

Tournament Update 2026

This year has generally been a very encouraging year, as numbers in various competitions have been maintained and in some cases improved upon over last year.

As I mentioned last year the profile of Yorkshire bridge players is changing all the time and we still have about 90% being a Jack (on the NGS gradings) or below. Hence, we are seeing a rise in the number of tournaments catering for this grade of player, encouraging them to take a step into competitive (but very friendly) bridge and compete against players of similar standing.

First, we have the 9 high Corwen, which is a national event and the final is generally run on line. We hold this at the same time (but as a separate event and face to face) as the Yorkshire pairs (our premier county pairs event), so if you are thinking of having a go at a national competition, look out next January.

Next, we have the 6 high pairs competition which we are trialling at Wetherby and Huddersfield to judge the level of interest. These are running early July. As nearly half of all members are 6 and below, now is the time to have a go at a YCBA competition. Then there are the Handicapped pairs where, depending on your NGS grading, you receive a handicap and so are able to compete against players of all standards.

Finally, I cannot forget the café bridge events. Whilst there are no match points for these, they are hugely successful, mainly due to the very friendly nature of them and of course the food that comes along with them. After a successful trial last year, we have already had ones in Sheffield and Easingwold and there will be 2 to follow, once again in Wetherby and one in Leeds.

All the details for these events are on the website, YCBA.CO.UK.

The mixed pairs made a welcome return this year and was very successfully run at Wakefield BC, the affiliated teams at Huddersfield, the Nelson Rosebowl, the Waddington Cup (to come) and the knockouts including the Waddington Shield and Yorkshire trophy. These are the sort of events that give the members a variety of competitions to enter. They of course will only continue with support from you all. I would like to thank all the clubs that host events for the county and the work you put in is much appreciated.

The organisation of all these event does not happen in isolation and members of the board work extremely hard to ensure that they go ahead. So, rather than name individuals, I would like to thank everyone involved from the TDs, those that take the entries and sort out the monies to those that trudge round venues for the café bridge. Without their help none of these would take place.

The winners of the Waddington Shield are representing the county as we speak, in the Pachabo. York A won the division one title and then won the regional garden cities event and represented the county in the final where they came 6th. In the northern bridge league, a Yorkshire team won the second division and so will be representing the county in that final.

For the first time in many years a Yorkshire team qualified for the final of the Tollemache (National county teams of 8 competition) and whilst not winning it put in a very creditable performance.

I will leave Mike Jackson, who is chair of the Yorkshire league committee, to give you the facts and figures for the leagues, both face to face and on-line and of course organises the Waddington Shield and Yorkshire trophy.

The county also has 2 England internationals in Fiona Brown and Daniel Winter.

Once again, if I have missed out a significant result from a Yorkshire pair, please contact me and I will add it to my report.

Harrogate Spring Congress

Pairs: Nick Woolven/Martin Edge

Teams: Nick Woolven/Martin Edge/Tony McNiff/David Robinson

9 high pairs: Julia Waring/Jenny Cobden

Northern Easter Festival

Pairs: Alan Broskill/Robin Jepson

GNSP

9 high Pairs: Pauline Stout/Susan Clarkson

Pairs: Steve Raine with Matt Brown (Notts)