

TRAMLINES

YORKSHIRE TENNIS NEWSLETTER MAY 2022

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Message from John Crowther, Chairman of Yorkshire Tennis

Dear Tennis Friend,

I hope you and your family are well and enjoying your tennis. It is good that the Covid restrictions are behind us (hopefully forever) and that tennis has returned to the normal cycle of events and competitions.

There has been much change in tennis over the last year some of which is described in articles in this edition of TRAMLINES. As your local county association, we are fully aware of the need for tennis to be seen as inclusive so that anyone who wants to play this great game, can do so, and feel welcomed at the same time.

Yorkshire Tennis (aka YLTA) is here to invest in the development of the game in



the county and to provide support and funding to our members. We acknowledge that over the last couple of years our investments were temporarily delayed but I am pleased to announce some exciting news on new funding for member clubs in the STOP PRESS below.

Our other main objective is to support talented young players through county training and for those with the most

potential, up and along the national Player Pathway. Last year our County Teams finished #3 in the County Leaderboard, an excellent result and we are striving to stay at this level or even get the top spot one day.

Yorkshire Tennis is undergoing a deep review of its own governance and we are intending to adopt incorporated status thereby restricting any liability of volunteers who work in the association. We will also meet new County Governance standards developed by the LTA to entitle it to continue to receive grant/financial support from the Government and/or their agencies such as Sport England.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you who volunteer at your club/venue. The game would just not be the same without you and we all owe a great big THANK YOU!

It just leaves me to say that I hope you all have a great summer of tennis and you achieve whatever you set out to do!

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Flying the flag for Yorkshire

Over 90 grassroots venues, volunteers and coaches joined top players Alfie Hewett, Emma Raducanu, Joe Salisbury and Cam Norrie in being shortlisted for a 2022 LTA Tennis Award.

YT Award winners were announced earlier this year and three of them – St Mary's College in Hull, Huddersfield LT&SC and the University of Sheffield went on to represent the North Region in the national finals.

The national awards were

presented on 19th May on live streaming channels by LTA Head of Men's Tennis, Leon Smith OBE, and a host of special guest presenters. YT is very proud to announce that University of Sheffield was crowned University of the Year.

This issue of TRAMLINES features St Mary's College and Wendy Hurworth, winner of the Yorkshire Tennis 'Lifetime Achievement' award. November's Tramlines will include

features on the Huddersfield Open and our national award winner, the University of Sheffield.

STOP PRESS: New Funding Package for Members

Advantage Yorkshire 2, a new funding package of grants and loans, worth over £320k, will open for applications in September. This will also include a major investment in performance coaches for County Training.

St Mary's College, Hull is a very large secondary school with 2,000 pupils and was shortlisted for the School of the Year award at this year's LTA Awards. Pete Bridgewater (PB Tennis Coaching) manages the coaching programme there along with his other bases at Hull University and Cherry Burton Tennis Club.



TEAM ST MARY'S



Tennis Programme at St Mary's

Tennis is delivered as part of the school curriculum and as an extra-curricular activity. Pete has set up St Mary's Tennis Club at the school, for after 4pm and at weekends, which provides opportunities for regular play and usage of the various LTA resources like LTA Youth Start courses, Team Challenge events, LTA Youth Programme and Cardio Tennis.

The latter is particularly appealing to the female students as it's about learning tennis in a fun and more physically active way than traditional tennis delivery and there's pressure off competing.

Tennis Leaders courses have been put on to enable students to develop their

skills and the leaders then help out with the School Games which are hosted at St Mary's.

Although the focus of PB Coaching is students at the school, Pete also runs coaching sessions and CPD training for the staff. The older children and sixth formers also mix in with the staff and engage in matchplay.

Plans for summer 2022

Pete will be organising club championships for all age groups and hoping that inter-school leagues will re-start along with friendly fixtures.

There are plenty of schools and clubs in the Hull area so competitive tennis will

hopefully be thriving amongst this group of children.

This year Pete is also introducing a team system to his tennis programmes, similar to that which operates on a daily basis in school, where students can win and lose house points for their teams and an awards ceremony will be held at the end of the school year. Winning matches would, for example, provide house points whilst poor behaviour would lose house points.

Finally, Pete is planning to grow his programmes and activities at St Mary's and his initiative of trialling tennis for 30 days across his three sites for a £5 fee will surely get more people playing tennis.

Yorkshire Tennis, North Region & National Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award	Wendy Hurworth	Yorkshire Tennis
Official of the Year	Luke Smith	Yorkshire Tennis
Performance Coach of the Year	Tom Loughton	Yorkshire Tennis
Development Coach of the Year	Sean Evans, Pocklington Tennis Club	Yorkshire Tennis
School of the Year	St Mary's College, Hull	Yorkshire Tennis and North Region
University of the Year	University of Sheffield Tennis Club	Yorkshire Tennis, North Region and National
Volunteer of the Year	Carol Tetlow, Ripon Tennis Centre	Yorkshire Tennis
Young Person of the Year	Alfie Motson	Yorkshire Tennis
Club of the Year	Roundhay Lawn Tennis Club	Yorkshire Tennis
Communities and Parks Award	Sunnah Sports Academy Trust	Yorkshire Tennis
Competition of the Year	Huddersfield Open 2021	Yorkshire Tennis and North Region
Disability Award	Wigginton Tennis Club	Yorkshire Tennis

Spotlight on achievements of Yorkshire's County teams and players – Winter 2021/Spring 2022

LTA Winter County Cup 2021 Men Group 1, Bath; Ladies Group 2a, Nottingham

The Winter County Cup, played in December, comprises 11 Men's and 11 Ladies' groups with four teams in each group and team members play both singles and doubles matches. The top group, the 'premier league', is played at Bath University Tennis Centre.

Yorkshire's Men's Team, represented

by Luke Johnson, Jonathan Gray, Clay Crawford, Finn Murgett, Jordan Reed-Thomas, Joseph Newman-Billington, Kyle Brassington, Elliot Chang and Richard Crabtree won their match against arch-rivals Lancashire 6-3 but this wasn't enough to avoid relegation to Group 2 this year after losses against Essex (5-1) and eventual champions Kent (6-3).

Despite the team's disappointment, Finn Murgett was ranked the 4th best player out of 34 playing as he won four of his five matches.

Yorkshire's Ladies' Team will be at Bath this coming Winter after winning their group matches quite comprehensively against Essex (8-1), Hertfordshire (6-2) and Nottinghamshire (8-1).

Many congratulations to Serena Nash, Sofie Woon, Bronte Murgett, Rebecca Hill, Savannah Dada-Mascoll, Orla Cooper, Isabelle Hearnshaw and Jo Craven. Bronte and Orla were ranked the top two players in Nottingham as they both played and won six matches.

18U Junior County Cup: 4-6/3/22 – Group 1, Bath

The **18U Boys' Team** were the reigning champions from March 2020 but only one player from that team was still available, Alex Tikhonov. He led the team from the front at singles No. 1 and was joined by rookies Scott Hillerby, Joe Mazingham, Luke Hoyland, Harry Abel, Louis Hull, Jamie Duffin and Joe Conaghan.

Elliot Chang returned as captain with a new vice-captain in Paul Johnson. The team were up against Kent, Lancashire and Middlesex.

They lost to a very strong Kent team on the first day 7-2 but it gave them lots of experience of what U18 county cup is all about.

The team were up against Lancashire on day two, whom they had beaten in 2020, and it was a similar result in 2022 with Yorkshire winning 8-1.

With one win and one loss the third day meant a win was essential in order to stay in Group 1 which was the same situation for opponents Middlesex.

A great challenge was in prospect and that was exactly what happened. After four matches and no wins a miracle was needed.

Yorkshire won the next two singles and two doubles



rubbers making the score 4-4 and the tie would be completed with the final doubles match which unfortunately went the way of Middlesex in a deciding tie break!

With the starting six singles players all available to play again in 2023 the team should be in a strong position to bounce back to Group 1 at the first attempt. **18U Girls' Team** were runners-up in 2019 to

Middlesex and history was repeated in 2020 but by the smallest of margins, just one rubber! Again in 2022, the girls were runners-up to Middlesex after beating Hertfordshire and Sussex but the big tie of the week went to Middlesex 5-4.

After the six singles matches the scores were 3-3, after two doubles matches the scores were 4-4 so again it was down to the last match. As with the boys

this was won by Middlesex on a deciding tie-break. The girls will return to Bath in 2023.

Many congratulations to Daniela Piani, Gabriella Lindley, Sarah Copley, Molly Robinson, Alice Brook, Isabella Gibson and Sophie Marshman.

Alice Brook and Sarah Copley were placed in the top three performers as both won five of their six matches played.



9U County Cup

Qualifying 20/3/22; North Area Finals 24/4/22, Graves Tennis Centre, Sheffield

Yorkshire's Boys and Girls teams reached the finals after winning their qualifying matches very comfortably.

In qualifying the 9U Boys' team won all three matches losing only seven games against Cheshire, Derbyshire and North Wales whilst the 9U Girls' Team won both matches against Cheshire and Derbyshire losing just two rubbers.

In the North Area Finals, the Boys became Champions after winning their matches 5-1 against Cambridgeshire,

Lancashire and Nottinghamshire and 4-2 against West of Scotland. A great achievement for Max Hodkinson, Seb Beetlestone, Piotr Janda and Lucas Mitchell.

Additionally, Max came out on top of the 23 players as he won all of the eight matches played and lost just three games!

The Girls were runners-up to Cambridgeshire, after winning their three matches against Nottinghamshire, Lancashire and North of Scotland but losing to Cambridgeshire.

Well done to Emmanuella Idemudia, Alessia Piani, Nayvie Simpson, Thea Hodkinson and Evie Capewell.

10U, 11U, 12U and 14U County Cup events take place over the coming months and will be reported on in the next edition of TRAMLINES.

Seniors in Roses Charity Challenge

Sally Bickerton, Ladies' Seniors' Co-ordinator, recently staged a pre-season friendly with Lancashire – first ever Roses

Charity Challenge at Widnes Tennis Club. Pairs from each of their Seniors' County Cup age groups battled it out for Roses glory. The Lancashire Red Roses came out on top but the biggest winner of the day was over £600 being raised for British Heart Foundation. Everyone enjoyed great tennis, they networked with fellow players and enjoyed a piece of cake for charity. What better way to spend an afternoon? Meanwhile, **Andy Hutchinson**, Yorkshire's Men's 55+ Doubles Grand Slam Champion, is very busy playing tournaments in GB and Internationally and is now **Yorkshire's Men's Seniors' Co-ordinator**. The men in all age groups are ready for competition with other counties across GB this year.



Where are Yorkshire's County Teams playing this Summer?

LTA Summer County Cup 2022 Men Group 1, Eastbourne; Ladies Group 1, Eastbourne. Mon to Fri 18th-22nd July

As reported in last November's Tramlines this will be the first time in 30 years that both of

our teams are playing in the top group in Eastbourne. A great time for spectators to make the trip to the south coast and cheer on both teams.

Yorkshire's Men's Team was promoted last summer as Group 2 Champions and this year they take on 2021 Group 1 Champions Kent, East of Scotland, Hertfordshire, Essex and Cambridgeshire.

Yorkshire's Ladies' Team retained their place in Group 1 in 2021 and this summer they take on 2021 Group 1 Champions Hertfordshire,

Hampshire and IoW, Surrey, Northumberland and Kent.

LTA 035's County Cup 2022, Eastbourne Ladies Group 2A, Fri to Sun 29th-31st July; Men Group 2B, Fri to Sun, 12th-14th August

Yorkshire Men's 035s Team, following relegation last summer, play Dorset, Suffolk and Lancashire.

Yorkshire Ladies' 035s Team, who narrowly missed out on promotion to the top group in 2021, play Somerset, Essex and Cheshire.

LTA Seniors' County Cup 2022 This summer will be the first **National Inter-County Championships** for men and women since 2019. These involve 2,600 players from over 400 teams competing across 14 age categories, commencing with 40/45's age groups through to 75's.

Matches are played from April to end September and the finals of each age category will be played this year at Graves Tennis Centre, Sheffield from Fri to Sun 28th-30th October. Yorkshire are the current holders of the Men's 55+.



Cath Davies and Gill Brook seniors competing on the national and international stage

Cath Davies is a multiple Yorkshire Champion. As Cath Berry, she won each of the age group singles championships from 1976 to 1980 and in 1980, aged 16, she won both 18U Girls' Singles and Ladies' Singles titles.

She won Yorkshire Championships Ladies' Singles and Doubles titles again between 1987 and 1989. Cath also represented Yorkshire in the County Cup for some 15 years and has many great memories of matches in Group 1 at Eastbourne and especially 1991, the Yorkshire Double year, which was reported on in some depth in Tramlines last November.

As a promising junior, ranked 4th in the Juniors in GB at one stage, Cath played for GB and, whilst at university in California, was placed in the top 20 in singles and top five in doubles in US.

However, after sustaining a knee injury Cath stopped playing competitively for a few years and a move to Southampton combined with a career in pharmaceutical sales and marketing and business development, marriage and three children meant time was limited.

Over the years Cath has played club matches at David Lloyd, Southampton and O35's matches but only ventured into seniors' matches in 2019. She won her first seniors' tournament that year, **British Open Seniors' Indoor Singles 55+** in Wrexham and in May 2019 Cath was also a singles finalist in the **British Open Seniors' Clay Court Championships 55+**.

Cath repeated her success this year in both **singles and doubles 55+ at British Open Seniors' Indoors Championships**. Cath's achievements in 2022, at Wrexham and in Miami, are all the more remarkable given that she had a car accident in 2020 and tore her knee ligaments so lockdown was spent strengthening her muscles on a stationary bike and doing lots of other exercises.

Gill Brook (pictured above, left) won **Women's Singles 60+ at British Open Seniors' Indoors Championships** earlier this year and last year triumphed in the same event at the **Closed Seniors' Grass Court**



Championships. These performances and success in ITF Seniors' tournaments in Europe resulted in her selection for the recent World Team Championships in Miami. The report on the whole GB Team achievements will appear in November's Tramlines but further success came Gill's way in the Individual Championships as she won the 60+ Mixed Doubles event with Graham Neale (pictured)

Gill might live in Surrey but she has always represented Yorkshire including participation in the County Cup for 17 years, partnering Cath Davies on many occasions. She missed out on the glorious

1991 event as she had just had her second baby!

As Gillian Cooper she was also a **Yorkshire Champion for a number of years** including winning 14U Singles and Doubles in 1973, 14U Doubles and 16U Singles and Doubles titles in 1974. She was a finalist in the Ladies' Singles on three occasions from 1978 to 1980 and won the Ladies' Doubles in 1977.

Gill won the Mixed Doubles title with future husband Philip Brook in 1980. Nowadays she plays **Seniors' County Cup in the O60's team** and enjoys meeting up with her Yorkshire team mates when playing for the County.

Gill played tennis during her formative years at Hallamshire Tennis and Squash Club and, like many of her compatriots, studied and played tennis in the USA and in her case at the University of Hawaii, Honolulu

Apart from playing for many years at David Lloyd, Purley and AELTC, sometimes two to three times a day, Gill has coached tennis for most of her life. She is currently involved with the **Wimbledon Junior Tennis Initiative**, which sees the AELTC coaching team, headed by Dan Bloxham, visiting 65 state primary schools in Merton and Wandsworth every year.

300 children attend free tennis coaching held over 45 weekends a year. They learn not only how to play tennis but also the life-skills and values sport brings such as teamwork, discipline and fairness. This is an aspect of coaching that Gill particularly savours as she witnesses the difference the programme can make to the children.

Just like Gill is giving back to the children of south west London now, she credits her parents for making the many sacrifices that allowed her and sister Lizzie to achieve their success in tennis. They used to work their schedules around taking the sisters to tournaments all over England and their love, support, time and effort was always unstintingly given.

Gill has devoted her life to tennis, as has her husband Philip, in so many ways. Readers will no doubt remember seeing them on TV in the front row of the Royal Box at the Wimbledon Championships as they entertained royalty and other VIPs during Philip's tenure as Chairman of the AELTC from 2010 to 2019. We hope Gill continues to enjoy performing for the County and on the international stage for many years to come!

Doubles Champion Millie Skelton

18U and 16U Junior National Championships both took place at the National Tennis Centre during April 2022. **Millie Skelton** (pictured above left) won the **18U Girls' Doubles** with Given Roach (Middlesex) after beating top seeds Talia Neilson-Gatenby and Mingge Xu 4-6, 6-4, 11-9. Millie's reward for her achievement is a wild card into the Wimbledon Junior Championships' main draw doubles.

After winning the Junior National 14U Boys' Singles and Doubles titles in 2021 **Joseph Mazingham** has moved up to 16U this year. In the **16U Boys' Doubles**, Joseph was a finalist losing in a tight match to his partner of 2021 Benjamin Gusic-Wan.

Readers might be interested to know that Mingge Xu, from South Wales, is only 14 and she won 16U Girls' Singles and Doubles titles and 18U Girls' Singles title. She has received wild cards into the **qualifying event of Wimbledon Championships and main draw of Wimbledon Junior Championships.**

Mingge Xu has been compared with Emma Raducanu so it will be interesting to see how she fares this summer and, of course, Millie Skelton at Wimbledon.

On the **Tennis Europe Junior Tour**, at the **Junior International in Wrexham** in April, Yorkshire's **Sevil Parviz** was a champion in

both **12U Girls' Singles and Doubles** events whilst **Isaac Sallu** won **12U Boys' Doubles**. This Tour has long been the platform of choice for the launch of a successful career, and in recent years has heralded the arrival of top players like Justin Henin, Andy Murray, Maria Sharapova and Roger Federer.

Paul Jubb has continued his form of 2021 and reached a career high ATP Singles ranking of 230 after claiming his first Challenger title at the **Santa Cruz de la Sierra Challenger in Bolivia** in March 2022.

The 22-year-old produced a near perfect week of tennis to win his maiden trophy without dropping a set. Even more impressive he became the first Briton to win their first Challenger title on clay since James Ward in 2009.

As Tramlines reported last Autumn, **Andy Hutchinson** became British No.1 and World No.3 in 55+ age group for doubles after completing the Grand Slam of 55+ British Doubles titles. His successes have continued this year as he won the **Singles 55+ title at the ITF Scottish Seniors' Open Championships in Glasgow** in January.

In doubles he reached the semi-finals of this tournament with Mike Harpin. In February Andy retained his **British Open Seniors' Indoor 55+ Doubles title** in



Wrexham and also **won 55+ Singles title** beating his doubles partner, Neil Howitt, in the final.

This was Andy's first Seniors' National Singles trophy. Andy's strong form resulted in him being selected for **55+ GB Team at the 2022 ITF Seniors' World Team Championships in Florida from 1st to 6th May**. Three other Yorkshire players were part of the GB Teams at the **World Team Championships** in Florida. **Cath Davies and Gill Brook** were representing GB in the Women's 55+ and 60+ teams respectively and **Richard Jackson** in Men's 60+ team.

A report on Andy's, Cath's and Gill's achievements will be included in the next edition of TRAMLINES.

What tournaments are happening in Yorkshire this Summer? All the events for readers to follow:

Ilkley Trophy returns in 2022 and what a feast of great tennis to look forward to

When is the Ilkley Trophy?

Mark your diaries – **Sunday 12th June to Sunday 19th June.**

Yorkshire has been starved of top-class tennis since the last ball was struck in June 2019 as the 2020 tournament was cancelled and 2021 tournament was held at Nottingham in a Covid-secure bubble. The Ilkley Trophy will be the only professional pre-Wimbledon grass tournament being played in the region this year.

Players and spectators love coming to Ilkley as it is one of the most picturesque venues on the circuit with views of Ilkley Moor and the Cow and Calf Rocks and River Wharfe a few minutes' walk away. Ilkley was named the best place to live in 2022 by the Sunday Times based on a combination of top-class schools, a buzzing high street and breath-taking views.

Men's and Women's Tournaments

The Men's Challenger 125 Tournament and the Women's W100 ITF Tournament draws both comprise singles qualifying of 24 and main draw of 32 whilst the doubles are a 16 main draw.

Previous Winners

The current holders of the Men's and Women's Singles trophies are **Dominik Koepfer, Germany, and Monica Niculescu, Romania** (pictured above) respectively.

A number of previous Men's champions still play successfully on the ATP tour including Denis Kudla (2015), Marton Fucsovics (2017) and Sergiy Stakhovsky (2018). Magdalena Rybarikova was the Women's champion in 2017 and went on to reach the semi-finals of Wimbledon just three weeks after lifting the trophy at Ilkley.



Tickets

Ground admission tickets, which include show courts, are available to purchase from Sunday 12th June to Friday 17th June and start at £12 per adult and £6 for children although Sunday 12th June is free for all visitors.

Centre court tickets are available to purchase from Friday 17th June to Sunday 19th June. All tickets can be purchased online via the LTA Website at <https://www.lta.org.uk/fan-zone/international/ilkley-trophy/tickets/>. Play will start at 11am on most days, with a complete schedule of matches released prior to each day's play.

Food and Drink

'Shoot the Bull' will be hosting a street-food festival in coordination with several vendors and drinks suppliers. A range of food and drink options will be available from outlets around the Grounds, including hot and cold selections alongside vegan and gluten-free options. Specialities will include Wagu burgers, gourmet fish and chips, hand-stretched sourdough pizza and authentic Indian street food.

Volunteers

Volunteers are required from Wednesday to Sunday 8th - 19th June with a variety of roles to

choose from including site set-up, car park, main entrance, stewarding, driving, the club house and assisting on court with schools' classes taking place. As this is the largest Challenger event in the world volunteers are at the heart of everything going on. It is consistently rated as the 'friendliest' tournament in the world due in part to the volunteers.

For younger members of the community volunteering at Ilkley can contribute to Duke of Edinburgh Award hours and is excellent for building your CV. Anyone interested can email volunteers@iltsc.co.uk or Whatsapp on 07985 204727.



In Loving Memory of Richard Lord – 9th September 1971 to 14th March 2022

Visitors to Ilkley, whether to play a club match or spectate at the Ilkley Trophy, will have seen and watched Head of Grounds, Richard Lord, busy preparing the wonderful grass courts and working on the surrounding areas. Known to some as Richard, most as Lordy, the Club was deeply saddened to announce his sudden passing at the age of just 50.

Lordy was a true Club man. He first joined the Club as a junior rackets member over 40 years ago and played competitively for the First Team and even clinched a couple of Ilkley Open Doubles Championships.

He joined the Grounds Team in 1994, worked his way up to Head of Grounds and was instrumental in bringing the courts to an international standard for the Ilkley Trophy.

His professionalism and talent were recognised by the industry magazine, Pitchcare, who featured his career in January 2020. Lordy could be seen preparing the courts just days before his passing and his presence around the club will be greatly missed.

His Memorial Service was held, very fittingly, on the indoor courts at the Club on Friday, 29th April and provided an opportunity for family, club members and community to celebrate his life together with his tractors and lawnmowers!



Other tournament events at Ilkley this summer – to play in or spectate

The Ilkley Trophy is the major tennis event in Yorkshire this summer but there are plenty of opportunities available to both play in or spectate at Ilkley and across other venues in Yorkshire.

The club will be hosting **LTA Summer County Cup Group 3 Ladies from Monday 18th to Friday 22nd July.** The counties of Essex, Lancashire, Norfolk, Cheshire, Somerset and Cambridgeshire will be playing on the grass courts from mid-morning

through to early evening so there is plenty of time to watch great tennis.

Ilkley Open 2022 Grade 3 will be played from **Saturday 23rd to Saturday 30th July**, with 38 events planned. During the same week Ilkley will also be welcoming entrants to the **British Tour (Tier 2)**. This is a tennis circuit for professional players wanting to compete on home soil, young stars with ambitions of going pro in the future and national level players

who still compete at a high level – in other words, the very best of British tennis.

Finally, some of the top 10U juniors will be competing at Ilkley as part of the **Junior National Tour** which gives the best young players in the country the chance to play frequently throughout the year and a high volume of matches. **Ilkley hosts the 10U Boys from 31st July to 2nd August and 10U Girls from 3rd to 5th August.**



Grade 3 and 4 tournaments in Yorkshire

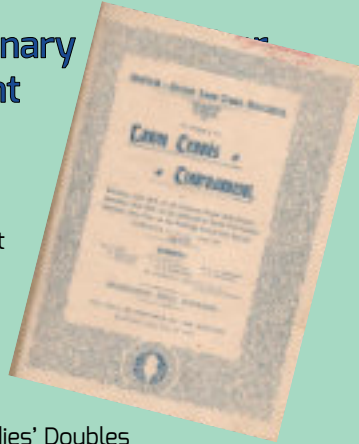
Calendar of Grade 3 and 4 events is shown below. Events taking place at each tournament can be found online at <https://competitions.lta.org.uk/tournaments> along with opening and closing dates.

- Chapel Allerton May Grade 4: 29th May to 4th June
- Chapel Allerton Seniors Open Grade 3: 7th to 11th June
- Huddersfield Open Grade 3: 10th to 16th July
- Chapel Allerton Summer Grade 3: 17th to 23rd July
- Ilkley Open Grade 3: 24th to 30th July
- City of Leeds Grade 4, John Charles Centre for Sport: 7th to 13th August
- Sheffield Summer Open Grade 3, Graves Tennis Centre: 7th to 13th August
- Thongsbridge Open Grade 3: 14th to 20th August
- Ripon Summer Grade 4: 14th to 21st August
- Yorkshire County Championships Grade 3, John Charles Centre for Sport: 19th to 28th August (all except Seniors)
- Yorkshire County Championships Grade 3, Huddersfield: 30th to 3rd September (all Seniors except O35 and O40)

Special events around Yorkshire this Summer

Sheffield & District LTA's Centenary Adult Closed Tennis Tournament 12th to 18th June 2022

Like so many tournaments this special event should have taken place in 2020 but is finally happening in 2022. The first annual programme was held in 1903 and an original programme, priced sixpence, is shown here. Hallamshire Tennis Club held some of the events in 1903 and will be doing so again in 2022. There are 13 events taking place including singles, doubles, mixed and handicap events.



Whilst the main venue is Hallamshire, the Ladies' Doubles event up to the semi-finals, will be held at Beauchief LTC on Sunday 12th June where there will also be a BBQ, bar, coaching and fun and games for all the family. Online entries are open at <https://competitions.lta.org.uk/tournament/dffbeaad-d4ce-43d7-ba64-275cc9f2001e> and a reminder that this tournament is for members of S&D affiliated clubs or who live within a 25-mile radius of Sheffield city centre.

S&D LTA actually formed in 1891 and claims to be the oldest local lawn tennis association in the world. There were eight clubs at formation and three remain members today – Rustlings, Hallamshire and Abbeydale. The first competitive Open tournament was held in 1891 on the cricket outfield at Bramall Lane with seven courts marked out at the pavilion end of the ground!

Tennis-a-thon Challenge Saturday, 17th July 2022

This fundraising event aims to raise money and awareness for people living with dementia and their families. Many readers of Tramlines will have family and friends who live with this illness and this event is all about playing tennis for as long as you can. Tennis clubs are invited to set up a fundraiser as every minute spent playing tennis and every pound raised will help to ensure Dementia UK can be there for families and carers in their time of need. All the information and how to set up an event can be found at: www.dementiauk.org/get-involved/events-and-fundraising/do-your-own-fundraising/tennis-a-thon/

Other competitive activities

Youth Team Challenge was extremely successful in 2021 as 400 venues and 30,000 children took part. LTA Youth Team Challenge is a fun competition designed for junior tennis players. Kids compete in small teams for points over a short series of matches. Win, lose or draw, all players receive a sticker and certificate. Youth Team Challenge is based around 'Match Week' to run every six weeks or so within coaching sessions for players to put their coaching into practice regularly and 'Festivals' which can be run outside coaching sessions for all members to join in a fun, themed event eg 'Halloween Monster Smash', 'Back the Brits', 'Girl Set Match' and 'Family Cup'. Packs are available to sign up for at any time of the year and are usually delivered two weeks after the end of the month. All the details can be found on <https://www.lta.org.uk/roles-and-venues/coaches/products-and-programmes/team-challenge/>

Local Tennis Leagues continue this summer in Sheffield, Leeds, Leeds Wheelchair, Harrogate, Kirklees and York. A new league has launched in Hull and the first Yorkshire Padel League (Harrogate) has commenced. For those interested in playing singles or Padel in one of the local leagues find out more at <https://localtennisleagues.com/yorkshireandhumber>

ITF World Tennis Number and Results Manager

The **World Tennis Number (WTN)** has now been launched and the plan is that every tennis player should have one so it is like the golf handicap system where everyone that plays golf has a handicap. This new rating system means all tennis players across the world will be able to organise and play against opponents of a similar standard.

The WTN has:

- A world-wide rating system that ranges from 40 (recreational players) to 1 (pro players)
- Separate ratings for singles and doubles players
- An algorithm that produces a rating and updates weekly
- An algorithm that counts sets and matches played which means the more a player competes the more accurate the rating will be
- A personalised digital 'Game zone' feature which will help identify opponents with a similar rating

Club players should start submitting results in order to see their WTN change. **Results Manager** has been launched and can be used by organisers, clubs, officials and coaches to record results when running internal competitions, Club Championships, junior programmes and social tournaments. All of these results will feed through to the WTN. More information about Results Manager can be found on the following link <https://www.wtu.lta.org.uk/workforce-venues/officiate-tennis/competition-organiser-resources/results-manager/#>

In line with the LTA plan, Yorkshire Tennis, together with North Region, is working on strategies to encourage access for players of all abilities, embrace diversity and inclusion and promote tennis for disabled people.

Open Court Programme is a national scheme that actively promotes and delivers opportunities for disabled people to get involved in tennis. Partnered with and jointly funded by Sport England, the programme provides disability specific sessions – including learning disability tennis, wheelchair tennis, visually impaired tennis and deaf tennis. The programme is being expanded into other long-term health conditions such as mental health and dementia.

Visually Impaired Tennis (VI Tennis, Sound Tennis or Blind Tennis)

This is now played in 30 countries and has ambitions to become a future Paralympic sport. The game is played on a smaller court with a lower net.

Some courts also have tactile lines so players can touch them and players also use an audible ball that makes a noise so they can hear it bounce and being hit. VI tennis is open to players of all ages, experience, fitness levels and abilities who have a visual impairment.

Tennis players compete in different categories, with the B1 category having the greatest degree of sight loss. Depending on a player's category they may have up to three bounces of the ball before they return it.

Learning Disability Tennis

This includes conditions such as Down's Syndrome, Asperger's Syndrome, Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Each person's learning disability has different symptoms and characteristics, so expert coaches tailor each session to the client's needs.

For those looking to compete, criteria



OPEN COURT

for entry are connected to the person's IQ, with anyone with an IQ of less than 75 eligible.

Wheelchair Tennis.

One of the fastest growing wheelchair sports in the world and it's the most fun too! It's almost identical to tennis apart from one key rule: wheelchair tennis players are allowed to let the ball bounce twice. To give players more freedom, only the first bounce needs to be within the lines of the court as well.

Wheelchair tennis is open to everyone – you don't need to be a wheelchair user to play it. And both disabled and non-disabled tennis players can play together.

In the professional game players undergo a classification to compete in one of two categories of wheelchair tennis: the Open and Quad divisions.

Men and women compete separately in the Open division, while players with

higher levels of impairment compete in the mixed Quad division. Wheelchair tennis is played at the Paralympics as well as all the Grand Slams – and at other international tournaments as part of the ITF Wheelchair Tennis World Tour.

Deaf Tennis

People who are deaf have different levels of hearing loss, from mild to profound deafness – but everyone is welcome in tennis. Every deaf person is different with some being hearing aid users and others having a cochlear implant, and some may sign, some may lipread, some may listen, and some may speak.

Some may well do all of these. To be eligible to compete in Deaf Tennis a player has to have an average hearing loss of 55dB or more in their best ear. When competing, players must remove cochlear implants and hearing aids to ensure it is an even playing field for all.

Examples of Disability Tennis Initiatives in Yorkshire

Ben Howarth, Head Coach at Brentwood Tennis Club was featured in Tramlines in May 2021 as the club won 2020/21 LTA Yorkshire Club of the Year and was LTA Yorkshire and North Region Disability Award winner. The article showed how Ben had initiated a number of community tennis programmes based either at Brentwood or at other venues for people with learning

disabilities, Downs' Syndrome and Sheffield MIND. Over the last year Ben has made further developments and now has programmes including:

- * **Tennis INCLUSIVE sessions** – Tennis Inc is part of his 'Ability not Disability' programme. They aim to help develop social skills, confidence and physical ability whilst learning racket and ball skills. They are open to anyone with an intellectual or learning challenge and their family
- * **South Yorkshire Visually Impaired Tennis Club (SYVITC)** – was formed in October 2021 and aims to get people with a visual impairment trying out tennis at one of the 'give it a go' taster sessions which are held monthly at Hallamshire

Tennis and Squash Club.

- * **Ability Tennis** – is a weekly session for adult players who have extra life challenges with their learning. The sessions get participants active, learning the game at the correct level for them and build self esteem and confidence through an inclusive and positive atmosphere.

Grants are available for running these types of sessions. So, for example, SYVITC receives funding from a range of organisations including Yorkshire Tennis and Dan Maskell Trust. The latter provides grants and/or funding for things like a bespoke tennis wheelchair, tennis equipment and towards specific programmes or expenses.

Sean Evans, Tennis Coach, Pocklington Tennis Academy and winner of 2021/22 Yorkshire Development Coach Award

Sean's award was made for his outstanding work with juniors and adults, ensuring that the tennis club is accessible and inclusive for all. He has liaised with the LTA Disability team to develop inclusive programmes. He's used equipment provided for special needs into the younger classes to make the tennis experience fun at the same time as developing skills for later. Sean has also given lessons to SEND pupils at a local special school and recently organised classes with a local residential home, Sherbutt Residential and Home Care Services Ltd, for people with learning disabilities.



How clubs can get involved with Disability Tennis

As part of Yorkshire Tennis commitment to supporting clubs who are considering setting up disability projects, small grants can be applied for through the Yorkshire **Open Court Programme which requires a commitment** from clubs for 12 months as follows:

- Engagement with **local and countrywide** disability groups and organisations to promote the club's offer and attract participants to the club
- Delivery of regular, high quality, **disability specific** tennis lessons on a **weekly and/or monthly** basis
- **Engagement of participants** – specifically people who have a learning disability, a physical disability or a mental health problem
- Completion of the required **monitoring**

and evaluation three times a year and participation in any **research studies** connected with the LTA

Any clubs in Yorkshire that are interested in being part of the Open Court Programme can email disabilitytennis@lta.org.uk. The team provides a service that is bespoke to individual needs so will develop a plan that works for the club at a pace that can be delivered. In addition, there is e-learning on LTA Learn which helps anyone interested in setting up a disability inclusive venue: www.lta.org.uk/roles-and-venues/coaches/development/courses/Class/?classId=a1C4J00000F5sCHUA1

A **package of equipment and support** has been developed as part of the Open Court Programme. This includes:

- Provision of an **adaptive equipment bag** with rackets, balls, net and range of equipment, worth £350.
- 'Flying visits' with coaches, volunteers and staff at the club by **disability development experts**, providing disability awareness training so clubs can assess their accessibility and inclusion offer
- **Funding support** to cover start-up costs and get activities up and running to ensure they are sustainable in the longer term
- Support with **marketing and communications** to enable effective communication with the local disability community
- Invitation to **networking** events
- Access to **LTA's specialist Disability Development Partners** as ongoing support

Heaton stages exhibition match with VI gold medalist Jim Currie

To raise awareness of VI Tennis, Heaton Tennis and Squash Club invited Jim Currie, gold medalist (B2) at the 2018 International Blind Tennis Tournament in Dublin, to play an exhibition match against Guy Keating, Heaton's VI tennis specialist.

The event began with an introduction to the rules so spectators could see the slightly smaller court, a lower net, the audible ball and that a player must shout 'ready' and then 'play' before serving.

Currie beat Keating 4-1 in a short set but the match was very entertaining and informative, judging from the involvement and feedback from the spectators.

Heaton has its very own VI Tennis Team and anyone wanting to join, male or female, should call the club.

Wheelchair Tennis at John Charles Centre for Sport this September

The primary aim of this day is to **talent spot/find next generation of Wheelchair tennis players** but it is also an opportunity for people who have never tried the game, but have the right attributes, to transfer from another sport eg Wheelchair Basketball or Wheelchair Rugby.

The day aims to highlight the potential opportunities the sport can bring, from personal development at grassroots to one day possibly representing the country at a Paralympic

Games or Grand Slam event. Who is going to be the next Gordon, Alfie, Lucy or Jordanne?

The target audience is anyone aged 8-30 years and who has a physical disability who aspires to become a Wheelchair Tennis Champion, whether that is local, regional, national or international.

The day will include:

- * 4 hours of tennis
- * Learning and developing fundamental skills, such as, chair skills and mobility,

racket skills, shot selection and competitiveness

- * Delivery by experienced and passionate performance coaches and staff
- * Information on how to get playing socially and competitively, whether that's domestic opportunities or taking it to the next level on the international stage
- * Suitable and appropriate signposting opportunities following attendance

The sign-up process will be launched w/c 16th May



PADEL TENNIS IN YORKSHIRE



● Rawdon's Padel courts



Update on clubs and courts in the region

Across the UK there are now around 160 padel courts at 70 venues and the number of courts being installed in Yorkshire is increasing all the time. Many clubs have plans to install courts but funding, planning and member approval makes it a lengthy process. Since the last Tramlines was published in November, when we reported on new courts at Huddersfield LTC, Rawdon LTC and Harrogate Sports and Fitness Club, we can now report on the following additions to the padel portfolio in Yorkshire.

Skipton Tennis Centre opened their first court in April 2022 available to members and the community of Craven and beyond. The court is very busy and participation is increasing rapidly. The immediate plan is to integrate padel into their tennis social scene, with coaching and pay and play coming soon and, in the future the addition of competitions. The club is already planning for two more padel courts with covers towards the end of 2022 representing a major commitment to developing their facilities for 2022/23.

Ripon Tennis Centre is opening two padel courts, one with a canopy, in May

following a successful crowdfunding campaign for £30,000, an LTA loan and funding from Sport England. A new coach, Christopher Stanford, has been recruited to coach both padel and tennis. Ripon was a centre that lost members and income during Covid so padel is seen as a great addition to both expand the centre and recoup their losses. Even before the new courts have opened there have been lots of enquiries and membership is growing.

Rawdon opened its second court in May, funded by the club, following the success of the first court. Members playing both

tennis and padel, combined with padel only members, are the biggest section of the club's membership with over 50 new members joining as a result of the project.

Surge, another Harrogate location, at Hornbeam Park, is the largest indoor padel centre in the UK with six courts. There is no membership so it's operating a different model to the other clubs in Yorkshire which all offer other rackets (tennis and/or squash) facilities.

Padel developments are being considered at several tennis locations around Yorkshire but there are no details at this stage as projects are being scoped or being reviewed with members/committees. However, **Scarborough Rugby Club** is developing two courts which will open by July; **Olympic Legacy Park, Sheffield**, is aiming to open three courts in early 2023; **Hillsborough Park, Sheffield** is due to open two covered courts in Spring 2023 but is still subject to final funding approval and planning permission.

Padel activities being organised

Although many players like to play their own matches what keeps members keen and interested and the courts full is the range of activities that are organised.

At Rawdon, activities include:

- A hugely popular **Thursday social night**
- **Box leagues:** Mixed, Women and Men
- **Club Championships**
- **Coaching:** mainly for adults, some mixed, others female only and Cardio sessions
- **Matches and Tournaments:** Padel coach Nicky Horn has organised ladies' friendly matches with Harrogate Sports and Fitness Club (HSFC) and Tennis World Middlesbrough; the biggest mixed match held in the UK with Surge Padel; and a men's match versus HSFC. Large events have been really successful because they bring all players together rather than the traditional elite six or eight.

• **LTA National Padel League** – teams have been entered for men and women and the club is hoping to host a round of the HoP Tour later in the year which brings a real level of professionalism and high standards

Now there are two courts **more events** will be arranged including fun competitions for club members.

At Surge, activities include:

- **Coaching five** days a week from beginners to performance play
- **Social and Turbo Padel** run regularly during the week encouraging fast paced padel in the hour and the opportunity to change partners
- **Internal tournaments** have been organised including a Women's tournament that attracted 24 players, 055s, Men's tournament and lots more.
- **Juniors** also feature at Surge as they participate in coaching and play with parents.
- Plans for **tournaments to run over the summer** are being arranged and other clubs and players will be invited.

Seniors Padel

GB Seniors Padel has been formed as an external voluntary organisation to formalise a future structure for developing Senior Padel in line with the LTA model for Seniors' tennis. Look out for more news and tournaments.

Senior World Padel Championships were held for the second time in Las Vegas at the end of March. GB had Men's and Women's teams which comprised five pairs of five age groups from 35s to 55s for men and three pairs of



There were 16 nations participating in Las Vegas, the GB men finished 15th whilst the GB women were placed 8th, following wins against Denmark, Portugal and Germany, meaning automatic qualification for the next event in two years' time.

With padel becoming so popular in Yorkshire, there may be players

who would like to be considered for senior squads and various development days and team selection processes are being organised. If there is interest, contact Sally Fisher at sallyfisher@me.com or Peter Vann (pictured) at peter.vann@padelgb.org

three age groups from 35's to 45's for women. Mike Tolman, Ben Gudzelak and Peter Vann, all from Huddersfield, were part of the Men's team whilst Claire Smith and Libby Fletcher, from Middlesbrough, were in the Women's team.



Life of a Yorkshire Tennis Councillor

Whitby has no public tennis courts and the tennis facilities in the area are school based, used by Eskdale School and Whitby Tennis Clubs out of hours, and two all-weather courts at Lythe and Sandsend Tennis Club. Anyone in the area who wants to play competitive tennis or enjoy regular coaching and other activities has to travel further afield to Scarborough, Great Ayton or Guisborough

Eskdale School Tennis Club
Wendy Hurworth qualified as a PE teacher in 1967 and in 1989 she joined Eskdale Secondary School and, working with the Head, formed a tennis club at the school after hours. The Head became chair of the club, Wendy's husband Stuart the treasurer and Wendy secretary and more recently welfare and safeguarding officer.

Over the last 30 years she has welcomed hundreds of children to the club and has provided coaching and local competition including entry into the LTA/Midland Bank Schools competition.

The club reached 120 members at one stage and even became Scarborough and District Division 3 Champions. The club is fully inclusive and all LTA Youth stages (Blue through to Yellow) as well as Wheelchair tennis can be accommodated.

With few tennis facilities in the Whitby area Eskdale School Tennis Club has, over the years, attracted players from a range of local villages but in those early days it was a struggle to encourage the immediate community to take up the sport, despite tennis being on the doorstep.

Wendy and Stuart are very resilient individuals and by listening to the community and making tennis available and affordable they were, over time, able to change perceptions with tennis eventually becoming an acceptable sport around the vicinity of the school.



Wendy Hurworth, 22 years on the road around Whitby and North East Yorkshire and Winner of 2021/22 Yorkshire Tennis Lifetime Achievement Award

Yorkshire Tennis Councillor
Around 20 years ago, Wendy joined the Yorkshire Tennis Council as a District Councillor for North East Yorkshire. The role of a Councillor is to liaise between Yorkshire Tennis and all affiliated clubs in the area providing advice to them and assisting in whatever way may be possible.

With 16 clubs in her original remit, Wendy has driven thousands of miles over the years to work with these clubs making them aware of the latest LTA initiatives, supporting their funding applications for developments like installing floodlights or resurfacing courts and inspiring them to adopt safeguarding and other LTA programmes.

She has made at least an annual visit to each of the clubs which has included participating in club playing sessions and attending presentation evenings.

Across the clubs around

Whitby and the Esk Valley, Wendy has organised coaching and run an annual tournament for children aged 8 to 16. She has co-ordinated applications for funding to enable young players to access coaching courses given high travelling costs from the more remote parts of the county which ensured inclusivity.

Wendy has also worked closely with the local sports centre who pointed incoming players to Whitby in her direction so she could give unbiased advice and guide them towards the local club most suitable for their needs.

End of an era

Wendy has devoted a lifetime to tennis combining playing for over 60 years with developing the game she loves across North East Yorkshire and encouraging many children and adults to take up the sport in an area with limited facilities.

2022 will be Wendy's last year as a Yorkshire Tennis

Councillor. In her words "It's a wonderful job and I've adored it." She will be greatly missed by the clubs she has been so involved with but she will continue to run Eskdale School Tennis Club and will be looking to increase membership again.

Members come and go and, as an example, she recently welcomed several local retired gentlemen to the club who had not previously played the game. They play throughout the year and enjoy the exercise and the socialising.

There may be no public courts in Whitby but with a membership of £5 per annum, which includes balls and clean courts with new nets, Wendy hopes to be inundated with adults and children wanting to take part in the wonderful game of tennis!

Wendy has been a wonderful inspiration to so many tennis players and is a worthy winner of **2021/22 Yorkshire Tennis Lifetime Achievement Award**.

Meet Your Yorkshire LTA Councillor Adrian Waite, all the way from a tennis coaching holiday to the National Governing Body

Many readers may well wonder what the function of an LTA Councillor involves. There may be questions like: what do they do; is it a full-time role; is it voluntary; how do you become an LTA Councillor; and how does the role help Yorkshire Tennis? Well, hopefully, the following article will provide more understanding of the position and its importance to Yorkshire Tennis.

The LTA Council

There are 58 LTA Councillors including one councillor for each English county, plus Scotland, Wales, and one for each of the Isle of Man and Channel Islands. There are also independent councillors and ones representing linked organisations.

Councillors play an important role in supporting the LTA's strategy of 'Opening up Tennis' through delivering the mission of growing tennis throughout Britain by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable.

The LTA is governed by the Board who determine the strategy of the LTA, consulting with the Council, based on proposals submitted by the Executive team to deliver its mission. The Council consists of the President, Deputy President and the Councillors.

Joining LTA Council in 2015.

Adrian Waite has been Yorkshire's LTA Councillor since 2015 having only become a Yorkshire Councillor, representing the Wakefield area, in 2013 following a plea to Yorkshire's clubs from then Chairman, Liz Wilson for more volunteers to join Yorkshire's Council as it sought new younger councillors with fresh ideas and motivation.

Adrian's rise to his appointment to the LTA Council started some 17 years ago thanks to Wakefield TC. He had played tennis at school, Woodhouse Grove in Bradford, but then was lost to the game for some 20 years as he turned to golf.

His eleven-year-old son's interest in tennis saw them start playing in the park, then playing on holidays, trying a coaching holiday in Cornwall and eventually joining a club. After one month as a member at Wakefield TC Adrian wrote a letter to the



Chairman about an issue and was immediately brought on to the Tennis Committee. That letter was the start of Adrian's involvement in tennis development in Britain.

Adrian's various roles on LTA Council.

The LTA Councillor gets involved in LTA committees, workstreams and projects which support the LTA national strategies and also inputs feedback from a county perspective.

“ I enjoyed being on my local tennis club committee but getting involved at county level allows you to influence the wider picture. ”

The first two years of Adrian's new role were about finding his feet, learning about the wide-ranging responsibilities and operations of the LTA Council, including the different committees.

He was invited to join the then Tennis Development Committee (TDC) and helped develop the LTA's new membership scheme, update the annual registration process and restructure the registered venues model.

In his early days he was also given access to a buddy, then LTA Councillor from Cornwall, Hilary Webster. This was the same lady who ran Adrian's and his son's coaching holiday all those years ago!

During the last three years he's also been a member of the Governance and Funding workstream and has been working on the new governance framework for counties which was adopted in December 2021, the new funding model for counties which has a draft in discussion and should be in place for January 2023 and the workstream is now moving on to include inclusion.

Adrian is also the DTAG (new name for TDC) lead on the Communications workstream which is responsible for the communications flow between the Regions, Counties and the LTA.

A major responsibility of this workstream is to identify issues from each region and feedback to DTAG to identify and implement solutions.

Adrian's roles in Yorkshire Tennis

As part of his Yorkshire responsibilities on the Management Committee, along with other Yorkshire Tennis councillors, Adrian supports Yorkshire's Partner organisations that provide vital funding and investment into YT and organises the annual LTA Awards for Yorkshire that has seen several national winners emerge in recent years. >>> CONTINUES ON PAGE 18

Spotlight on LTA North Region



>>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Adrian's Working Life.

Adrian combines his LTA responsibilities with a full-time role as Chief Executive of Barnsley Business and Innovation Centre. This followed a career in franchising which started at age 25 when he established a business transfer agency selling post offices, hotels and newsagents (amongst others) and this led to him establishing his own franchise consultancy and a somewhat different specialism from his University degree in Geology.

As an active player he is a member of three tennis clubs, Barnsley, Wakefield and Slazenger, and plays men's league tennis in both the Leeds and Sheffield and District Leagues. He's also a qualified LTA Level 1 and Professional Tennis Registry (PTR) coach and has the aim of obtaining his LTA Level 3 qualification and becoming more involved in coaching once he's retired from full-time work.

In his club tournaments in 2021 he won the Mixed Doubles and Men's Doubles events at Wakefield and the O45 Men's Doubles at Barnsley where he usurped previous Yorkshire Tennis President, Chris Day, after his nine-year hold on the trophy.

In Summary

As he approaches the end of his tenth year as a Yorkshire Councillor Adrian has some great advice for any potential future Councillors. "I enjoyed being on my local tennis club committee but getting involved at county level allows you to influence the wider picture, especially if you are fortunate enough to become an LTA Councillor. It can be hard work but immensely satisfying."

It's been an incredibly busy period over the winter at the LTA, with work taking place across a wide range of projects. At the forefront of this is a **project to refurbish 4,500 parks courts over the next two years**, which was announced by the Government in October last year.

The LTA will be working in partnership with the Government to refurbish parks courts across the country that are currently in poor or unplayable condition to try and get 1 million more people playing tennis.

The project is being led by Paul Bennett, who has been seconded from his role as Head of Region in the North to a new post as Head of Parks Investment Delivery. Paul is a well-known figure in tennis in the North and brings a wealth of experience to the role having been involved with transformation of parks tennis in cities such as Leeds, Sheffield and

Manchester over recent years.

A key element of the project is to ensure that local authorities put a sustainable operating model in place which will enable them to maintain and refurbish the courts in the future. The entire tennis landscape should benefit from the investment in parks tennis, which will attract new players to the sport who may then go on to play in tennis clubs.

Laurie Haines, another member of the LTA North Team, is also being seconded to the parks project for two years as a Parks Investment Delivery Partner.

Laurie, who has covered the North East as well as Wakefield and parts of North Yorkshire as an LTA Participation Development Partner, will be leading on working with Local Authorities to enhance park provision in the North.

Both Paul and Laurie will be seconded until April 2024, when the parks project is due to be

completed.

Sam Foakes took over as Interim Head of Region in the North from January this year. He has worked for the LTA since 2015, making significant progress moving tennis forward across the Greater Manchester area. Sam has an interesting background in sport, which includes being a former BMX freestyle world champion.

He will oversee the North region for the next two years. The areas vacated by Laurie Haines in Yorkshire will be picked up by existing LTA Participation Development Partners, Paul Sheard and Gavin Sutcliffe, with Paul taking over Wakefield and Gavin picking up districts in North Yorkshire.

In other appointments in the LTA North Region, **James Silson** joined the team in December as the Competition Development Partner filling Christine Randall-Klee's position whilst she is on maternity leave following the birth of her second child, Arlo, in December.

James is a keen tennis player in the York area, has a strong background in the leisure industry and is already proving to be a great member of the LTA North team.

Despite it being a period of change, strong progress has already been made in the early part of 2022 on some key work areas, and if you need the support of any member of the team, please don't hesitate to contact us.

- **Sam Foakes**
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- **Paul Sheard**
paul.sheard@lta.org.uk
- **Gavin Sutcliffe**
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- **James Silson**
james.silson@lta.org.uk



● Sam Foakes



TRIBUTE TO BARRY HARPIN

One of Yorkshire Tennis's true grass roots characters, Barry will be very sadly missed by all those who knew him.

Yorkshire Tennis was very sad to hear news of the passing of Barry Harpin, in Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, on Sunday 12th December 2021, aged 88.

Barry, father of ex-Yorkshire County players Mike and Alison, spent much of his life playing, coaching and officiating Tennis, even running a racquet stringing business in retirement.

He started playing at Firth Park public courts before joining Heckmondwike TC where he met Jean, his wife of 67 years who survives him along with Mike and Alison and his two grandchildren Harry and Sophia.

From there he moved to Liversedge TC where he won Club Championships and was a stalwart of a strong first team for many years.

As Alison and Mike developed their junior careers, Barry took his LTA coaching certificates and began supporting and running junior programmes at various clubs across West Yorkshire including Liversedge, Rastrick, Marsden and Sandal.

He also coached many of the younger age group Yorkshire squads and took teams to matches and tournaments as far afield as Largs and Northumberland.

He achieved a lifelong ambition to represent Yorkshire himself (at veterans' level) and despite a near fatal heart attack in one of his first matches at Jedburgh went onto captain teams in various age groups until he retired from competitive tennis well into his 70s.

His desire to help out and be involved in all areas of tennis led him into officiating at local tournaments, from where he progressed to duties at The Championships, Wimbledon.

He spent a very enjoyable ten years there until the age limit kicked in at 65. Never really destined to chair a Men's Final, his occasionally combative character resulted in his removal from at least one match by a certain, equally combative, JP McEnroe!

Well into retirement he continued his involvement with tennis via the restringing business he took over from Arthur Cornell as well as annual trips to Los Gigantes in Tenerife, where his trademark angles and match commentaries earned him much notoriety.

One of Yorkshire Tennis's true grass roots characters, Barry will be very sadly missed by all those who knew him.



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

The Yorkshire Tennis Initiative is a fund supported by companies to subsidise all or part of the many tennis activities provided by Yorkshire Tennis, such as, county training, county teams, county performance initiatives, talent ID festivals, funding programme for clubs and various competitions etc. The fund assists in making tennis more accessible to a wider

community and ultimately helps to raise standards.

One of the county's corporate members is **Babolat**. The company provides Yorkshire Tennis with a good supply of tennis balls free of charge. In return Yorkshire Tennis recommends the use of the Babolat tennis ball to all registered clubs at a discounted rate through a purchase incentive scheme.

We have also incorporated the name Babolat into the Yorkshire Tennis Doubles League and promoted Babolat on our website and on social media platforms.

2022 Babolat Club Ball Offer:

• For every 12 dozen Babolat tennis balls purchased by a club within the county, the club will receive one dozen of the same tennis ball free of

charge. Qualifying balls are Babolat Team Clay, Team, Team All-Court and Gold All-Court

• Simply send receipts to Jessica Redfearn, YT County Administrator at yorkshiretennis@hotmail.com

• All clubs participating in the ball offer will automatically be entered into a national prize draw for a chance to win a MINI TENNIS EQUIPMENT PACK for the club.



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