



Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association



History of YCBFA 1985 - 2015

Compiled by Robin Jepson



Affiliated to the British Bridge Union

History of the YCBA – Timeline 1985-2015

1985

In September, the YCBA holds a Golden Jubilee Dinner and Golden Jubilee Swiss Teams event at the Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate, attended by the chairman of the EBU, Keith Stanley.

1986

A new competition for the Yorkshire Trophy is inaugurated for teams of four knocked out of the first round of the Waddington Shield competition.

The YCBA decides to follow EBU guidelines restricting smoking at bridge events – smoking is not permitted for the first ninety minutes of each session of play. (A complete ban of smoking was introduced several years later).

1987

The Yorkshire Congress is held at the Cairn Hotel, Harrogate

1988

The YCBA annual subscription is doubled from 50 pence to £1.00.

The Yorkshire Congress moves to the Moat House, Doncaster, the venue until 1991.

An increase in entries to the Yorkshire League allows a ninth division to be formed. Two new areas, Bramhope and Hambleton, affiliate to the YCBA but Stocksbridge & Deepcar ceases to function.

1989

A Men's Teams event is inaugurated to complement the Nelson Rose Bowl. (The Men's Teams was never well supported and was dropped from the calendar a few years later.)

1990

Hubert Castle retires as chairman after 14 years and becomes the YCBA's President. Philip Mason becomes chairman and Ted Bond the vice-chairman

1991

The Castle Swiss Pairs event is inaugurated – originally restricted to area secretaries and council delegates, it later becomes an event with open entry.

Two new areas, Rotherham and Wensleydale, affiliate to the YCBA

1992

A tenth division is formed in the Yorkshire League

The Yorkshire Congress is held at the Granby Hotel, Harrogate, the venue until 1994.

The YCBA Bulletin is inaugurated. It is published, produced and despatched by Ted and Alma Bond, with the intention that five issues a year would be published and that each of the 2,300 members should receive their own copy.

The YCBA Directory of Clubs is published by Ken Hayton.

1993

Margery Cartwright retires from officiating at the Yorkshire Congress after 47 consecutive years.

Gladys Checksfield is appointed as a second Vice-President, a post she holds until her death in 1999; she was the first Yorkshire member to receive a Dimmie Fleming award from the EBU.

In November and December, snow disrupts two match days in the Yorkshire League.

1994

The YCBA adopts a new constitution, drafted by Raphael Grossman, Mike Rich and Ted Bond, replacing the original one adopted on the Association's formation in 1935. The constitution streamlines existing committees into one management committee with more frequent meetings than formerly.

The company YCBA Limited - described by the chairman as an "irrelevant anachronism" - is wound up.

Brighouse & Spen area association affiliates to the YCBA.

Sheffield wins the EBU's Garden Cities Trophy, competed for by winners of county leagues, repeating a previous success in 1989.

Ted Bond retires as vice-chairman, becoming treasurer; Peter Littlewood is the new vice-chairman and also takes over as editor of the YCBA Bulletin.

1995

The YCBA celebrates its Diamond Jubilee.

The Yorkshire Congress is held at the Jarvis Hotel, Wetherby, the venue till 1997.

A teams of four knockout competition for golf clubs affiliated to the Yorkshire Golf Union is inaugurated.

1996

In February, the YCBA and Bradford Bridge Club host the friendly international match between England and the Republic of Ireland for the Corn Cairdis Trophy. Corn Cairdis is Gaelic for Cup of Friendship. Both teams receive a civic reception from the Lord Mayor of Bradford in the "opulent surroundings" of City Hall.



The Corn Cairdis Trophy

Another district association, Thirsk, is admitted to the YCBA.

With a view to increasing participation in county events, the management committee decides that non-members may take part in heats held in clubs.

Entry to schools competitions is to be free of charge and students may enter competitions at a reduced rate.

1997

An eleventh division is formed in the Yorkshire League.

Vice-President Margery Cartwright dies; she had been county secretary for 28 years from 1952 to 1980.

1998

Catterick wins the EBU's National event for Golf Clubs, the Golfprint Trophy

The Yorkshire Congress moves to a new venue at the Cairn Hotel, Harrogate. For the first time green points are awarded for the Championship Teams event, adding to its status and popularity.



The Cairn Hotel, Harrogate has been the venue of the Yorkshire Congress since 1998

1999

Results of the Yorkshire League are computerised for the first time, and master points earned in that competition are credited direct to the EBU

New event for Affiliated Clubs instituted by Graham Jepson; held at the Beverley Arms Hotel
A YCBA website is developed by Peter and Anita Dixon of Sheffield; Rob Turner becomes webmaster to maintain it.

Eric Pudsey retires as YCBA Honorary Secretary after 19 years and is appointed Vice President. He receives a Dimmie Fleming award from the EBU. The new secretary is David Waxman.



Eric Pudsey, Honorary Secretary for 19 years and Vice-President for 12 years until his death in 2011

2000

The new millennium is celebrated with a Play with the Experts simultaneous pairs event.

David Colley represents Yorkshire in the annual match versus Manchester, which means that he has played for the county in **seven** separate decades, having done so first partnering his father in the late 1940's.

Investment in tables and new equipment for events of up to 70 tables

A twelfth division is formed in the Yorkshire League.

Ted Bond retires as Treasurer; replaced by Ted and Janet Latham.

2001

98 teams take part in the 2001-02 Yorkshire League – a record.

The Christine Asquith Trophy is donated to the YCBA by her husband; it is to be presented to the winners of an annual schools event.

Janet Latham becomes Secretary, Helen Barr Treasurer, and Stuart Davies is appointed to the new post of Tournament Secretary.

In September, Vice-chairman and Yorkshire Post bridge correspondent Peter Littlewood died as a result of an accident at home. His successor as vice-chairman is Graham Jepson and Bill Townsend takes over as bridge correspondent.

2002

A revised Constitution is adopted providing for a single status of affiliated clubs, in place of the former District Associations.

A new Seniors Pairs event is inaugurated, for the Peter Littlewood Trophy.

Les Brown becomes editor of the YCBA Bulletin.

2003

Duplimated boards in use at county events for the first time.

A Victor Ludorum prize is introduced for the player with the best overall performance in the county's simultaneous pairs events during one season.

EBU membership in Yorkshire is the second highest in the country.

2004

Yorkshire wins the President's Cup.

Master classes held in local clubs by bridge celebrities Ron Klinger and Andrew Robson.

2005

New seniors' midweek knock-out teams event is created.

For the first time, green points are awarded for the Championship Pairs at the Yorkshire Congress

2006

Northern Bridge League inaugurated, at the initiative of Graham Jepson – an inter-county league involving as founder members Cumbria, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Manchester, Merseyside & Cheshire, North-East and Yorkshire. There are three divisions, A B and C. In 2015, Yorkshire entered two teams in the A division, one in B and two in C. The winning team in each division qualifies to play in a national final, also instigated by Graham Jepson.

New event for officials and committee members of affiliated clubs instituted.

Masters Pairs Grades 2 and 3 to be amalgamated

Yorkshire B win their division of the Northern Bridge League – a feat they repeat in 2008, 2010 and 2011, when they also went on to win the National Inter-County Final – held the following year.

2007

The county subscription for individuals is increased from £2.00 to £3.00.

Yorkshire SE win the C division of the Northern Bridge League

2008

Duplimated boards to be used in division 1 of the Yorkshire League with Butler scoring across all four matches.

A special meeting is held to discuss the EBU's proposals to implement Play to Pay and universal membership; these are supported by the Yorkshire representatives at the EBU shareholders meeting

Lesley Millet becomes Treasurer, Helen Barr is the Congress Secretary and Stuart Davies takes over as League Secretary.

2009

A new Constitution, drafted by Raphael Grossman and Ted Bond, is adopted. The EBU had declined to ratify a previous version adopted in 2008. The new Constitution follows EBU advice to counties and is compliant with the Human Rights Act 1998 and other legislation; the Yorkshire Council becomes an advisory body with decision making powers resting in the Management Board.

The Play to Pay fee for county events is fixed at 5p per session.

The Yorkshire Congress made a profit of £2,000 having made a loss in the previous year.

Julia Staniforth becomes Secretary.

2010

"Unprecedented inclement weather" disrupts 2 rounds of matches in the Yorkshire League.

The running of the Great Northern Swiss Pairs is devolved by the EBU to the YCBA, and the first such event takes place at the Hilton Hotel, Leeds in October.

The YCBA celebrates its 75th anniversary with a special event and dinner at the Bridge Hotel, Wetherby; this too is affected by inclement weather.

EBU Universal membership and Pay to Play comes into effect on 1 April. The YCBA's membership increases to 3,750.

Minutes of the AGM, and meetings of the Council and Management Board are made available for public inspection for the first time, by posting them on the YCBA website.

The YCBA website is redesigned by Rob Turner and Lesley Blanchard including many extra features and with a light green signature colour, a map of the county on the home page and links to club websites.

Roy Garthwaite represents Yorkshire in the Northern League, which means that he has played for the county in **seven** separate decades, having done so first in the 1950's.

Ted Bond retires as Membership Secretary and receives EBU Dimmie Fleming Award.

2011

The Yorkshire Individual event is no longer held owing to lack of support

A Bridge Development Committee is formed and a new website, Learn Bridge Yorkshire, is developed in support of its activities.

Ted Bond becomes Vice President, and Graham Jepson becomes Congress Secretary.

2012

The running of the Northern Easter Festival is devolved by the EBU to the YCBA, and the first such event is held at York.

South Ryedale and Barr-None cease to be affiliated clubs.

Yorkshire qualifies for the final of the Tollemache Cup and Yorkshire B win their division of the National Inter-County Final, having won their division of the Northern Bridge League in 2011.

2013

For the second time, the YCBA and Bradford Bridge Club host the Corn Cairdis friendly international match between England and the Republic of Ireland.

YCBA President Hubert Castle celebrates his 100th birthday



Hubert Castle, Chairman for 14 years (1976-90) and then President for 24 years until his death in 2014 (Huddersfield Daily Examiner)

2014

The Yorkshire Individual event is revived and its administration is devolved to Wakefield Bridge Club. Running of the women's teams of four competition for the Nelson Rose Bowl is similarly devolved to Harrogate Bridge Club. As a result of the efforts of the two clubs, both events attract significantly higher entries.

Yorkshire wins the President's Cup.

Graham Jepson becomes Vice President, and receives an EBU Silver Award.

2015

The Constitution is amended to abolish the Yorkshire Council, which is replaced by a Members Meeting to be held in the late autumn, midway between AGMs.

84 teams in eleven divisions take part in the 2014-15 season of the Yorkshire League.

The YCBA celebrates its 80th anniversary with a special event, again held at the Bridge Inn, Wetherby.

The running of the Yorkshire Flich is devolved to Doncaster Bridge Club.

Yorkshire wins the President's Cup for the second year running.

Yorkshire South-East team wins the C division of the Northern Bridge League. This achievement matched their previous victories in 2007 and 2014.

It is decided that the use of duplimated boards, subject to availability, will be considered usual practice in all divisions of the Yorkshire League.

The Northern Easter Festival moves from York to the Craiglands Hotel, Ilkley.



New venue of the Northern Easter Festival in Ilkley

A group of junior players from Yorkshire with three YCBA representatives visits the House of Lords for a bridge event and guided tour.

The Bulletin is re-launched as an electronic publication and re-branded as YCBA News under the editorship of David Waxman.

In the period of twelve months up to September 2015, the YCBA website records 42,219 sessions by 9,490 users, 105,056 page views and an average session time of 3 minutes 16 seconds.

Philip Mason retires as chairman after 25 years, a record. The new chairman is Nick Woolven. Philip is appointed as the YCBA's President and receives the EBU Silver Award.



(Left) - Philip Mason, Chairman for 25 years and current President and (right) Graham Jepson, Vice Chairman for 12 years and current Vice President



The Yorkshire League

Here is a list of the winners of division 1 of the Yorkshire League during the period 1985-2015.

1985-86	Sheffield A	1986-87	Sheffield A
1987-88	Sheffield A	1988-89	Sheffield A
1989-90	Sheffield A	1990-91	Sheffield B
1991-92	Bradford A	1992-93	Sheffield A
1993/94	Sheffield A	1994-95	Bradford A
1995/96	Sheffield A	1996-97	Sheffield A
1997-98	Sheffield A	1998-99	Sheffield A
1999-2000	Sheffield A	2000-01	Bradford A
2001-02	Bradford A	2002-03	Sheffield A
2003/04	Bradford A	2004-05	Bradford A
2005-06	Bradford A	2006-07	York A
2007/08	Bradford A	2008-09	Bradford A
2009-10	York A	2010/11	Sheffield A
2011-12	Sheffield A	2012-13	Sheffield A
2013-14	Sheffield A	2014-15	Bradford A

Philip Mason has compiled the Yorkshire League fixture list for more than 25 years. He writes:

So, in the last 30 years, Sheffield A have been champions 17 times, Bradford A 10 times, York A twice and Sheffield B once.

The EBU Garden Cities Trophy for the winners of county leagues-of-eight was introduced in the 1986-87 season. Sheffield A won it in 1989 and 1994.

The number of teams participating in the Yorkshire League peaked in the 2001-02 season with 98 teams playing in 12 divisions. Unfortunately the magic number of 100 has not been reached. This coming season [2015-16] sees an entry of 84 teams which is still very good and makes Yorkshire the envy of many other counties.