



# DRIFFIELD R.U.F.C.

Member of The Rugby Football Union and Yorkshire Rugby Football Union  
www.driffieldrufc.co.uk



## President's notes

**Ladies & Gentlemen, may I take this opportunity to welcome you to the first DRUFC newsletter.**

Elaine, Sammy & I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and Best Wishes for 2009. I hope you have all had a pleasant Christmas and New Year. I certainly have as I help with the Round Table Santa Sleigh (no prizes for guessing my part: fat bloke, silver hair) so it is easy to soon slip into the festive spirit.

I feel that I have spent most of the holiday at various rugby clubs. (No regret there then). On December 20th I watched our 1st XV demolish Ilkley and with all four teams winning set up a wonderful atmosphere for our 'Driffield's Got Talent' competition. I enjoyed all the acts, superbly hosted by Mitch. Thanks to all concerned especially our hard working organisers, the Ladies Committee.

On Sunday December 21st with nothing on at 'Fortress Kelleythorpe' Elaine and I visited Malton to watch our mini and junior teams in action. The spirit with which the 'young uns' play and the dedication of our team of coaches and helpers is truly amazing. Well done all!

Xmas Day morning we popped into 'Southern Cross Cottage' to wish our antipodean friends a Merry Xmas. We wondered how they may feel being so far from home and family on Xmas Day. Judging by the empty bottles on view they were coping admirably and must have started the party Wellington/Sydney time.

Boxing Day we visited Hornsea Rugby Club to watch a game, unable to convince Rodney Robinson and Dan Copley that I was not on a scouting mission. (The Over 25's hooker caught my eye). Just thirsty we were invited into the 'Old Fart's Corner' where we spent a pleasant afternoon discussing games long past. I left well quenched.

A special day in my presidential year was having the privilege of welcoming the Knowles family

to the Club for the 29th 'Steve Knowles Memorial Trophy' game. On November 29th 1978 Steve was involved in a fatal motor cycle accident. Aged 23, Steve was a member of our 1st XV, a friend and team mate of mine. As Elaine and I were involved in a serious motor cycle accident some years later, I found the day to be very emotive and struggled to say a few words. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the players, skippers Chris Lunn and Bash, referee Brad and organiser Mitch for giving us a hard and tremendous game in Steve's memory.

On New Year's Eve we welcomed in 2009 at the Clubhouse having enjoyed a superb meal in great company on our past, future and past-it President's Table. My only regret being that Dennis & Pam Cobbold could not be with us. Mitch and Karen's team again excelled. Many thanks again to our hard working Ladies Committee.

I have just been made aware of the staggering amount of money raised by the Christmas Fayre on November 7th. This was organised by the 'Scrummy Mummies' who deserve congratulations for the superb achievement.

To all of you who make DRUFC tick, I promise you your work does not go unnoticed. As in every situation we can all improve but only by being positive 'onward and upward'. Good Luck to all teams from the Under 7s to the 1st XV for the remainder of the season.

Thanks.

**Robert B. Leason  
President DRUFC**



# Newsletter

## Director's cut

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



If we are all very honest with ourselves there is no doubt the first half of the season has been disappointing, especially after such a good start. However, the victory over Ilkley just before christmas will have proved to everybody just how well we can play.

Hopefully that will have given us the confidence to make sure we have a successful second half of the season and if we can perform to that level each

week we can beat any side in the league. We continue to bring young players into the team to give them first team rugby experience, these include Rob Murray, Joe Shepherdson, Harry Grant, James Short, Mark Perkins, Andrew Chapman (Junior!), Dave Llewellyn – all these players are under 20.

The combined success of the second, third and fourth team is a massive positive for the club. We must always have four teams playing for Driffield Rugby Club on a Saturday, as Director of Rugby I will play my part to make sure that continues.

For all those who have supported us this season, home and away, thank you and I hope that support continues for the rest of the season. We have a very special club here at Driffield and it is up to all of us to do anything we can to ensure it continues to flourish.

## November

The annual beard and facial hair growing competition (Movember) came to a conclusion on Saturday 29th November and was judged immediately after Driffield Rugby Club's home victory over Gateshead in the Intermediate Cup. Movember is part of a nationwide initiative by prostate cancer research to raise funds for prostate cancer and was spearheaded this year at DRUFC by Driffield player Ollie Cooper.

The challenge began on the 1st of November. All participants – known as Mo Bros – registered with a clean shaven face and spent the remainder of the month growing and grooming their moustaches into prize assets, whilst raising as much money and awareness about prostate cancer as possible.

The Driffield Cub raised almost £1500 from sponsorship and a matchday collection on Saturday. Special thanks to Derek Megginson who generously donated his £75 winnings from 'The Chairman's Challenge', the matchday raffle.

The competition was judged by the Club's Ladies Committee who chose winners in the following categories:

- Longest tache: Sam Beachell**
- Best looking beard: Brendan Kennedy**
- Highest money raiser: Rich Mitchell-Williams**
- Could do better!: Rich Anderson**
- Worst looking beard: Clayton Masina**

The proceeds were divided equally between the Prostrate Cancer Research Foundation and Driffield Rugby Club.

The Mo Bros



Sam Beachell



Brendan Kennedy



Rich Mitchell-Williams



Rich Anderson



Clayton Masina

## Sports got talent!

After the success of the talent show in December 2007 Driffield Rugby Club decided to host a similar event in December 2008. Driffield's very own spectacular 'Sport's Got Talent' entertained a large audience at the Driffield Rugby Club on the Saturday before Christmas. The audience enjoyed an extravaganza of live music and dance as performers attempted to convince the judging panel that they indeed had the X Factor. Driffield's rugby, cricket and hockey clubs were invited to enter acts comprising of players, members, staff and supporters.

The show was opened by the 2007 winner and solo singer Clare Howe who set the standard for the evening in true Diva fashion. Clare then joined her

fellow judges to add a degree of sanity to the panel of super critics Stu Cooper and Andrew Kitching and the evergreen Yvonne Watt.

Overall winner was soloist Lindsey Motley who wooed the judges with her rendition of 'Wind Beneath My Wings'. The New Zealand rugby contingent of Natasha, DJ, Clayton, Tama and Tiaki were runners up and the ABBA tribute band (Not-in-it-to-win-it) singing 'Mama Mia' were judged in third place. Other acts included a choreographed routine from female dance troupe 'Slaptastic', heavy rock from DRUFC's 3rd XV rock band 'Tinitis', and a futuristic costumed number from the Driffield Hockey Club girls 'Sticks and Baubles'. Soloist Yvonne Marshall sang a Shania Twain hit and Kimberly Nellist (aged 13) treated the audience to a virtuoso performance of Celine Dion's 'The Show Must Go On.'



## Mini junior rugby

**Karen Clark**

Welcome back after the festive break, hopefully refreshed and raring to go! Whilst we had a slow start to the season in terms of numbers, we now have around 200 young players registered and coaches report good performances across all age groups. In particular, the Under 14s are progressing well in the Yorkshire Cup and the Under 16s are through to the next round of their Yorkshire Bowl competition. Pleasingly, our Under 9s, through 12s all finished in the top 3 in the East Yorkshire Festival. We are delighted to be able to tell you that 8 of our Under 14s and 4 of our Under 13s players have been selected to play for East Yorkshire.

The coaching development programme run by Pat Burdass has been well received with many players benefiting from the skills sessions run so far and mini teams have enjoyed the input from several senior players. To help Club development, we feel it is important to raise our profile within the community and hopefully you will have noticed an increase in the number of mini junior match reports in the Driffield Post of late. If anybody is interested in

becoming their 'Team Reporter' please speak to your coach. In today's climate, fundraising is of increasing importance to the Club as a whole and we are pleased to be able to tell you that with your invaluable support, the Scrummy Mummies have raised just under £2000 so far this season. In addition, we are taking part in the RFU Grand Draw which earns the Club 90% of all ticket sales.

Hopefully you will be able to help us and perhaps even win yourself £50 for selling the most tickets? Finally, as we begin the dirtiest part of the season, please can we ask for your help in ensuring that players do not go into our Clubhouse, or any Clubhouse, wearing muddy clothing.

Thank you for your continued support and best wishes for 2009.

## A blast from the past

Spectators can be forgiven for thinking they had entered a time warp recently when Brumfield, Burdass and Chapman appeared on the team sheet for the 3rd XV. Guy Brumfield, Oliver Burdass and Will Chapman, sons of Driffield stalwarts Ali, Charlie and Andrew respectively all took the field for the win against Hullensians at Kelleythorpe on December 20th.



## Mitch's moment

### Rich Mitchell-Williams



Firstly may I wish everyone a Happy New Year and thank you all for the support you have given to myself and Karen over the past year. We rounded off 2008 with a 'bit of a do' in the clubhouse which was very successful and enjoyed by all who attended, however I was surprised by the amount of club members who did not realise that a function had been organised.

So, in an attempt to solve this problem, here is a list of forthcoming events which, if they are to be successful, will need your support:

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 1st Feb  | 2nd 120 Club Dinner with £500 draw  |
| 14th Feb | Our Fundraiser (fancy dress, disco etc) Half the proceeds to Prostate Cancer Research |
| 27th Mar | Ladies Night (all men stay away but please let the wife know)                         |
| 4th Apr  | Frog Racing – a great night for all the family  |
| 5th Apr  | 3rd 120 Club Dinner with £500 draw  |
| 9th Apr  | Club Dinner with team awards  |
| 24th Apr | Sportsmans' Dinner (Speakers to be confirmed)   |
| 15th May | Driffield Rugby Club Annual Golf Day  |
| 30th May | May Ball  |
| 31st May | Family Fun Day  |

Please support as many of these functions as possible. The members who do attend always have a good time and enjoy the club camaraderie. There are still places on tables available for the 2nd and 3rd 120 Club Dinners to be held on Sunday 1st Feb and Sunday 5th April.

I must now mention the hard work done by both the Ladies Committee and the Scrummy Mummies in dreaming up some weird and wonderful ideas for functions and also helping to organise them – one such event being "Sports Got Talent" held on the 20th December. This is a good example of what a well supported function can mean to this club.

As well as the money raised with ticket sales we also had a record day over the bar – more of the same please. Without the efforts of these two fundraising groups the new Floodlights on the second pitch at Kelleythorpe may never have happened. The new lights will benefit every player in the club from 1XV right down to the under 7s by freeing up extra training space and also relieving the pressure on the current floodlit pitch which always, by December, looks a little worse for wear.

We still have squares of the 1st XV pitch to sell for the 'Winning the Pooh' competition. The pitch is divided into squares and at the end of the season a cow will be allowed to wander and deposit a clap on the winning square.

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

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

Thank you in advance for your support.

## Club executives

|  |   |
|--|---|
| President: Rob Leason                                    | (H) 01262 488707                                      |
| Chairman: Andrew Kitching                                | (H) 01377 229373                                      |
| Director of Rugby: Patrick Burdass                       | (H) 01262 470655                                      |
| Chairman of Rugby & Hon. Fixture Secretary: John Leason  | (H) 01377 254036                                      |
| Hon. Secretary: Karen Clark                              | (H) 01377 255818                                      |
| Hon. Treasurer: Mark Goodson                             | (H) 01377 253186                                      |
| Sponsorship/Advertising: Graham Owen<br>Rod Atherton     | (M) 07930 326776<br>(H) 01377 272143                  |
| Development: Mike Furbank                                | (H) 01377 240337                                      |
| Communications Officer: Colin Foster                     | (H) 01377 240258                                      |
| Membership: John Harrison                                | (H) 01377 253032                                      |
| Mini/Junior: Chris Hoggard                               | (H) 01377 288143                                      |
| General Manager: Richard Mitchell-Williams               | (Club) 01377 256598 (M) 07776 148668                  |
| Consultants to the Executive: Charles Booth<br>Mike Pugh | (H) 01377 254433<br>(H) 01377 253478 (M) 07803 230372 |

*There are still members, players and VP's who have not paid their annual subscription due in September 2008. Please ensure these are paid as soon as possible to assist the upkeep of the Club. It must be noted that players may not be legally insured if they are not paid up playing members.*