



# DRIFFIELD R.U.F.C.

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

## Newsletter

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## President's notes

The season is half way through now and I am thoroughly enjoying my year as President.

The weather has already caused several games to be postponed, two of them at home. Even so, I must congratulate our supporters and sponsors who still came to support the Club, savour the excellent lunches, watch some rugby on the big screen and enjoy a very sociable day.

We are again endeavouring to play '15 man rugby' and there have been many close and exciting matches, unfortunately not always going our way.

Congratulations to all the coaches and players for their commitment and effort during the first half of the season. This can only bode well for the rest of the season. I have enjoyed attending matches at all levels. Many Sunday mornings have been spent watching the mini/junior players both at training and in matches. There is certainly plenty of up and coming talent throughout the age groups.

The prospects for rugby at Driffield RUFC certainly look good for the years to come! I must thank all the coaches and dedicated parents who work so hard to give the players the best possible start to their rugby future. I would also like to thank those who work tirelessly to raise funds for tours.

It was an enjoyable evening for the X Factor 'talent night' organised by the Ladies' Committee with over

100 people attending and eight acts performing! Congratulations to everyone who took part and gave the audience a good start to the Christmas festivities. Driffield Rugby Club certainly has got talent!



On a sad note the Club has lost two members over recent months, Jonathan Bradshaw and Nick McLean, both having played for Driffield and latterly being Vice Presidents. They were both great characters and will be sadly missed.

As President I attend executive meetings and I am extremely impressed by the way the Club is run. Recently we have had a few retirements of long serving committee members but there has been no difficulty replacing them with the next generation. I am in no doubt that they will take the club forward under the chairmanship of Andrew Chapman.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish all Club members young and old a very happy and prosperous 2011.

Thanks.

David Watt  
President DRUFC

## Mini juniors

Mini junior rugby continues to thrive at Driffield with summer recruitment drives pushing up our player base to in excess of 220. With the support of parents, coaches and senior squad members the young Woldsmen represent the Club at all age groups from U7 to U18. This season we have capitalised on the coaching talent we have available by tailoring coaching regimes to meet the individual needs of specific age groups.

The programme has been severely disrupted due to the extreme weather but credit to the coaches who have through their own initiative arranged training in various sports halls and gyms. They have managed to maintain fitness levels and keep their teams together ready for the resumption of play. The U10's completed a tractor pull from Driffield

Market Place to the Club on the Saturday before Christmas, despite freezing conditions and raised £500 for their tour fund.

Such an effort raises the profile of the Club in the town as well as being an experience for the boys involved. Some of the older members however, looked a bit red faced and bandy legged by the time they arrived at Kelleythorpe. Industrious parents were able to collect money en route, many donations of which came from drivers caught behind the tractor. Many thanks to one of our stakeholder sponsors, Wilfred Scruton Ltd, for the loan of the tractor.

The U13 and U16 teams played in the quarter-finals of the Yorkshire Cup in their respective competitions on January 16th. Unfortunately Huddersfield and Sheffield proved to be strong opposition for our boys in two exciting games.



# Newsletter

## Chappie in the chair

**Andrew Chapman**



I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year even though by the time you read this the festivities will be but a distant memory.

I was talking with a member of one of our local rivals recently and he asked me what was going wrong at Drifffield RUFC. My instinctive reaction was to tell him to go back to minding his sheep but I endeavoured to explain the reasons for the slow start of the 1st XV. A combination of injuries to crucial players, a competitive league of evenly matched teams, not getting the rub of the green and a subsequent loss of confidence are all factors.

On reflection, I revisited the facts and came to the conclusion that actually things are going right at Drifffield RUFC!

This season we have increased our mini /junior membership by 10% as a result of recruitment programmes held in the summer months. This equates to some 220 young Woldsmen turning out to play rugby on any given Sunday.

Of these teams three are in the quarter finals of their respective Yorkshire Cup competitions. At the time of writing most others are progressing well in their Bowl and Plate competitions.

We still field four senior sides and are one of the few clubs left in Yorkshire able to do so on a regular basis. Admittedly the 4th XV is still finding its feet but the 3rd XV is in contention for the play-offs and the 2nd XV is beating all comers at this moment in time. Having watched the first team win away at Morpeth

and also at Crossleyans with a depleted side I am convinced we have the talent and the tenacity to climb up the league.

At pre-match sponsorship lunches we regularly entertain 100 guests and twice this season we have attracted 80 supporters for lunch despite the 1st XV game being cancelled due to bad weather. How many other clubs could achieve that? The commitment to support the Club on such occasions is much appreciated!

In December the kitchen was busy with Christmas dinners catering for almost 100 people on four consecutive nights. The Clubhouse has a full diary of bookings for DRUFC Club events, 18th and 21st birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and many other functions.

The Ladies' Committee also organises events like the Christmas Fayre and X Factor (the runners up were robbed by the way!). We cannot emphasise the importance of the Ladies' financial contribution to the Club.

So, what is going wrong at Drifffield RUFC? The answer of course is: 'Not a lot'. We have a talented and dedicated squad of players and coaches training twice a week and stepping out on a Saturday with the intent to win. I urge spectators and all involved to have patience, continue to give full support and together we will progress.

Many thanks to the dedicated team of volunteers who do a monumental amount of unseen work and give up their free time to ensure the Club runs smoothly. We must remember that the Club belongs to all of us. We can all play a part whether it be simply picking up a piece of litter, volunteering, playing or using the club for social occasions. Treat the premises as your own and the Club as something you are proud to be part of.

**Thanks  
Chappie**

## Dog ban

Following a request from the mini junior coaching teams, the Executive committee has approved the banning of dogs at the Club on Sundays.

This is to reduce the health and safety risks caused by dog fouling and loss of control by owners. This will take effect from Sunday 13th February 2011 and coaches will be asked to brief parents directly. Notices will be displayed in the Clubhouse.

## Junior fixtures

We are looking for a Junior Fixture Secretary. If you are interested to offer help please contact  
**Karen Clark 07791 420404**

## Quote

*"The French selectors never do anything by halves; for the first international of the season against Ireland they dropped half the three-quarter line."*

Nigel Starmer-Smith, BBC TV (1974)

## Sponsorship tables

We are now able to cater for 15 tables at pre-match luncheons.

Due to rearranged fixtures there are now available a number of tables for 1st team games. At the time of going to press there is definitely availability on 12th February, 19th March and 16th April.

If you would like to reserve a table at £20 per head (including £4 gate admission) please contact Dave Stephenson 0777 4416 630 or Mitch at the Club who will advise you of free dates.

If you are aware of anybody who has not previously been to a lunch who might be interested then we would love to see some new faces in the Club.

## Director's cut

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



As I write this article we have just sealed a superb victory in the first league fixture of 2011 at

Crossleyans following on from a New Year friendly win over Pocklington. The weather had curtailed rugby for three weeks which was unfortunate as we were unable to capitalise on our two best performances against team Northumbria and Morpeth. There is no doubt the first part of the season has been very disappointing but hopefully after the hard work that we have continued to put in, it will reap its rewards over the second half of the season. Injuries have not helped our cause with three or four of our more influential players being out for long periods. With our fully fit squad and continued improvement, I expect us to progress up the league.

The 2nd XV has continued on from the success of last season in the Yorkshire Premier League. At the moment the team is in fourth place and yet again proving that team spirit and determination can bring success. Clubs from higher leagues may have more skilful players but lack that same team spirit. Well done to Ben and his men!

The 3rd XV, after a slow start, has had some excellent results with a number of those being against local second teams. I am delighted that we have managed to get many of last years U17's to continue to play. They are playing a major part, together with three or four of the older, senior players, to create the balance of youth and experience for a successful team. My thanks go to Dan.

The 4th XV continues to turn out regularly and has had a mixed season so far. It is a great reflection on the club that we still manage to turn out four teams.

My thanks go to Steve for his continued patience and perseverance to get fifteen players out on a Saturday. I know they enjoyed their game at Withernsea, especially the trip back on the minibus. A great experience for any young player on his first away trip in senior rugby!

A number of senior players are again lending their help and support to the mini and junior teams. It is essential that all rugby comes under one management and the link between senior players, mini/juniors, coaches and parents is maintained. We need this link if we are to continue to be a happy and successful club.

**Thanks  
Bash**

## Xmas fayre

The Xmas Fayre organised by the Ladies' Committee proved to be successful again with 27 craft stalls attracting 120 visitors and raising almost £1000 for Club funds.



## Representative honours

Peter Horner and James Dinsdale were selected to play for the Yorkshire U16 side.

They had victories over Lancashire and Northumberland and lost to Cheshire. James was also chosen to trial for the North of England and by all accounts unlucky not to be selected.

The Driffield pair will be involved in further Yorkshire U16 games against Scottish Exiles, North Wales, Central Yorkshire U17's and Canada U17's.

Congratulations to all the boys who have been selected to represent their age groups at East Yorkshire district level. We average 6 players per age group, a tremendous achievement.



## Quote

*"I don't want to sit on the fence, but it could go either way."*

Maurice Banford

## The X-Factor

Despite the adverse weather the X Factor / Driff's Got Talent musical extravaganza was extremely well supported.

Full marks for courage to the three solo performers John Leason, Mandy Cooper and Yvonne Marshall who entertained the audience with their vocal prowess.

On a more comical note we were treated to a super

heavyweight, cross dressed version of Girls Aloud and later to the dulcet tones of Silky and the Santas.

Third place was awarded to the 1st XV's rendition of 'Don't stop believing' from Glee and the runners-up were judged to be Tom Cooper and Andrew Chapman with their sing-a-long 'Unicorn Song' complete with celtic accent.

The winning act was a mime sketch from the quartet of Damien Burn, Daniel Ward, Rob Murray and Simon Culpin playing out their wacky interpretation of 'Ironic' by Alanis Morissette



## Statistics

Match statistics are collated and updated by Brad Webster on a regular basis. These can now be accessed on our website.

Go to [www.driffieldruffc.com](http://www.driffieldruffc.com) to view this season's and last season's player and club statistics. Also previous newsletters can now be downloaded and viewed online.

## New fixtures

The 1stXV fixtures that were cancelled due to weather have been rearranged as follows:

West Hartlepool	Home	12th February
Northern	Away	26th February
Cleckheaton	Home	19th March

## Membership fees a reminder

There are a number of players and members who have still not paid their annual subscriptions or Vice President's donation for 2010-11.

As we are now into the second half of the season this leaves an unplanned hole in the Club's cash flow – on top of the loss of revenue as a result of the bad winter weather! Please see me or Mitch to make your payment as soon as possible.

Remember, credit & debit cards can be used.

**Adrian Harrison**

## Quote

*"He's like a needle in a haystack, this man. Oh he's everywhere"*

Ray French