

TOURNAMENT UPDATE 2025

Before I start on the results and successes Yorkshire pairs and teams have had, I would like to say a big thankyou on behalf of the board to our small band of TDs, namely Stuart Davies (who will be stepping down in October), James Carpenter and Jim Edwards who help run all our competitions whether they be national ones or local ones. To this end, if there is anyone out there who would like to progress their directing skills to a county level please do not hesitate to contact me. We are however running TD courses for club directors in August and October and all the details are on the website under the news section. Secondly, I would like to thank the venues that hold our local competitions and for the volunteers that help these competitions run smoothly.

The profile of bridge players within the county is changing. 43% of players on our NGS are grade 6 or below, 79% are grade 9 and below and 92% are Jack and below. As such we are trying to run competitions which reflect these groups. We will be trialling a 6 high event at Wetherby, already run 9 high events at congresses and for the 9 high national Corwen and have some Jack high events at congresses. We also ran (thanks to Mark Dunkley/James Carpenter) a very successful county wide handicapped pairs event, which will become a permanent fixture on the calendar. To be honest we would prefer to run these events face to face and depending on their popularity will run more in the future, even if this means regionalising some of them. This gives players a chance to dip there toes into competitive but friendly events and to test their skills against players of a similar calibre.

Some events, if they are not well attended, we will have to look at. The mixed pairs this year is a good example and whilst we hope to find a spot in the calendar later for this event, if events are not supported they will be lost. I encourage everyone who is interested in entering a competition to look on the website for details. We try to update as soon as we are aware of venue/time/cost and at this point I would like to thank Pauline/Stuart/Robin and Mark who take the bulk of the entries for these competitions.

The YCBA also fund the entries for our county teams into National events including the Pachabo (County teams of 4 winners), Presidents Cup, Garden Cities, NBL and Tollemache and in the pairs, the Corwen. Players costs are also subsidized if staying overnight.

Setting of costs for events is always a tricky balance and we try to hold the costs down of our local events each year. Obviously black/green/blue points prices change, UMS changes and also TD costs change. Catering costs have risen and if we go to a hotel and we have raised our allowance for county events run at clubs to £15 head. Room hire prices and delegate rates have risen considerably. However, we really try to do our best with these rising costs and will continue to subsidize events where we can. Indeed, even the free event at the new year failed to attract as many as we thought it might so perhaps cost is not everything! We have invited Oliver Cowan to run the festival of Bridge (previously the congress) this year and look forward to partnering him in the future.

On that note I would like to make a plug for the Waddington Shield (County teams of 4 KO) and the Yorkshire Trophy, which we have rebranded to a jack high teams of 4 KO. Details of how to enter will appear soon and we hope to attract more and more into this next year. I

know that Mike will be giving an update on the leagues (face to face and On-line) but I would just like to say a massive thanks to him and Robin who work tirelessly behind the scenes to get everything organised and lets hope that the numbers continue to increase.

Now onto the successes and once again if I have missed out any winners in national events that is entirely my fault and please bend my ear later if you know of any (Winners only, else the list becomes too long!). Unfortunately, the county, after a ripping success last year in a lot of national events, this year has not proved as successful and the nearest we got was losing the final of the National Counties league on a split tie.

However, we do have Daniel Winter representing England at U26 level and Fiona Brown representing the England Ladies.

NORTHERN EASTER FESTIVAL:

Teams: Oliver Cowan/Alan Jarvis +2

Pairs: Tom Gisborne/Sandy Davies

9 High/Really Easy: Brian Lawrence/Mike Dunne

HARROGATE SPRING CONGRESS

Teams: Sandy Davies/Tom Gisborne/Matthew Kiggins/Baz Caygill

9 High/Really Easy: Martin Olliver/Erica Smith

GREAT NORTH SWISS PAIRS

Alan Jarvis/Alan Hayward

9 High/Really Easy: Ian Newsham/Pauline Stout

NATIIONAL HANDICAPPED PAIRS

Lesley Bridson/Catherine Thompson

EBU OVERSEAS CONGRESS

Teams: Stuart Davies/Nichola Cockerill Smith/Lesley Bridson/Catherine Thompson