



# YORKSHIRE TENNIS

## Message from Steve Jones, Chair of Yorkshire Tennis Limited

Hi All,

As we move toward year end I wanted to reflect on what a first year it has been as Chair of Yorkshire Tennis!

### Outstanding Tennis

Starting with tennis. I thought last year that the winning of the County Cup race could not be bettered. The last weekend in November, however, saw momentous victories for both our women and men in the Winter County Cup on home ground at Graves Tennis Centre in Sheffield. Both teams won division one with dominant performances making us double national champions. This has never been achieved in over a hundred years since the competition started. Fantastic tennis was on display from our teams, only surpassed by a tremendous team spirit and true Yorkshire grit throughout. Congratulations to every single player involved and also captains, Steve McLoughlin for men and Richard Crabtree with support from Nicola Mooney for women. Plus Karen Mitchell who was there in support and heads up performance at Yorkshire Tennis Board level. We may not win the overall County Cup race this year but it is very likely we will achieve our goal of staying in the top three which is pretty amazing. And, honestly, being national champions is more than we could have hoped for so a very well done to every team and player who made this possible. You make us all proud to be Yorkshire Tennis.



### Progress in Padel

Additionally, this year saw Yorkshire Women win the first Padel County Cup with our men coming a close second. While we need to recognise these championships are not yet officially run by the LTA, it is still good to see the significant progress being made in Padel across Yorkshire. My thanks go to Peter Vann and the new committee which we have set up to lead on this within Yorkshire Tennis.

### Delivering on our County Annual Plan

With our new Yorkshire Tennis Limited (YTL) set up at the end of 2022, one of our first tasks was to develop an annual plan to ensure that what we do serves the growth and development of tennis in Yorkshire. We're keen for what we do to be very transparent which is why the plan is available on our website. The plan is a living, breathing document and in November the Board met to review progress and set our agenda for the year ahead and beyond. We've delivered well in many areas and are committed to doing better in others. The recent edition of Tramlines, our Yorkshire Tennis newsletter, gives more detailed information. We're certainly committed to working with all parties in Yorkshire to maintain our position as a County setting the benchmark nationally for Performance, Competitive Play, and Participation.

### Supporting Club Development in Yorkshire

Local clubs and coaching teams are at the heart of Yorkshire Tennis and ensuring the widest possible access for people to play this great sport. It is heartening to see so many clubs developing and the purpose of our Club Engagement team, under the leadership of Chris French, is to help clubs do just this. Each area within Yorkshire has a dedicated champion so I encourage you to reach out to yours for support and, of course, to also share what you are doing which may help others. Together we can be stronger. Plus, remember the Advantage Yorkshire 2 interest free loan scheme is also there to help with all important funding for club development activities.

**Volunteers Make It Possible**

All that we do is delivered through our enthusiastic Volunteers. The Board has been massively encouraged by the number and quality of new volunteers eager to get involved in shaping the future development of all areas of Yorkshire Tennis. Thanks to those putting their hand up and finding their feet within our organisation. At our most recent Board Meeting, Jane Reed-Thomas has taken over responsibilities as the lead for Marketing and Communications in the team from Adrian Waite. We are delighted to welcome Jane who brings 30+ years of experience in the field. And we look forward to supporting Adrian free up capacity to increase our focus on sponsorship opportunities to target additional funding for YTL to invest more in County Tennis and Padel initiatives.

The door remains widely open to anyone else who would like to volunteer and help out - skills and experience can be used in most areas and we'd love to have you as part of one of our teams.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and feel free to reach out to me anytime with your questions and suggestions by emailing [enquiries@YorkshireTennis.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@YorkshireTennis.org.uk). For now, may I wish you, your families and loved ones a happy and peaceful Christmas, New Year and holiday season.

Regards,

Steve Jones,  
Chair of Yorkshire Tennis Limited