

TRAM LINES

YORKSHIRE TENNIS NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2017

yorkshire.tennis@aol.co.uk



● WELCOME to the third edition of Tramlines, looking back on success in Summer 2017. If you have any articles you would like including in the next issue, which will be published in Spring 2018, then please email the editor: tennis-sue@mail.com

Yorkshire County Championships 2017 – what a great success!



● Pictured above: Men's Champion Jordan Reed-Thomas and Ladies' Champion Jessica Dawson with YT President Chris Day

New Men's and Ladies' Champions were crowned in a tournament that has doubled entries in just three years to 442 this year. For the first time in many years there were umpires for the 18U and adult singles finals giving the day a far more professional feel.

The Men's final was won by 22-year-old Jordan Reed-Thomas who beat Matthew Clegg. 16-year-old Matthew was the 18U Boys' Champion, beating Joshua Lazenby, and going one better than 2016 when he won the 16U title but lost in the 18U final.

Jessica Dawson, just 14, was the Ladies' Champion, beating Eve Brady whilst Orla Cooper won the 18U Girls' title. Orla beat Hardija Vidhere who was the 18U finalist last year as well.

A big thank you to Dave Kitchen, Tournament Referee, who put hours of effort into running and improving these prestigious championships. Dave, pictured with his certificate for 2016 LTA Competition of the Year award, isn't resting on his laurels as he is keen to make Yorkshire the benchmark for County Championships.

Please email yorkshire.tennis@aol.co.uk with your ideas for improvements and particularly increasing participation from county team players.



Can you name these Yorkshire Men's Singles Champions?

Featured here are 12 Yorkshire Champions who attended the 1994 Centenary

Championships at Hull YPI. Do you know who they are? Do you know where they are now? Included are current Chairman of AELTC, Head Coach at Ilkley TC, Vice President of AELTC, Executive Director to the Tennis Foundation and a former World Number 8 tennis player. Their names can be found on the back page.



SPOTLIGHT

Yorkshire Veterans' County Championships 2017



Grass and indoor carpet help those aging knees!

Chapel Allerton hosted this event on grass when the sun shone and indoor carpet during the rain and showers. Skills, experience and stamina were witnessed in abundance and winners of all men's singles events were also doubles winners.

The Ladies (pictured above) were here this year but were forced to play indoors as it was wet wet wet. Six pairs played short round robin matches whilst the final was a long tie break shoot out won by Audrey Reed and Rosie Connell, 20-19, over Vanessa Cameron and Carolyn Rothwell.

The most keenly fought men's finals were all in the doubles with Paul Layfield and Peter Vann winning their 055 final 6-4, 4-6, 11-9, whilst Wilf Jessop and Alan Cockman edged out tournament referee Giles Hinchcliffe and his partner the 'Flying Dutchman' Simon Ruijsenaars 6-2, 3-6, 10-6 in the 065 final.

● Wilf Jessop (far right) 065 Singles Winner pictured with referee Giles Hinchcliffe and finalist Simon Ruijsenaars.



All the winners of junior age groups, adult and veterans' events can be found on Yorkshire Tennis website at www3.lta.org.uk/in-your-area/yorkshire/

Impressive
Yorkshire
performances
SPOTLIGHT
on our top men
and women

Luke Johnson – professional, loyal and confident in aim for the top

A Silver Medal in the Men's Doubles, from the 2017 World University Games in Chinese Taipei, was another amazing achievement in Luke's sparkling 2017.

Luke admits he had a slow start to his professional career when, following a training block in April with coaching from Dave Sammel and Ian McDonald at Team Bath MCTA, things suddenly clicked.

During the summer he achieved a fabulous win at the Aegon British Tour in Ilkley and a good run of results, in both singles and doubles, at ITF Futures Tournaments, in Britain and across the world.

Luke's world ranking has risen, since January 2017, from 1951 to 936 in Singles and from 1533 to 530 in Doubles (as at 23/10/17) and is well on his way to achieving his goal of top 800 in singles and top 500 in doubles by the end of 2017.

Luke, now 23, completed his degree in USA in May 2016 followed by a three-

month stint of summer coaching camps in New York.

The money he earned has helped fund his first year on the professional tour combined with sponsorship from Czajka Care Group and clothing from Ellesse as well as his tournament earnings.

Both on and off court Luke describes himself as disciplined. The hours of training, playing matches, sleeping and travelling give him little time for anything else, so when home in Leeds Luke catches up with friends, visits the local cricket club where he played until he was 15 and coaches and plays tennis with his sponsor.

A well-rounded young man is putting

everything into achieving his goals whilst not forgetting the family and friends who are helping him on his journey.

If any person or company would like to provide financial support to Luke, contact the editor or Luke at: www.lukejohnsontennis.com; twitter @luke_johnson94 or Instagram – lukecjohnson



Jessica Dawson – learning from both victory and defeat

At 14, Jess from Nuffield Hull, is still a developing junior player and 2017 has been a year of many triumphs, in both singles and doubles, ending the summer with the Ladies' Singles title at the Yorkshire Championships.

Having placed a high value on doubles development, she started the year by reaching the semi-finals of the Grade 1 Teen Tennis International event at Bolton with long-term doubles partner Jayanne Palma. She was also part of the Yorkshire U14 Girls' team that won the Nationwide County Cup and this was followed by Jess and Jayanne winning the Grade 2 Scottish Junior Open title.

During the summer Jess was part of Nuffield Hull's U14 team that reached the Nationwide Team Tennis finals, she reached the Road to Wimbledon finals and her school team, South Hunsley, qualified for the National Schools finals. Neither the teams nor Jess won any silverware at these events but hopefully 2018 will be an even better year than 2017 for both Jess and her fellow team members.



West Yorkshire Adult Singles Circuit: 'All in One Day' is a great success

New for 2017 were Grade 5 singles tournaments held on 1 day for both men and ladies with priority given to adults aged 19+.

Eight tournaments were held at West Yorkshire clubs between April and September and the top 8 men and top 8 ladies on the points leaderboard were invited to a Finals day at Chapel Allerton on 1st October.

Tom Horsfall and Chris Harper (pictured right) were equal second in the points table and on Finals day faced each other in the final. Tom won an exceptional match 4-5, 5-3, 10-6. Overall points winner was Chris Metcalfe, who played seven tournaments, but was ousted by Chris Harper in the semi-finals.

Top two ladies in the points table were Hannah Stockton and Anna-Maria Broskov Larsen and Hannah was the worthy winner of the final 4-2, 4-0.





Summer County Cup – experiencing victory and defeat

Aegon Summer County Cup saw Yorkshire Men play in Division 2 at Havant whilst the Yorkshire Ladies were at Cromer also in Division 2. For 2018 they both remain in Division 2.

So what's it like to play County Week? Here are a few snippets from 19-year-old Holly Horsfall (kneeling first left in picture, top right).

"It's my favourite week of the year... but an amazing experience including the harsh moments which cannot be ignored – those third set defeats or 5-4 losses and even the amount of stress under which our bodies are placed for the full week.

Although each day is so different to the next we try to build a routine. A typical day begins with the whole team sat sleepy eyed round the breakfast table....morning matches can be emotionally draining but we know how to battle through the tough matches.... there is no better feeling than seeing

your teammates run towards you after a big win! ... there is always one thing you can count on in the Yorkshire team each of us will put 110% effort into each match whether supporting or playing.

When our day has finally come to an end we all venture back to the hotel and get ready for dinner. We're a really tightly-knit team and cannot remember it any other way. This plays a big part in how we perform on court. When our day comes to an end, usually roommates can't help but talk for hours but eventually we fall into a deep sleep to recover for the next day when we have to compete ruthlessly once again."

Over 35s County Cup

All 44 counties, both Men and Ladies, play over three days at Devonshire Park Eastbourne. With just four teams in each section or division it's tough to gain promotion but it's equally easy to lose just one match and get relegated. Both Yorkshire teams were in Division 2. The ladies were challenging for promotion to the top division on day 3 after two wins but found South Wales just too strong so another tilt at



promotion beckons in 2018. The team were represented by: Louise Marshman, Natalie Gill, Becky Lee (captain) and Helen Myles. Meanwhile, Yorkshire Men were flying this year, winning all their matches 3-0. They were captained by Ben Gudzelak and other team members were Martin Calvert, Paul Ranson, Tom Sanders and Jason Torpey. Division 1 now awaits!



● Hannah Stockton



Increasing participation: SPOTLIGHT on summer events

● U16s Final at Pocklington (bottom left): winner, Jack Wills and runner-up, Max Tong. Ladies' Final at Roundhay (top left): winner, Lucy Margetson and runner-up, Claire Morris. Men's Final at Thorner (far left): Joe Jaynes with winner, John Fredrick Booth and runner-up, Arun Bahia.

Leeds and North of England Series: encouraging all levels all year round

Another new development in 2017 was brought to various parts of Yorkshire by Joe Jaynes, a successful tournament player, club player, coach and now a tournament organiser and referee.

Joe recently identified a gap in the market – Tournaments for aspiring lower rated tennis players, both men and ladies. This summer he developed a range of grade 5 and 6 tournaments targeted at men

and ladies having the lowest ratings together with some junior and mini age groups. For these participants such tournaments have provided the first steps on how to play matches, meet new players and have fun. This is particularly important for ladies who want to enjoy matches in a positive, non-threatening and encouraging atmosphere. Due to the format used, all levels of player can be accommodated

in one tournament, from beginner/improver through to seasoned match players.

Tournaments have been run at clubs across Yorkshire, and will continue throughout the autumn and winter. Joe is keen to take his successful tournament formula to more clubs and particularly smaller clubs. There is very little for a club to do – provide courts and the rest is down to Joe who organises every aspect of the

tournament and in return the club receives a % of the profits.

Check Joe's website regularly for dates of tournaments for the rest of 2017 and into 2018 and for clubs that are interested in holding a tournament please contact Joe but don't be surprised if clubs hear from Joe first!

For more information, visit: www.tennistournamentsleeds.co.uk or email: joejaynestennis@hotmail.co.uk

TENNIS WATCH



Yorkshire Tennis Highlights

● The Aegon Ilkley Trophy was an amazing success this year as Magdalena Rybarikova (pictured above) and Marton Fucsovics (below) were the worthy winners of the ITF and Challenger trophies respectively. Just under 2000 school children participated in the outreach programme during the tournament which has helped encourage many of these children to play at schools, in parks and at clubs.

● Earlier this year, Yorkshire Tennis announced a package of financial support worth £600,000 over three years through the Advantage Yorkshire initiative. Since the launch, over £200k has been paid out to clubs in grants or loans for facility improvements, with the biggest number involving floodlight installation or improvement. YT has also welcomed four new associate members from schools who have taken up the offer of £100 of free coaching.

● YT recently announced the appointment of John Loughton as Yorkshire County Performance Manager. He has taken responsibility for county training, county captains and the implementation of the Hub Club Programme. This role will help to grow and build the current county training for U8's to U18's and develop talented junior players.

● Celebration of Yorkshire players' success will be held on Monday 11th December at Holiday Inn, Garforth. This will include LTA and YT awards and a number of special



presentations. The occasion will be presented slightly differently from previous years with a different room setting. All receiving accolades will be invited.

YORKSHIRE CHAMPS

Did you recognise the previous champions? L to R, Gary Henderson, Paul Ranson, Simon Ickringill, Philip Brook, John Howarth, Richard Webb, Geoff Newton, Brian Sheridan, John Sharp, Roger Taylor, Dickie Dillon and Mike Hann.

Bringing the community into tennis



Parks and schools so important for the next generation of tennis stars

At Sheffield and Rotherham Parks there's never been a better time to play tennis – 22 newly refurbished courts, a range of coaching sessions and a local tennis league as Parks Tennis builds upon the major investment from Sheffield City Council and the LTA.

This summer there have been well over 9,000 court bookings and over 700 coaching attendees giving plenty of opportunities for all ages and abilities to enjoy coaching, competitions or just a hit with family and friends.

Parks Tennis also runs a **School Outreach Programme** and has delivered sessions to almost 800 pupils in ten schools across Sheffield.

Rejuvenated courts and lots more at **Pelican Park, Hull** have been critical factors in the success of increasing participation in the Hull area. The four courts at the park



were saved following the partnership investment between LTA, Friends of Pelican Park and Hull City Council. Floodlights were installed, courts were resurfaced and a new clubhouse was built, turning the facility into a community hub where record numbers are playing.

The LTA is working extensively with communities and councils to protect and improve access to tennis in parks and this is one example where a community can play tennis and meet and enjoy themselves. 18-year-old Paul Jubb, 2016 Men's Yorkshire Champion and 2015 16U National Champion, is now studying and training in the USA and wouldn't be where he is today without the facilities at Pelican Park.

Schools are also vital in getting children into the game and playing competitively or socially. In September, the winners of the Yorkshire Aegon Division 2 Schools Tennis League played the Yorkshire Finals at JCCS Leeds. 100 girls and boys from Year 8 and Year 10 played 4 events on all 12 courts and there was some great quality tennis. The eight winners and runners-up in each event qualified for the regional finals.