

Chairman's (Junior Section) Report 2008

As the 2008 County season draws to a close and the new Yorkshire County (YBTBA) web site gets off the ground. I thought I would take this opportunity to make contact with all junior squad members as your new chairman.

As some of you will be aware and others of course won't be aware, Dave Hampshaw stood down as Chairman of the Junior Section of the Yorkshire Committee at this year's AGM.

It was my great honour to be elected to the position of Chairman and my first official duty must be to thank Dave for all his hard work as Chairman over the last 3 years and also as a committee member for many years before that.

It is my great hope that Dave will find time in his busy life to be able to support the Yorkshire junior squad members in future tournaments for years to come as we all know how motivational he can be in the pressure situation of a county final.

It therefore falls to me to outline what a fantastic year all of the junior squads have had in 2008.

The first tournament of the year was the under 18 qualifying round at Firth Park, where both girls and boys squads easily qualified for the final to be played later on in the year.

We then revived an old tournament but gave it a new format at Barnsley Bowl where 4 strong Yorkshire under 16 and under 18 boys and girls squads were far too good for Durham and Lincolnshire in a singles match play format.

The first County Championship finals of the year were at Nuneaton in April for the under 16 squads, both teams played exceptionally well and both finished in 2nd place, both very close to the winners and in the boys case literally decided with the last frame of the competition.

On in to the summer which is traditionally a very busy time for the County squads. In July we had the final of the under 18 championship at Nuneaton again. I think it would be fair to say that the boys squad struggled on day 1 and were never able to catch up although they put up a valiant fight on the Sunday. The girls however were always in contention and the final frame of the final game is what legends are made of and Yorkshire walked away with the title, making up in some way for the disappointment of coming close last year.

It was then time for the under 14 squads to come to the fore, we took part in the 4 counties challenge in Bromborough and came away with a number of success. This event usually acts as a warm up for the under 14 County Championships which was upon us sooner than usual as it had been moved from its more traditional home of late November to an earlier date of October.

The under 14 boys squad bowled right to the top of their potential but found the standard very high this year. The girls however more than surpassed expectations by coming 2nd, which was a fantastic effort considering the depth of talent in this age group.

In between these events we took part in the annual challenge match for all squads against Lancashire in Blackburn and won again.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the following squad members who have represented England in the last 12 months or are currently members of England training squads:-

Nikki Beard, Rebecca Garbutt, Kim Hewitt, Kirsten McGregor, Clare Shave, Jake Daggett and Will Prime.

So as the 2008 season closes I would just like to thank all squad members, parents and families for their effort and support over the year. To the coaches and bowling centre managers and staff who have contributed their time and accommodated so generously. Finally I look forward to 2009 with great anticipation, the squads have been announced and I look forward to seeing you all at the first training session.