

TRAM LINES

YORKSHIRE TENNIS NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2022

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Message from John Crowther, Chairman of Yorkshire Tennis

This is my **last editorial piece** as I stand down as Chairman of Yorkshire Tennis in December after eight years. I can reflect on the enormous privilege it has been to lead a team of exceptional volunteers but 'all good things must come to an end' and I am pleased that we have found a new Chair in Steve Jones, an excellent and experienced former club chair. I wish him and his new team every bit of success.

Before Steve takes office, we had an **Extraordinary General Meeting** for our member clubs and venues which approved the transfer of authority and assets from the unincorporated Yorkshire Tennis (YLTA) to a new company limited by guarantee called Yorkshire Tennis Limited. This change is supported by the LTA to protect our volunteers from financial liability.

I am confident that tennis in Yorkshire is in a very good position. Yes, there are challenges such as the cost of energy and finding qualified licensed coaches but overall tennis is thriving. The arrival of Padel is proving very popular and there are more new courts in Yorkshire than in any other county in GB.

The thing that has given me most



satisfaction is the **improving performance of all of our county teams** across the age spectrum. The LTA has established a County Race Leaderboard, allocating points to counties depending on the performance of their teams in national competitions. Presently Yorkshire is ranked **No.1** with only the Winter County Cup events in late November to go.

It may be that we get pipped right at the end but whatever happens (and I would very much like Yorkshire to win!), it reflects extremely well on the players, coaches and parents who have contributed so much to this great success.

Under the leadership of Karen Mitchell, Performance Chair and Richard Crabtree, Director of Performance Tennis, some amazing results have been delivered. Richard also runs the Leeds Regional

Player Development Centre and he and his team make a vital contribution to the LTA National Performance Pathway.

In 2017 we launched **Advantage Yorkshire**, an initiative which resulted in over £500,000 of investments via loans and grants going into 50 clubs. We ensured minimal bureaucracy so that clubs were able to offer improved facilities and programmes to members as quickly as possible. It was an undoubted success and now that the pandemic is (hopefully) behind us, it is the intention to launch a follow-on programme in 2023.

Running county tennis is a people business and we have worked closely with the **LTA North Region** team over the last eight years ensuring that as far as possible our members' needs have been supported. This has only been possible by the incredible and selfless commitment of our **volunteers who have been recruited from Yorkshire clubs over the years**.

If I leave just one message, it is that Yorkshire needs energetic and passionate volunteers to come forward to build on our success to date and contribute to our future. Wherever you might be, please come forward and get involved.

Finally, my thanks must go to Sue Stent who writes and edits TRAM LINES which is a foundation of our communications activity. Going forward, consulting our members and gaining their buy-in will be vital to the success of Yorkshire Tennis.

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Fantastic County Playing Achievements in 2022

As mentioned by John Crowther, the performance of Yorkshire's players has been outstanding in 2022. More details follow on pages 6 to 8 but stand-out results include:

- **Men's Summer County Cup Team**, making a first appearance in Group 1 since 2013, finished 4th which guarantees a return to Eastbourne in 2023.
- **Men's O35 County Cup Team**, relegated to Group 2 last year, bounced back

immediately to Group 1 after winning all their matches.

- **Girls' 18U County Cup Team**. National runners-up.
- **Boys' 10U County Cup Team**. National runners-up.
- **Boys' and Girls' 9U County Cup Teams**. Boys champions for the second year running, Girls National runners-up
- **Seniors' County Cup Teams**. Four teams were at the finals weekend at end October in Graves – Men's O45s and O55s, Ladies'

O50s and O70s. Men's O45s and O55s are champions and latter retained their title.

- **National Junior Championships 12U**. Sevil Parviz was runner-up in Girls' Singles and champion in Girls' Doubles with Daniella Britton.
- **12U Home Nations Junior Championships**. Four Yorkshire juniors – Harry Foster, Charlie Taylor, Amelia Baranska and Sabeenah Khan – represented England in this tournament.

Celebrating LTA and Yorkshire award winners – a night to remember

In May 2022 the county celebrated the successes of individuals and teams at a new venue for Yorkshire - Thorpe Park Hotel and Spa in Leeds. Covid put paid to any celebrations in 2020 and 2021 so there was an impressive turnout as everyone enjoyed socialising and tucking into a hot buffet before the proceedings began. Winners of the 2021 Yorkshire Tennis Championships, 2021 Yorkshire Tennis Awards and 2021 and 2022 LTA Awards were presented with their trophies by President Geoff Newton. The evening was hosted by Liz Wilson, Chair of Awards Evening Committee.



■ Andy Hutchinson, Grand Slam of 55+ British Doubles titles



■ Roundhay Tennis Club, Club of the Year



■ St Mary's College, Hull, School of the Year



2023 LTA AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now open for the 13 award categories and must be submitted by Wednesday 30th November. There were 2,600 public nominations in 2021 and LTA is hoping to break the 3,000 barrier.

As in previous years, nominees will be judged by counties first with winners going through to the regional finals and the regional winners making up the LTA Tennis Awards National Finals.

The full list of categories and online nomination form can be found on the following link: www.lta.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/lta-tennis-awards/

Over the last five years Yorkshire Tennis has had seven winners and eight runners-up in the national awards as well as numerous regional awards. So please get your nominations in now and hope that Yorkshire achieves further recognition at the National Awards Presentation at Wimbledon in July 2023.



Change is afoot in the organisation

At an Extraordinary General Meeting on 7th November it was agreed that YLTA's operation of tennis in Yorkshire would be transferred to Yorkshire Tennis Ltd, a company created specifically for this purpose.

The reason for this change is an unincorporated structure, such as the Yorkshire Lawn Tennis Association (YLTA) leaves volunteer officers personally financially vulnerable even if they perform their roles with best intent. The transfer will take place after the final Yorkshire Tennis AGM on 5th December when the YLTA will be dissolved.

In addition to the new incorporated structure, Yorkshire Tennis Ltd is bringing the management of activities and policies in line with the LTA's new code of Governance Framework for County Associations, which all counties are obliged to comply with by 2024.

The rationale for this new framework is to ensure all



The way Yorkshire Tennis is organised and run on a day-to-day basis is changing and clubs, volunteers and coaches have many opportunities to get involved in the running of the game in Yorkshire

counties are working to the same governance standards ensuring they can deliver tennis consistently to their local communities in accordance with the strategy of 'Opening Up Tennis'.

This framework also allows the LTA to secure additional external funding for investment into the game, such as the £20 million for park courts.

There will be changes to the management and operations of YT Ltd during 2023 as, at the AGM of Yorkshire Tennis in December, Chairman, John Crowther, and Treasurer, Ian Hargreaves, will be standing down. Both John and Ian are featured on page 4. Steve Jones (pictured left), chairman of the newly formed company, has been appointed following an extensive advertising and interviewing process and a new finance director is currently being sought.

In addition, Don Stewart and Carolyn Rothwell are standing down from the management committee.

The board of Yorkshire Tennis Ltd. will be the top decision-making body meaning that the present role of Council will cease.

Over the coming months Steve will be reviewing the way the new organisation is structured and operates as he gets to know more about current activities and people. In the mean-time activities are expected to continue broadly as now.

The new framework is intended to give clubs, coaches and volunteers greater influence over tennis in Yorkshire by reflecting the skills, knowledge and diversity of individuals within the county's tennis communities.

It is considered vitally important that clubs, venues, officials and coaches have a say in the way Yorkshire Tennis Ltd is run, so please think about volunteering for committees.

Expected governance of Yorkshire Tennis Ltd from 6th December 2022 onwards is shown in the diagram below.

YORKSHIRE TENNIS LTD FROM 6/12/22

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maximum of 12, minimum of five. Positions must include chairman and finance director

OPERATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Directors appointed via a nominations and appointments committee
- Three year terms of office – nine years max
- Four existing management committee members anticipated to become board members
- Develops and implements YT Ltd strategies and plans
- Meets monthly/as required

FORUMS

Replace Council
All LTA-registered Yorkshire clubs invited to attend

OPERATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Likely to be two per year
- Board outlines plans and achievements
- AGM to be held every year

COMMITTEES

Similar to existing structure
May change over time
Determined by Board

OPERATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Meet regularly
- Discuss plans for the year
- Input to Board via Chairperson

Always leading from the front

John Crowther, YT Chairman 2014 – 2022

As John Crowther stands down from his position of YT Chairman after eight years, readers may be interested to know how he might be filling his time from now on.

Having just overseen the completion of major changes to the structure of YT one might expect a few holidays are in the offing. However, there are not many countries that John has not visited.

Flying across all continents played a significant part in his previous working life when he visited clients in his roles at British Aerospace and Vickers Defence Systems. Travelling continued when he represented Britain across the world as Chief Executive of LTA from 1997 to 2006.

It was at the LTA where he first got his taste for making changes to structures and bureaucracy as he faced dealing with 55 decision-making committees!

His success in streamlining at the LTA brought John to the attention of other sporting bodies and after the LTA he held several non-executive sporting positions including chairman of the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) and non-executive director/trustee/member of Sheffield City Trust, North Yorkshire Sport, Sport and Recreation Alliance, Sport Leaders UK and ECB.

At ASA he established swimming's headquarters at Sport Park, Loughborough University and moved European Swimming's HQ from Rome to Luxembourg, whilst for ECB he joined the Major Match Group and Host Venue Panel which, as an independent body, allocates test matches, one-day internationals and

IT20s to grounds across England and Wales. John continues in this latter role today.

John's roles with other sporting bodies listed above reflect his passion for introducing children to physical activity as he firmly believes sport benefits children resulting in a more fulfilling and longer life.

John has played tennis all his life and not surprisingly his children and grandchildren play the game, together with a range of other sports. Two of John's grandchildren participate in YT county training and one son is a full-time

tennis coach spending significant amounts of time introducing school children to the sport at schools and in parks.

As John winds down from YT he plans to spend more time on the golf course and walking the wonderful Yorkshire countryside. However, with such skills and passion for sport generally, it may not be long before another sporting body will be knocking on John's door.

Everyone at Yorkshire Tennis thanks John for his amazing contribution over the last eight years and wishes him well for whatever comes next!



Ian Hargreaves – half a century devoted to tennis volunteering in Yorkshire

As part of the changes being made to the structure and governance of Yorkshire Tennis, Ian Hargreaves will be relinquishing his role as treasurer.

The role is currently being recruited and despite not being in post after the YT AGM on 5th December, Ian will continue to support YT Ltd until the position is filled.

Ian has been involved in local and county tennis activities for nearly 50 years. His local activities

started with Harrogate & District Tennis League where he held the post of secretary for over 40 years after which he became president until 2018.

At club level he became chairman of Knaresborough King James's Tennis Club in 1984, a role he held until 1993 when he became treasurer and then membership secretary in 2016.

His involvement at county level commenced in 1995 when he became a Yorkshire Tennis councillor. He subsequently took on the role of County Secretary

from 2005 to 2013 and then became Treasurer.

Ian's dedication to tennis in so many important roles was honoured in 2019 when he was awarded the LTA Meritorious Service Award.

Although Ian no longer plays tennis he remains membership secretary of Knaresborough King James's Tennis Club and pursues his other interests of golf and walking, particularly on the fells and in the Alps.

Yorkshire Tennis would not be where it is without his years of dedication and YT thanks Ian for his tremendous contribution.



Burrage makes final and Brits claim doubles title at Ilkley

The Ilkley Trophy £125k ATP Challenger and \$100k ITF Women's World Tennis Tour events returned in 2022 after a two-year absence due to Covid. The standard of play, the crowds who flocked to the courts and the friendly sociable atmosphere made this a tournament not to be missed by players or spectators.

Ilkley not only has a friendly reputation based on the way it is run but also boasts some of

the best scenery on Tour. The courts played very well in 2022, if not better than previous years, which is a tribute to former Head Groundsman Richard Lord who died earlier this year and his successor Will Rigg and the grounds team.

There were some great matches played throughout the week and many of these featured British players who went on to reach the finals. Jodie Burrage, currently ranked 128, lost in her first W100 final in a two-and-a-half-hour marathon to Hungarian Dalma Galfi 7-5, 4-6, 6-3.

Burrage followed up her tremendous form by reaching the third round the following week at the WTA 500 event at

Eastbourne beating top seed Paula Badosa in the second round.

The men's singles final featured Belgian qualifier Zizou Bergs and American Jack Sock who also played out an epic final with the qualifier coming through 7-6, 2-6, 7-6. In the Women's Doubles Britons Maia Lumsden and local player Naiktha Bains took every match to a match tie break but missed out in the final to Lizetta Cabrera and Su Jeong Jang 6-7, 6-0, 11-9.

However, there was better news for Britain in the Men's Doubles as Julian Cash and Henry Patten won their second ATP Challenger title of the season 7-5, 6-4 over Ramkumar Ramanathan and

John-Patrick Smith. The Britons had won the Surbiton title at the beginning of June and went on to win further Challenger titles this season.

Readers will be interested to know that the Ilkley Trophy's official charity was Yorkshire Air Ambulance who had a very interesting stand to impress the visitors. In 2019 the YAA came to the club twice to help save the lives of club members Kevin Johnson and Kirill Horoshenkov.

As with all charities, donations are vital to ensure their services continue as it costs over £4m a year to keep two air ambulances going. Ilkley's support over this week will have made a huge difference.



Jodie Burrage (left) and Dalma Galfi (right)



Henry Patten (left) and Julian Cash (right)

LTA Tournaments in Yorkshire this summer provided local access to high level competition

Play your Way to Wimbledon, sponsored by Vodafone, replaced the previous 14U event and included singles events played at clubs, schools and culminated in a county final played at Nuffield Hull. Successful Yorkshire winners, Neo Hodgkinson and Holly Hull, went on to compete at Wimbledon in August.



North East Region Doubles events for boys were held at JCCS in June. Selected players were invited to play in the doubles events at Wimbledon in August, alongside the winners of the singles events mentioned above. It is an honour and an exciting opportunity for players to be on court at Wimbledon and hopefully more players will compete at clubs and schools in 2023 with the opportunities to play their way to Wimbledon.

Local Tennis Leagues continued to be successful with six leagues competing across Yorkshire with 702 players.

Team Challenge packs were sent out to many venues within the county. Events were played throughout summer across Yorkshire with record numbers of clubs entering singles, pairs and team events in all age groups from junior to adult. Particularly exciting is the fact that 44 clubs have taken part with 1,484 players competing in the year to October 2022 with some results still awaited.

In October 2022, Sheffield hosted an ITF M25 tournament which was the first of a five-week series of events held across the country. The draw featured a former world ranked number 75 and the current Wimbledon Boys' singles Champion Mili Poljicak from Croatia. Two Britons battled it out in the final with 20-year-old Arthur Fery winning 6-3 6-2 against Giles Hussey.

Performance in Summer County Cups: summary

Men/Boys	Result	Ladies/Girls	Result
Men Group 1	4th: Stay in Group 1	Ladies Group 1	5th: Relegated to Group 2
Men O35s Group 2	1st: Promoted to Group 1	Ladies O35's Group 2	2nd: Stay in Group 2
Boys 18U Group 1	3rd: Relegated to Group 2	Girls 18U Group 1	National Runners-up: Stay in Group 1
Boys 14U Q for Finals	National ranking 4th	Girls 14U Didn't Q	N/A
Boys 12U Q for Finals	National ranking 3rd	Girls 12U Q for Finals	National ranking 5th
Boys 11U Q for Finals	National ranking 5th	Girls 11U Q for Finals	National ranking 3rd
Boys 10U Q for Finals	National Runners-up	Girls 10U Didn't Q	N/A
Boys 9U Q for Finals	National Champions	Girls 9U Q for Finals	National Runners-up
Men O45s Finals	National Champions	Ladies O40s Division 1	4th: Relegated to Division 2
Men O55s Finals	National Champions	Ladies O50s Finals	National Runners-up
Men O60s Division 1	5th: Relegated to Division 2	Ladies O60s Division 1	2nd: Stay in Division 1
Men O65s Division 2	3rd Stay in Division 2	Ladies O65s Division 2	4th Relegated to Division 3
Men O70s Division 1	3rd Stay in Division 1	Ladies O70s Finals	National Runners-up



■ Ladies Summer County Cup Team

Key highlights

- **Men:** 5-4 win on the last day against Cambridgeshire ensured a return to Eastbourne in 2023. Luke Johnson and Finn Murgett were the outstanding performers overall.
- **Ladies:** Although they achieved two wins, including on the last day against Surrey, this was not enough to retain Group 1 status as fourth placed Surrey had a better rubbers ratio
- **Men O35s:** Relegated last year but achieved an immediate promotion. Richard Crabtree won all six matches, 12 sets and only lost eight games.
- **Ladies O35s:** In touching distance of a promotion but Somerset took a nail-biting match 3-2.
- **Boys 18U:** Defending champions included only one player from 2021 and a final day loss to Middlesex 5-4 meant Yorkshire were relegated and Middlesex were relieved.

- A swift return to Group 1 beckons in 2023.
- **Girls 18U:** Runners-up to Middlesex in 2019 and 2020 and a third year of heartbreak as the final match against Middlesex went to a deciding tie-break. Alice Brook and Sarah Copley both won five out of six matches.
- **Boys 10U:** Won all three rubbers. Played Kent in the final where they drew 3-3 in matches but Kent went through on a deciding 10-point tie-break shoot-out. Both Maxim Sokol and Max Hodkinson won all eight matches they played.
- **Boys 9U:** Won all four rubbers. Max Hodkinson won all eight of his matches played.
- **Girls 9U:** Won three out of four rubbers and were runners-up to a very strong Cambridgeshire team. Emmanuella Idemudia won six out of eight matches played.



■ Girls 11&U County Cup Team



■ Boys 9&U County Cup Team

Four Yorkshire teams feature in Seniors Finals

In the Seniors. County Cup matches were played in the various age-group categories across the summer. Section Winners of Division One played in the finals weekend at Graves at the end of October. Yorkshire had four teams in the finals and two champions.

Men O45s: Champions
Won all their matches during the summer and at finals weekend defeated Middlesex (yes Yorkshire did beat a Middlesex team!) 4-1. The team comprised Martin Calvert, Paul Ranson, Richard

Hutchinson and Steve Shipley. Many congratulations to Martin and Paul who were undefeated throughout the season.

Men O55s: Champions
The team won all of their five matches during the summer and at Finals weekend defeated Leicestershire 4-1. The team, captained by Men's Seniors' Co-ordinator Andrew Hutchinson also comprised Paul Layfield, Gareth Hutchinson and Ian Blakeman. A great team effort and special mention goes to Paul Layfield who went through the whole season without dropping a rubber. The team were also champions when the finals were last played in 2019 so a fantastic achievement to retain the title.

Ladies O50s: Runners-up
Won Division 1 although lost one match during the season to Surrey 2-3. Becky Lee and Gillian Kilner were unbeaten throughout the season in both singles and doubles. At Finals weekend the team just lost out to Middlesex (!) 3-2 and played some very tight matches. As true Yorkshire women they fought and showed their determination in trying to take the title. The team was Becky Lee, Gillian Kilner, Jo Wright and Karen Mitchell.

Ladies O70s: Runners-up
Won Division 1b. Kent and Lancashire were on the same points but Yorkshire came top on overall rubbers. At finals weekend Yorkshire played Surrey and lost 4-0. The team

was Rosemary Carter, Pauline Knight, Audrey Reed and Sue Welch.



Readers may have spotted that there are three **Hutchinsons** mentioned in the winning men's teams above. Yes, they are brothers and apparently rarely argue on court! Andy and Richard were in the teams that won the Summer County Cup in the 80's/90's and between them they've accumulated many O35s, O45s and O55s inter-county titles.



■ Men O45s team, (top left); Ladies O50s team (right); Ladies O70s team (below left); and Men O55s team (below right)



Copley claims multiple titles at Yorkshire Championships

2022 Yorkshire County Championships were held at the John Charles Centre for Sport (JCCS) from 19-28th August and the Seniors events at Huddersfield from 30th August to 3rd September. A full list of winners of all events can be found on the Yorkshire Tennis website via the following link: www.yorkshirtennis.org.uk/2022-yorkshire-tennis-championships/

There were 450 entries at JCCS whilst at Huddersfield there were 36 singles and 22 doubles players who participated in the Seniors events.

Notable winners included:

- 15-year-old **Sarah Copley** was a multiple winner across both junior and adult events winning 16&U Girls Doubles with Blyth Brock; 18&U Girls Singles; 18&U

Girls Doubles with Sophie Marshman whom she beat in the singles final; the Women's Singles and Women's Doubles again with Sophie and beating her in the singles; and a finalist in the Mixed Doubles with Luke Hoyland.

- Scott Hillerby**, 17, won several adult and junior trophies. He was winner of 18&U Boys' Singles and Doubles, triumphing over Luke Hoyland in the singles but they won together in the doubles; Men's Singles champion beating a previous winner Jordan Reed-Thomas; but Jordon got his revenge when he teamed up with Paul Johnson to defeat Scott and brother Adam in the Men's Doubles.

- 10-year-old **Max Hodkinson** winning several titles: 10&U Boys Singles, 10&U Boys Doubles with Seb Beetlestone, 11&U Boys Singles, 11&U Boys Doubles with Maxim Sokol whom he beat in the singles. Max was also a finalist in the 12&U Boys Doubles with brother Neo.

- In the Seniors events **Stephen Shipley** won Men's Singles O35, Men's Singles O50 and Men's Doubles O50.



■ Sarah Copley



■ Steve Shipley (pictured far left)



■ Blyth Brock



■ Ladies Doubles winners (right) and runners up (left)



■ Max Hodkinson (left)



Inaugural South Yorkshire Visually Impaired Tournament at Hallamshire

The first recreational tournament held by South Yorkshire Visually Impaired Tennis Club (SYVITC) was a huge success with players participating from across the country. The tournament featured B1, B2 and B3 categories and over a dozen players took part.

Highlights include world No2 Jim Currie winning the B2

category. Jim has played competitive tennis for several years and hopes to participate in the World VI games in Birmingham in 2023.

SYVITC is the brainchild of Janiece Wallace, club secretary, and coach Ben Howarth, who have gained assistance from a plethora of organisations including Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind and Dan Maskell Trust.

Part of the club's success is down to the sighted volunteers who help with the weekday sessions including transport. SYVITC aims to help more

players join tennis as a hobby, play more regularly, play more tournaments and improve their tennis skills. Membership of SYVITC provides weekly indoor sessions and a monthly coached session at Hallamshire TC.

Sheffield and District's LTA Centenary Tournament – June 2022

This special event should have taken place in 2020 but finally happened in 2022. The first annual tournament was held in 1903 when Hallamshire TC held some of the events and the club has done so again in 2022.

Entries were well up on previous years and there were an equal number of men and women taking part. There were some excellent matches watched by a lively crowd all week. Ladies' Day was held at Beauchief Tennis Club on the Sunday where all events were held up to semi-finals stage. Finals day at Hallamshire was accompanied with an excellent BBQ.

Josh Bows was the winner of the Men's Open Singles whilst Louise Holtum took the Ladies' Open Singles title. All the results can be found on the S&D website.

Next year's tournament is planned to commence on 25th June 2023



Chapel Allerton Seniors' Open Tournament

Following the move of the Seniors' events of the Yorkshire County Championships on the grass at Chapel Allerton TC to the hard courts of JCCS in 2021 and to Huddersfield TC in 2022, this inaugural tournament gave seniors a chance to play on grass courts prior to other similar events being played over the summer. Various men's singles and doubles age groups and a women's O40s doubles were held. A number of Yorkshire County players participated and were successful including Paul Layfield (MS O55s), Stephen Shipley (MS O50s) and Sally Bickerton and Cathryn Johnson (WD O40s). The sun shone all week and everyone enjoyed watching the tennis from the balcony combined with the sociable and friendly atmosphere.



■ (left) Paul Layfield and Peter Vann; (below left) Sally Bickerton and Cathryn Johnson



TENNIS DYNASTY

It all started with **Lesley and John Fulton**, who were born in Scotland, played tennis for Scotland and played together at Wimbledon.

At Wimbledon, Lesley reached R2 of Ladies' Singles in 1948, R2 of Ladies' Doubles in 1955 and 1956 and played with her husband in the Mixed Doubles reaching R2 in 1950.

They had five children – daughters Evelyn, Joyce and Kay, sons Sandy and David and they moved to Wakefield in the early 1940s.

It was in 1947 that Evelyn and Joyce joined their parents at Chapel Allerton Tennis Club and Joyce has never looked back. She recently celebrated 75 years' membership, continues to play a great game of tennis and received a special award at the recent tennis awards event at the club.

The **Fulton tennis legacy** may have started with Lesley and John but has progressed to the next three generations – to two daughters Evelyn and Joyce, then on to Joyce's daughters Katie and Lisa and recently, in turn, on to their children Holly, Izzy and Olli.

Joyce Fulton, who became Joyce Howden after marriage to Roger Howden in 1966, has achieved so many accolades:

- Played in **Chapel A's Ladies 1st Team** for approaching 40 years which regularly won the Yorkshire League

- Played at **Wimbledon Championships** ten times between 1957 and 1966 including five times in singles, five times in ladies' doubles (twice with sister Evelyn) and once in mixed doubles. The latter was in 1959 partnering Roger Taylor when they reached last 16 and played 4th seeds on Number 1 Court. She won **Junior Wimbledon Mixed Doubles** title with another Chapel A player, Mike Hann, in 1954

- Played for **Yorkshire** for over 25 years including County Week for 23 years which was in Group 1 for most of this time, and included becoming Champions in 1963 for only the second time, the first time being in 1901. In two of the County Week years mother

As Joyce Howden celebrates 75 Years at Chapel Allerton, the Fulton-Howden-Charnock family notches up more than 50 years of county tennis

Lesley and sister Evelyn were in the team with Joyce so making up half of the Yorkshire team

- In **Yorkshire Championships** Joyce won Girls' Singles and Doubles titles on numerous occasions and was Champion in Ladies' Singles 3 times, Ladies Doubles six times – three with sister Evelyn and Mixed Doubles four times each with different partners

- Played for **England** on three occasions and was awarded England colours

- Won **National Father/Son – Mother/Daughter** competition with daughter Katie. They were subsequently selected for GB and were part of the team crowned **European Team Champions**.

- **Ranked No. 1 in Yorkshire** and voted **Sportswoman of the Year by City of Wakefield** in 1959

- **Yorkshire Tennis President** in 2002

Next generation tennis

Joyce's daughters **Katie Charnock** and **Lisa Kaye** both played at Chapel A and for the county but it is Katie who has enjoyed more success.

Lisa played in numerous tournaments and represented Yorkshire a couple of times. Katie started competing at age 12. Her first title was the Yorkshire 12U Girls' Singles, won other age group titles and went on to selection for national training at Bisham Abbey.

She also competed in tournaments around the country, including the age group National Championships. Katie became Head Professional at Heaton Tennis Club aged 21 and competed many times for Yorkshire Ladies at County Week and the O35s age group.

Highlights of Katie's tennis career include:

- A member of the **Yorkshire County team**, partnering Karen

Mitchell, which became **Champions of Group 1 in 1991**

- **Winning all three Yorkshire Championship titles** in 1996 – ladies' doubles with Karen Mitchell and mixed doubles with Gary Henderson
- **Winning National Mother/Daughter and European team events**

Katie's elder daughter, **Holly**, played at junior county level and was part of the 12U team that won the national title. She was selected for 12U national training and went on to represent GB at 14U level at 'Teen Tennis'.

Katie's younger daughter, **Izzy**, is only 13 years old and has recently started out on her competitive tennis journey. During 2022 she's been competing and winning titles across the country, including at the Yorkshire County Championships - 14U Mixed Doubles with Toby Shaw and was a finalist in 14U Girls' Doubles with Rose O'Donovan McCann. In the Ilkley Club Championships, she was a multiple singles winner in the Ladies', 16U and 18U events.

Although **Olli Kaye**, Lisa's son, still plays tennis he no longer participates in tournaments. As a junior he represented Yorkshire in the county squads and in 2009 at the Yorkshire Championships he reached the finals of the Boys' 16U and 18U singles events and was a finalist in the Men's Singles.

Tribute to sister Evelyn

Finally, Yorkshire Tennis would like to pay tribute to **Evelyn Hustwit**, Joyce Howden's sister, who sadly passed away on 13th August 2022.

Evelyn's **British tennis credentials** include a three-time North of England Junior Singles Champion and a multiple Yorkshire Champion winning the 18U Girls' Doubles with her sister in 1952, 1953 and 1954, 18U Mixed Doubles

with Mike Hann every year between 1950 and 1954 and Ladies' Doubles with Joyce in 1957, 1958 and 1961. Evelyn played Ladies' Doubles at Wimbledon on three occasions and Yorkshire County Cup several times, on two occasions alongside her mother and sister.

Evelyn married Peter Hustwit in 1960 and the family emigrated to Canada in 1966. She was a well-respected tennis coach and a highly-accomplished player winning local, national and international tournaments. **Her Canadian achievements include:**

- **Winning multiple titles** in singles, ladies' doubles and mixed doubles at the **National Capital Tennis Association Championships (NCTA)**

- **Winning 39 NCTA Seniors' titles**
- Becoming **Canadian Seniors' Champion** on several occasions in age categories from 040 to 080

- Representing **Canada in ITF Seniors' and Super-Seniors' Championships** from 1985 to 2018 with her team reaching the final on four occasions

- **Winning OBOs European Seniors' Championship** in Austria in 2016

There were many tributes paid to Evelyn from across Canada but this quote from Colin McAlpin, a multiple Canadian tennis champion, says it all. "Evelyn loved her tennis. In my mind she is the perfect example of how tennis can be part of your life forever to keep fit, to have fun, to compete against the best in the world and to meet wonderful people."

Evelyn won hundreds of trophies over the years but she cherished even more the many friendships she developed whilst playing and teaching the game. Evelyn will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends from across the world.



■ Sisters Joyce and Evelyn Fulton together on court; (top right) Yorkshire County Week team at Eastbourne, Joyce first right, Evelyn fifth from right; (right, below) Evelyn receiving lifetime achievement award; (bottom, right); Holly and Toby at Yorkshire Championships, (bottom, left); Winning Chapel A Yorkshire League team 1986 including Katie (top right), Joyce (front, second from left) and Lisa next to her.





PADEL NEWS IN YORKSHIRE

Padel is developing at pace in Yorkshire as projects are progressing at Thongsbridge, Queens Halifax and Chapel Allerton. Courts in Scarborough are planned to open very soon. More details on all these developments will be shown in next Spring's edition of TRAMLINES.

Existing Padel clubs in Harrogate, Huddersfield, Rawdon, Ripon and Skipton have all been busy this summer with numerous activities being organised and players taking part in competitions at all levels. Some of the top players have been involved in international tournaments, training sessions and league matches.

Several Yorkshire ladies have been selected for the GB Seniors training squads (O40s

IN YORKSHIRE



to O60s), including Rosie Connell, Sally Bickerton, Nicky Horn, Natalie Gill, Elspeth Edwards and Audrey Henderson. They recently returned from a **weekend**

training in Sotogrande, Spain (main picture) with coaches Libby Fletcher and Nigel Garton. They had a three-hour camp on day one, four hours training the next day and

late summer, both an open event and a HOP ladies' round. This was the largest ladies' competition yet held in the UK, surpassed only by the semi-pro FIP Rise London.

finished off the weekend with a friendly match with a club from Madrid.

Surge Padel in Harrogate (pictured left) recently held the first Home of Padel (HOP) pro grade one event which was won by British No1 Tia Norton and her partner Claire Smith. **Rawdon** hosted rounds of the HOP tour in

YT was very sad to hear the news of several Yorkshire players and supporters who have passed away during 2022. Tribute was paid to Evelyn Hustwit on P10 and tributes to John Forster, Mike Rogers and Audrey Mitchell are given below.



John Forster, academic, keen sportsman and amazing leader of school and community activities

John Forster passed away on 26th June 2022 aged 85. He enjoyed such a full life and started playing tennis at an early age on the two gritty courts at Ermysted's Grammar School in Skipton where his father was headmaster.

Both parents loved tennis and the family were also members at Craven LTC in Gargrave where they played most weekends on the excellent grass courts.

John played for the school and for the club, first experiencing tournament tennis at Ilkley, and had the unnerving experience of witnessing the appearance on court of Lord Mexborough attired in long white flannels and wielding an old, but very effective, wooden racket.

John was also a very keen athlete and in 1954 when he went up to Christ's College, Cambridge, to read English he had the opportunity to run for the college as a miler as well as representing them at tennis. It was at athletics meetings

that he came across Harold Abrahams and Chris Brasher.

After Cambridge John trained to be a teacher and was on teaching practice at Ilkley Grammar School where he met his future wife, Beryl. He first taught in Blackpool and then moved on to Tunbridge Wells where he played tennis at the club and played mixed doubles with a young Virginia Wade.

In 1963 he moved back to Yorkshire to a post at Batley Grammar School which was the start of his more than 50 years' involvement in schools' tennis. John moved on to schools in Wakefield and Horsforth and attained his first headship in 1975 at Titus Salt School in Baildon. At all these schools he developed tennis very successfully.

At QEGS Wakefield he took teams to competitions at Wimbledon and, in the year he left, the team reached the finals of the Glanvill Cup. In 1981 he became Head at King James's School, Knaresborough, where he achieved so much from a sporting perspective.

He worked with the LTA to provide courts for the school and the community and school teams on four occasions reached the national finals in the Glanvill and Aberdare Cups where they were the only state school. Although he left the school in 1997, he remained a part of the school and wider community.

In 1985 he supported the founding of Knaresborough Tennis Club and offered the school's facilities for the club to use. When John became chairman in 2007, he pushed the idea of a new club wholly based at the school.

The courts needed serious improvement but the project received approval of the club and LTA so the newly created Knaresborough King James's Tennis Club was created.

After leaving King James's School John became an Ofsted inspector as well as a supervisor of teaching practice at Leeds University. He also took on roles as acting headteacher and was lead governor and deputy chairman of Harrogate and District Hospital Trust.

He continued to study in retirement and gained a Master of Education from Leeds University and a first-class BA

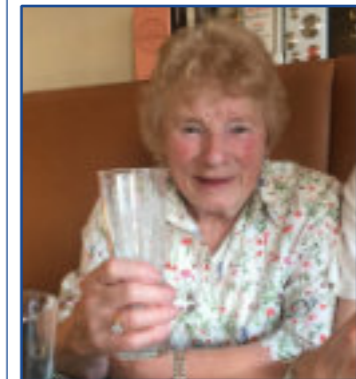
in Literature from Open University. He wrote books on teaching and headship and also wrote poetry.

In terms of his association with Yorkshire Tennis, he was a councillor from 1999 to 2016, became schools co-ordinator and member of the management committee, was president in 2005 and appointed a vice-president in 2006.

From a playing perspective, apart from Knaresborough Club/Knaresborough King James's Tennis Club, he had been a member of several clubs around Yorkshire including Wakefield College Grove Club, Horsforth, Towers and Armley. He was also a founder member and regular supporter of Men's Matchplay at Ilkley. He made his county debut, in seniors' tennis, at the age of 67.

John is survived by his wife Beryl, children Sally and Michael and grandchildren Anna and James. He will be much missed by so many in the tennis world but his legacy, particularly in relation to the development of schools' tennis and to the community in and around Knaresborough, will live on for many years to come.

[With grateful thanks to Reg Grace, John Ramsbottom, The Guardian and The Stray Ferret for providing material for this tribute.



Audrey Mitchell, a long standing member of Queen's Sports Club, Halifax and patron of Yorkshire Tennis

Audrey Mitchell sadly passed away on her 87th birthday on 22nd May 2022. Audrey joined Queens in 1965 and played for the club in the Yorkshire League for many years.

She won titles in the club

championships on numerous occasions in singles, ladies' doubles and mixed doubles. Audrey also achieved a life-time ambition to represent Yorkshire in the O60s and being awarded her County Colours was a very proud moment for her. She continued playing until the age of 83.

She was a keen supporter of the county team, going to County Week every year. She had been booked to go to Eastbourne this year with the Halifax supporters.

Our condolences are sent to Audrey's family and friends.



Mike Rogers, a great tennis player, official and organiser

Tennis was Mike Roger's passion. He joined Chapel Allerton at a very young age and became Men's Captain going on to represent Yorkshire in friendly matches in the late 1950s and early 1960s with regular partners either Trevor Hardcastle or Graham Bell.

Whilst he never played County Week for Yorkshire he did feature in the Hard Court Singles Championships and the Men's Whitsuntide Tour in the early 1960s.

He and wife Pat moved to Doncaster and Mike was involved for many years with Doncaster Tennis Club. He was instrumental, with others, in expanding and promoting Yorkshire Veterans' Tennis which included developing the various age groups which are flourishing today.

Mike also enjoyed his many years as a tennis official becoming a senior linesman and umpire. His claim to fame was being a linesman in 1993 for the Wimbledon Men's Singles Final between Pete Sampras and Jim Courier.

Mike passed away on 6th May 2022 aged 89. Our condolences are sent to daughter Sally and son Michael.