



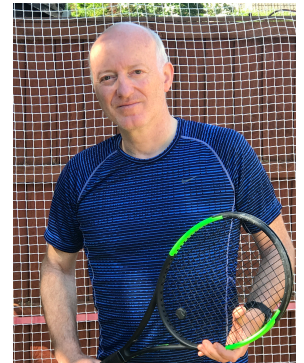
**YORKSHIRE TENNIS**

## Message from Steve Jones, Chair of Yorkshire Tennis Limited

### Taking performance tennis in Yorkshire to the next level

Dear All,

The beauty of the great game of tennis is that it can be played by people of any age and by all standards. Our aim in Yorkshire Tennis is to open up the sport so that more people can play more often. However, one of our additional core aims is to also further develop performance tennis. In this regard I am delighted to announce two things that will really make an impact.



### Announcing The Yorkshire Tennis RPDC

Firstly, the LTA have selected Yorkshire Tennis to run just one of 15 Regional Player Development Centres (RPDC) in the UK and the only one in Yorkshire and the North East.

The Yorkshire Tennis RPDC will be run by Yorkshire Tennis Ltd based at the first-class Leeds Beckett University facilities and with the proven performance coaching services of Cultiv8 led by Richard Crabtree. I'm also delighted that the Programme Manager for the RPDC will be the highly experienced Steve Mcloughlin who brings vast experience in coaching at all levels. He is currently captain of the Yorkshire Men's team, Head Coach at Leeds Beckett University and a top coach educator and mentor. In addition Sam Salt, who many will know as an excellent coach and LTA award winner, will be part of the coaching team.

I'd like to thank all those, including Steve and Richard who have put huge amounts of effort in to making this happen. We really are bringing some of the best in Yorkshire together for the good of our young players. You can read more about the RPDC on our website [HERE](#).

### Yorkshire Tennis – a change of County Performance leadership

After many years of successfully leading the county's approach to Performance tennis, **Karen Mitchell** has succeeded Geoff Newton in being appointed as Yorkshire County President. This appointment is deserved recognition for the high level of volunteer activity and commitment Karen has invested in Yorkshire Tennis over many years to great effect. We welcome Karen to her new role and are sure she will continue, as President, to positively impact the continued growth of tennis in our county.

As a result of this and following a full review of reshaping Yorkshire's approach to Performance Tennis and an open recruitment process, I am delighted to share that **Nick Fitzpatrick** has agreed to take up the volunteer role of Performance Lead for Yorkshire Tennis.

Nick is currently General Manager and a level 5 Head Coach at Thongsbridge Tennis & Fitness Centre having previously worked at both Rawdon and Ilkley. He has worked with many players from beginners to national champions, captained Yorkshire county cup teams and won national titles with players from Yorkshire including Kyle Edmund.

He will become a Yorkshire Tennis Board attendee and is very keen to work with all parties to continue to evolve and improve Performance Tennis in Yorkshire. Once he has undergone his induction I am sure he will be reaching out to all with an interest in performance tennis in Yorkshire so we can, together, keep improving.

### **Join us at Yorkshire Tennis Day**

Finally, there is a lot of great stuff in both tennis and padel happening across our county and we'll continue to do our best to keep sharing the news across our Facebook, Instagram and X channels and website. So do follow us if you can. Even better if you are free on Saturday 15th June when it would be great to see you at Yorkshire Tennis Day at Ilkley Lawn Tennis Club for a day of great hospitality, company, tennis and potentially padel. A limited number of tickets are available for this inaugural event so if you would like more details please email [secretary@yorkshiretennis.org.uk](mailto:secretary@yorkshiretennis.org.uk).

Until then my virtual door remains open at any stage to hear your suggestions about what we can do better or are already doing well. For those of you kicking off summer league seasons I wish you lots of enjoyment and success on court and here's hoping the weather is kind to us!

Steve Jones

Chair, Yorkshire Tennis