



YORKSHIRE TENNIS

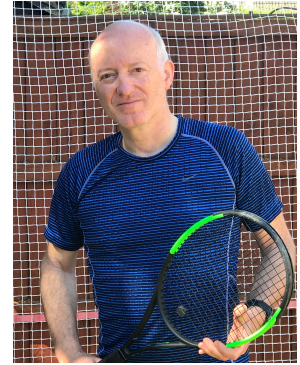
Message from Steve Jones, Chair of Yorkshire Tennis Limited

Hi All,

I'm delighted to write to you as the new Chair of Yorkshire Tennis Limited. I've been given the opportunity, following on from previous YLTA Chair John Crowther, to work with an experienced and enthusiastic group of volunteers from Yorkshire Tennis to increase both participation and performance in the county.

Starting from a position of strength

As a past Chair of Wetherby Tennis Club and an active player at both Wetherby and Starbeck Tennis Clubs, I understand the challenges faced by those of you running the game on a day to day basis. I'm also aware of the opportunities there are to get more people playing this game that we love in well-maintained and sustainable facilities, whether at school, in the park, at a leisure facility or club.



We're lucky to be starting from a position of strength in the county. Last year, Yorkshire did more than simply meet our aim of finishing in the top three of the national county leaderboard. We won the year-long competition! A lot of what we work hard to do revolves around achieving this kind of performance on a regular basis. A massive congratulations to all who made this happen.

A new set up with change to how we're funded

At the end of last year, in line with Sport England and LTA guidance, Yorkshire Lawn Tennis Association (YLTA) was dissolved and replaced by an incorporated organisation called Yorkshire Tennis Limited (YTL). We will miss the experience of those who have moved on through this change. Equally we welcome the energy of those joining YTL, who aim to make a big difference to the impact the county will have on the court.

The LTA has also introduced a new funding system which takes away the direct link between county funding and club registration fees. To secure confirmed grant funding we now have to meet targets in the core activity areas of volunteering, participation, performance and competition. This is a big change requiring us to report on how we are performing in these areas.

With this change comes opportunity. As a new organisation with fresh faces in a different funding scenario, we're looking at our structure and roles to ensure they best meet the county's future needs. Our new structure will be built around our core activities and involve new sub committees, roles and people.

Getting more people involved and club engagement are priorities

We will work hard to get more people involved in this great sport through clubs, schools and communities, looking for ways to share our love of the game with more players who have different backgrounds and capabilities. We want to offer a supportive environment for increasing competitive play at all entry points for widening ages and abilities.

Specifically, Club engagement is a priority for Yorkshire Tennis. We're currently working hard to provide an accessible and practical communication route between the Clubs and Yorkshire Tennis. The sustainable health of our Clubs is at the County's heart, and as part of a wider review, the senior

YTL team are finalising a review into re-introducing an interest free loan scheme to support our Club's ambitions.

Additionally we recognise the opportunities Padel Tennis offers Clubs in growing their membership, and YTL is assessing the role we can play in supporting the game's growth in Yorkshire.

Help shape Yorkshire Tennis, volunteers wanted

Whilst we're delighted to have kept so many of our volunteers, there are gaps and we're actively looking for new volunteers with specific skills to strengthen our team. Volunteering can take many forms so if ,like me, you have a day job, you can still play a part. If you'd like to get involved, we would love to hear from you.

Committed to being the Number One County

Over the coming months, we'll introduce you to our committee leads and co-ordinators and discuss how you can get involved with Yorkshire Tennis. Regardless of our individual roles, YTL is committed to working with all parties in Yorkshire to maintain our position as the Number One County, setting the benchmark nationally for Performance, Competitive Play, and Participation through our enthusiastic Volunteer teams.

We look forward to working with you and feel free to reach out to me anytime with your questions and suggestions by emailing enquiries@YorkshireTennis.org.uk.

Regards,

Steve

P.S. You can see who the current Board Members of Yorkshire Tennis are on our website