



# DRIFFIELD R.U.F.C.

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

## Newsletter

### From the chair

**Andrew Kitching**

Although I cannot disguise this year's disappointment on the 1st XV field, I can inform you that the club as a whole is going from strength to strength. We certainly punch above our weight when compared with other clubs in our league and in our area. We continue to field four sides every week, have a full house at the mini-junior level and have facilities that are second to none.

Financial sustainability is always a pressing topic for the club Executive Committee and I must be thankful for the quality and number of sponsors that are attracted to the club. Without such support we would not be able to continue to invest in or maintain our wonderful facility. We cannot, however, afford to stand still. We must keep improving our performance on and off the pitch, so it is imperative that support continues at all levels. With this in mind I would urge all our supporters and members to spread the word regarding the availability and quality of our facilities for private hire.

We are fortunate in having a 'core strength' in our management team and our team of volunteers who give up their free time to make it work. You all do an excellent job and are much valued. I would like to

thank the unsung heroes who carry out their duties every week (you know who you are). Without you guys it wouldn't happen. In particular, I am grateful to our Ladies Committee for their dedication and level of hard work in raising much needed development funds.

Running a modern and progressive rugby club is not easy and expertise is required in all departments. Changes are afoot within the management structure which hopefully will encourage new blood to join us in the club's endeavours.

The club is rightly all about the game of rugby. The components are the players, the coaches, and the members. Our main objective is to field as many sides as we can every Saturday, to play the game for DRIFFIELD R.U.F.C. and to wear the blue, black and white shirt.....I think we do this pretty well.

**Have a great summer.  
AMK**



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### Director's cut

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

The end of the season seems to have come round very quickly, it has certainly been another hard one and probably our most difficult for a number of years. What has been particularly pleasing to me is how, as a group of players, we have stuck together and come through the troubled times, producing some of our best rugby at the end of the season, especially against Doncaster and Aspatia.

Even in the games we lost against Billingham and Beverley we still played some very good rugby. It was important that we had a good finish to the season and I feel that we have. There are many positives to take into pre-season training and the start of the new league campaign in September.



We had 43 players play for the first 15, as a club we are very lucky to have such strength in depth. Congratulations to the other senior teams who have all had a good season winning many matches, but more importantly, introducing younger players into senior rugby. It is something as a club we do very well. Special congratulations go to Butch's 4th team who yet again reached the play-off semi finals of their league only to be beaten in a close game against BP chemicals 12-0.

Finally, may I thank all the coaches, captains and players for their continued effort during the season, and the valued support from our many spectators.



Coach Greg Bone

I am delighted to announce that Greg Bone and Ces Cellar will continue with the coaching duties next season

**I hope you all have a well  
earned break.  
Bash**



## Valentine's fancy dress

The Valentine fancy dress evening raised funds for prostate cancer and the Spanish tour. A huge effort

was made by all who attended, with the best costume award going to a pair of angels, John Dervey and Becky Maw.



## Players' dinner

The following awards were presented at the Players' Dinner on April 9th. The evening was organised by John Harrison and was attended by 140 players, members and selected guests from other clubs.



Club Person of the Year  
(Jack Shores Shield): Adrian Harrison



1st XV Player of the Year:  
Tom Wright



President's Cup:  
Karl Nellist



Young Player of the Year:  
Harvey Harding



2nd XV Player of the Year:  
Gary Shipley



3rd XV Player of the Year:  
Chris Bradshaw



4th XV Player of the Year:  
Gary Lazenby



Most Improved Player:  
Joe Shepherdson

## Quote

*"You've got to get your first tackle in early, even if it's late."*

Ray Gravell

## Mini junior rugby

### Karen Clark

Since our last newsletter in January, our players have gone from strength to strength in terms of numbers, individual performances and most importantly, team performances.



**East Yorkshire U14**  
Charles Elvidge, Jacob Sheader, Ben Lawrence, Johnny Baker, George Braham, Barra Ward & Sam Pratt.

**East Yorkshire U13 -**  
Back L to R: Jack Newby, Jamie Hoggard.  
Front L to R: Matty Baker, Lloyd Wheeldon.

The influence of more focused coaching techniques and invaluable support from our senior club players and coaching team, coupled with the continued dedication and commitment of our own coaches has given everyone the motivation to move forward and take on the challenges presented with confidence. For the mini teams this has resulted in the Under 11s winning the Doncaster Festival, the Under 7s and 12s winning the Driffeld Festival and all other mini teams finishing in 2nd or 3rd place.

For the junior sides, the Under 13s and 14s had a total of 12 players selected to play for East Yorkshire with James Dinsdale from the Under 14s and Mike Bradshaw from the Under 17s selected to play for Yorkshire. Our Under 15s team reached the semi final of the Yorkshire Plate competition and one of their players, Adam Hammond, has been selected to play for the Scottish Exiles team, and finally, our Under 16s team are proud winners of the Yorkshire Bowl, beating Selby 26-3. Damien Hancock was awarded the Colts Cup for Colts Player of the Year. All in all a pretty good season we are sure you will agree.



**James Dinsdale -**  
Yorkshire U14



**Mike Bradshaw -**  
Yorkshire U17

As a club we have hosted a successful East Yorkshire Festival and an even more successful mini festival that included 53 teams at the end of last month. Our hospitality at these events and generally throughout the season has raised our profile within the rugby setting significantly and through improved communications with our local community we feel we have taken that one step further and we would like to thank all of you budding 'journalists' for the time you have spent putting together some impressive match reports.

With your help and support, the Scrummy Mummies have raised over £3,500 through various fund raising activities and we hope to see you all at our last event of the season on Sunday 31st May 2009 between 2pm - 6pm when will be hosting an afternoon of fun filled entertainment not to be missed.

Finally, on behalf of the mini junior section we would like to express our thanks to you all for helping us achieve so much. We would particularly like to thank our Club President Rob Leason and his wife Elaine for the tremendous support they have given all teams throughout the season. We hope you all have a relaxed summer and we look forward to seeing you

## Frog racing

The Ladies Committee organised the annual Frog Racing event on April 4th. This is a family event and a useful fundraiser for the Club. Jockey Sam Beachell hopped home first past the post and earned extra pocket money for winning owner Will Ollett.



**Stressful moment:** The suspense is too much for Will.

## Race night

Accumulators and speculators pitted their wits against the tote at the Race night on April 18th. Joint owners Silky Anderson and Chris McClarron watched their horse romp home in style.



**Tip of the day from owners Silky & Chris:** "Just be yourself and have an eye for a fine filly!"

### Quote

"We've lost seven of our last eight matches. Only team that we've beaten was Western Samoa.  
Good job we didn't play the whole of Samoa."

Gareth Davies (1989)

## President's notes

### Rob Leason



Over the season I have enjoyed many varied social events and met lots of interesting people. I have debated front row play with Geoff Probyn and discussed laying bricks with ex bricklayer Gordon Banks.

I have met Harley Davidson riders, airline pilots, and the future RFU President among the officials at opposing clubs. At Bower Park, Aspatria I was joined by a lady in her 80s enjoying her first ever game of rugby. It has also been a pleasure to welcome our first lady life member at DRUFC, Shirley Nunn.

I have been fortunate to experience first hand the hospitality of the Mini/Junior section. It was such an honour to be asked to present the trophies at our recent Mini Festival attended by some 53 participating teams.

In March we were invited to join the U13s tour to Durham and Billingham where the lads were a credit to the club; many thanks to organisers Mark Pratt, Rich Porter and John and Kath Rowlands. The last

Driffield rugby I watched during my presidential term was on tour with the U14s at Chesterfield. The lads again did the club proud with a comprehensive victory over the 'Spireites'. Well done to the tour organizers Dave Stephenson, Chris Peck, and Dave Sheader.

We were all saddened by the loss of our immediate past President Dennis Cobbold. Dennis bravely fought a long illness during which his love and commitment to DRUFC was so apparent and always in his thoughts.

Dennis, with others, was instrumental in forming our mini and junior section. A past player and proud President, I was privileged to speak at his funeral on behalf of his beloved DRUFC; a big man in stature and in heart. His presence will be missed by all.

I would like to thank all the people who work tirelessly for DRUFC and to Elaine and Sammy for their support during my presidency.

I have to admit that I am not looking forward to the AGM when the curtain comes down on my year but I wish the incoming President good luck for the new season. I will have memories to treasure for the rest of my life.

**Thank you all for these.  
Rob**

## Mitch's moment

### Rich Mitchell-Williams



Firstly, I would like to thank those of you who have supported the club this year by attending the events we have organized. This season we have had everything from Frog Racing to Valentine Fancy Dress and a New Year's Eve Dinner.

I hope you all enjoyed yourselves and look forward to your support at similar events next season. Look out for posters advertising upcoming events both in the club and around the town. Many thanks to the Ladies Committee and the Scrummy Mummies for the hard work they have put in.

I would also like to thank all the companies and individuals who took pre-match sponsorship tables throughout the season. I hope you all enjoyed the day even if on occasion the rugby wasn't quite up to scratch. Next season's fixtures will be available in June and we will be contacting everyone in due course. If however you would like to reserve a table against a particular team or at a particular time of the season please let me know as soon as possible.

The Club will be opening every Sunday in the months of June, July, and August from 11am – 3pm to serve lunches. Main courses are only £6.50.

Please support this new venture if you can and look out for the special vouchers in the Driffield Times and Post.

Finally, I must thank Karen for her contribution this season. The quality of food, I am sure you will agree, has been excellent, and is achieved with limited resources and occasional plate smashing.

|                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 30th May                | May Ball                 |
| 31st May                | Family Fun Day           |
| 7th June to 30th August | Sunday lunches           |
| 7th July                | AGM                      |
| 6th September           | Mini Junior registration |
| 4th October             | 1st 120 Club Lunch       |
| 16th October            | Sportsman's Dinner       |
| 30th January            | 2nd 120 Club Lunch       |
| 11th April              | 3rd 120 Club Lunch       |

Please contact me for any information you require by the following methods:

**email: drufc@aol.com**  
**club: 01377 256598**  
**mobile: 07776 148668**

**Thank you in advance for your support.**

## Quote

*On playing his last game of rugby for Bath  
"I thought I would have a quiet pint ... and about 17 noisy ones."*

Gareth Chilcott (1993)

REMEMBER: the club needs your support

## NEXT ISSUE



**Driffield returned victorious from the Spanish Tour. Full report in the next issue.**