



Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association



Yorkshire's Affiliated Bridge Clubs

by Graham Jepson & Robin Jepson



Affiliated to the English Bridge Union



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Compiled by Graham Jepson and Robin Jepson
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The YCBA celebrates its 80th Anniversary in 2015. Graham Jepson went to the grass roots of bridge in the county to learn something of the history of each club and get a flavour of the game as it is now played.

Each of the county's 34 clubs responded and we are very grateful for their assistance. Robin (no relation) then collated and finalised the information collaboratively with clubs. Thank you to all contributors – named and, no doubt, many others who are unnamed.

So, in alphabetical order, and in their own words....

1 Aireborough Bridge Club

Aireborough, once an urban district comprising the townships of Guiseley, Rawdon and Yeadon, is now the north-east limit of the City of Leeds. In the 2001 census, it achieved notoriety for being named as the “the most average place in England and Wales”.

Aireborough Bridge Club was formed in 1949. Over the years it has played in a variety of venues including Rawdon Temperance Hall, Guiseley Theatre, Rawdon Trinity Church Hall and our present venue at Rawdon Conservative Club. Although its membership throughout the years has not been able to compare with its much larger neighbours of Leeds, Bradford and Harrogate, it has always prided itself on being the only club that has been able to enter the Yorkshire League with only one team and yet be constantly in the higher divisions. Only three years ago, we were within a few points of being promoted to Division 2, which, for a club with only 50 members, would have been an outstanding achievement. Unfortunately due to loss of more members over the past three years, it has been impossible to find eight willing and able players and we reluctantly dropped out of the league two years ago. We did however leave one legacy – players from many clubs will testify to the exceptional quality of our Sunday League Teas!

The members of Aireborough Bridge club maintain a competitive and friendly spirit towards their bridge and take pride in the description of Aireborough in our annual programme of events as “a club where bridge is taken seriously and yet played for fun”.

Beverley Harfield

2 Barnsley Bridge Club

Barnsley Bridge Club was formed over 60 years ago. In 1963 the club played at premises in Victoria Crescent and was very proud to have two members who played for Yorkshire.

The club subsequently met at the Conservative Club on Pitt Street, before moving to its present venue at Shaw Lane Sports Club in Barnsley in September 2007.

There are currently 49 members and the club runs teaching courses in order to promote bridge locally and to attract new members.

Bridge sessions are held on Mondays at 1 pm and Wednesdays at 7 pm. Visitors are always welcome, with the exception of Simultaneous Pairs events.

The club has entered two teams in the 2015/16 Yorkshire League.

Gail Eliot

3 Beauchief Bridge Club

The club was originally formed in 1984 as ‘Graham’s Bridge Club’ by Graham and Pat Jepson and renamed as Beauchief Bridge Club after the previous owners retired in 2004. It has continued as a proprietors’ club and in 2015 the present owners are Stan Haywood, Jacqueline Starsmore and Brian and Stephanie Garlick.

Beauchief takes its name from the old monastic area of South Sheffield where the club first met. The club meets on Monday and Thursday nights at 7 pm at the Double Tree by Hilton Sheffield Park Hotel, Norton just 200 metres from the Derbyshire border!

The club welcomes all abilities of player. Duplicate pairs are the bedrock of play, with teams, an individual event, simultaneous pairs and special “out-of- town” social bridge days to add variety. The club has few rules - just an emphasis on good behaviour and competent organisation backed by modern technology. We have two teams in the YCBA Sunday Leagues.

Stan Haywood

4 Beverley Bridge Club

Beverley Bridge Club was started in 1952 under the name of Beverley Evening Bridge Club. At the outset the club held separate duplicate and rubber evenings. Table money started at two bob* for duplicate and one and six* for rubber. The initial annual subscription was ten and six*, as they would have said. Up to the late 1970s, the club was in two separate sections: summer bridge and winter bridge, and these were combined. From 1995 the club became known as Beverley Bridge Club, and it affiliated to the EBU. However at the AGM of September 1996 it was resolved to end EBU affiliation. At the AGM of September 1998 it was resolved to re-affiliate to the EBU.

Down the years the club has had many different venues in Beverley. Only recently the club had to move yet again and is now established at the Molescroft Pavilion just under a mile from the town centre. The club has some 58 members and has room for more. Play is only on Wednesday evenings starting at 7.15 pm.

Jeanne Castle

*2s, 1s 6d and 10s 6d are 10p, 7½p and 52½p in new money

5 Bradford Bridge Club



Mornington Villas, home of Bradford Bridge Club

Until 1941, there had been a bridge club run by a Mrs Brooke in Hanover House, in Little Germany. On her retirement, the members decided that it should continue and a newly-formed committee took over the club on October 19th. The original club had been a member of the YCBA since 1935 but its successor now became a much more structured organisation itself – rules were drafted and club competitions encouraged.

With the purchase of a property in Eldon Place in April 1945, trustees were appointed and a constitution replaced the rules. In 1967 the club moved into its present property in Mornington Villas. These larger premises have proved an asset, allowing regional and also national events, such as the Corn Cairdis* in 1996 and 2013, to be held in Bradford.

Past members who were selected to represent England included Eric Milnes and Rita Oldroyd (also the first lady Grand Master). Currently, Sarah Teshome and Richard Winter have played for the English teams, and this year Daniel Winter was selected to play for the England under-15 team in the European Youth Team Championships.

Susan Hoyle

*A friendly international match between England and the Republic of Ireland. In Gaelic, Corn Cairdis means Cup of Friendship.

6 Bridlington Bridge Club

The club was founded in 1970 by Alec and Margery Cartwright, and in 2015 meets on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at Sewerby in St. John's Church Hall. We are a small but friendly club, catering for all abilities of player. We enter one team of eight in the Yorkshire Sunday League.

Barbara Brewer

7 Brighouse Bridge Club

Brighouse Bridge Club was formed over 20 years ago by Doreen and Derek Adams. However for the past 18 months it has been run as a members' club and continues to flourish and build on the good foundations created by Doreen and Derek. It regularly welcomes members from neighbouring clubs and enjoys a No Fear reputation.

Teaching classes are run for both beginners and improvers and this is proving popular. Students are welcomed to the social bridge sessions when they feel ready for progressing into the competitive 'bridge world'.

Joan Payne

8 Castle Bridge Club (Scarborough)

The club was founded in 1992 and has played in a variety of venues during this time. Currently it meets on a Tuesday night at 6.30 pm in the dining room of Plaxton Court in the Woodlands neighbourhood of Scarborough. Numbers have fluctuated over the years but currently we have a full membership of over 50 and normally have eight or nine tables on a club night. We operate a host system and visitors are welcome. We do not participate in any league and are unlikely to do so but regularly participate in simultaneous pairs events run by the EBU.

Bob Jackman

9 Doncaster Bridge Club

Background - in the 1950's, a group of friends rented an office in Doncaster's market place area to play social bridge, but moved when numbers increased to the now bulldozed Odeon Cinema complex, and after a while to the Earl of Doncaster Hotel. Our present property was offered first option to us in a lady's will, because she enjoyed her bridge so much, and we became sole owner when the hairdressing salon in the property closed in 1965. The infrastructure of the premises has been improved; CCTV has been installed, and an extension added to house a lift, toilets for disabled and to accommodate a licensed bar.

Ethos - the club prides itself on its inclusivity and openness. Members range from those beginning bridge up to a 91 year old. There has been a firm rejection of the stereotype image of bridge as a snobbish, elitist pursuit. Instead the club focuses on balancing the competitiveness of the game with a genuine commitment to its etiquette with friendliness and empathy.

We hold many social events, such as Italian-themed days with antipasti at the clubhouse, go to a local restaurant and return for a bridge session. We go on bridge/walking weekends in Windermere and have even played bridge in a tree house!!

Players - we have in 2015 over 200 members, one of Yorkshire's largest clubs. We joined YCBA and EBU in 1962. We hold eight sessions weekly and have five Sunday League teams. We host an annual pairs competition open to any EBU member. Sally Dunsby and her husband Harry Anoyrkatis have represented England, Peter Stocken has been EBU Chairman, and Derek Rudkin won a YCBA Simultaneous Pairs three years running.

Mary Stones

10 Easingwold Bridge Club



Easingwold's events are held at the Galtres Centre

Easingwold Bridge Club meets on Tuesday evenings throughout the year, starting at 7.00pm. Easingwold is 15 miles from York, just off the A19 trunk road. We meet at the Galtres Centre, off the main Market Square.

We have a total of 42 members and on average we have five or six tables. Non-members with partners are always welcome without pre-arrangement - just turn up on the night. Club membership is £5 per annum & the weekly table money £1.50 (non-members charged £2). The club is affiliated to the EBU. For further information please ring (01347) 821762.

Barbara Twigg

11 Garforth Bridge Club

Brian Rimmer started Garforth Bridge on 17th. September 1975. The club met in the outside classroom of a primary school. The rent was £1.50 per hour. Since 2002 the club venue has been Barwick Cricket Club, which has a secure

car park and a small bar. We meet on Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 7pm. We will be trialling Thursday afternoons from 22nd October 2015.



Garforth Bridge Club is based at Barwick Cricket Club

We celebrated our Ruby Anniversary in 2015 at Dintindale restaurant. We held our 30th Swiss Teams on 20th September 2015.

We are a very friendly club & are very eager to welcome new faces. Current players and beginners all are welcome. Anyone interested - please contact Audrey Jeal, our EBU qualified bridge teacher - tel 0113 2862914. We look forward to seeing you.

Michael Jeal

12 Halifax Bridge Club

The original club was set up in the Old Cock Inn in the centre of Halifax. Halifax was one of the first clubs to buy its own property, a terrace house in Rhodes Street.

Our best success was during the late 1960's / early seventies when we played in the first and second division of the Yorkshire League. At present we have around 160 members up by about a dozen or so from last year. This is all due to the teaching programme.

Stuart Swaine

13 Harrogate Bridge Club

The earliest bridge club in Harrogate was in the sixties, run by Monica Campbell, until 1968 when an alternative venue was found in the Adelphi Hotel. Here we played in a dedicated room 7 days a week, with a membership around 150, playing mainly afternoon cut-in bridge.

Eventually in September 1971 the keys for 27 Robert Street were handed over for the princely sum of £3,000 and, after paying £2,000 for the structural alterations, the members rallied round to decorate and make curtains. The club was officially opened two months later with a membership of around 150. Afternoon bridge formed the major part of our income and duplicate was played on Monday and Thursday evenings with 7 or 8 tables.

The membership continued to grow with a shift away from Rubber Bridge to Duplicate as this became more popular. Increasing numbers required more space and in 1996 we purchased the adjoining premises at no.29 for £85,000, spending £15,000 on alterations to knock the ground floors into one large playing area. The first and second floors of no.29 were converted into two separate flats and now bring in a welcome income.

Unfortunately we do have difficulty with parking, but we have coped, playing bridge every weekday either afternoon or evening or both. We have a thriving membership of over 230 and some members have been with us for over 45 years

We offer a two year course for complete beginners, with the next one starting in January if there is sufficient interest, and also run a weekly session of guided play to enable new players to build up the confidence to join our duplicate sessions.

We have the occasional fun/social bridge events and have also invited guest speakers to enable regular players to improve their game. The latest of these was a seminar from Michael Byrne on 'doubling' which was very well received.

Joan Sheddon

14 Huddersfield Bridge Club

According to the research paper "Yorkshire's Golden Years", written in 1985 to celebrate 50 years of the YCBA, a Huddersfield section of the YCBA was formed in December 1936. The research for that paper was undertaken primarily by Hubert Castle, of Huddersfield Bridge Club, who was at that time chairman of the YCBA. Hubert made a significant contribution both to the YCBA and to Huddersfield Bridge Club. He continued to attend the club into his late nineties and played some social bridge even when he was too infirm to come to the club. Although

Hubert is no longer with us, members of the club were able to help him celebrate his 100th birthday in 2013, and his legacy continues in the Castle Swiss Pairs, a YCBA event which is held every year at Huddersfield Bridge Club.

Bridge is supposed to contribute to longevity, and that has certainly proved to be the case at Huddersfield. We have 95 year old Joe Kowalski still playing – and winning – at our club, and Mrs Ann Singleton (now deceased) played well into her late nineties as well. Joe continues to stand in when needed in the Sunday Inter City League, playing for our B team only last season.

The club meets at premises on Cambridge Road, Huddersfield where it has been based since 1965. The premises are wholly owned by the members and have recently been modernised with significant alterations to the bar and kitchen area. This has proved to be a great success. The club meets for duplicate sessions every weekday evening and the occasional Saturday. It is also used during the day throughout the week for social bridge and for lessons.

As of June 2015 the club had 265 members, and this has been steadily growing over the last few years. With the advent of a more structured schedule of lessons, more players are coming through to participate in the more competitive evening duplicate sessions, and the overall standard is rising.

Although Huddersfield players are well known throughout Yorkshire we have not had a lot of national successes to boast about. Joe Kowalski, with his partner Peter Radley, did win the regional heat of the National Pairs competition, and in 1998 Heather Hobson and Roy Garthwaite were part of a team which won bronze in the European Community Teams at Salsomaggiore. In 2014 a Huddersfield team of Heather Hobson, Roy Garthwaite and Pearl and Denis Murphy represented Yorkshire in the Pachabo Cup. Having won the Improvers' Pairs Competition of the Great Northern Swiss Pairs in Leeds last October, Gillian Emerson & Alan Stephenson have now come a brilliant second nationally in the EBU Spring Bank event for "Improvers", the Really Easy Afternoon, with 66 pairs competing.

Sue Measures

15 Hull Bridge Club

Hull BC has 100 members - down from 300 in its glory days - and is situated on Spring Bank in the city centre. However we do boast a centenarian, Mamie Seal, amongst our players. The club was formed in the early 1930's and played in various places including the Royal Hotel and in local businesses just after the war. Dennis Colley and Ken Richardson started bridge in 1967/8 at Spring Bank. Hull & East Riding Contract Bridge Association used these premises until they bought the freehold in 1983/4 - supervised by Chairman David Waxman at first, before he moved to Sheffield, and after that by David Rose, the new chairman.

Two of our most famous players of the past were Eric Pudsey, YCBA Secretary, and David Colley. David played for Yorkshire in each of seven decades from the 1940s to the 2000s and represented Hull in the Yorkshire League for 60 years.

In 1956 the EBU Pachabo Cup was won by JD and DN Colley, E Pudsey and M Dickinson. In or about that year a Hull team of the Colley brothers, E Pudsey, A Myerhoff, K Richardson and G Dixon reached the Gold Cup semi-finals, to be beaten by the eventual winners captained by a certain Terence Reese!

Nowadays there are three evening and two afternoon sessions each week. Our premises have been upgraded (well overdue!) and we place more emphasis on attracting new players, with regular classes to encourage newcomers to the great game.

Penny Joseph

16 Hull University Staff House Bridge Club

The club was started in 1981 for the use of staff members, students and local bridge players; it quickly grew to a membership of well over 100. We hire a room in the Staff House of Hull University which provides good playing conditions and has ample safe car parking nearby. We play on Thursday evenings from 7.30 until 10.30 throughout the year.

In the 1980's/90's we enjoyed 12/14 tables on club nights, but our membership has dwindled over the years and we now have 50 members with 5/8 tables nightly. There are no University members now, although we have a few retired members. We have encouraged students to join us but with little success; perhaps our average age of 65+ has something to do with that! The majority of our members are local bridge players with no University connections - which has always been the case -and we do continue to welcome visitors and new members.

Mike Lang

17 Keighley Bridge Club

In 1964 a group of contract bridge players at Riddlesden Institute joined the EBU and entered two teams in the YCBA Leagues. When the bridge room was re-located from an allegedly loud youth club, the club rented rooms at the Victoria Hall and played there until dry rot and structural defects forced them to look elsewhere. A Victorian terraced house was purchased and converted thanks to members' loans, donations and fundraising.

However parking wasn't easy so, when the old Beechcliffe Cycling Club that had plenty of parking space came on the market, another round of fundraising began, and it was bought in 2004. Our members rolled up their sleeves yet again.... the place was completely stripped and refurbished in less than 3 months!

Gillian Almond

18 Leeds Bridge Club

The Leeds and District Contract Bridge Board was formed in May 1937 and was one of the first affiliated members to the YCBA. It worked with various bridge clubs then operating in Leeds for the purposes of holding city-wide bridge events. From 1946, duplicate bridge in Leeds was played at many venues in the City.



*Moor Allerton Sports & Social Centre,
venue of Leeds BC events*

Since 1998, the Club has played at the Moor Allerton Sports and Social Centre, extending the centre to provide a bespoke bridge suite. In 2015, it became the Leeds Bridge Club Trust, a company limited by guarantee and registered as a charity.

The club has currently 321 members and approximately 60 tables per week with a strong improvers' section. There are beginners' classes and coaching for the more experienced.

Sue Friedman

19 Malton Bridge Club

Malton Bridge Club was formed in 1955, initially playing rubber bridge but soon converted to duplicate by its first secretary, Norman Archer. It affiliated to the YCBA in 1967 and entered teams in the Yorkshire League, where two club teams currently participate. Two individuals are predominant in the history of the club: Alan Martindale was the secretary of the club from 1960 to 1999 and achieved considerable success within the game, representing Yorkshire on numerous occasions; and Philip Mason was the treasurer from 1962 to 1999, also with a successful playing career and serving as YCBA chairman for twenty-five years and now as president. These two have been responsible for inspiring high standards within the club, enabling it to be competitive over the years with clubs from much larger conurbations. Richard Hilton replaced Alan Martindale as secretary in 1999 and so is only the third such in the club's history.

The club, and Philip Mason in particular, organizes two annual open competitions: The Malton Cup for teams-of-four began in 1966 and has recently celebrated its fiftieth staging; while the Ryedale Pairs, designed to encourage ordinary club members by excluding the very top players, was first run in 1977 and has been held every year since.

The club continues to perform well: its first team has just been promoted back into the first division of the Yorkshire League, where it has been for much of its existence (and been runner-up on three occasions), and a team from the club has this year won the Waddington Cup for the first time.

Richard Hilton

20 Molescroft Bridge Club (Beverley)

Molescroft Bridge Club in Beverley was formed in 1986 by Mr. Bill Baglee, a former Diplomatic Corps officer, who had had both his legs amputated before retiring to Beverley. He decided to open a new bridge club when he found there was nowhere to play afternoon duplicate bridge.

At first the club met in the Parish Centre at the local school. The playing room could only comfortably accommodate six tables, so membership was limited to 24. In 1990, following Mr Baglee's death, the club was

taken over by Mr Don Lownsbrough, and it was decided to award a handicap trophy in Mr Baglee's honour. September 1998 saw a move to play in Molescroft Pavilion, which would allow for expansion, and club membership in 2015 is 36.

Mr and Mrs Lownsbrough successfully ran the club from 1990 until 2012. Mr Tony Hall is now club chairman and the club is administered by Mrs B Hanneman and Mrs M Smith.

Margery Smith

21 Olicana Bridge Club (Ilkley)

Olicana Bridge Club in Ilkley sprang from a group of friends playing together in 1962 and had become a well-organised club by 1963, joining EBU in 1967. By 1975 the Club had 69 members and a team in the Yorkshire League. The far-sighted committee risked buying our club premises in 1978 and the hard work of members continues, ensuring that we enjoy pleasant premises ideally organised for bridge. Our constitution was updated in 2013.

Today membership stands at 263 and rising. We provide a full programme, with up to eight playing sessions per week, five teams in the Yorkshire League, a wide variety of club competitions and events, a range of teaching programmes from absolute beginners through to seminars from leading players. Annual Christmas parties have been held since the club began, and are the highlight of our social year. Above all, Olicana is a friendly welcoming club and continues to attract new members from a wide area.

Patricia Baker

22 Phoenix Bridge Club (Rotherham)



Phoenix Bridge Club is on paper a relatively new club, having been set up in 2002 at the Phoenix Sports & Social Club in Brinsworth, Rotherham. However the club previously existed as Swinden House Bridge Club, part of the sports and social facilities at Tata Steel's Swinden Technology Centre in Moorgate, Rotherham. The club was forced to relocate, changing its name in the process, when the sports pavilion on the site was closed down. Sadly any records of the club's beginnings and early history have been lost. What was then the United Steel Companies' Swinden Laboratories was opened in 1952 and the sports pavilion in 1960. It was during this period that the bridge club was formed. A staff leaflet dated October 1957 notes a bridge section amongst the social activities organised by the Swinden

House Sports & Social Club (members were eligible to join for a basic subscription of 1d per week!!).

Although it had participated in the local Sheffield Leagues for many years, it was not until 1991 that the club became officially affiliated to the YCBA as the Rotherham Association. The club has never had a huge membership, currently just 48, but it does have a couple of Grand Masters and Life Masters in its ranks. Its oldest member, Sheila Maw, is 96. Sheila first started playing at the club half a century ago in 1965.

Dave Lapwood

23 Pickering Bridge Club

The club was founded in 1978 and bridge is played in our town centre at the RVS Hall every Thursday evening at 7.15 p.m. We have about 40 members, 12 of whom are also members at Malton. Visitors are welcome but should arrive by 7 p.m. In April/early May we have teams of four events. The club has a website which may be consulted.

Terence Boyle

24 Richmondshire Bridge Club (Richmond)

Richmond BC was formed in 1984. The name was changed to Richmondshire BC in 1992 due to a legal problem. The club has met in 4 different venues during its lifetime. For the past 20 years the club has met at Reeth Road Social Club, Richmond on a Thursday evening starting play at 7pm. At the moment we have over 40 active members of mixed ability. We welcome visitors.

Jean Sutherland

25 Ripon City Bridge Club

The club was founded in 1974 and affiliated to the YCBA that same year. Sessions are held in the Hugh Ripley Hall and it has the reputation of being a friendly, welcoming club. Bridge is played on Wednesday and Friday

evenings with lessons for beginners on Friday afternoons. The club possibly holds more simultaneous pairs than other clubs in Yorkshire and these are very popular.

Despite many romances, the only wedding of players who met at the club was that of Maureen Maxwell and John Tebb. An amusing occurrence happened when the club advertised "come to Ripon and enjoy fun and games". That same week, the treasurer and executive officer (married to others) ran off together, never to be seen again!

Kay Thorpe

26 Scarborough Bridge Club



The new premises of Scarborough Bridge Club at 3A West Street

The following is very much a potted history of Scarborough Bridge Club.

Rubber bridge was played at 34 The Esplanade, Scarborough in 1934 and later at the Westbury Hotel, Aberdeen Walk. After the war the club was first named 'Scarborough Contract Bridge Club' but the name was later changed to 'The Scarborough and District Contract Bridge Club' in order to include country members and it was then affiliated to the YCBA. A move to Alma Square followed but, as the club was expanding rapidly, larger premises had to be found – this time in the Talbot Hotel in Queen Street where bridge was played in four large rooms. This venue was lost when the brewery owners decided to convert the building to residential accommodation. The club then moved to Valley Bridge Road until the owners, the Yorkshire Insurance, put the property on the market. A further move followed to the Yorkshire Bank Chambers in Huntriss Row, and once more the owners decided to alter their usage of these premises.

Under the guidance of our chairman, John Gerrard, who the YCBA today remember through the annual simultaneous pairs event, the club, assisted by the EBU, moved to St Martin's Road in 1990 and for the next 25 years the club leased these premises. In 2015 following years of patience while building our savings, we finally achieved our aspiration of acquiring our own premises and we have recently moved into 3A West Street (only two doors away from our old club). We are very proud of this achievement.

Amy Ker

27 Selby & Hambleton Bridge Club

The Bridge Circle, as it was known, was in existence before World War II. According to one of our long standing members, Nilar Hey, the members then used to play at each other's homes. Sometime after the war, they used the Londesborough Hotel in Selby as their venue. The oldest written record is the AGM of 27 October 1976, held at the Londesborough Hotel.

The name of the club was officially changed to the Selby Bridge Club at the AGM on 1 November 1978, at which there were 30 members present. Table fees were raised to 25p in 1979 and club subscriptions were 50p. On 8 June 1977 a Bring and Win night was organised to coincide with the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations.

In January 1981 the Londesborough Hotel was to have alterations made and so Selby Bridge Club moved to the United Reformed Church in Selby where they played for 28 years. A committee meeting of 30 October 1981 records that score cards were to be kept face down at all times!

In May 1995 it was agreed to join with Hambleton Bridge Club and become known as Selby and Hambleton Bridge Club and enter two teams in the winter league if enough members joined the EBU. Hambleton Bridge Club played in the Hambleton Village Hall where many a Yorkshire league match has been played on a Sunday, and where we still play on Friday night.

In 2009 the club had to move their Wednesday night Bridge to the village hall in Chapel Haddlesey, where they are today.

Carol Heron

28 Sheffield Bridge Club

Sheffield BC shares its 80th anniversary with YCBA and EBU, and has been in the same premises at 6 Thornsett Road, Sheffield since being opened on 22nd September 1936 by Hubert Phillips. Since 2015 the club no longer has a resident steward.

In 1939 the initial success was rudely interrupted by a roof-damaging German bomb which necessitated the club to close for 3 months!! Four members bought the club premises when the landlord decided to sell in 1944.

In 2015 the club is Yorkshire's largest in terms of bridge activity, and the twentieth in England. We hold seven sessions of duplicate weekly, several teaching sessions per week and special events, as well as maintaining nine teams of eight in the YCBA Sunday League. We also run two local leagues of teams of four in three divisions.

Barrie Partridge

29 Shelley Bridge Club

Shelley Bridge Club was founded in 1979 following a meeting in Shelley Village Hall in January of that year, and has been meeting there weekly ever since. The club affiliated to EBU in November 1979 and joined YCBA on 1st April 1981. Since that date Shelley Bridge Club has taken part in various YCBA competitions and for many years fielded a team in the Sunday League. We still have two active members who joined us in our inaugural year.

Initially our club used a fairly basic set of rules, but in April 2013 it adopted the EBU model club constitution, with a few modifications to suit our requirements.

Andrew Stephens

30 Thirsk Bridge Club

The club was established in 1977 on the initiative of three players - Jean Cable, Tom Hodgson and Bob Knight - and had 39 members in its first year. It affiliated to the YCBA in 1995. In 2015 we have two teams in the Sunday League of the YCBA. Jack Rouse is the present secretary, and notes that after the YCBA introduced zero tolerance in its events Thirsk Bridge News in its postscript said:

NO FLICK KNIVES, MACHINE GUNS, MACHETES OR HOODIES ALLOWED!!!!!! at our club.

Jack Rouse

31 Wakefield Bridge Club

Although nobody can recall the exact date of the Wakefield Club's foundation, the *Wakefield Express* of 19 December 1953 recorded that we played our first match against the Aysgarth club from Leeds, and ran out narrow winners 'by 400 points'. By the time of that match the *Express* also recorded that 'the duplicate bridge drives held by the club are proving so popular that they are being held fortnightly instead of monthly' - and the club has never looked back since.

That first match was held in the long-gone Jester restaurant in the middle of Wakefield, but for many years thereafter Holmfield House in Thornes Park (now also a pub/restaurant) was home to the growing club. In 1991 we moved to Wakefield Town Hall, but the very limited facilities available there meant it was not popular with many members; and when in 1994 we agreed to join the West Yorkshire Sports & Social Club (WYSSC) in Sandal our wanderings were over.



Aerial view of WYSSC, Sandal (Wakefield BC website)

And we have been very happy there. We have celebrated our Diamond Jubilee as a club, and enjoyed plenty of success with four teams in the Yorkshire League. Membership peaked at 93 in 2006, and then drifted down to a low point of 59 in 2013. But since then open evenings and new classes for beginners have seen a complete revival

of the club, with numbers more than doubled in the last three years, to 120. At the same time we have expanded from two evening sessions to three, and introduced a morning session for beginners. We have twice successfully hosted the YCBA individual Competition; and in October we begin a programme of seminars for the more experienced players. Wakefield Bridge Club is now very much 'on the up' and even the long-standing planning blight affecting the Sports Club is about to be lifted, with Wakefield Council preparing to build a new club house in Walton, just a mile away. We will be there within a couple of years, ready for the next phase in our long and successful history.

Stephen Hanslip

32 Wensleydale Bridge Club (Middleham)

In 1985 Tony Philpott, the founder of Wensleydale BC advertised for people to play bridge and got together twelve people of mixed bridge ability. The group applied to join Northallerton Bridge Club, but were rejected. The reason given was that they did not want such a large group but perhaps the prospect of having beginners did not enthruse them.

It was therefore decided to form Wensleydale BC playing on Thursday evenings in Thoraby Village Hall in 1987. In 1992 the club had reached 25 members and joined YCBA. We entered a team in Division 9 of the YCBA Sunday League and have now progressed to Division 6. In 1993 the club were accepted in the Hambleton League but were asked to withdraw when other teams considered it too far to travel to Wensleydale.

The outstanding bridge achievement of the club was in the 1995 EBU Nicko. After a first round bye we beat a Harrogate team, then a Scarborough team, a strong Brunton team, Bradford 'A' and Harrogate 'A' before losing in round 7 to a strong Ripon team. This achievement by a small bridge club received national recognition!

Play continued at Thoraby until 2012 when declining numbers and a conflict of playing night with nearby Richmond caused the club to change playing night and venue. The club now meets every Wednesday at 7 pm at the Key Centre in Middleham. Visitors are most welcome.

Susan MacKellar

33 Wetherby Bridge Club

41 years ago in 1974 an advert was placed in the local paper saying that a new club for bridge players was to be started at Wetherby High School. So began the embryo that was to become Wetherby Bridge Club. Oblong desks either too wide when pushed together or too narrow when standing alone, together with chairs that laddered ladies' tights forced the happy band to move to Wetherby Town Hall. A year later in 1975 the group moved to Wetherby Library where they enjoyed six happy years of bridge. By this time the group had grown, and in 1981 they were forced to find larger accommodation in the Church Hall, Collingham. In 1984 the attraction of a warm carpeted room and a licensed bar led the group to move premises again to Wetherby Social Club. As the table money accumulated, the now 100 strong members started to think of buying their own premises. This came to fruition in October 1998, and the first session of bridge in the new premises was played on 13th February 1999.

The Club now boasts 324 active members with bridge being played every evening Monday to Friday and also on Wednesday afternoon. Annual bridge weekends in the Lake District and social fund raising bridge evenings ensure that the members also enjoy each other's' company together with their bridge.

Jackie Brennan

34 York Bridge Club

The club was founded in December 1945, and ran at several places in York. It became a proprietary club in 1961, and then became a members' club on 1st April 1977. In April 1983 it moved to its own premises in Wilton Rise and then in Jan 1999 to our present premises. The club has played in Yorkshire League matches for many years, and has held its own competitions as well. On 17th Jan 2012 the club became a company limited by guarantee, and on 8th March 2012 the company was registered as a charity.

We currently have about 235 members and have sessions on five evenings and three afternoons. We have training sessions for all abilities and classes for children and also support two school clubs.

Derek Horsley