



# The WOLDSMAN

## DRUFC Newsletter

Feb 2015

Welcome to the new style newsletter in the form of the "the Woldsmen". Many of you will have missed the quarterly updates that the newsletter used to provide and hopefully this new version though shorter, with its planned monthly editions, will provide an excellent vehicle for keeping members informed of not only current events and topics within the club but hopefully over time develop interesting features recounting past events and future plans.

Many of you will have been aware that the last 18 months has been a time of intense scrutiny in the way we run the club both on and off the field. Financial pressures have had to be addressed and some very difficult decisions have had to be made. A massive amount of work has been done, examining our costs and our income streams, identifying where we can be more efficient, not only within the business but in the way we provide the facilities we do i.e. grass cutting, line painting, laundry etc etc...

There has been no one silver bullet to solve our problems but a whole raft of small changes identified and implemented have in a relatively short but intense period made a massive improvement to the efficiency and profitability of the club and I am pleased to report that we can now move forward with improving and maintaining not only our facilities, which as you know are extensive for a "small" country club like ours, but also with the way we deliver and develop our rugby from 6 to veterans touch!

These improvements did not happen by accident and the club owes a great debt of gratitude to Andrew Kitching not only this year's President but our business manager and Karen Clarke our club house manager for their huge amount of work done painstakingly identifying how we could achieve our goal of turning the club into a meaner leaner machine that delivers on our aim to offer the best standard of sport to the largest number of people we possibly can.

But as I say no one approach was going to get us to where we wanted to be for financial security is worthless if you do not take your membership with you. The most pleasing thing about the changes over the last few months has been the way the membership has bought into what we have been trying to do, and that enthusiasm has been driven by the players, led by probably the best 4 captains the club has had in a long while and a fund raising committee led by Andrew Meg that has worked as they have learnt to teach the players that it is their club and their responsibility to do their bit to help provide the facilities we do. The upshot of this effort first became apparent in the take up of car draw tickets that provided much needed funds through the summer months leading to a £10k profit. Then through the tireless work by John Turner and Charlie Burdass, in charge of membership, we actually had collected annual subscriptions from the whole senior squad by the end of September for the first time that I can remember in 38 years membership of this club. This despite the fact that subs went up from £70 to £145 to compensate for that captains curse the match fee being scrapped.

There have been many other changes and I know that there have been some teething problems with some of those changes, I hope the majority of these have been ironed out I would like to take this opportunity to thank not only those directly involved in driving the club forward over this period but the whole membership for the way they have continued to support and enjoy this club the way they have. The club has a great feel to it at the moment from minis to the top, like the first team we have turned a corner, let's all keep on driving forward.

Purely on the playing front well done to Bash Burdass (director of rugby) Ali Brumfield (first team manager) and Mitchy Williams (coach), Paul Dervy (first team captain) and the first team squad for the way they have turned round what was a very difficult first half of the season. We have a long way to go to secure our league position but we are now playing a brand of rugby that shows so much guts and determination that whatever the outcome of the season we can be really proud of our efforts, if we continue with the same focus until April.

In the mean time I hope you all continue to enjoy your rugby on and off the field whether a Sunday Saturday or everyday member have fun cheering on the Woldsmen

Regards  
Andrew Chapman  
Chairman DRUFC

### Coming up @Theclubhouse.

- All 6 Nations rugby is being shown live in the club.
- 27<sup>th</sup> March - Sportsman's Dinner with Geordan Murphy
- 31<sup>st</sup> March – Senior Colts v American Colts Touring side
- 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Players Dinner
- 4<sup>th</sup> April – Turnbull Trophy (provisionally)
- 12<sup>th</sup> April – Mini Junior Festival
- 18<sup>th</sup> April – Middleton V Holderness Hunt Rugby Match
- 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April Presidents Tour to Ireland
- 2<sup>nd</sup> May – End of Season Dinner
- 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Charity Match, Col Lucas organising.



## Supporters Club

The supporters club was formed a couple of decades ago, to help provide the club with extra funds. Like with many things in the club, with the arrival of the new clubhouse, the supporters club vanished, however, Andrew Megginson and his gang brought it back to life last year with a bang, resurrecting the rugby club car draw.

Over the few months we ran the draw last year, we had around 4 weeks of rugby season, and then the summer shut down, not the best time to try and sell tickets to players and members. We managed to sell most of the tickets, and on Ladies day 2014 we made the draw with Mrs Ulyott winning and claiming the cash.

Through last season's car draw we raised £12,000, a great effort for a first attempt.

The second fund raiser this year was again a resurrection, with the return of the club cabaret. This year the lads worked hard to create an event that worked for the paying guests and the club.

The 181 people that bought tickets were able mostly all able to have a seat. Something that we would not of been able to do if we had stayed at home so to speak. It nearly brought the cabaret back to the days when we held it in the school.

There was plenty of food provided and the beer was the same price as it would have been in the clubhouse.

After weeks of writing and practising I can tell you the cast and crew were very nervous beforehand, but I am pleased to say it went down a treat. I received a text from S D Kitching the next morning which read "please pass my congratulations onto all the guys for last night's show, it was the best cabaret I have seen in 25 years" and that man has seen a few cabarets (and probably had the mick taken out of him in every one too).

The main point is we raised £2700 on the night and no one went home upset (except maybe leader).

As some of you may already be aware, we have already started to roll out tickets for next year's car draw, we thought the early start would give us an advantage in selling and chasing, so when you receive your tickets don't just put them to one side, get them sold on and ask for some more.

Thanks for your support and keep supporting us in our support for the club.



## Ones To Watch

Congratulations to the following players, who have all gained county honours this year:

Felix Nellen & James Watts Yorkshire U18's  
Ben Dinsdale Yorkshire U16's  
Harry Jackson Yorkshire U15's

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## A Note From Our 2014/15 President

At Driff it's a privilege to be asked to be President and I personally find it a great honour.

To my mind Driffield RUFC is a club second to none and for a club of its size punches well above its weight.

At times we need to remind ourselves.

There is not many clubs in Yorkshire or in fact in the country that can boast:

5 full size pitches two being floodlit, one all a weather pitch (floodlit), & several mini /junior pitches.

6 large changing rooms with modern showering facilities.

Social facilities/areas that are spacious, light and airy. Second to none.

Good catering facilities & staff providing high quality food.

The site is well maintained and professionally managed.

Tell me where else can you find that. Well I will tell you .....Nowhere!

And a players membership is only £145.00 /year. a none playing member even less. Great value.

Our Mini/Junior section likewise sets a standard many clubs aspire to. The mini festival on the 12<sup>th</sup> April is a sight to be seen.

A rugby club however, is not all about players & pitches.

We need volunteers and committees to run behind the scenes

To make sure the club is run professionally and on a sound footing.

You know who you are and I thank you.

Of course our club could not survive without sponsors, and thank god we have many! I am sincerely grateful for your financial support.

Let's all hope the season finishes well on & off the field

A.M.Kitching  
DRUFC club president 2014/15

## Memory Lane

How Many Can You Name?



## PRESIDENTS TOUR 2015

Greystones RFC, County Wicklow, Ireland

24th, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> April

£250

Depart Friday, 8am, Driffield Rugby Club

Return Sunday, 10pm

2 games to be played

Limited numbers so contact AMK as soon as you can:

07951 833211