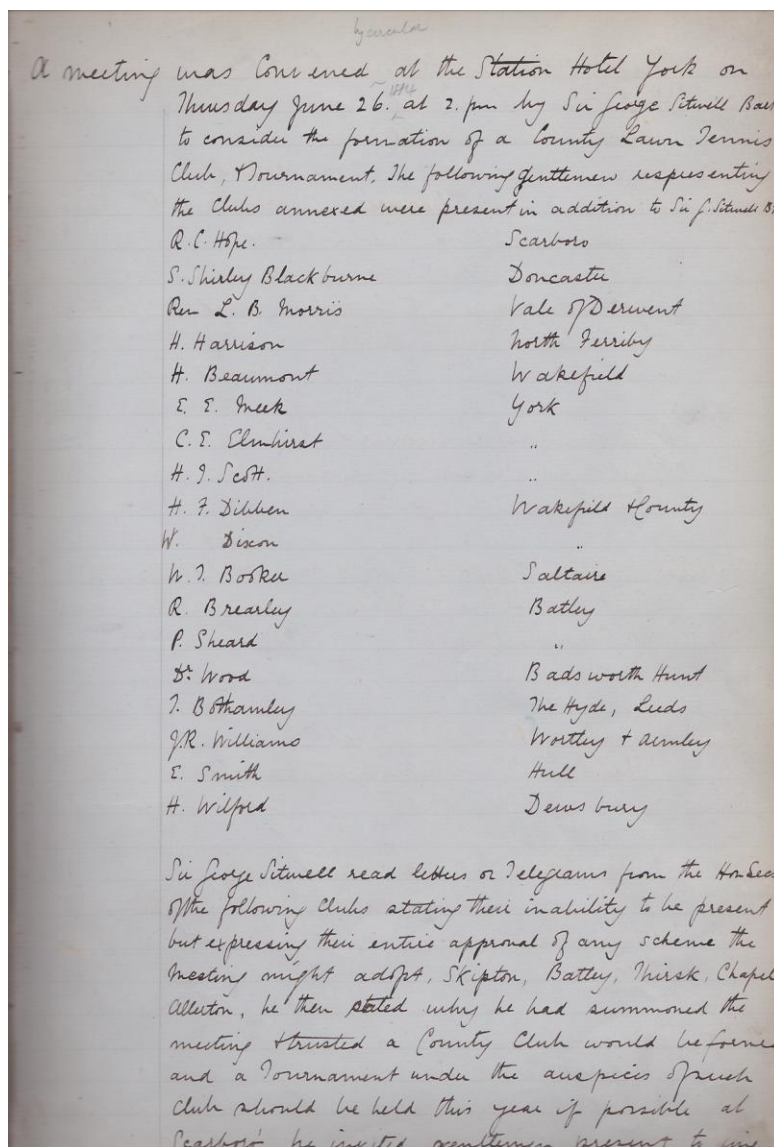


The History of Yorkshire Tennis

The modern form of the game of Tennis started in England with the formation of the first tennis club in Leamington Spa in 1872. In 1873 Major Waler Clopton Wingfield published the first book of Rules with the first Wimbledon Championships being held at eh All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon.

The Association started life on 26th June 1884 at a meeting of 14 Yorkshire Clubs chaired by Sir George Sitwell Bart at the Station Hotel York. One of the prime purposes was to stage a county tournament that year which later took place at Scarborough on 11th August on the Cricket ground on the North Marine Road. The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) was founded in 1888 as an association of counties and Scotland and Wales.



The full minutes of the meeting can viewed here: xxxxxxxxxxxx

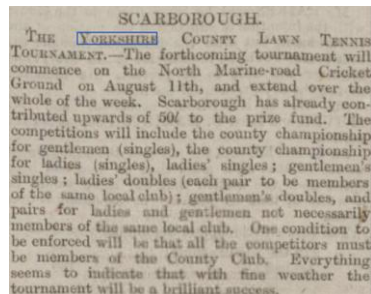
The following Resolutions were carried:

1. All Yorkshire based Lawn tennis Clubs would be invited to a meeting later in the year.
2. That a County Club be formed and that Sir George Sitwell be its 1st President
3. The name of the association to be “The Yorkshire County Lawn Tennis Club”
4. That Mr RC Hope be appointed the Hon. Secretary of the club for 1884.
5. That Scarborough be the location of the 1st tournament.
6. That Mr Luden was appointed the Hon. Treasurer.
7. That a General Committee be formed with one representative from each member club.
8. 3 vice-presidents be appointed.

Minutes of the meeting may be viewed here:

The Scarborough tournament did indeed take place later that summer with a contribution from the Council of 50 shillings (50p) towards the prize fund. The tournament included a county championship for gentlemen’s singles and doubles, ladies’ singles and doubles. In the doubles the men’s and ladies’ pairs did not have to be from the same club but they both had to be members of a county club.

(Scarborough subsequently became a major Yorkshire Centre for tennis tournaments and for a brief history of tennis in Scarborough, this link will take you to an article by Kevin Jeffreys in “On: The Yorkshire Magazine”: <https://www.on-magazine.co.uk/yorkshire/sport/history-of-tennis-in-scarborough/>)



However, by the end of the 1950’s the golden age of tennis in Scarborough was coming to an end and in 1968 plans were approved to turn the Filey Road site into a multi-sport leisure centre. By 2018, the courts had fallen into disrepair and the resident Scarborough TC left the site to merge with neighbours Hackness TC.

Hackness and Scarborough TC continues to be one of the leading clubs in the area and has celebrated its centenary on 2023. The club, which was once voted as one of the ten most picturesque settings in England, has 3 grass courts and 2 hard courts.

The Yorkshire Lawn Tennis Association was initially called the Yorkshire County Lawn Tennis Club. Today, after incorporation as a company limited by guarantee, it is called Yorkshire Tennis Ltd. although just ‘Yorkshire Tennis’ is the usual non-legal form.

