



## YBA July Newsletter

The season is at the stage where competitive bowling in leagues and competitions is reaching a key stage. With both the Ladies' and Men's Finals Days having taken place in recent days, some players are preparing for the National Finals at Leamington which start on the 10<sup>th</sup> August. YBA club competitions see the mixed Top Club final stages this coming weekend on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August at Smiths Dock BC and the Marshall Shield at Thirsk Athletic BC on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August. Both events should be a great spectacle, so why not go along and have an enjoyable day out. Please check out the 'What's On' calendar at [www.yorksba.co.uk](http://www.yorksba.co.uk) and keep in touch with fellow bowlers via the Facebook group **Bowls Yorkshire**.

### SOME BOWLS ENGLAND NEWS

The challenge of putting the next Commonwealth Games on within Australia seems miles away from bowling in Yorkshire. However, the CEO of World Bowls expressed his concern at the BE Board recently that the future of the Commonwealth Games is uncertain. This will not affect most of us but as a County we have had bowlers playing in these prestigious games and for the elite few the prospect of losing the games must be a future they hope not to see.

Jon Cockcroft, the CEO of BE, informed a meeting of County Administrators that this year's Big Bowls Weekend saw twice the number of visitors on average to the 505 clubs that engaged in this national effort to increase participation in bowls than last year. This with an overall satisfaction rate of 4.6 (out of 5) all indicates that people really enjoyed their bowling experience. The key of course is converting those 'visitors' into playing members.

Qualification for next season's National Championships and Competitions will follow the same criteria as this year. In short, the counties who have the highest number of entries will get two qualifiers for the Championship events. We managed to be above the line this year but only just, so if you want to see the county send two qualifiers to the Finals next season get entering!!

### MEN'S STUFF

The Men's Finals Day took place at Thirsk on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July on a well-paced green and in a very welcoming atmosphere that was created by all the Thirsk Athletic BC members. A special thanks must go to the members of that team that provided endless refreshments throughout the day. There were some very special performances on the green and whilst it is never correct to single any one person out, Matt Mosley had a day to remember winning the U18 singles, the U25 Singles and the U25 Pairs with Marcus Mosley. Matt was also awarded the YBA 2023 Young Men's Player of the Year award by the YBA Youth Development managers, Phil Parsons and Cressida Fordy. Well done, Matt!! Good luck to all who now progress to the National Finals at Leamington.



Photo courtesy of Graham Stephenson

This year's County matches in the Alsop Trophy have seen almost all the players who nominated to play given the opportunity to represent our County. I am sure all who have played for the County in these Alsop matches have enjoyed the challenge and whilst there are still a couple of matches to be played, at the moment we are mid table.

Nomination forms for those who wish to play for the County would historically be circulated early next year. This season we are going to try a less formal approach and Nomination Forms will NOT BE SENT TO CLUBS as in previous seasons. Instead, we ask that any players wishing to play for the County in the 2024 season drop a short email (or text/Facebook/PM) directly to either Lee Coutts (leecoutts.yba@gmail.com) or myself, as soon as possible, to let us know they wish to be considered for county team selection next season. We will publish next seasons fixtures as soon as we have them and players can then confirm their availability against these dates. We hope this less formal approach will make nominating easier for players and I would encourage anyone interested in playing for the County to let us know.

Arrangements continue to take place to appoint the Men's 2024 Team Manager and there will be more on this in due course.

### **LADIES' 'BITS & BOBS'**

The last few weeks have been an exciting time for Yorkshire Ladies. The ladies' finals day competitions were held at Helmsley BC on Sunday 23rd July 2023. For full details please look at the YBA website. The final Northern Trophy Stella match was held on Friday 21st July against Northumbria, which after all six matches against the Northern Counties teams have been played, resulted in Yorkshire Ladies' Stella team winning the Stella Trophy which is the first time since 2016. The Northern Trophy team are neck and neck on points against Cumbria and the finals will be played on Friday 4th August 2023. We wish them every success and hope we can make it a double win for Yorkshire Ladies. Details this week are coming out for lady officer nominations. Also details of the Annual Ladies' Luncheon and Presentation of Trophies event, which will be held at York Pavilion Hotel on Tuesday 17th October and the Ladies' Autumn Meeting on Monday 2nd October to be held at York District Indoor Bowling Club at 12.30. Ladies from all Yorkshire affiliated clubs are welcome to attend to hear what we are up to. August will see a number of our Yorkshire Ladies going to Leamington to represent our County. More details next month.

Vivien Wilton-Middlemass

### **AND FINALLY....**

What's not working for you? Your YBA seeks to support clubs and individuals in their efforts to foster bowls across our county but I'm sure there are things that we could be doing better. So please give us some feedback what's working or not working for you? What could we do better? Just drop me a line at my email address or via text/Facebook.

Regards  
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