

NORTHERN COUNTIES LEAGUE 2018
First League Matches – 12th May 2018

The first Northern Counties League Matches brought Yorkshire and Lancashire, both in fine fettle, against Northumberland and Cumbria respectively. Yorkshire brought home an 11 – 7 win at Ponteland while Lancashire scored a 13 – 5 away win at Eden Golf Club. Meanwhile Durham pulled off a superb home win at Tyneside against Cheshire with a 13.5 – 4.5 result.

Lancashire set the scene at Eden

Despite an early push from Cumbria's Will Bowe & Rob Spence and Luke Walker & Richard Mewse, it was Lancashire who completed a 4 – 2 score-line in the morning foursomes.

Carroll & Goodman, Clarkin & White, Cranfield & Hyde and Ian Kenwright & Luke Kelly took charge in the morning foursomes.

In the afternoon singles, Lancashire's Ian Kenwright (1 hole) and Sean Doherty (5&4) brought home two early wins and Luke Kelly (4&2), John Carroll (3&1) and Gareth White (3&2) clinched the match against the home side. The final three Lancashire wins came from Mark Hyde (5&4), Curtis Clarkin (1-hole) and Anthony Stirling (3&1) with Reece Cranfield who halved his match.

Lancashire went home with a 5 – 13 away result.

Yorkshire pushed on in the afternoon to breach Northumberland.

The early foursomes were held by the reigning champions but only by the 3.5 – 2.5 margin for the away side. Ben Hutchinson & Alex Fitzpatrick; Ben Firth & Damon Coulson and Oliver White & Callum Macfie. Meanwhile while, Northumberland's Alex Dixon & Brad Robinson and Craig Penny & Stewart Fell held a 2.5 for the hosts.

The afternoon singles placed the Champions in excellent position and Ben Hutchinson made the first move with a 3&2 win against Northumberland's Phil Ridden. However, Northumberland's Matty Lamb and Alex Dixon both won 1-up against Alex Fitzpatrick and Sam Birstow.

From here-on it was Yorkshire's afternoon with Ben Firth (2&1), James Cass (2&1) Charlie Daughtery (4&3), Callum Macfie (2&1), Josh Morton (4&3) and Lewis Hollingworth (2&1) to bring the afternoon 7.5.

The final score was 11 – 7 for Yorkshire.

Durham left no 'stone' unturned against lowly Cheshire

Durham brought home a stunning result against Cheshire last week who were the away side at Tyneside Golf Club. Indeed, the morning foursomes went to the home side 6 – 0, leaving a difficult afternoon for the singles from Cheshire's point of view.

Nevertheless, it was Durham who set their stall out in the singles with wins from James Glenn (3&2), James Wilson (5&4), Jamie Birkbeck (3&2), Gavin Nesbit (2&1). In the meantime, Cheshire's Steve Capper (3&1) and Cam Massey (4&2) did their best.

But the Durham side were on a roll with another three wins from Martin McCririck, Stefan Labuschagne and Andy Bell and the match result gave Durham 13.5 – 4.5.