

Shaftoe YFC in National Jump Rope final

On the 6th May 2018, at the Young Farmers AGM in Blackpool, Shaftoe YFC took to the stage to compete in the national jump rope competition.

The journey began back in December when James Little, Connie Moore, Mary Craney and Laura Mole won the Northumberland stage at Kirkwhelpington having only practised the full routine half an hour before the performance. Luckily everything went smoothly and Shaftoe beat off competition to advance to the next round at the Northern Area stage in Scarborough.

The diverse team, consisting of a student veterinary nurse, a singer, a university graduate and an apprentice electrical engineer, again performed to the highest standard at the Northern Area Weekend to claim victory, 2 points ahead of 2nd place Lancashire.

After numerous practices in Hexham Auction Mart carpark, interspersed with work, Young Farmers activities and other miscellaneous events, the team headed to Blackpool to showcase the brand-new routine comprising of crossovers, double-under, skiers and other skills.



During a weekend marked in all Young Farmers' diaries as an event not to be missed, the jump rope final took place on the Sunday at 14:00pm in the Empress Ballroom at the Winter Gardens. A total of 9 teams took part in the competition with Gloucestershire YFC taking first prize.

Shaftoe was 6th to perform the routine, with all 4 members giving 100%. The audience was fully behind the team cheering them on all the way. Club Chairman, James Little, said: "We went to Blackpool with the aim of making both our small club and Northumberland proud. Although we didn't win, the whole experience was one we will never forget and I would encourage all YFC members to get involved with activities outside of their comfort zone as you can have so much fun as a result."

Overall Shaftoe finished in 6th position with a score of 64 points, having gained 33 points in the single rope freestyle and 31 in the double dutch. Considering it was their first national final, it is an achievement to be proud of.

