



DRIFFIELD R.U.F.C.

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

Newsletter

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Director's notes

Pat (Bash) Burdass
Director of Rugby

We did not quite reach the goals we had set ourselves last season but we still won 18 out of 26 league games and it was important for the senior team to get back into winning ways after the previous season. Coaches and players will have learnt a lot from the season and will hopefully use the experiences to good effect in 2012-13. Credit must be given to Ces Sellar for stepping in as head coach for the final two months of the season.

The 2nd XV after a slow start managed to turn things around to finish fourth in the Yorkshire Premier League. This was achieved with an excellent team spirit and the effort and commitment of team captain Ben Cooper.

The Centenarians enjoyed a positive season winning nine games overall. My thanks go to Gary Robb for accepting the captaincy at such short notice. Gary will continue the role next season.

The Extra Centenarians reached their merit league play off final and unfortunately lost narrowly to Scarborough in horrendous playing conditions. Credit to Steve Raines and all his players for an excellent season. Steve is stepping down as Captain and I thank him for the effort he has put in over the last two seasons.

One of the most pleasing aspects of last season was the reintroduction of Colts rugby. This will continue in the new season and we are hoping for even more fixtures. Travis Plummridge and John Hodgson will coach the Colts with Tim Coleman taking over as team manager. Many thanks to John and Rich Hardy for their efforts in getting the team up and running.

The close season will fly by and the 2012-13 season will be upon us sooner than expected. I am delighted to announce the coaching team is already in place.

Stuart Cooper will make a welcome return and head the team of Ces Sellar and Alasdair McClarron. I am looking forward to working with them.



Yorkshire Division One will be stronger this season as Old Brodleians rejoin the league after relegation from North One East. Barnsley and Wath both had excellent seasons and are the sides promoted from Yorkshire Division Two. Another team will come into the league but at the time of writing this is still to be finalised.

Rugby continues to flourish at our Club. A poll of all the Yorkshire Clubs taken on December 11th 2011 showed that Driffield had 71 senior players turning out on that day. This is a statistic we can be proud of as only Selby and Sheffield had more.

Finally, I would like to thank all players (minis through to seniors), coaches and supporters for giving the time, effort and commitment that is necessary for us to play rugby every week. We all must endeavour to ensure that Driffield RUF C remains one of the most successful Clubs in Yorkshire. Enjoy your summer, September will soon be here.

Thanks

Bash

Team captains 2012-13

1st XV – Tom Wright
Vice Captain – Robin Kitching
2nd XV – Ben Cooper
3rd XV – Gary Robb
4th XV – Simon Baker



Official
Club Sponsor

Australian exchange

Simon Pettinger and Harvey Harding will spend the summer with our antipodean friends at Southern Districts Rugby Club of Sydney as part of our ongoing agreement with the New South Wales Club.

There they will join up with Callum Reilly who recently returned to Southern Districts after his season at Driffield.



Volunteers

Karen Clark
Club Secretary



You will recall in our last newsletter mention of the new team managers that we introduced at the beginning of last season. I am sure that through the season you have seen them in action and the feedback we have received from coaches and parents has been extremely positive.

In particular, it has removed the administrative burden from the coaching teams enabling them to concentrate on training and, for my part, the role has been vital to the successful administration of mini junior rugby. I would like to thank everybody for their hard work and commitment to the development of this new role.

We have also successfully recruited a new Assistant Child Safeguarding Officer, a new Mini Junior

Administrator and a Junior Fixtures Secretary. I am sure that the job titles alone tell you that without these new volunteers we would not have been able to deliver to the high standard that you have come to expect.

For me this demonstrates that the success of our Club is as much about what happens off the pitch as on it. We are continually looking for new volunteers to take on new roles or fill vacancies as they arise and there are many support roles that need the type of expertise you have. It doesn't matter that you're not an expert at rugby, except if you're a player then it's helpful!!

For the coming season we are looking to recruit:

- A Team Manager for next season's U7s.
- A second Mini Junior Administrator to help with the registration process throughout the season.
- Fundraisers and people willing to promote events held at the Club.

If you are interested in any of these roles, please contact me.

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DRUFC Festival

The Driffield Rugby Festival in April was once again a huge success with a magnificent display of rugby across all age groups from U7s through to U14s. We were delighted to welcome 78 teams involving around 1000 players who played 180 games of rugby.

Despite the challenging weather conditions, each game was played with extraordinary enthusiasm. Once again the true spirit of the game was evident throughout the day and the young players can be well and truly proud of their achievements and all Clubs proud of their young players.

It was inspiring to see so many players from so many different clubs playing rugby at Driffield. The festival was attended by the local clubs who support us year after year and also from all over Yorkshire, the North East, East Anglia, North West and the Midlands. Those present witnessed some amazing

Matthew Tait and Harry Ellis with festival organisers Karen Clark, Tony Rowbottom and Dave Stephenson



games of rugby and were impressed by the high standards across all age groups. The weekend kicked off with former England and British Lions scrum half Harry Ellis and Leicester Tigers and England centre Mathew Tait delivering a rugby master class for our under 13s and 14 players along with touring sides from Blaydon, Middlesbrough and Norwich.

Many thanks to the organisers, volunteers and staff without whose dedication events like this could not happen. Particular thanks to our festival sponsor Riverside Motors and to our Club Sponsor Newitts for their continued involvement with our Club.

Membership update

Can I please ask everyone for their help in the bringing up to date of our membership list and database. In view of the continuing increases in postage costs we would like to expand our email contact database. If you do not already receive notice of Club events and other communications via email, and are able to do so, please contact me at the email address below to be added to our records.

Additionally, following on from the note in the November newsletter, we shall now only be sending out 2012-13 Fixture Cards and future newsletters to those who paid their subscription for the season just ended. Please therefore contact me if you are in any doubt about the status of your membership – I would be delighted to sign you up as a member for the coming season!

Adrian Harrison
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Olympic Quote

"When I race my mind is full of doubts: Who will finish second, who will finish third?"

Noureddine Morceli (Algerian athlete) 1 x Gold Medal 1500m 1996



Mini/Juniors

I have learnt a lot in my first year at the helm of the Mini/Juniors section. It has certainly been an interesting time. I could not have got through this year without the help of many people to guide me along the route and to keep the Mini/Juniors on a steady course.

The reintroduction the Colts XV has been important in keeping last year's U17's together and encouraging them to play senior rugby. The Colts enjoyed a good first season winning a number of games against tough opposition. Our objective is to make the transition from junior to senior rugby as smooth as possible so that more players will regularly move to play at the senior level.

The Juniors have had a successful season all round yet again and have benefited from the presence of 1st XV players at training evenings. As well as honing the skills of our future players, this help has been invaluable to the hard working coaches, who I estimate after 10 years in the Mini/Juniors have contributed well over 1000 hours of their time. We hope to continue with this policy and possibly develop it further into the Minis next season.

We have had East Yorkshire representation from most age groups as well as some representations and some players training with Leeds Carnegie. This season we have introduced team managers to deal with the various administration aspects of the teams. This has allowed the coaches to spend more time on actual coaching. We are also looking to provide training to further increase the expertise of our coaches and young players.

All teams have now completed their respective tours with a large degree of success. The tours have helped players to bond with each other and develop the team spirit that is vital for success.

The RFU has recently announced new plans that will eventually alter how the game is played at all age groups within the Mini section. According to the RFU the changes will be for the benefit of the game. We will all need to work together with coaches and managers to make these proposals work. In summary we have achieved a lot and have a lot to achieve but with continued hard work and enthusiasm we will keep Driffield RUFC moving forward.

Tony Rowbottom
Director of Mini/Juniors

President's Trophy

The President's Trophy was donated by the late Dennis Cobbold and is awarded annually to an individual for their services to Driffield RUFC. This year the recipient is John Leason who is also our Club President elect for the 2012-13 season.

John was a formidable prop forward and had a playing career for Driffield spanning 15 seasons from 1969-1984.

For six seasons he played in the front row alongside his brother Rob with John at loose head and Rob at tight head. John has served on the Club Executive Committee for 27 years and is in the process of stepping down from his current responsibilities as Director of Rugby Business and Honourable Fixture Secretary. Best wishes to John in his year of Presidency.



Commercial Supporters

The Club now has 24 sponsors including Newitts as the main sponsor and 17 Stakeholder Sponsors. We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the Commercial Supporters and Individual Supporters as without their financial support we would not be able to function.

The Stakeholder Sponsorship Package was introduced last year and involves a 3 year commitment.

Benefits include:

- A table of ten for lunch before a 1st XV game
- A pitch side advertising hoarding
- Full page advertising in the season's match day programmes
- Access to the Club's allocation of international tickets
- A company logo on the Club website:
www.driffieldruffc.com
- Free hire of the Clubhouse for corporate functions.

If anybody is interested in finding out further information or wish to become part of the Commercial Supporters of the Club then please contact:

Ben Medhurst 07710 344603
or Dave Stevenson 07774 416630

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 3rd July – 7pm Clubhouse

Olympic Quote

"When anyone tells me I can't do anything, I'm just not listening any more."

Florence Griffith Joyner (American athlete) 3 x Gold Medals 100m, 200m, 100m relay 1988



Pre-match lunches

Last season we experienced a huge demand for pre-match tables prior to 1st XV games. With the exception of a couple of weeks in September, the season was totally sold out. We expect that in the new season demand will again be high so we strongly suggest that anybody wishing to take a table should book early.

To make a reservation please contact Ben Medhurst 07710 344603, Dave Stevenson 07774 416630 or Rich Mitchell-Williams 01377 256598.

Roving reporter

As supporters we experienced plenty of highs with good free flowing rugby. There were arduous battles with hard fought wins and there were some dismal games where we were well beaten. We were able to beat all the title contenders, Pocklington, Keighley and Bridlington, yet slipped up in some of the supposedly easier games. Come September we shall all be excited and anticipating promotion and can look forward to derby games versus Scarborough and Bridlington.



Ian Douglas



Pictured above at the recent Players' and Members' Dinner with President Tim Cooper are the 2011-12 award winners. Back left to right: Malcolm Bell (JH Trophy – Clubman of the Year), Guy Ellerington (4th XV Player of the Year), Oliver Borman (1st XV Player of the Year), Gary Shipley (2nd XV Player of the Year). Front left to right: Simon Pettinger (Most Improved Player), Lester Bell (Young Player of the Year). Not pictured: Simon Walgate (3rd XV Player of the Year), John Leason (President's Trophy).

Goodson's grumble!

Mark Goodson
Club Treasurer



Another season has come to an end and the Club Bean Counters (I include myself in that Association) are hard at it, auditing our financial performance over the past year.

The summer of 2011 was a challenging one to say the least, with a paucity of events and a very damp Driffield Show leading to poor beer sales. The resultant cash shortage made the summer months very challenging indeed. Once we got into August invoices went out to our sponsors, things started to improve and I could breathe easily again!

Thankfully Dave Stephenson and Ben Medhurst had worked hard over the summer months to attract new stakeholders and fill up the sponsor tables at the beginning of the season. This reflected in the Club accounts at the time and allowed us to claw back the deficit sustained during those months.

Our major capital expense this year has been the purchase of the solar panels which look resplendent on our roof. More to the point, they are generating power to reduce our electricity bills by approximately 20%. The panels will also boost our income due to

the generous 'Feed In Tariffs' provided by the government. We managed to sneak in before the tariffs were changed and therefore are allowed to claim the highest rate for the next 25 years. I would like to thank the Club members who provided the cash through an assortment of loans and gifts to fund this investment. We are grateful for the generosity which I am sure will be of great benefit to the Club in years to come.

With regard to the figures for this year I would not at this time like to commit myself to predict the final outcome until the audit is complete. Suffice to say that all will be revealed on 3rd July at the Annual General Meeting.

Mark

Driffield Show

Wednesday 18th July 2012

I would like to appeal for volunteers to help on this busy day for the Club. Whilst it is a major fundraiser, this can only be so with the aid of time given up by members to staff the entrance gates. Can you be available any time of the day from 6am onwards?

Help from anyone would be much appreciated – please contact me, even if you already normally help out – to confirm what you can offer.

Adrian Harrison
adrian@dee-atkinson-harrison.co.uk
01377 254452 / 07786444363

Olympic Quote

"The Olympics remain the most compelling search for excellence that exists in sport, and maybe in life itself."

Dawn Fraser (Australian swimmer) 4 x Gold Medals 1956-1964

