

TRAM LINES

YORKSHIRE TENNIS NEWSLETTER MAY 2019

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Yorkshire has three LTA regional award winners

As part of the 2018 LTA British Tennis Awards, Yorkshire County winners in ten categories were recognised at the Yorkshire Tennis awards presentation back in December. They all went on to the Northern Region LTA Awards which were announced in early April. Yorkshire has three regional winners in **Sam Salt, Coach of the Year**

(pictured below), **Dave Kitchen, Official of the Year** (inset below), and **Yorkshire County Championships, Competition of the Year**. All three move on to the national finals which are being held on 2nd July during the Wimbledon Championships. Everyone sends their best wishes to Dave and Sam. Readers can find out more about Dave Kitchen on the middle pages of this newsletter and Sam Salt will be featured in the next edition.

Ian Hargreaves – LTA Meritorious Award for Outstanding Contribution to Yorkshire Tennis

Ian has given 43 years of outstanding commitment to the management of Yorkshire club, district and county tennis affairs as a volunteer.

His involvement across all of these areas includes election as Secretary of Harrogate & District Tennis League, a post he held for 40 years, at which time he became President until 2018. Ian became Chairman of newly established Knaresborough Tennis Club in 1984, a role he held until 1993 when he became Treasurer and then Membership Secretary in 2016.

He was elected Harrogate representative of Yorkshire Tennis in 1995, undertaking the role of County Secretary from 2005 to 2013 and at this stage became the Treasurer a position he holds today. This role requires immense dedication, attention to detail and above all integrity. The LTA Meritorious Award, which will be presented at the 2019 Yorkshire Tennis AGM, is hugely deserved and long may Ian continue in his many demanding voluntary roles.



Celebrating individual achievements in 2018/19



2019 Leeds Sports Awards – Liz Wilson earns Lifetime Achievement Award

Many congratulations to Liz Wilson who was presented with the Lifetime Achievement award at a glittering ceremony at the First Direct Arena on 28th February. These awards honour Olympians to amateur juniors, including athletes, coaches and volunteers. Liz is known to many Yorkshire tennis players as a professional coach, player and referee. Liz is also the main organiser of the Yorkshire Tennis Awards Presentation Evening. However, she has other strings to her bow which most people will be unaware of. In 1987 Liz began to support the wider development of sport in Leeds by joining the Leeds Sports Federation, which supports all voluntary sport in the city. She was chair between 2002-2013. Liz inaugurated the Leeds Sports Awards 16 years ago and remains a member of the selection committee.



SPOTLIGHT ON A YORKSHIRE OFFICIAL

Introducing Dave Kitchen – referee, coach, player and administrator

Dave is a well-known figure around clubs in Yorkshire and over the next few weeks will once again be the referee at a number of Grade 3 tournaments and at the Yorkshire Championships in August.

Tennis came into Dave's life at age 8 thanks to a secretary at his primary school who suggested he had a 'bit of ability'. He played short tennis once a week at Market Weighton club, then moved to Hull YPI playing a couple of times a week and started winning tournaments. Dave's view of his play was not great but at age 14 he suddenly 'got good' thanks to an inspirational coach, Richard Plews. Dave went on to win a number of Yorkshire titles, including the Boys' 18U Singles and Doubles in 1995. He's the current holder of the Mixed Doubles event which was last held in 1998 but is being re-introduced in 2019.

Dave still plays some tennis and can even win titles as he recently won the O40's Singles at the Yorkshire Open Vets but his body was still hurting 5 days later! These days he's more likely to be found coaching at Nuffield Hull, a career he got into by



accident aged 18 and to quote Dave "I was never going to be a great player". In 2018 Dave became a part-time Yorkshire Tennis Performance administrator, and is involved with the organisation and administration for all County teams.

On the personal side, Dave is married with two boys aged 3 and 5 who will no doubt be following in dad's footsteps and may one day be adding to the Yorkshire trophies on display in the Kitchen household.

2019 Yorkshire Masters – Monday 5th to Friday 9th Aug

Enter online code YOP19S0671

FINAL YEAR ON GRASS!



● Players at 2018 Masters

The Masters, part of the Yorkshire Championships, will be held on the grass at Chapel Allerton.

As this will be the final year for playing the seniors' tournament on grass, this should be the year that everyone plays who has ever thought about entering.

In 2020 the Yorkshire Masters becomes part of the main Yorkshire Championships to be played at John Charles Centre for Sport.

Events this year are expected to include: 45+ Men's Singles and Doubles; 50+ Men's Singles; 55+ Men's Singles and Doubles; 60+ Men's Singles; 65+ Men's Singles and Doubles; 40+ Ladies' Doubles.

Let's make this the best year ever! Entries open on 1st June.

The challenge of maintaining courts – helping Yorkshire clubs

This is the time of year with the warm weather and sun shining that players are back at clubs looking to play sociable and competitive tennis.

For some clubs the winter weather will have impacted on the court surfaces resulting in

problems with moss, drainage, damage to the fabric, netting etc. Finding companies that can help with improvements that are cost effective and value for money has often been a problem.

A number of clubs around Yorkshire have been introduced to a company, run by Will Brannan and Jonathan Saddler, to meet the

Whatever the surface, there is a solution



demand for a court maintenance specialist in the North of England that can keep court surfaces playing for the longest possible lifespan.

Using specialist equipment they firstly, maintain, clean and fully refurbish tarmac,

acrylic and sand-filled carpet courts via a programme across the year and secondly, keep courts in optimum playing condition by addressing the surroundings.

Full details can be found on the website <https://www.tenniscourtcare.co.uk/> Contact them to find out more about the clubs they work with and surfaces they maintain.



Yorkshire Tennis website – for all clubs and players

The new website is up and running and looks really professional, vibrant and informative. However, YT needs articles and lots of pictures about events and activities at clubs, performance of teams and individuals and anything that will interest other readers. Take a look at the website today www.yorkshiretennis.org.uk and send any articles to: jess.redfearn@yorkshiretennis.org.uk

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● Players at 2018 Yorkshire Championships



2019 YORKSHIRE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Aiming for No1 in County Tournaments

Saturday 24th August to Sunday 1st September 2019 – get dates in your Diary!
Enter online code **YOR19S9944**

With 36 events, for adults and juniors across all age groups and singles and doubles, the courts at John Charles Centre for Sport will be full from 9am to 9pm, so there will be plenty of tennis to play and watch.

An extra day is now in the schedule with finals on the

Sunday. The Men's Singles Champion will this year be awarded a £350 prize. Please make a note of finals day in the diaries.

New this year will be an open mixed event not played since 1998 providing opportunities for more tennis and something a bit more sociable.

There are some changes to seniors' events – Men's 35+ and 40+ Singles will be played

at John Charles, whilst all other seniors' events remain as part of the Yorkshire Masters at Chapel Allerton (see left).

In 2018 there were 428 different players in the championships, including qualifying, and Yorkshire is aiming to top that this year, helped by some additional mini tournaments.

Apart from the five qualifying tournaments, where event winners and runners-up

Dates and venues for the five qualifying tournaments are:

- **Harrogate Racquets:** Sat 22nd and Sat 29th June; and **Harrogate Spa:** Fri 12th to Sun 14th July
- **Poppleton:** Wed 29th May
- **Huddersfield:** Wed 29th to Fri 31st May
- **Doncaster:** Wed 29th and Thurs 30th May
- **Nuffield Hull:** Friday 31st May, Sat 1st June & Sun 23rd June

All events, dates and times can be found on entry forms.

qualify for free entry into the main Championships, clubs can hold a mini-tournament at any time during the summer which counts as a Championships qualifying event.

This is great news for clubs, as it provides more opportunities for children to enter a local event with the prospect of making it to the prestigious main Championships.

The Yorkshire Championships will again be refereed by Dave Kitchen and his team of court supervisors. To quote Dave, playing in the Yorkshire Championships was 'his favourite week' and becoming a Yorkshire Champion was 'the highlight of his playing career'.

Entries for the main Championships open 9th July.

Exciting opportunities to attract children and adults to clubs this summer

Nature Valley Big Tennis Weekends – For All the Family

These help clubs run high quality Open Days to attract new people from the local community, particularly families, to try tennis for free. LTA has designated three national weekends – 18/19th May, 20/21st July and 28/29th September but clubs can run them at any time.

To find out more on NVBTW check the LTA website. Club organisers should go to the ClubSpark website to create the event. The good news is that once registered every club receives a resource pack of T-shirts, a personalised banner, postcards and posters which are FREE.

44% of attendees at an event in 2018 joined the venue as a member and 43% signed up to the coaching programme. Many clubs run more than one event each year to capitalise on the massive impact they have in attracting members. **Sign up now!!!!**

Tennis for Kids – For Children aged 4 to 11

Clubs can deliver as many TFK courses as they wish throughout the year – the more the better. Courses run for six weeks and parents just book on ClubSpark. They pay £29.99 which includes a racket, a ball set, a personalised T-shirt, activity cards and stickers.

Clubs need to have a L2 qualified coach who has attended



the TFK 2018 training or has completed the new online training. Coaches follow structured session plans and utilise promotional resources. Over 65,000 children have participated in these courses since 2016 with over 50% then joining the club or coaching programme. It clearly makes sense to run these at Yorkshire Clubs. Any questions just check LTA website or contact Jo.Cunliffe@LTA.org.uk

Team Challenge – For Mini and Junior Players

This is all about giving players their first experience of competition focussing on fun, local and team competition and can be run all year round. Team Challenge 'Match Week' slots into the weekly coaching programme with no extra fee and no special arrangements required.

Team Challenge 'Festivals' are the bigger competitions and usually happen during weekends or holidays. Friends and families are invited along. It's easy to register and log results and resources are all free.

Any questions just check LTA website or contact Matthew.Totley@LTA.org.uk

COUNTY ROUND UP

Back in November Yorkshire's Men's and Ladies' Teams played LTA Winter County Cup. Yorkshire Men, promoted from Group 2 in 2017, were in Group 1 in Bath and beat both Hertfordshire and Lancashire but lost to eventual Champions Essex. This performance ensures another season for the men in the top flight.

Yorkshire Ladies played in Group 2 at Edgbaston. Beating Warwickshire and Cambridgeshire was not enough to secure promotion to Group 1 as they lost out to Middlesex.

18U Girls and Boys, competing in Bath at the first County Cup of 2019, were extremely impressive. Both teams,

Success for Yorkshire teams to end 2018 and start 2019



promoted to the top group last year, were aiming to be competitive in Group 1 but exceeded all expectations. The Boys

claimed the title whilst the Girls were runners up to Middlesex.

Although on paper the Boys 8-1 v Surrey, 8-1 v Lancashire and 7-0 v Hertfordshire looks comfortable, this was far from reality. The team played seven matches which went the distance but they won all of them! Five of these three setters were played and won by Matthew Clegg and Johannus Monday.

Captained by Jason Torpey and Pete Ashley the other team members were Finn Murgett, Euan Wilson-Baig, Tom Smart, Barney Fitzpatrick, Joseph Fletcher and Adam Hillerby. The good news is that apart from Matthew and Euan all other members of the team will be able to defend their title in 2020.

● Photo: 18U Yorkshire Boys' Team – National Champions 2019

Watch top events at Ilkley this summer

Ilkley is once again hosting the Trophy Series, County Week and the British Tour this Summer.

The Trophy Series comprises the new format Men's \$137,000 ATP Challenger Tour and Ladies' \$100,000 ITF World Tennis Tour. Both tournaments have seen changes for 2019.

Everything now takes place across seven days starting on Monday 17th June with



finals day on Sunday 23rd June.

For the Men's Challenger the singles main draw is increased from 32 to 48 and a four-player qualifying event will be staged with two qualifiers advancing into the main draw. For the Ladies' ITF there will be a 32 draw qualifying and 32 main draw for singles.

The standard of tennis is expected to be of the highest quality. Tickets are available from the Ticket Factory online or by telephone. All details can be found on LTA website. With Yorkshire Day on Monday 17th and Ladies' Day on Thursday 20th June, tickets will be in great demand.

Volunteers are crucial and contribute to the welcoming and friendliness aspects of the tournament. They are needed as drivers and to work around the grounds including on the stands, in the club house and on ticket sales. If readers are interested contact: volunteers@iltsc.co.uk

County Week is taking place from Monday 22nd to Friday 26th July. This year, the club will host Group 3 Ladies' teams from Northumberland, Sussex, Buckinghamshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Durham & Cleveland.

The British Tour Tier 2 will be combined with the Grade 3 Ilkley Open from Monday 29th July to Saturday 3rd August.

Great Ayton Club – 80 years and going from strength to strength

One of the oldest family clubs in the region, last year Great Ayton Tennis Club opened three new cushioned Poraflex courts and there are plans for floodlights and a dome.

The LTA provided legal support to the club when negotiating its lease arrangements. The reassurances gained allowed Great Ayton to develop their major court project.

Clubs may not know about the various types of support that are available from the LTA. This example illustrates the free guidance available to Registered Venues from a specialist legal advice telephone helpline called Baseline Business Advice Service.



● Great Ayton: opening of new courts by Rishi Sunak MP for Richmond May 2018

Obituary: Andrew Batcup – tennis mad from young boy to veteran

As a young boy at home in Swansea, Andrew played and watched football and cricket and first picked up a tennis racket aged 12. Once he 'found' tennis he devoted every spare minute to the game.

Andrew's career as a civil engineer meant he moved around the country and eventually moved to Canada in the 1970's where he remained until retirement in 1995. He played tennis wherever he could and over the years represented Yorkshire, Wales and Canada in Veterans' tennis.

Andrew won many singles and doubles titles at the Yorkshire Championships between 1995 and 2014 and at the 2007 Inter-County Championships captained the O60s to national glory.

Andrew died aged 75 on Jan 5th after a short illness. He will be much missed by wife Sue, son Felix and the many players and friends he made from the world of tennis.

