



YBA June Newsletter

The season is well under way and I hope you are enjoying your bowls. Please check out the 'What's On' calendar at www.yorksba.co.uk and keep in touch with fellow bowlers via the Facebook group **Bowls Yorkshire**.

JUNIOR COMPETITIONS

This year's U18 Singles competition will take place at North Duffield BC at 10am on Sunday the 9th July. This event **is open to both male and female** players. The U25 Men's Singles competition will take place at Northallerton BC at 10am Sunday 16th July. **Please** encourage all of your players who qualify to enter these competitions to take part. If you need any further information just contact Phil Parsons, the YBA Youth Team Manager on 07935741260.

MEN'S STUFF

This year's Inter County matches in the Middleton Cup and the Balcomb Trophy haven't gone to plan! Having been the nation's runners up in the Balcomb last year we went out to an impressive Durham team. In the Middleton our points tally doesn't reflect the closeness of many of the games but points are what it is all about and after two games against Cumbria and Durham we have 7. Whilst the bookies will still take your money, Cumbria look odds on to progress from our group, but the last fixture for Yorkshire is away to Nottingham who have an outside chance of pipping Cumbria. However, Yorkshire pride will seek to finish this season on a win, so sorry Notts you will have to look at another year to progress in the Middleton Cup just like ourselves!

The silver lining in the Men's Inter County season has to be the inclusion of several new players many of whom have worked their way through the Alsop team and fitted in well with the Middleton Cup squad. I think it is fair to say most of these players were surprised to find themselves in the Middleton squad but they were selected on performance and that approach offers many aspiring players the hope of representing the county at the top level. So for those who have dropped out of the Middleton squad this year and for those wanting to be included next year the message is simple, work on your game, keep performing and nominating for the county and you will be considered for selection, based upon performance, by the Team Manager.

The Alsop Cup team is key in developing players for the top Inter County level. The Alsop squad is a mix of dedicated county representatives, who blend with developing younger and relatively inexperienced bowlers who want to progress in the more competitive bowls arena. Whilst we always look to put a competitive side out to represent Yorkshire in the Alsop Cup, development of players is at the heart of selection for this team. Not all development is about achieving the highest Inter County squad level. For many the experience of playing in the Alsop develops individuals' performance and helps them play better for their clubs and enjoy the game even more.

We are delighted with the number of nominations that come through from Yorkshire bowlers for the county level teams. In recent years we have seen players from clubs who haven't routinely had representatives at the County level. We hope that these players will encourage others from their clubs and clubs not currently with county players to come along and have a go!

LADIES' 'BITS & BOBS'

The Yorkshire ladies have started the season well making good progress in the Northern Counties matches. The squad in the Walker Cup put up a good fight against Lincolnshire, playing on a very challenging green against a very strong team of Lincolnshire ladies, of which a few regularly play for England. The Yorkshire loss by 9 points does not truly reflect the closeness of the match.

Many Yorkshire ladies are looking forward to their fun packed ladies' Bowls Tour to Derbyshire at the beginning of July for a week.

OTHER NEWS

Every year the confusion over National and County competitions rears its head: how many dates do I need to offer? What's the format? Can they call us on that date? etc, etc. We plan to review the current rules on competitions within the YBA Constitution during the closed season and ensure that this matches the Bowls England rules which are currently being looked at by a national working party. If possible we will set out, in the simplest terms possible, just what the main rules are to help us all navigate this minefield!

AND FINALLY....

I keep stressing that bowls is not all about competitions and yet that seems to take up most of these newsletters. However, it is a genuine delight to hear of the various initiatives that clubs up and down the county are getting involved with, which can only be a good thing! Please feel free to suggest items you would like updating on or covering.

Regards

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