, Paul also worked with the Hull Active Schools Primary Manager to organise and deliver two Racket Pack festivals where over 250 children took part in a carousel of badminton activities with the aim of signposting them into the local junior club sessions and encouraging continued participation in badminton.

his job, Paul dedicates 6 days a week to badminton (he coaches 4 nights a week and during the day on 6 days of the week) and gives a tremendous amount of time outside of coaching to support players to fulfil their potential.

Yorkshire Badminton Newsletters

👉 Ten Yorkshire Badminton newsletters have been produced and sent out to contacts across the county.

👉 I produced these newsletters on a quarterly basis throughout the year (March, June, September & December) to keep the badminton community across Yorkshire updated with news, opportunities, upcoming courses and relevant information.

👉 Now that I have started my new role, unfortunately, there will be no more newsletters, but I hope the County Association have found these useful over the last 2.5 years.

Again, I would like to reiterate my thanks to everyone who has been involved in the ongoing development of badminton in the last year.

I'm looking forward to my new Volunteer Manager role and I hope I can continue to work with the volunteers across Yorkshire to support them in their voluntary roles going forwards.

Many thanks,

Holly Robson (Relationship Manager Yorkshire & North East)

hollyrobson@badmintonengland.co.uk

07825624282