



Hi All,

I trust that the summer has provided lots of memorable moments for you all on tennis and padel courts around the county. My challenge each time I communicate with you is to capture the breadth of activity and delivery undertaken by you all. This was brought into focus by those supporting and participating in the first Yorkshire Tennis Day held at the Ilkley Championships earlier this year. From Community Groups to Regional Performance, from Schools to Clubs, from administrators (past and current) to players ranging in age and ambition, the event captured concisely how vibrant and capable the Yorkshire Tennis and Padel communities are.

### **Thank you for signing up as an Associate Member of Yorkshire Tennis**

Yorkshire Tennis is run by volunteers, for the benefit of its Associate Members which are clubs and organisations like yours. Thank you to all of you for signing up as Associate Members. As you know this was a one-off activity needed due to a change in LTA governance but does give members significant benefits. We are delighted with the support of the clubs and organisations who have proactively chosen to engage with Yorkshire Tennis to date. We aim to continue to support you and the growth of tennis and padel in Yorkshire as best as we can.

### **Strong performance on court across the county**

A huge thank you to those representatives of the Yorkshire County Teams who have played in the County Cup Race to date. The competition has been tough this year with everyone battling hard for each point. Yorkshire are currently in a very credible third place nationally. There are still points to be contested this year and all our support is offered to those pulling on the Yorkshire kit.

My congratulations also go to all those who played in the Dunlop Yorkshire Tennis League which completes at the end of September. We will shortly be crowning winners of the inaugural Dunlop Yorkshire Padel League. We believe that we have the only operating league in the country, and we are proud to promote and support our Padel players.

### **Yorkshire's Regional Player Development Centre launched**

Yorkshire now has an operating Regional Player Development Centre based at Leeds Beckett University. A large amount of work was undertaken to get this to the start line, and the real hard

yards are now being overseen by Programme Manager, Steve Mcloughlin, working with Richard Crabtree's excellent coaching team. Nick Fitzpatrick, as Yorkshire's newly appointed Performance Lead, is working hard to create a high-quality county performance club coaches' structure, alongside Coach Engagement lead Angela Crossley, to ensure a sustainable future for all involved and a player pathway programme that everyone is bought into. Nick has started with a blank sheet of paper and is reviewing all inputs. Please contact Nick ([performance@yorkshiretennis.org.uk](mailto:performance@yorkshiretennis.org.uk)) if you have a contribution to the debate.

### **Expanding Yorkshire Championships and Leagues**

Successful Yorkshire Tennis Championships were held at the end of August. A good level of participation produced some exciting tennis and worthy winners. All results can be found on our social media channels and website. This competition doesn't happen by chance. It's created by the superb venues and teams at Huddersfield Tennis Club and the John Charles Centre for Sports. Many thanks go to Steve Plant, and the small volunteer team, who coordinated our biggest competition of the year. Please feel able to contact Steve/myself if you have interest in planning/delivering the 2025 Championships, where we aim to increase participation and profile of this key event.

We are also looking forward to our inaugural Padel County Championships to be held from 29th November to 1st December at The Slazenger Padel Club. For the first time, the County's padel players have the opportunity to compete for the honour of being Yorkshire's best. The event promises to be an excellent focal point for our Padel community. Please participate or watch as you feel able to.

### **Fresh look and feel for Yorkshire Tennis**

Over the last year, we have sought to build on the excellence of previous Yorkshire County approaches and transparently question what we feel we could do better. As a Yorkshire Tennis Board, we also recognise the need to support and promote Padel within the County as a different, but connected sport. With this backdrop we have created a fresh new look for our organisation. It captures the openness of the organisation we are creating. It connects, while also differentiating, tennis and padel. You will start to see this new brand identity in all we do. We hope you like it – I think it's great.

### **Planning to support Clubs including continuation of interest-free loans**

At this time of year, the senior team will shortly be making an assessment on what we have achieved against what we said we wanted to achieve in our Annual Plan (which you can find on our website [here](#)). We use this to update our strategy for action over the next couple of years. It is already clear that we will build on the current Advantage Yorkshire interest-free loan offer to Clubs and how we can add more options that benefit our Associate Members. If you haven't already applied for an interest-free loan it is easy to do so and all information can be found on our website [here](#). We take decisions on which clubs will get a loan every six months and the next deadline is October 31st so still time to get your application in for this year.

Please also note that the 2024 LTA Awards have been launched recently. We encourage nominations from all Associate Members seeking to recognise the fantastic efforts being made within our County to promote and deliver widening access to tennis and padel in Yorkshire. Further information can be found on our website [here](#).

We are always seeking to generate more revenue, and will look to all sources of revenue support (partnerships, sponsorship, donations, etc), beyond the base LTA funding, to offer more options to you in the future. As a volunteer-led organisation, our overheads are modest and we don't have shareholders to satisfy. The money that comes is invested directly back into Yorkshire.

Thanks to all you do in your different roles around the tennis and padel organisations within Yorkshire. As always, if you feel you would like to contribute in a volunteer capacity with Yorkshire Tennis, please do get in touch. We'd love to have you as part of the team.

Regards,

Steve Jones

Chair Yorkshire Tennis