

YLC Chairmans Report 13TH June 2026

If I may indulge for a moment with a trip down memory lane. When I first joined the Yorkshire League committee, I thought that I was required to do fixtures once a year and that was it. How wrong could I be. Philp told me what he thought I needed to know and the other duties somehow were never mentioned. It wasn't long before I became involved in the rewriting of the Rules for the Yorkshire League. It was a particularly complex subset of the rules which needed to be tightened up. Fortunately, or unfortunately for me I can't look at a document I have been asked to look at without looking at it properly and I recall seeing loopholes in what was proposed. In trying to phrase what I thought it should be I could not construct an appropriate sentence. I explained what I meant to Robin and he was able to come up with the amendment written in a way I failed to do, which was subsequently implemented. It is on occasions like this that I feel lucky to be able to work with experts in their field who are happy to give up their time to help run the Yorkshire League. More recently, this season Barrie Partridge dealt with a particularly difficult ruling which I was glad to observe but not be involved in. Darly Kayes and Nick Beeson have improved the scoresheets for the Yorkshire League, something I can follow but was happy not to write. Stuart Davies once again helped with advice and direct involvement when asked. It is the willingness of all involved in the Yorkshire League with a desire for it to succeed that makes the League the envy of many counties. I thank all involved from the match secretaries, the captains, the players, the experts and my fellow members on the YLC, for without the level of support that we get we would not be where we are today.

This season we have seen a healthy 58 teams enter the league, 2 up on last year. For the online league the numbers have gone down for both the Summer League and the Winter League, though it is likely that more than 100 people will play in each of the leagues, which makes it still worthwhile continuing.

The numbers for Waddington Shield this year were down from 13 to 11. The number of teams wishing to play teams at the highest level tends to remain about the same, though if anyone wishes to enter a team in this event, they will be able to test their ability to the limit as Yorkshire now must be regarded as one of the top teams' counties in the country. The Yorkshire Trophy this year saw an increase from 8 to 13 teams. This event was once again highly competitive and saw a good battle in both the semis between York and Wakefield. Wakefield won both matches by 6 imps. Young Bertie Mittra was playing in one of the York teams, having already knocked out a Malton team in the semis. A star for the future, so watch out.

The final itself was fought between two teams new to this event with Wakefield Thornes emerging comfortable victors.

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. For both competitions we are planning a minor change in the scheduling of matches with the first two rounds to be completed by the end of the year and a slightly longer period of three months for third round matches (the idea is to mitigate the risk of teams having to travel long distances to matches in bad weather during midwinter).

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