

## **YCA COMPETITION CONTROLLER'S REPORT 2018-19**

The Yorkshire League this year has been relatively straightforward. Indeed the main complication happened early on when an ill judged attempt at juggling the fixtures caused a lot of confusion and embarrassment for myself; this will not be repeated.

While every season sees minor complications and queries nothing has happened that merits mention in this report. The main talking point was the unprecedented dead heat in the Woodhouse Cup that led to a match having to be replayed to decide the second relegation slot.

From an administrative point of view this was always going to be a transitional year as we move away from the now obsolete YCA grading list and instead start using the ECF grading list. I think the use of the new ECF results server has been a success and I have had good feedback about the quality of the reports available on this new software.

I have proposed a few rule change proposals for the next season. If some of these seem slightly pedantic it is with the aim of making the league more straightforward, not just for myself but for captains and players. I will never let the Yorkshire League become the ministry of silly rules on my watch.

I remain deeply concerned at the declining number of teams in the league. It should be clear to anybody that chess in this country is badly in decline and `traditional` events such as the Yorkshire League have a demographic problem. During my tenure as controller I have tried to start discussion around proposals for reform only to be hit by a wall of (roughly – the figures are guesstimates) 65% apathy, 25% opposition to change and 10% people criticising me for not bringing in radical change.

Finally can I thank all Yorkshire players who have sent messages of thanks and gratitude across the season. It is much appreciated. I intend to put myself at the service of the association for the 2019-20 season.

The results for 2019-20 were as follows;

WOODHOUSE CUP York RI A champions with Rose Forgrove A and Alwoodley A relegated.

IM BROWN Calderdale A champions with Huddersfield promoted. West Leeds and Dewsbury relegated.

SILVER ROOK Pontefract champions with Harrogate C promoted.

Two rounds of the Yorkshire Junior League were held with Hull winning the first event and Leeds Juniors winning the second.