

TRAM LINES

YORKSHIRE TENNIS NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2018

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Glorious Summer for Yorkshire players

Men's and Ladies' County Cup Teams

It was a fantastic result for Yorkshire's Ladies at this summer's County Cup. Playing in Group 2 at Havant and captained by Joanna Craven, the ladies had to beat Cheshire on the last day in order to gain promotion. A memorable and exciting week ended with the Yorkshire win and so the Ladies are promoted to play in Group 1 at Eastbourne next summer.



The Men's team, playing in Group 2 at Cromer, unfortunately lost out on the last day. Despite two wins against Norfolk and Lincolnshire they are relegated to Group 3 in 2019. Both teams will be in action at the Winter County Cup, with the Men in Group 1 at Bath and the Ladies in Group 2 at Edgbaston from 23rd – 25th November.

2018 Yorkshire Vets at Chapel A: Men's titles all defended successfully

Three Men's Singles, three Men's Doubles and Ladies' Doubles events were played in hot sun on some days and in clouds and the occasional shower on other days. Matches were mainly played on the grass courts, with an assortment of bounces, whilst on the inclement days the indoor carpet was a pleasure to play on.



All the men's matches were completed in two sets apart from the O65 Men's Singles, which Wilf Jessop won 10-7 in the match tiebreak. He went on to win the Doubles with Alan Cockman whom he beat in the Singles.

Martin Calvert was the winner in O45 Singles and Doubles, pictured above with his two trophies, whilst Paul Layfield won both O55 Singles and Doubles.

Five couples competed in the Ladies' Doubles round robin which was won by Cheryl Hagel and Anita Perry on a blazing hot sunny afternoon.

2018 Yorkshire Championships go from strength to strength

2018 was a record year with 428 different players competing at John Charles Tennis Centre from 25th August. This was the largest entry in over two decades. All of the winners across adult and junior age groups, in Singles and Doubles, can be found on the YT website.

Special mentions go to the first time Ladies' and Men's Singles Champions Eleanor Dean and Euan Wilson-Baig respectively and to Gabriella Lindley and Isabella Gibson who both collected four titles.

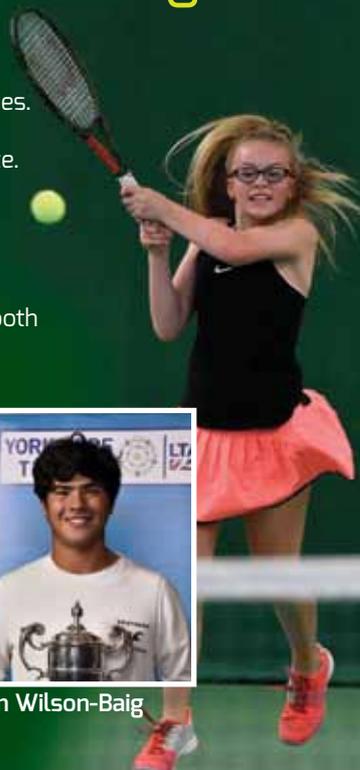
● Gabriella (pictured right) won Girls 16U and 14U in both Singles and Doubles, partnering Isabella in Doubles.

● Isabella won all her four titles in Doubles – Girls 16U, 14U and 12U (with Cadence Simpson) and Mixed 14U with her brother William.

Thanks must be extended to referee Dave Kitchen and everyone who helped promote, organise and run the qualifying and main events.



● Eleanor Dean and Euan Wilson-Baig



Junior County Cup Teams – all the age groups

There were mixed fortunes for the teams across the age groups. 18U teams had already played and won their divisions in February, so here's what happened this summer:

- 14U teams: Boys reached finals weekend; Girls reached finals weekend and finished 3rd
- 12U teams: Boys didn't make finals weekend; Girls reached finals and finished 7th
- 10U teams: Boys reached finals and were RU to a strong Kent team; Girls didn't make finals weekend
- 9U team (mixed): Yorkshire winners!

A FOUR court club for more than 100 years Barnsley TC has delivered an ambitious £500,000 project, with support from LTA, YT and Barnsley Council. The club now has seven courts – three new floodlit courts and their existing four courts have been resurfaced in artificial grass.

President of YT and Chairman of Barnsley TC, Chris Day, said “We are now focussing on realising the benefits of our fantastic new facilities which add huge value to the town.”

The club also celebrated member Elspeth Lee (pictured right) winning the Yorkshire LTA Young Volunteer of the Year in the 2017 British Tennis Awards. Elspeth is studying for her A

levels at Wakefield Girls' High School and combines her studies with playing tennis and volunteering at both Wakefield and Barnsley.

At Barnsley she is Chair of Junior Committee, helps out with coaching as she is a Level 2 coach and plays club matches. At school she organises and coaches at practice sessions, has captained teams since Year 7 and this year experienced her team coming joint 3rd at the National Schools Finals

An inspirational and driven young woman, Elspeth plans to study Law at University where she hopes to continue her tennis playing and volunteering activities.



BARNSELEY

New courts and lots more



Yorkshire tasted double success at the presentation ceremony during the Wimbledon Championships this year. Robert Balmforth was named Official of the Year and Skipton Tennis Centre was awarded Club of the Year. Read about their achievements below and more about the personal side of their development over the years.

2017 NATIONAL BRITISH TENNIS AWARDS

ROB BALMFORTH (pictured above right, receiving his award from top umpire James Keothavong) has chaired over 150 matches across the world in 2017 including at all four Grand Slams and the Davis Cup. He was also selected as a member of the ITF Development Group based on his experience, officiating potential and feedback from the ITF/Grand Slam officiating team.

Earlier this year he was promoted to one of the few Silver Badge umpires in the world and was invited to teach at an ITF Level 2 School in Cape Town which demonstrates his status as a top international umpire of the future.

Just 31 years old, Rob's been officiating for 13 years which all started when he attended a Junior Player Program course whilst studying for his A levels at Crossley Heath Grammar School, Halifax.

A good junior player at his club, Wellholme Park, Brighouse, he realised playing at Wimbledon was beyond him but working there was a more realistic proposition. He became an accredited official aged 18 and, after graduating

From Wellholme Park Tennis Club to 2017 LTA Official of the Year via Australia, Kazakhstan, China, USA...

from Manchester University in 2012 with a First in International Business, Finance and Economics, became a full-time tennis official.

For one still so young Rob has an amazing CV – he earned his White Badge Chair Umpire qualification in 2011, became a Bronze Badge Chair Umpire in 2014 and then a Silver Badge this year. He's officiated at every Wimbledon since 2006, at seven US Opens, five Australian Opens, five French Opens and 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games.

He works in countries across the world over 25 weeks a year. But, when not on duty on one of the continents of the world, Rob relaxes at home in Halifax with friends and family, watches football at Halifax Town and plays tennis

at Wellholme Park where he started playing aged five using one of his mum's old wooden rackets!

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Adam Cox, force and inspiration behind Skipton Tennis Centre – 2017 LTA Tennis Club of the Year

OVER 10 years ago Adam was coaching 80-100 players at a local school but for many years dreamed of building a tennis club to serve the Craven area with a membership base, coaching programme and strong community links.

His dream became a reality when an opportunity arose to negotiate a lease on the land of

the current site but not without significant difficulties given his age and experience.

He overcame the problems and, aged 24, embarked on a £102,000 development with a loan of £75,000 from the LTA and £27,000, which he raised himself.

Today, Adam and his incredible team of coaches and volunteers work with 600 children every week from 28 primary schools and four secondary schools, there are 14 club teams, three very well attended social tennis nights, over 300 people attending weekly coaching and there's a ten week holiday club programme. Some 1,000 people play tennis every week at the club on five courts.

So what makes Skipton TC so special? Whoever one





YTC
ore to celebrate



● Adam Cox (pictured right)

speaks to, whether a member, a parent, a junior or a coach they quote time and again Adam's boundless enthusiasm and his passion for the club, someone who puts his heart and soul into everything he turns to. Those who play social tennis find it welcoming and love the camaraderie.

Children on the coaching programme play other sports but they love tennis more because of the coaches and their approach, which builds confidence and results in improvement. The tennis is accessible and the club is not elitist. Adam runs the club and there is no committee, but all developments are discussed with the members first and everyone has a voice.

There was no tennis in Skipton before the tennis centre was built. Adam and his team have developed a thriving club, offered opportunities to play for all sections of the community, including disabled, and fully expect to continue to grow and prosper with improved facilities in the future.

SPOTLIGHT ON TOP YORKSHIRE PLAYERS

University of South Carolina student, Paul Jubb, played four European ITF tournaments this summer and achieved one title, three S/F appearances and not one loss in qualifying. He's also improved his ranking dramatically from 1461 at the end of 2017 to 717 in August 2018.

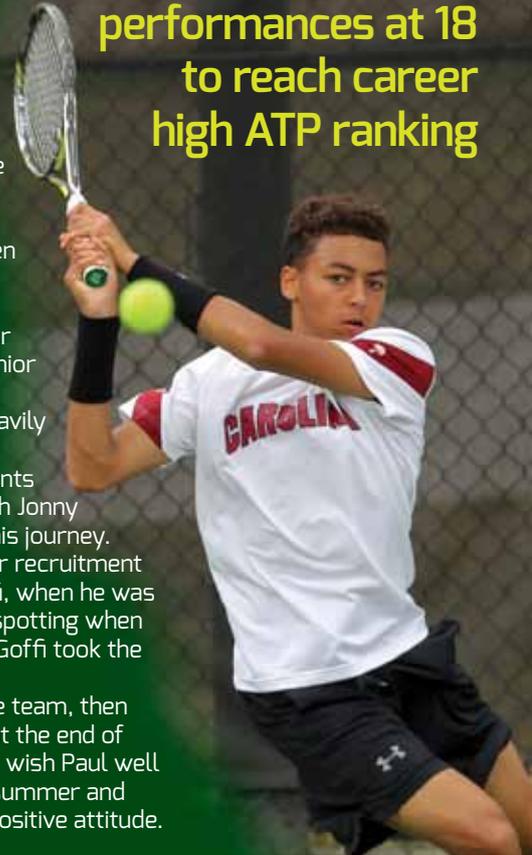
Paul is no ordinary student. His achievements are truly astonishing and those who have helped him since taking up a racket at age 5 must be so proud. Brought up by his grandmother in Hull after losing his parents, Paul was first noticed playing tennis with other children at Pelican Park. He subsequently joined Nuffield's performance mini tennis squads, trained there four to five times a week for a number of years, competed for Yorkshire at all age groups and won the 16U British Junior National Championships in 2015.

Due to Paul's personal situation his training was heavily subsidised. He received funding from Yorkshire Tennis towards the costs of competing, help from other parents with travel and very dedicated and caring coaches with Jonny Carmichael being Paul's coach since the beginning of his journey.

Paul is now embarking on his third year in USA after recruitment by University of South Carolina Head Coach, Josh Goffi, when he was just 17. Paul was not even on Goffi's radar for talent spotting when scouting in England but thanks to a call from a friend Goffi took the train to Hull to watch Paul play.

In his first year at university he played at No6 in the team, then last year started at No2 and elevated himself to No1 at the end of the year following a string of excellent results. We all wish Paul well for the future as he builds on his success at ITFs this summer and continues to improve with a combination of skill and positive attitude.

Paul Jubb – magnificent performances at 18 to reach career high ATP ranking



Eleanor Dean – back in Yorkshire, playing tennis and winning again

This summer Ellie was part of the successful Yorkshire County Cup team that was promoted to Group 1 winning 9 of the 11 matches she played. This was a completely new experience for Ellie but something she had always wanted to play and with such a great team and captain. Then at the end of August she won the Ladies' Singles at the Yorkshire County Championships.

But for injury, by now, aged 22, Ellie could have been playing on the WTA tour with the crop of girls who she trained with at the JTC Academy in London including Katie Boulter (World Ranked 108), Harriet Dart (168), Freya Christie (519) and Heather Watson (91).

In 2009 she was the Girls 14U National Champion for Singles and Doubles



(partnering Katie Boulter). In 2010 Ellie was predicted a bright future with her 100mph serve and solid ground strokes as she reached R3 of the Junior Girls' Singles at Wimbledon where she lost to eventual champion Kristyna Pliskova.

Ellie travelled the world as a junior, played her first

ITF Futures event at age 15 and adapted from junior to the women's circuit relatively comfortably.

In 2014 Ellie won her first ITF titles and in 2015 reached a WTA ranking of 509. Everything looked very rosy until injuries intervened.

Ellie's injuries have stalled her once promising career but the WTA's loss is Yorkshire's gain. It's taken a long time to accept that she can no longer pursue her dreams but after moving back to Yorkshire this year she plans to continue a career in tennis.

She's playing for the Yorkshire County team, she's started coaching at Chapel Allerton, is aiming for her Level 3 over the next year and is focussing on doubles in practices. If she stays free from further injury more County titles beckon and many players will benefit from her international experience and her positive and enthusiastic approach to the game.

COUNTY UPDATE



New Yorkshire Tennis website for clubs and players – coming soon

Yorkshire Tennis has built its own website which means the county will host both news from LTA and YT, which will be updated continuously with information from around the county. It will be very easy to navigate and find information.

The new web address will be www.yorkshiretennis.org.uk and the new email address is info@yorkshiretennis.org.uk

All three tennis administrators, Alison Steel, Jess Redfearn and Dave Kitchen will have access to this email.

Yorkshire Tennis is also building a community website or intranet where documents can be stored, such as minutes of meetings and project notes.

There will also be a discussion forum where clubs can contact each other about a subject rather than doing things individually by email. More about this will be communicated in the coming months.

Fuzion 100 Ilkley Trophy – fantastic weather and quality grass courts

Tereza Smitkova and Sergiy Stakhovsky were the winners of the Fuzion 100 Ilkley Ladies' and Men's Singles trophies during a week of mainly hot sunny weather. The crowds poured in, joining the 180 volunteers and 1500 children from 50 schools who participated in the outreach programme.

Feedback from the players about the three show courts was very positive following months of hard work by groundsman Richard Lord and his grounds team who were given advice on how to mow the courts and prepare them for the tournament by Andy Ward, Head groundsman at Leicestershire County Cricket Club.

In 2019 there will be changes to the men's Challenger event following the announcement in July by the ATP. The event will run from Monday to Sunday, the main draw will increase to



48 players and there will be a qualifying event for just four players. All the details will be communicated next year along with any changes to the ITF event.

Yorkshire Doubles League – planning for 2019 and calling for a new administrator

The league is open to all Yorkshire clubs and in 2018 there were 21 teams in two Men's divisions and 22 teams in three Ladies' divisions. The winners of the top divisions this summer were Ilkley (Men) and Huddersfield (Ladies).

There were some changes this year to the Men's leagues reducing to 4 players instead of 6 per team whilst the Ladies remained with 6 players. The organisation of the 2019 leagues will be reviewed with Yorkshire Clubs.

Matthew Tottey has been the league organiser for 2 years and is now stepping down. A new organiser will be needed which is essentially an administrative role. Matt is happy to guide a new organiser through the role and there are others within Yorkshire Tennis who can provide support and experience.

If anyone would like to offer their services as the new organiser please contact Carolyn Rothwell on 07900 567904.



● Y10 Girls: St Margaret's



● Y10 Boys: Ackworth



● Y8 Boys: St Olave's



● Y8 Girls: St Olave's

2018 Yorkshire Schools Finals – Year 8 and Year 10 Girls and Boys Compete

64 children competed for a place in the regional finals on Thursday 20th September. Well done to the winners and runners up going on to the finals. They are: **Year 10 Girls** – Queen Margaret's and Ashville College; **Year 10 Boys** – Ackworth and Manor CE; **Year 8 Girls** – St Olave's and Ashville College; **Year 8 Boys** – St Olave's and Harrogate Grammar.