



## Yorkshire Star Teams

There have been many stellar performances by Yorkshire cricketers since the club's formation in 1863 but can cricketing success be ruled by the stars?

The Yorkshire CCC Handbook lists 673 players who have represented the county in first class cricket (or its equivalent) and below are the 12 teams that have been selected based on each player's star sign. There are some really interesting combinations.

The teams have been selected taking into account career records for Yorkshire but also careers with other clubs and on the international stage taking into account that modern day players get the opportunity to play in many fewer County Championship matches than their predecessors.

The squads are between 11 and 13 players – the reader can select their XI and determine the batting order.

Key:

Played as an amateur \*

Capped player ©

Born outside Yorkshire §

♈	<b>Aries</b>	<b>March 21 – April 19</b>	<b>Mars</b>
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Players	Runs	Average	Wickets	Average	Ct/St
Sidebottom, A©	4243	22.33	558	24.82	60
Wainwright, E©	11092	21.53	998	17.77	327
Barber, W©	15315	34.26	14	28.85	169
Bird, H D	613	26.65			3
Sharp, K©	8426	29.56	12	69.66	95
Drake, A ©	4789	21.76	479	18.00	93
Hartley, P J©	3844	20.66	579	30.11	60
Smailes, T F©	5686	19.14	802	20.68	153
§ Fleming, S P	469	39.08			13
§ Gillespie, J N©	640	27.82	59	34.11	4
§ Kohler-Cadmore, T©	1569	42.40			38
Plunkett, L E©	1241	28.20	98	29.84	20
Lockwood, E	7789	23.25	141	16.06	164/2

Whilst not, on the face of it, the strongest team, there are some outstanding performers and the overseas players' statistics belie their likely contribution to this team. Also a couple of players who had successful careers elsewhere in England and a couple of useful umpires, should they be required. They will relish the challenge and will come out fighting.

	<b>Taurus</b>	<b>April 20 – May 20</b>	<b>Venus</b>
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Players	Runs	Average	Wickets	Average	Ct/St
§ Rudolph J A©	5,429	52.20	1	311.00	79
Love, J D©	10,263	31.10	12	69.58	123
Moxon, M D©	18,973	43.71	22	55.13	190
§ Kruis, G J©	617	18.69	154	35.26	11
Armitage, T	1,053	13.67	107	15.08	20
Batty, J D	703	14.95	140	37.75	25
Middlebrook, J D	534	15.25	66	28.77	1
Verity, H©	3,898	17.96	1,558	13.70	191
§ Bevan, M G ©	2,823	58.81	10	72.00	24
§ Tendulkar, S R ©	1,070	46.52	4	48.75	10
Grimshaw, I	3,354	18.63			76/3

There could be a lot of work for Deon Kruis as this team is short of pace bowlers. The spin attack is lead by the great Hedley Verity and Sachin Tendulkar, for one, will be well able to score runs if pitches help the spinners. Current Director of Cricket, Martyn Moxon and County Age Group Performance Manager, Jim Love should be able to bring the best out of the Taurus team.

	<b>Gemini</b>	<b>May 21 – June 20</b>	<b>Mercury</b>
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Players	Runs	Average	Wickets	Average	Ct/St
Illingworth, R©	14,986	27.90	1,431	18.73	286
Bore, M K	481	8.43	162	30.03	27
Cowan, M J ©	170	4.72	266	24.01	37
Fletcher, S D©	414	6.90	234	34.04	25
Foord, C W	114	6.33	126	27.07	19
Hutchison, P M©	187	11.68	143	22.68	8
§ Raval, J A©	84	12.00			3
§ Brooks, J A ©	1,229	18.07	316	26.39	21
Hannon-Dalby, O J	45	3.00	43	45.06	2
Rhodes, S J	41	41.00			3
Taylor, T L *©	3,933	35.11			47/2

Ray Illingworth could have his work cut out here. He has plenty of bowling back-up but will be looking to Jeet Raval to be supporting him with the bat. Steve Rhodes can also be handy with the bat as well as being back-up keeper. This looks like one of the longest tails in first class cricket – let's see it wag so Mike Cowan can tell us all about it.



	<b>Cancer</b>	<b>June 21 – July 22</b>	<b>Moon</b>
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Players	Runs	Average	Wickets	Average	Ct/St
Denton, D©	33,282	33.38	34	28.14	360/1
Hutton, L ©	24,807	53.34	154	27.40	278
Leyland, M©	26,180	41.03	409	27.08	204
Lowson, F A©	13,897	37.25			180
Padgett, D E V ©	20,306	28.55	6	34.66	250
Appleyard, R©	679	8.59	642	15.42	70
Carrick, P ©	9,994	22.66	1,018	29.99	183
Jarvis, P W©	1,898	16.64	449	26.70	36
Nicholson, A G©	1,667	11.73	876	19.74	85
§ Lehmann, J S	384	54.85			2
§ Marsh, S E	225	112.50			1
Pinder, G	1,639	10.57	19	17.10	145/102

What a formidable team with some of the most prolific run scorers as well as a balanced attack of wicket-takers. The past players association play annual golf matches in memory of Phil Carrick and Tony Nicolson, both taken too soon and the YCCC Charitable Youth Trust was formed by merging charities linked to Sir Leonard Hutton and Bob Appleyard – their legacies live on.

	<b>Leo</b>	<b>July 23 – August 22</b>	<b>Sun</b>
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Players	Runs	Average	Wickets	Average	Ct/St
§ Hawke, Lord *©	13,133	20.26			159
Brown, J T (Driffeld) ©	15,694	29.83	177	29.28	188
Leadbeater, B©	5,247	25.10	1	5.00	80
Taylor, K©	12,864	27.37	129	28.52	146
Bowes, W E ©	1,251	8.93	1,351	15.71	118
Dawson, R K J ©	2,179	22.46	157	41.04	39
Robinson, E P©	2,596	12.54	735	20.60	189
Shahzad, Ajmal©	1,145	26.02	125	33.56	5
Wilson, D©	5,788	13.88	1,104	20.49	235
§ Katich, S M	37	18.50			1
§ Williamson, k S©	1,292	44.55	11	43.18	20
Hunter, J	1,183	7.78			207/102

Lord Hawke will surely get this team performing to the best of their ability. Runs shouldn't be a problem, particularly with the overseas players. Leo has some strong wicket takers as well with top spinners Don Wilson and Richard Dawson extending their involvement with cricket through coaching. Bill Bowes was a gentle giant but had no problem knocking batsmen over.



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	<b>Virgo</b>	<b>August 23 – September 22</b>	<b>Mercury</b>
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Players	Runs	Average	Wickets	Average	Ct/St
Hirst, G H©	32,024	34.73	2,481	18.02	518
Hutton, R A ©	4,986	20.18	468	21.91	160
Byas, D ©	14,398	35.37	12	60.58	351
Johnson, C	2,960	21.44	4	66.25	50
Mitchell, A©	18,189	37.81	5	58.20	406
Tunnicliffe, J©	19,435	27.33	7	55.42	665
§ Hamilton, G M ©	2,228	24.75	222	24.68	25
Emmett, T ©	6,315	15.07	1,216	12.71	179
Gough, D©	2,922	18.37	453	27.56	30
§ Best T L	86	9.55	18	44.05	4
Bairstow, D L ©	12,985	26.60	6	32.00	907/131
Wood, A©	8,579	21.39	1	33.00	612/243


This is a balanced side with strength in depth and outstanding skills in the field (and on the dancefloor), especially behind the stumps where Bairstow and Wood will share the gloves. Wood famously said he was “the man for a crisis” when he went in to bat at 770-6 after Richard Hutton’s father was out for 364. Tunnicliffe averaged 1.4 catches per match throughout his long career.

	<b>Libra</b>	<b>September 23 – October 22</b>	<b>Venus</b>
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Players	Runs	Average	Wickets	Average	Ct/St
Kilner, R©	13,108	30.13	857	17.33	231
McGrath, A©	14,091	37.47	128	36.34	168
Ulyett, G©	14,157	24.11	457	17.90	235
Athey, C W J ©	6,320	28.08	21	47.76	144/2
Boycott, G©	32,570	57.85	28	23.75	200
Oldroyd, E©	15,891	35.23	42	39.47	203
Patterson, S A ©	2,354	16.46	409	28.00	31
§ Martyn, D R	342	171.00			2
§ Maxwell, G J	244	40.66	4	36.00	3
§ Morkel, M	8	4.00	1	33.00	0
Bairstow, J M©	6,343	51.15			246/10
Lyth, A©	10,046	39.08	33	47.03	219
Binks, J G ©	6,745	14.69			872/172

This team should score well and we might see Boycott and Bairstow opening together. Libra is another excellent fielding side with Jimmy Binks behind the stumps. He appeared in 412 consecutive matches for Yorkshire. Good balance in the bowling with Ulyett, Patterson and Morkel bringing pace and left arm spin from Wombwell born, Kilner.



	<b>Scorpio</b>	<b>October 23 – November 21</b>	<b>Pluto</b>
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Players	Runs	Average	Wickets	Average	Ct/St
Balderstone, J C	1,332	17.76	37	21.35	24
Bates, W	6,499	20.37	637	16.78	163
Rhodes, Wilfred©	31,075	30.08	3,598	16.01	586
Robinson, Emmott©	9,651	25.53	893	21.00	318
§ Vaughan, M P©	9,160	36.20	92	46.39	55
Jackson, Hon F S *©	10,371	33.89	506	19.15	129
§ Harmison, S J	25	8.33	8	24.37	1
Aspinall, R©	763	19.07	131	20.38	18
Hill, A	1,705	8.61	542	12.91	91
§ Blewett, G S©	655	31.19	5	42.40	5
§ Finch, A J©	415	46.11	1	40.00	11
Coverdale, S P	31	7.75			11/4

Scorpio should perform well on the field with all time high wicket-taker Wilfred Rhodes supported by Hill, a round arm fast bowler who took the first wicket in test cricket. There is plenty of batting, with strong overseas batsmen to support Vaughan and Balderstone. Dream up some interesting dressing room banter with the Aussies and Tykes mixing with the Hon FS Jackson. Perhaps those with radio or TV experience (Vaughan and Coverdale) can analyse it.

	<b>Sagittarius</b>	<b>November 22 – December 21</b>	<b>Jupiter</b>
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Players	Runs	Average	Wickets	Average	Ct/St
Macaulay, G G©	5,717	17.97	1,774	17.22	361
White, C©	10,376	34.01	276	27.71	140
§ Ballance, G S ©	7,913	47.10			67
Holmes, P ©	26,220	41.95	1	124.00	319
Sutcliffe, H©	38,558	50.20	8	47.62	402
Booth, M W ©	4,244	22.69	557	19.77	114
Stevenson, G B©	3,856	20.84	464	28.56	73
§ Brathwaite, K C	40	10.00			1
Gale, A W©	7,726	35.44	1	238.00	46
Tattersall, J A	1,008	32.51			55/4
§ Brophy, G L©	3,012	30.12			176/15

This team's bowlers will be looking for hard, green wickets as it will focus on pace rather than spin. Whether that will suit the finest opening pair Yorkshire has ever had will be open to debate. Holmes and Sutcliffe had 69 century opening partnerships including the record 555 v Essex in 1932. Hard hitting support is available in the lower order if this pair can get the team off to a good start.




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	<b>Capricorn</b>	<b>December 22 – January 19</b>	<b>Saturn</b>
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Players	Runs	Average	Wickets	Average	Ct/St
Old, C M ©	4,785	23.22	647	20.72	131
Wood, B	63	12.60			4
Metcalfe, A A ©	10,465	35.11	3	114.66	72
Sharpe, P J ©	17,685	29.72	2	70.00	526
Wilson, J V ©	20,548	31.66	3	104.33	520
Coxon, A ©	2,747	18.43	464	20.53	124
Hoggard, M J ©	956	11.11	331	27.05	
Sidebottom, R J ©	1,674	14.30	450	22.50	37
Wardle, J H ©	5,765	15.96	1,539	18.13	210
§ Richardson, R B ©	1,310	34.47	1	23.00	18
Root, J E ©	3,119	45.20	17	48.64	28
Dolphin, A ©	3,325	11.50	1	28.00	569/260
Blakey, R J ©	14,150	30.96	1	68.00	768/56

This is one of the strongest teams of the more modern era with four England seam bowlers and Jonny Wardle with his left arm spin. England captain Joe Root might build on his success with off-spin and there should be no shortage of runs. Lancashire all-rounder Barry Wood makes the team, going back to his roots and Richard Blakey will likely hand over the gloves to Arthur Dolphin.

	<b>Aquarius</b>	<b>January 20 – February 18</b>	<b>Uranus</b>
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Players	Runs	Average	Wickets	Average	Ct/St
Peel, R ©	9,322	19.91	1,311	15.74	141
§ Lumb, M J ©	4,194	34.09	5	39.80	43
Bolus, J B ©	4,712	29.26	23	31.30	45
Hampshire, J H ©	21,979	34.61	24	46.16	367
Lester, E I ©	10,616	34.02	3	53.33	106
Rashid, A U ©	5,620	34.47	420	33.65	70
Trueman, F S ©	6,852	15.15	1,745	17.12	325
Waddington, A ©	2,396	12.95	835	19.40	222
§ Lehmann, D S ©	8,871	68.76	61	32.00	35
§ Pujara, C A	264	52.80			2
§ Starc, M A	28	Not out	7	21.85	0
Brennan, D V * ©	1,653	10.66			280/100

Spin pairing Rashid and Peel will be able to keep the pressure on while Trueman, Waddington and Starc rest between fiery spells. A strong, modern day batting line up should score quickly enough to force several early wins with Darren Lehman, an honorary Yorkshireman, supported by John Hampshire and former team scorer, Ted Lester. Keeper, Don Brennan is a safe pair of hands behind the sticks.



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♋	<b>Pisces</b>	<b>February 19 – March 20</b>	<b>Neptune</b>
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Players	Runs	Average	Wickets	Average	Ct/St
Close, D B©	22,650	31.94	967	24.29	564
Hartley, S N ©	4,193	24.37	42	48.85	47
Yardley, N W D *©	11,632	31.95	195	29.83	220
Lumb, R G©	11,525	31.57			129
Watson, W ©	13,953	38.22			170
Cope, G A ©	2,241	14.00	630	24.80	64
Haigh S©	10,993	19.05	1,876	15.61	276
Peate, E©	1,793	10.86	794	12.57	97
Silverwood, C E W©	2,369	16.22	427	27.62	30
§ Inzamam-ul-Haq	89	22.25			5
§ Willey, D J©	298	18.62	30	33.83	3
Bresnan, T T©	5,594	28.39	445	30.70	89
Hunter, D ©	4,177	11.66			863/323

This Piscean team is packed with all-rounders so whatever the conditions or state of play of the match should be able to pull something out of the bag. Brian Close did the “Double” in his first season as a cricketer aged 18 and ended with nearly 35,000 runs after his careers with Yorkshire, Somerset and England. David Hunter has made more dismissals than any other Yorkshire keeper. Definitely a team to watch.