

YLC Chairmans Report 28TH June 2025

May I start by thanking all those who help with the running of the Yorkshire League. To my fellow members of the YLC for all their hard work and I am grateful for all the support we receive from the match secretaries, the online match day support, the TDs, the finance team, the scorers of the ximps and all the help used to sort specific problems from a number of players and of course the players themselves who have been keen to play. I would also like to give thanks to Stuart Davies who has helped us out once again in his capacity as consultant and ruling on an awkward situation, Barry Partridge who this season acted as match day consultant, Jim Edwards who generates the county wide hands for divisions one to four and the club volunteers who duplimate the boards for all the divisions whether or not the hands are county-wide.

This season we have seen a healthy 56 teams enter the league consisting of 7 divisions of 8 the same as last year. If you will indulge me for a moment, as I am one of those strange people who every so often have a curiosity to find out about facts and figures, just for the fun of it. As a result, I have discovered that this season 657 people took part in the Yorkshire League. I think we should all take a moment to let that sink in as all those involved should take a moment to reflect on what a marvellous achievement this is and that everybody's contribution to the success of the League has been worthwhile.

For the online league we see the numbers go up in the Winter and down in the Summer and the numbers have generally gone down as face-to-face bridge has been picking up. However, we shall still run an online league as long as there continues to be demand.

This is the second year that the YLC have run the Waddington Shield and the Yorkshire Trophy, and I am pleased to say that this year the numbers have doubled from 4 to 8 teams in the Yorkshire Trophy and increased to 13 teams in the Waddington Shield. Both events have now been concluded and both events saw some good matches with York Bridge Club winning both trophies. Wetherby Bookworms is a good example of the competitive nature of the competition. With scores of 59-50, 81-67 and 30-36 it sounds like swashbuckling stuff and reminds me of Kevin Kegan's Newcastle who were all out attack, narrowly missing out in the final stages of the competition. I think anybody wondering whether they should enter this year should see how just how exciting this sort of run can be. My ventures into the Yorkshire Trophy were always enjoyable and I can recommend this competition as an introduction to teams if you haven't played in them before or if you just want excitement without meeting the teams who play in the Waddington.

If you do wish to play against the best, the Waddington might not always be as swashbuckling, but you will get a chance to learn and play against some of the best in Yorkshire who are some of the best in the country.

For those interested in playing in either of these competitions the Yorkshire Trophy is restricted to players who are NGS J high or lower as of 1st September and the Waddington Shield is open to all.

Going forwards, this year we will be running the face-to-face league, 2 online leagues, the Waddington Shield and the Yorkshire Trophy.

Together with my fellow YLC members we will always listen to members views and do what we think is best for running the leagues. Any question or query however big or small will always be considered.

Regards

Mike Jackson

CHAIRMAN OF THE YLC