



The WOLDSMAN

DRUFC Newsletter

April 2017

RUGBY!

Wow, what a turn-around the 1st XV has had. Since Christmas they have lost only 1 game; on their visit to Huddersfield YMCA. They currently lie 6th in North One East, 4 points behind Bradford & Bingley, and 5 ahead of Percy Park. Since the Christmas break they have beaten Malton, Dinnington, Bradford & Bingley and Wheatley Hills at Kelleythorpe, and returned with points from Guisborough, Percy Park and Penrith. The draw at Penrith cemented our place in North One East for next season, a great effort by all. The final 3 games see us entertain Durham City (Sat 1st), make the trip to Alwick (Sat 8th) and welcome Morpeth (Sat 22nd). I'm sure Bash, Coops and the team will be pushing to try and get that 5th position.

In the league, Pocklington are on the brink of promotion to the National Leagues. A win at West Hartlepool (1st Apr) will see them win the league. I'm sure everyone at Driffield will congratulate Pocklington on a great season, and wish them all the best for next season. The fight for second is still tight; West Hartlepool currently occupies that position, but sit only 5 points ahead of Penrith, who are just 1 ahead of Alwick. Whoever makes the play-off looks to be heading to Birkenhead Park to fight for a position in National Two North. At the bottom, Wheatley Hills and Guisborough's rough season is nearly over and they are already relegated. The fight for the remaining position is still open; mathematically 6 teams could still face the drop, but is most likely to be between Durham City and Dinnington. Durham are currently 4 points behind Dinnington, and both have a similar run-in. But the demise of London Welsh means relegation might not be sorted until the off-season as rumour has it, that to make up the correct numbers for leagues, the team finishing 3rd bottom with the most points across all level 6 leagues will not be relegated. A quick glance through the leagues shows Durham are 1 point off this position at present.

Next year's league is taking shape; Bridlington are 1 win away from promotion from Yorkshire 1, with West Leeds or York heading to the play-off. Northern currently sit top of D & N1, 5 points ahead of both Barnard Castle and South Shields Westoe. The latter pair meet at Barnard Castle on the last day of the season in what is looking like winner-takes-all. Relegation to our league is very tight too, with Morley, Cleckheaton and Doncaster Phoenix in a battle for 3rd bottom – just 4 points cover them at present.

Our 2nd team continue with their up and down season, in what can only be described as a crazy league structure. As mentioned in the last newsletter, at Christmas the league was split into two; top and bottom half. The teams were to play each home and away again, but with Ionians and Sheffield Tigers getting the boot for not fulfilling their fixtures, the league only had 4 teams. Since the break the 2nd team have played league games against Doncaster Phoenix 3 times, Yarnbury, Cleckheaton and York twice and Scunthorpe twice and Pocklington once in friendlies. They entertain Yarnbury for a third time on Saturday, 1st April and will be hoping to pick up some fixtures to see the season out. They are currently 2nd in the bottom tier of the league, 1 point behind York.

The 3rd team finished 6th in their merit league and enter the play-off stage when they host Bridlington 2^{nds} in the quarter-finals on Saturday, 1st April. Like the 3rds, the Development XV have also qualified for the play-offs, and host Goole in the quarter-finals the same day.

COUNTY CALL UPS:

Congratulations to the following for call-up to Yorkshire for their relevant age groups; good luck and do us proud.

Will Brigham U20s

Lawrence Mason and Harvey Morrison U16s

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RFU Draw News

We raised a total of £5,559, meaning £5,000 for club funds. Thank you to all who helped by selling and buying tickets.

Mini / Juniors

This season has been another successful year for Driffield RUFC mini/junior section. We have launched the Under 6s with up to 40 kids registering; this can only go towards making our club stronger in the coming years. We are one of the few clubs in Yorkshire who can field a team at every age group from Under 7s all the way up to Under 16s.

The Under 16s have got through to the Yorkshire Bowl final against Ilkley on the 30th April.

Finally, the season saw the Under 15s go to Rotterdam on tour, the first junior team to venture aboard. A very successful tour was had by all with the young Woldsmen winning 61-17.

2017 Turnbull Trophy

The 2017 Turnbull Trophy takes place at Bridlington on Easter Saturday, 15th April. With us safe in North One East, and Brid promoted (should be by then) this promises to be a true Brid – Driff derby; no reason to rest players, hopefully no injuries and a chance to get one foot in front for next season. Kick-off is 3pm at Dukes Park; make sure you make the trip and support the lads.

MINI / JUNIOR FESTIVAL, 9th April.

Our annual mini festival will be held at Kelleythorpe with up to 850 children taking part. If any members would like to help with the car park please contact Dom Thompson or Helen Sunderland know ASAP. Can all volunteers be down at the club for 9-9.15am on the Sunday.

The U15s on tour in Rotterdam



DRIFFIELDRUFC.COM

The new website is now live, and we hope you like it. We need more content to make the site work to its potential, so please forward any stories to drufc@aol.com

BUS TRIP

Saturday, 8th April – Alnwick

Come on, support the 1st team, and speak to Coops to reserve your place

Coming up @ The clubhouse.

Sat 1st April : 1st XV v Durham

Sun 9th April : Mini Rugby Festival

Thurs 13th April - Annual Players Dinner

NB Sportsmans' Dinner on 7th April has been postponed.

A Year in the President's Blazer

It wasn't the best start to my year as Club President; the first 2 outings were to attend the funerals of stalwarts of the local rugby scene, John Finch and Ernie Cooper. Both sadly missed.

The main Presidential role is to welcome opposition officials and visitors to home matches and represent the club when travelling away. This is not a chore as the people you meet are, without exception, great hosts and grateful guests. The clubs in North One East Division are a mix of local derby rivals and interesting away-days' destinations. The standard of rugby played is, I believe, the best you will find in the amateur game and the closeness of the scores and league positions for most of the season has produced a lot of interest and excitement for me and my fellow supporters. We now sit comfortably in 6th position in the league with 3 games left to play and credit must go to Dobbie and the coaching staff for the quality of game play and creating a fantastic team spirit throughout the club.

Driffield Rugby Club has the best gang of travelling supporters and I wish to thank all those who have made the effort to support the team wherever they play, often outnumbering the home crowd. I know it makes a real difference for the players to hear that Driffield roar. The home games are always well-supported with the home crowd boosted by the lunchtime sponsorship guests. The work that the club executive team does to ensure the success of this valuable source of income ensures that the club is in good health financially and able to support all the other activities associated with the club.

Rugby development and the club at the heart of community involvement has seen a massive growth in interest for new members. The new areas of girl's rugby and O2 Touch have introduced many people to the club for the first time. I regret not getting to know more of those involved or being able to spend more time watching Mini/Junior games where I know the club is cultivating a wealth of new talent for the future. None of this would happen without the dedication of an army of volunteers without whom the club would cease to exist.

As I look down the list of past presidents and consider those club members who have yet to be given a chance to wear the blazer, I know what an honour it is to be asked to fulfil this role. I am grateful for the opportunity and the help I have had from so many people to make this such an enjoyable year.

George Hamilton, President 2016/17