



# DRIFFIELD R.U.F.C.

Member of The Rugby Football Union and Yorkshire Rugby Football Union

[www.driffieldrufc.com](http://www.driffieldrufc.com)

## Newsletter

### President's notes

It's December already and my year in the office is in full swing. I have seen some great matches and some very frustrating ones, but have been very proud of the open running rugby played by the 1st team. If you have not seen them yet I recommend watching on a Saturday. It bears testament to the coaching staff and the positive attitude of all the senior teams.

I have spent some enjoyable Sundays watching the mini/junior teams and have seen some great performances. The talent of some of our younger players is promising for the future of our senior teams. It is good to see many players, past and present, putting so much back to the future of our club. Mention must be made to Steve Watts and Rick Lowe who are running from Blackpool to Driffield to raise money for the boys to go on tour.

It is good to see Mitch back around the club after his operation. It will be sad not to see him on the pitch again (another one of the few left who I played with).

Sadly, during these first few months, we have lost three club members. Rob Horner, with whom I've played many matches, was a well respected prop forward and it is nice to see his son Peter playing in the junior sides. John Farnsworth was a long standing

supporter of the club – carrying on the family tradition. I frequently saw him at the paper shop and he was always interested in what was happening at the club. Stewart Megginson was not only a great friend of my father, but also of myself and my son Ben, which showed how he crossed the generation divide and was a popular guy with all ages. He certainly showed us all how to tour in Spain and was an ex-President and Captain of the club. He will be sadly missed by all.



Finally, one of the first things that struck me when taking on this role as President was how well our club is run. After my first committee meeting I came away very satisfied that our club is in good hands with some very committed members. They are doing a fine job working tirelessly and professionally behind the scenes. As always, more people are needed to get involved. It is up to us all to drive our club forward.

Thanks.

**Steve Cooper**  
President DRUFC

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### Director's cut

**Pat (Bash) Burdass**  
Director of Rugby

We are well into the season now and after a slow start I feel we are gradually starting to play as well as I know we can. Greg, Ces and Luke are doing an excellent job at training with numbers being as high as I have ever known. It is a squad and we will need many of the 2nd XV players to play 1st XV rugby before the end of the season. Fortunately, the 2nd XV have had an excellent start to the season and are currently top of the Yorkshire Premier League. A mixture of youth, experience and team spirit have got them there.



Billingham, all sides are capable of beating each other. There are going to be many close, hard fought games before the season is over.

The 3rd XV and 4th XV are now playing regularly and under the captaincies of James Green and Butch are nurturing many younger players into senior rugby. At the same time they are successfully persuading the older ones to keep playing.

My thanks go to all the junior coaches who continue to produce players for senior rugby. It is crucial that we retain them after they progress from the U17s.

I feel at the moment the rugby side of the club is in pretty good health, but we will not be resting on our laurels with much hard work to be done before April comes around.

As the table shows, it is proving to be a very competitive league and with the exception of

**Keep it up**  
**Bash**



# Newsletter

## Southern Districts

Andrew Kitching

If you were at the AGM, you may recall me informing the meeting that it was our intention not to recruit any new players from overseas. 'So!' you say, 'What is Jordan McGregor (new fly half) doing here?' Well, let me explain:



Everybody remembers Mike Black & Steve Peters from Australia. They answered an advertisement on the internet when Driffield RUFC was trying to recruit new players. They came over, had a brilliant two year spell with us, formed a very special relationship with members and made friendships that will last a life time.

Since then we have hosted a number of players from Southern Districts Rugby Club, Sydney, Australia. Can you remember Messrs Huber, Simons, Matt Cole, Luke Knotley, Kerry Wood, Brendan Kennedy, Mick Kauter, and of course Luke Thomson & Craig Gray who both returned unsponsored this season. Luke was previously the club captain and Craig wears the arm band this season. In return, a number of Driffield lads travelled and played at Southern Districts; Kyle Dench, Richard Stephenson, Rich Anderson, Rob Kitching and Paul Dervey, all who had a ball!

Driffield RUFC has enjoyed a mutual relationship with Southern Districts RFC for many years. When I informed Steve Peters that we would not be recruiting from Aussie this season, their Chairman responded positively. He asked if the relationship could be developed and made more official, with a view to exchanging players every season. The idea

progressed with the help of Harry Peters (Steve's father) and hence Jordan appeared. The agreement is that Southern Districts will sponsor a young player each season to travel to Driffield if we take care of the accommodation, work etc. In return we can send a young player to Southern Districts on the same arrangement. We feel this is a fantastic partnership that has been created over the years and it is due to the fact that Driffield RUFC officials, coaches, players and members have made these Southern District lads so welcome. Long may it continue.

Names please of candidates to travel to Sydney!

## Farmer wants a wife

Driffield RUFC was broadcast nationwide on network television recently. 1st XV back row forward Jimmy Stephenson appeared on the Channel 5 TV series 'Farmer Wants a Wife'. Filming took place in the late spring, early summer and was finally screened as an hour long programme in October.

Jimmy had to shortlist four girls, from an initial group of ten, and invite them to spend a few days with him back on the farm. Complete with film crew, Jim brought one of his 'prospective wives' to DRUFC in April to watch the home game against Penrith. The episode contained brief footage out on the pitch and several minutes of activity in the clubhouse after the game.

Jimmy seemed to connect with one of the girls but has not relinquished his bachelor status. Unfortunately presenter Louise Redknapp was already spoken for!



Jimmy Stephenson +2

## Craft fayre

At the recent Craft Fayre organised by the Ladies Committee almost £1000 was raised for the club funds. DRUFC waitress Fiona Pickering participated with a Christmas stall.



## Mike Bradshaw

Driffield youngster, Mike Bradshaw, selected as prop for Yorkshire U18 has gone forward to trials for North of England U18. **Well done Mike!**



## Quote

On Jonah Lomu: "I've seen a lot people like him, but they weren't playing on the wing."

Colin Meads (1995)

## Mini junior rugby

### Andrew Chapman

Mini junior rugby at Driffield continues to thrive, with teams at all age groups representing the club.

Sunday mornings at Kelleythorpe provide a fantastic snapshot of what youth sport should be all about.

We have some 200 young members wearing the blue, white and black this autumn. They are supported by a band of dedicated parents, a team of over 40 coaches and helpers, and 15 players drawn from the senior squad.



This year we have brought together the mini/junior and the senior sections of the club with the aim of cultivating a 'one club' feel. Involving the senior players in training sessions at all levels has been of great benefit. Pat Burdass has devised a schedule of support for the junior teams implemented by coaching coordinator Carl Nellist. Carl also identifies extra coaching needs for each individual team and recommends to the coaches the skills training sessions that are available throughout the season.

On the field competition has been fierce with all teams performing well. Recent highlights include a great away win for the U13s at Yarnbury in the Yorkshire Cup. The U9s found it hard going in their festival games due to several injuries but there is evidence of improvement in this small band of talented players. The U10s finished a very creditable third in their festival as did the U11s and U12s which qualifies these two teams for the Yorkshire Cup (at the expense of Ionians). Well done to them! The U14s, U15s and U16s all had tough draws in the Yorkshire Cup and each had to settle for an honourable defeat. All three teams have in recent

weeks put in gutsy performances: an 80 point victory at Bridlington (U14s); a narrow defeat away at Ripon even though several key players were missing (U15s); and a draw at home to Bridlington with a tenacious defensive display (U16s). The U17s, despite not having played many games this season were able to win a hard fought encounter away at Huddersfield 7-5.

At the younger end the mini Woldsmen at U7s and U8s are acquitting themselves very well. The U7s have won the majority of their games and the U8s have only lost once all season. It is encouraging that both teams are expanding in numbers. A special mention must be given to Steve Watts and Rick Lowe (U11s) for raising a considerable sum of money for tour funds by running from coast to coast. Total dedication. Keep up the good work everyone!

### Seal of Approval and Clubmark

Driffield RUFC has achieved yet another milestone with the award of accreditation for the Mini and Youth Seal of Approval and the Sport England Clubmark Scheme.

The RFU introduced the Mini and Youth Seal of Approval accreditation programme in 2002 as a method of examining, maintaining and improving the provision of rugby in the mini and youth section of a rugby club. Building upon current good practice, the accreditation aims to recognise the effort and achievement of those clubs that reach, maintain and improve on the required standard of a club committed to the provision of quality rugby union experiences for young players.

The RFU has worked with Sport England to integrate the Mini and Youth Seal of Approval accreditation with the Sport England Clubmark Scheme to ensure that safe, effective, child-friendly club standards are met.

**Well done Driffield!**



## Club shop

Fiona Bell has kindly volunteered to take over the running of the Club Shop. It is open most Sundays between 10am – 1pm and stocks a range of kit, rugby accessories and DRUFC merchandise. Many thanks to Barbara Fairfield for the last five years.



## [www.buy.at/driffieldruffc](http://www.buy.at/driffieldruffc)

Shop and support Driffield RUFC this Christmas. Karen Clark has set up an online webshop that links to 150 top retailers. For every purchase made through this link the Club receives a donation. Check it out at [www.buy.at/driffieldruffc](http://www.buy.at/driffieldruffc)

## Subscriptions

Any outstanding annual subscriptions are now well overdue. Please see Adrian Harrison or JH or leave a cheque with Mitch.

### MINI & JUNIOR PLAYING FEES

For those who pay half yearly, the second payment of £25 will be due in the New Year. Adrian Harrison or Karen Clark will be in the clubhouse 3rd Jan & 10th Jan to receive these.

### Quote

*Before the New Zealand v England World Cup semi-final: "Remember that rugby is a team game; all 14 of you make sure you pass the ball to Jonah."*

Anon (1995)

## Under the lights

### Mike Furbank

Development activity has been a feature of Driffield Rugby Club for a number of years but the desire to really get it moving is down to



John Harrison who had a vision for the club which is manifested in some of the best facilities in the North of England. We all owe a debt to John for his commitment and drive and having the faith in people around him to make things happen.

The erection of a new set of training lights on the Mucky Dick Lane training pitches has marked the latest stage in recent development activity.

This last phase was started when, having achieved the RFU Clubmark Seal of Approval, our development plan, which was widely consulted upon, was judged to be good by the RFU capital programme director and we were invited to take part in the capital programme.

Members of the club and the two committees (now one) mini-junior and the executive had identified that we needed, as a priority, more space under lights to really develop our younger players and to ensure that our senior teams had space to focus on their training.

By doubling the space under lights we have also made it possible to have training on the nights when there are 'floodlit' games and fully commit to supporting Yorkshire and East Riding RFU as a key training facility.

The local RFU members were very supportive of our wish to have the lights installed, our thanks to Steve Watson and Alex Bowden for their support.

However, it doesn't begin or end with the lights – development activity has brought us a new clubhouse, a floodlit artificial pitch, the agreement to bring the first team pitch to the side of clubhouse and have the two further pitches on 'loan' from the Driffield Showground. More importantly, it has brought us a healthy club turning out four adult teams every weekend, mini-junior teams from under 7s to under 17s and a thriving group of volunteers and coaches. There is no point in having brilliant facilities if there is no one to play on them and no one interested in watching.

The next phase in the club development will be focused on people not facilities. We need to make sure that Driffield Rugby Club goes from strength to strength. To do that we need the support of every member, young and old and the continuing supply of good young players regardless of the level which they play their adult rugby. Driffield Rugby club is going places and we want you on board for the journey!



New lights on Mucky Dick Lane

## Counting the pennies

### Mark Goodson

Unlike last season (2007/08) when the club had to go cap in hand to certain benefactors for our own version of quantitative easing, the clubs financial situation has slowly improved.



A lot of hard work was put in by Mitch, Karen and the rest of the club staff, as they devised a number of revenue earners (especially the Sunday lunches) which kept the cash churning through the club in the very lean summer period. This helped enormously with cash flow and made sleep a lot easier for myself and the chairman. This was not the case during the summer of 2008.

The 2009/10 season has started off steadily with an improvement in takings at the bar but there has been

a noticeable downturn in sponsorship both in lump sums coming into the club and on match day sponsorship. This is, no doubt, a result of the dire financial situation the country finds itself in. Sponsorship is the lifeblood of the club so if you know of any person or company interested in putting money into the club, please contact the sponsorship committee and they'll send the boys (money extraction operatives!) round.

Over the next three seasons my main aim is to make the club debt free. Unfortunately, unlike the government I can not print money to pay off what we owe. This will mean that we have to find £15,000 this season and £10,000 each in the two subsequent seasons to achieve this. This will put pressure on cash flow and we will not be able to spend on some of the capital items that have been identified. The priority is that we provide all that is necessary for the players and the support staff to perform at the highest level on the field. All in all, the finances are in reasonable shape and with the continued support of members and sponsors, I am confident that this will continue.

### Quote

On Jonah Lomu: "There's no doubt about it, he's a big bastard."

Gavin Hastings (1995)

REMEMBER: the club needs your support

## EVENTS

**12th Dec.** S Factor – Sport's Got Talent

**31st Dec**  
New Year Ball

**2nd Jan**  
Steve Knowles Memorial Game

**22nd Jan**  
Sportsman's Dinner

**31st Jan**  
120 Club Lunch

**13th Feb.** Valentine's Fancy Dress Disco

**13th March**  
Frog Racing

**26th March**  
Mini Junior Dinner

**1st April**  
Senior Players' Dinner

**11th April**  
120 Club Lunch

**17th April**  
Mini Rugby Festival

**30th April**  
A Night of Clairvoyance

**1st May**  
May Ball

**2nd May**  
Family Fun Day