

Explore Sporting Archives



Why use York's sporting archives?

York's sporting archives will be of interest to anyone interested in the social history of the city, and in particular with how York's residents spent their leisure time. York's sporting history tells the story of its different communities, split along geographical, social and economic lines through the city and its surrounding villages, and can tell us a lot about the changing demographic and employment patterns in the city. The city's biggest employers in the nineteenth century – the Rowntree's and Terry's chocolate factories and the North-Eastern Railway – established much of York's early sporting infrastructure; and the changing fortunes of local amateur and professional sporting teams tells us about both where York's residents lived, and where they spent their time and money. The archives can also tell us about how areas were used for sporting purposes, as York's residents found and adapted land and buildings within and around the city for sporting purposes.

Our archives are a rich resource for the city's sporting history, across both civic and community archives. Collections, and particular items within larger collections, can

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tell us the story of York's sporting history across the decades and even centuries, on civic, institutional and personal levels.

Civic collections

Within York's wider civic collection (archives created by City of York Council and its predecessors), a number of collections offer useful information about York's sporting history. School records within **Y/EDU** include items such as school magazines, which give information about sports practiced in schools, as well as historic photographs of school sports teams. In particular, **Y/EDU/1/2/1** and **Y/EDU/1/3/1** contain many school magazines dating to the early- and mid-twentieth century for, respectively, St. Anne's School and Nunthorpe School, and **Y/EDU/1/1/9** includes photographs of early-twentieth century sports teams at Archbishop Holgate's School.

Y/PPT includes several plans and images of York's sporting facilities, both planned and realised. This includes a number of photographs of the city's public swimming pools in **Y/PPT/1/2** and plans for proposed pavilions, clubhouses and sports fields in the public parks and on the Strays in **Y/PPT/1/3**.

Community collections

Our community collections include the archives of a number of local sports teams. In minute books, subscription lists and correspondence, these collections tell us a lot about the organisational work that goes into running these clubs. Collections of press cuttings and photographs can vividly capture the sporting and social activities they undertake, showing us how the sports themselves – their rules, competitions, kit and equipment – have changed over the years, as well as how people celebrated and socialised in their spare time. Relevant collections include:

- Acomb Bowling Club (**ABC**)
- York and District Amalgamation of Anglers (**AOA**)
- Bootham Bowling Club (**BBC**)
- Clifton Cycling Club (**CCC**)
- York Charity Cricket Cups (**CUP**)
- Ebor Cycling Club (**ECC**)
- York Hoboes Rambling Club (**HRC**)
- York Inset Scooter Club (**ISC**)
- LNER York Employees Amateur Swimming Club (**LNE**)
- York Mountaineering Club (**MNT**)
- York North Eastern Rifle Club (**NER**)
- Railways Athletic Association (**RAA**)
- The Ramblers (York Group) (**RAM**)
- Rawcliffe Tennis Club (**RAW**)
- York City Rowing Club (**ROW**)
- Yorkshire Ouse Sailing Club (**SAI**)
- Yorkshire and Humberside Sports Council (**SPC**)
- St Leonard's Slow Walks Club (**SWC**)
- York Tradesmen's Cricket Club (**TCC**)
- York Angling Association (**YAA**)

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- York Amateur Bowling Association (YAB)
- York City Football Club (YCF)
- York Rugby League Club (YRC)

A number of personal papers also provide information about York's sporting history. The Hugh Murray collection (**HMU**), compiled by local historian Hugh Murray, includes numerous pictures of local sports teams and facilities dating from the late nineteenth to the late twentieth centuries. Likewise, the Leeman collection (**LEE**) of papers and files belonging to local historian Philip Leeman includes 17 albums of photographs, many of them showing sporting subjects. The Hunt collection (**HUN**) contains various pieces of signed memorabilia of early-twentieth century sportspeople from the UK and further afield, including photographs and postcards as well as signed bats, balls, and other pieces of sporting equipment. In addition, the Ephemera collection (**EPH**) also contains various leaflets, advertisements, and commemorative publications relating to York's local sports clubs.

Overall, these sporting archives can give a great insight into the health and wellbeing of the citizens of the City of York, as well as more detailed information about sports club infrastructure and activity.