



# DRIFFIELD R.U.F.C.

Member of The Rugby Football Union and Yorkshire Rugby Football Union  
www.driffieldruffc.com

## Newsletter

### President's notes

I can hardly believe the season has come to an end and my year as president is almost over. It has been a most enjoyable year and I have loved every minute of it. I would like to thank you all for supporting me, it has been an honour and a pleasure.

I wish Dave Watt every success next season in his role of Club President.

In the last few weeks there have been several Club social functions to which I have had the pleasure of attending; namely the mini junior dinner, the senior players' and members' dinner and the May Ball.

The mini junior dinner was an ideal opportunity to meet the supporters and parents of the younger members of our Club. It was a most enjoyable evening and delightful for me to see so many different faces.

The senior players' and members' dinner was a memorable night and, as always, conducted in the true spirit that makes our Club so special. It is refreshing to see players paying tribute to their fellow team members and recognising the areas in which they have excelled and made contribution during the season. The accolades were well deserved and well received by players from all of our senior teams. Well done to all those who won awards!

The May Ball this year was a huge success and I am sure all of those who attended will have had a memorable night. It was important for us to resurrect

the Ball and get it back to the intensity and revelry of times gone by. The band was superb and ensured the dance floor was filled all night; even I was up there shaking it about! The 'bucking bronco' was a sterner test for me, albeit the ladies showed the chaps how it should be done!

Other highlights were the U15's and U16's county finals, the Driffield Mini Festival and winning the award of the Dennis Cobbold Shield.

On behalf of the Club I would like to thank our retiring chairman Andrew Kitching for the tireless work and resource he has put into DRUFC over the past decade. It was no easy task to take over from John Harrison, who we all thought was impossible to follow. Andrew accepted the challenge and has elevated the Club to an even higher tier.

The management structure he put in place ensures the Club will continue to run in a professional manner. I wish Andrew Chapman every success and support as the incoming Chairman and I am confident the Club will remain progressive and keep rugby at the forefront.

Thanks.

Steve Cooper  
President DRUFC



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### National Recognition

We are delighted to announce that DRUFC has won 3 significant awards this season.

We have been judged as one of the leading clubs in the country for providing our young people with the very best support and the highest standard of care in the delivery of rugby.

1. Yorkshire and North East Yorkshire Seal of Approval Club of the Year.
2. Runner up in the national RFU Seal of Approval Club of the Year 2010 Competition.
3. The Dennis Cobbold Memorial Shield awarded to us by the Yorkshire RFU in April 2010.

'In recognition of outstanding accomplishments and contributions in the provision of a safe and secure environment in which young people can develop and play the game of rugby union'

### Player Awards

Player awards 2009-10 season

1st XV Player of the Year - Jordan McGregor  
2nd XV Player of the Year - Gary Lazenby  
3rd XV Player of the Year - Nathan Cartwright  
4th XV Player of the Year - Matthew Harrison  
Most Improved Player - Henry Waterhouse  
Young Player of the Year - Tom Hardy  
Clubman of the Year - Steve Watt  
President's Cup Winner - Dom Thompson



## Director's cut

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



The season passed by very quickly and although it was disappointing to lose the last two games I feel it has been a successful one for the first team both on and off the field.

Having won half of our games, finishing seventh was a true reflection of our overall performance. We played very well on some Saturdays and not so well on others.

Our consistency must improve next season if we are to challenge the top teams. We endeavour to play entertaining rugby and having scored 116 tries in the season, I feel we have achieved that objective. I hope that those of you who have watched us have enjoyed your Saturday afternoons.

The 2nd XV had an excellent season in the Yorkshire Premier League with notable wins against Hull, Harrogate and Morley. They fulfilled all their fixtures, a feat which very few other clubs managed to do in

that league. That is a testament to the excellent spirit shown by all throughout the season. The leadership of Colin Lucas was a major factor in the success.

The 3rd XV and 4th XV have had varying degrees of success. It is so important for the Club that both these teams are still turning out on a Saturday afternoon. The 3rd XV have had over 80 players play for them!

Many thanks must go to James Green and Butch for their effort and commitment in providing rugby for the young and old. Without the lower teams Driffield does not have a true Club. Butch has decided to stand down from his role as 4th XV captain. DRUFC is greatly indebted to him for his services over the years. Selection meetings will not be quite the same!

In general, rugby at the Club is in good health from U7's through to the 1st XV. We all need to ensure the same good work by all, coaches and players, continues next season.

Finally, my thanks to all of you who have supported all the teams on a Saturday or Sunday; have an enjoyable summer and I hope to see you all next season.

**Thanks  
Bash**

## Ladies' Committee

The DRUFC Ladies' Committee raises funds for special provisions that the Club would ordinarily have to hire, borrow or simply do without.



As members we need to offer continued support and recognition for the Ladies' efforts by attending the events that they organise. The combined result of these efforts and support will benefit the Club in many ways.

The Ladies' Committee was initially formed in 2002 with the purpose of raising money to buy the circular dining tables that we use for sponsorship lunches and many other functions.

At that time the tables had to be hired on a weekly basis. Small items such as carving knives and crockery, the big screen projector and new bar stools were all added to the list of Ladies' Committee purchases.

In recent years the Committee has helped with the funding of local rugby development officers and provided an array of tracksuits, training tops, playing kit, kit bags, and travel shirts for the Driffield senior teams.

For the physiotherapy room it has bought various items of equipment such as the stretcher, neck brace, and ice machine.

The scrummage machine and the pitch side dugouts are also provided courtesy of the Ladies' Committee. Within the last year the Ladies have funded the new TV video/audio system in the Clubhouse and made a contribution to the new floodlights.

Successful organised events range from X Factor talent shows to evenings of clairvoyance, from Halloween Balls to Christmas Fayres and from frog racing to Ladies' Nights.

In 2009 the 'Scrummy Mummies' from the mini/junior section combined with the Ladies' Committee to synergise their efforts. The Committee now comprises of Mandy Cooper, Clare Binnington, Sandra Foster, Karen Clark, Yvonne Watt and Rachael Dinsdale. Mandy and Yvonne are two of the original 2002 members.

The Ladies' Committee raised almost £5000 last year and believes that with extra support from the playing members there is the potential to increase to £7500. These funds will be reinvested back into the Club. By utilising this asset, we not only improve our facility for playing rugby and social activity but we also enhance the value of the Club to the local community and encourage future generations of players and supporters to join us.

## Quote

*"The relationship between the Welsh and the English is based on trust and understanding. They don't trust us and we don't understand them."*

Dudley Wood (1986)

## Kitch's corner



It is fair to say we have had a reasonable season on and off the field. The rugby moves from strength to strength and the business side continues to improve. Membership levels remain constant in contrast to many clubs that experience diminishing numbers. We have a capable and professional team on the Executive Committee all committed to support and promote rugby for DRUFC.

I regularly boast about our assets at the Club. In fun my Malton friends call our Clubhouse the 'Travel Lodge'. My response is to smile and point out that the facilities are second to none and more akin to the Hilton.

We not only have six full size pitches (two with floodlights) but also additional areas for mini/junior pitches. All have fantastic playing surfaces, and are drained, marked and posted. We have a floodlit 'all weather' pitch and excellent parking facilities.

There are six full sized changing rooms all with showers and toilets. We ensure that players always have a substantial meal and we provide a social environment which is modern, warm and friendly. The whole facility is well maintained, clean and tidy. How far do you go to find all that?

**All this of course incurs an expense! It costs £4,000 per week, 52 weeks per year, to run the 'Travel Lodge'.**

We have managed to hold our heads above the water this season, only just, but it is significantly more difficult year on year to remain financially stable. We frequently analyse our revenue streams and in general the business side of the club (letting,

functions, weddings etc) continues to improve. The revenue from the membership however (subscriptions, match levies, social functions) disappointingly does not.

**As members we need to ask ourselves questions and make important decisions.**

Do we increase the membership contribution by supporting more social functions or do we increase the subscription fees and match levies?

How many sports clubs do we know that provide such excellent facilities as DRUFC and only charge fees of £50.00 and less? It is clear that over the past couple of seasons the social events organised for the membership have not been well supported. Some events have even had to be cancelled at the last minute!

I have asked our Membership Director, Adrian Harrison, to form a committee to specifically look at subscriptions and levies. It is my view that subscriptions need to increase across the board, with the possibility of removing match levies altogether. I will receive Adrian's recommendations before the AGM in July.

You will all be aware that Andrew Chapman is taking over from me as Club Chairman. Andrew's commitment will be second to none. He has the drive, the knowledge, and the vision to take our wonderful Club to its next level. I will personally give him all the support he needs, I hope you will too. My ten years as Chairman have been very busy but very enjoyable. I feel DRUFC has risen to new heights at all levels, and long may it continue. Thanks to you all for your support.

**"Remember our club is 'Run for Rugby, Driven by Rugby'"**

Thanks  
Kitch

## Driffield Show

### Volunteers Needed For Driffield Show

The Driffield Show takes place on Wednesday 21 July and this year the Club has again been commissioned by the Agricultural Society to run the entry kiosks.

This secures one of our largest annual donations into club funds at a time in the year, the middle of the closed season, when cash flow is critical. We need as many volunteers as we can get to give up their time to join the large team who will staff the gates, collect and count the ticket money.

Jobs are available from 6.30am to 6.00pm and whether you can give up your full day, half a day or just a couple of hours ANYTHING will be a valued contribution to this major fundraising effort. Please contact Adrian Harrison (or any member of the

Executive Committee) if you can put your name forward or wish to ask any questions about what is required on the day.

**Tel. 01377 254452 or 07786 444363**

## Match reports

Many thanks to our resident match reporter Ian Douglas and understudy Ross Weekes for providing the local newspapers and Driffieldruffc.com with a comprehensive report of the 1stXV games.

'Intrepid Reporter' Douglas is already sharpening his pencil for the new season and 'Welsh Bard' Weekes has shaken off the gout injury and is preparing to pace the touchline. We are hoping to add depth to the squad this season by signing Rod Dukes to the team. 'The Duke' will surely add a 3-dimensional approach to sentence structure.

## Quote

*To young Welshman Dai Young after some 'creative play' – "Do that again son and you will live up to your name"*  
- Gareth Chilcott

## Mini junior rugby

### Andrew Chapman



Summer is almost here and it is time to reflect on a truly wonderful season of rugby provided for us by our mini and junior teams. Despite losing a significant chunk of the season to the harsh weather conditions over the Christmas period all teams have progressed well both in terms of skill level and results. This has resulted in a flurry of cup and league games and topped with a truly magnificent festival that was a credit to the whole Club.

The U17's season was disrupted more than most but they can be justifiably proud of finishing equal top in the Junior Colts League, sharing top position with Harrogate.

The U16's reached the final of the Bowl competition and played at West Park, Leeds. They were unable to show their true potential in a disappointing game losing 3-0 to Old Rishworthians. The lads have worked so hard this season and although denied the opportunity to express their full talents in the final there was still enough evidence to suggest that next season could be full of promise.

The U15s also reached the final of the Bowl. In the semi-final they drew away at Old Brodleians forcing a replay in which they won by one point with the last kick of the game. In the final they faced a tough Middlesbrough side that was just too good on the day and had to settle for the runners up position. The U15's can be proud of their achievements this season providing not only a Yorkshire captain but five regional players.

The U14's finished the season with two heavy defeats but in general had a positive season. The highlight was a great home win against Sheffield

where they showed evidence of what is to come with a display of slick handling and direct running.

The U13's won 19 games this year and played exciting, open rugby. The tour was no exception when they toured south to beat Market Bosworth and Vipers during a very successful weekend.

In the Mini section highlights include the U12s winning the cup at the Driffield Festival playing their best rugby to beat Ionians in the first round. The U10's U11's U12's all went on tour to the North East, acquitting themselves well and representing the Club in a professional manner on and off the field.

Rumour has it that the U9's have improved so much this year that even their coach has been seen with a smile on his face. Well done boys, a great end to the year! In the U7's and U8's the numbers continue to increase and the wins continue to accumulate. Congratulations to all involved at the younger end of the scale.

The Driffield Mini Festival was a huge success for the Club attracting some 1300 players from 88 teams to Kelleythorpe. Thanks go to Dave Stephenson for months of hard work and to Karen Clark for her usual reliability and organisation. Thanks also to the many volunteers who refereed games, managed pitches, kept score, parked cars, baked buns, sold buns and tended to the wounded. Volunteers comprised, parents, senior players, junior players, supporters, the Executive Committee and the Club President. You are all a tribute to the Club - well done everyone, a magnificent effort!

I would like to thank all the coaches for their hard work and cooperation throughout the season, particularly to Carl Nellist in the role of coaching coordinator. Thanks also to Adrian Harrison (membership), Malcolm Bell (welfare) and Karen Clark. Driffield RUFC reaps the benefit of having such a band of volunteers, dedicated to the ethos of the Club. **"The future looks bright for blue, black and white!"**

Chappie

## Statistics

In the North East 1 2009-10 season Driffield scored 480 points, the 2nd highest total in the league.

Lee Birch was the league's highest individual scorer with a tally of 270 points. Tom Wright was the league's 2nd highest try scorer with 19, Lee Birch 3rd with 18.

Amazingly, 5 Driffield players appear in the top 20 try scorers: Tom Wright 19 (2nd), Lee Birch 18 (3rd), Alasdair McClarron 12 (10th), James Short 10 (12th) and Jordan Macgregor 7 (16th). Lee Birch kicked 180 points (42 cons & 32 pens) the 3rd highest in the league.

### Quote

*"Look what these bastards have done to Wales. They've taken our coal, our water, our steel. They buy our houses and they only live in them for a fortnight every 12 months. What have they given us? - Absolutely nothing. We've been exploited, raped, controlled and punished by the English - and that's who you are playing this afternoon."* Phil Bennett (1977) Pre-game pep talk before facing England

Brad Webster compiles the statistics for the Club and for the new season we will be adding a section to the DRUFC website for Brad to display his up to date facts and figures.

## Sunday lunch

Join Mitch and his team in the summer as Sunday Lunches will again be a feature of activity in the Clubhouse. A selection of roast lunches will be available every Sunday throughout June, July and August. Main courses are £6.50 and a selection of starters and desserts are available. Lunches are served from 11am - 3pm.



## EVENTS

**REMEMBER  
THE AGM  
6TH JULY 2010**

## STOP PRESS

Lee Birch has arrived in Sydney and plays his first game for Southern Districts on May 29th