

## YCA Website Report, 2018-19

The original purpose of the <http://mannchess.org.uk/YCA.htm> website was to provide an on-line supplement to the YCA Year Book, but it was then extended to serve the purposes of the former YCA Bulletin in providing a news service, combined with a continually updated Calendar. One way or another, the site is updated, albeit slightly, on an almost daily basis.

When taking this on, I knew the bulk of the work would depend primarily on my own journalistic efforts, though others, most notably David Mills and Peter Cloudsdale, have contributed to the effort.

Whilst a number of people are known to read the website fairly frequently, how widely it is read is not that clear. Visitor logs, which include also the Yorkshire History website, show continuous "hits", but many are merely web-crawlers which feed into search engines. Many hits will be random hits from people using search engines, and lighting on something that turns out not to be what they want. You only know your audience when the site goes down – which has not happened yet.

Much of what appears could be found elsewhere on the internet, and to that extent the YCA website is serving as a one-stop digest of things potentially of interest to Yorkshire chess-players.

As regards Yorkshire league coverage, I have provided Bulletin-style one-page coverage for each of the three divisions, as an alternative to the popular Advent Calendar approach to data presentation on the internet, which necessitates the opening of numerous different windows to get at all the different pieces of information. In view of the new significance of ECF membership (or not), I have also attempted to monitor players' numbers of appearances and whether they are ECF members, which I know at least one person has found useful. I have also added players' performances, in other words who has scored most points, and who has the best percentage.

A recent development has been the introduction of a Games section in which you can play through games on screen. David Mills has provided games from county matches he has captained (included in the match reports), some of which I have included in this play-through Games section, even annotating some myself, but otherwise it is a case of me hunting down games worth publishing, which is difficult.

## YCA Year Book Editor' Report, 2018-19

Producing the Year Book is one of those things formerly done by the Hon. Sec., but which has been delegated to others, without the job being attached to any particular office. I have performed the task for the last two seasons.

It is difficult to sell Year Books, partly because, I quote, "It's all on the internet." Nevertheless, many captains like to have a hard-copy version of club information, fixtures, rules, and grading list to hand. Also, hard-copy is longer-lasting than the volatile internet. For that latter reason I have attempted to include summaries of county-match results etc, for archival purposes.

As we always end up with spare, unsold copies, I have reduced the number of copies printed.

If financial saving was sought, then a reversion to basic "Captain's Handbook" approach of the old YCA Diary could be adopted, leaving archival material to be catered for in other ways, though inclusion of the grading list would be desirable.