



DRIFFIELD R.U.F.C.

Member of The Rugby Football Union and Yorkshire Rugby Football Union

www.driffieldrufc.com

Newsletter

President's notes

I cannot believe the season has finished already and my term of office is nearly over. Until you take up a role such as Club President you do not realise how much more work and time other people put into the Club.

Be it the Club Executive Committee or the Ladies' Committee raising much needed funds, the senior coaches and players, the mini/junior coaches and parents all put in a tremendous amount of time and effort to make the Club as successful as it is.

There has been a lot of activity in the last month as well as the usual Saturday and Sunday rugby. The Mini/Junior Festival was well attended with over 50 teams participating and was once again a great success. Well done to all those concerned, especially Karen Clark and Dave Stephenson. We also received several touring sides. On one particular visit Kettering brought most of their mini/junior section to play us. It was a great sight to behold and an enjoyable day was had by all.

In addition, we had the Mini/Junior Dinner, the Club Dinner and of course the May Ball. All were well attended and most enjoyable evenings.

I would like to thank everyone who sponsored and took part in the Club's Golf Day playing for the Dave Howe Memorial Trophy on 20th May.



A total of 29 teams participated in the event held at the Driffield Golf Club. Thanks also to Driffield Golf Club for their help in making it easier for me to organise the event. This is a fun day and helps to raise much needed funds for the DRUFC.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone concerned with the Club from Mitch and all the staff, players and coaches, members, supporters and all the Committee for making my year such an enjoyable and memorable experience.

Thanks.

**David Watt
President DRUFC**

The Clubhouse
Kelleythorpe
Driffield
East Yorkshire
YO25 9DW

Tel: 01377
256598

Fax: 01377
250302

Email:
drufc@aol.com

Treasure Trove

**Mark Goodson
Club Treasurer**



I feel extremely fortunate to manage the finances of a sports club that continues to go from strength to strength. As another season comes to an end I am pleased to say that the bean counting has become progressively easier in the last twelve months.

In no small part this is due to the increase in business across most of our revenue streams. This includes the bar trading profit, which is up by approximately 22%, the catering trading profit, up by 15%, and the extra revenue from the new Stakeholder schemes. (Not bad considering we are in a recession!). Cash flow is always a concern, especially over the summer months. We have to remain vigilant and ensure that all customer invoices are paid promptly.

In addition, we must constantly monitor our costs to make sure that we are getting the best deals from our

suppliers. The extra cash generated this season has allowed us to make an inroad into repaying some of our generous benefactors who lent the club money in the past. The first £15,000 (out of a total of £35,000) will be paid back by September.

My thanks go to Mitch for sorting out the bookkeeping and to Karen for producing consistently wonderful food all season. Praise must also go to the Business and Sponsorship teams whose efforts have generated extra revenue to improve cash flow and repay some of our debts. Here's to next season.

Player Awards 2010-11

1st XV Player of the Year – Rob Hamilton
2nd XV Player of the Year – Colin Lucas
3rd XV Player of the Year – Matthew Wilkinson
4th XV Player of the Year – Gary Robb
Most Improved Player – Harvey Harding
Young Player of the Year – Callum Donkin
JH Shield (Clubman of the Year) – Ian Douglas
President's Cup Winner – Jeremy Harrison



Newsletter

Chappie in the chair

Andrew Chapman

At Driffield RUFC we endeavour to provide rugby for all ages and abilities from the U7s to the senior squad. We ensure that throughout the season rugby is played in a safe environment with good facilities and the correct ethos for an amateur club. Our match day support far exceeds any other team in our league or in fact two leagues above. Our catering facilities are the envy of all visiting sides who marvel at the numbers we have attending pre match sponsored lunches.

Our Mini/Junior section can boast 220 young Woldsmen turning out every week. They represent Driffield RUFC throughout Yorkshire and the North East and have an army of qualified coaches ensuring they receive the best instruction possible. We regularly field a 3rd XV and a 4th XV to compete in strong Merit Leagues that usually include many sides of a higher seniority.

Our 2nd XV played in the Yorkshire Premier League against the might of Wharfedale Harrogate and Otley and once again had a very strong season. Many of our younger players gained valuable experience against these senior clubs. Driffield 2nd XV has a long tradition of punching above its weight and we are very proud of the team's achievements.

There will understandably be disappointment with the relegation of our 1st XV from North One East.



The last time we competed in Yorkshire One was before many of our senior players were born. We must put aside the frustrations of the past season, be positive and look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead.

The 1st XV showed at the end of the season that with the right development they have the ability to compete at a higher level.

Since the end of the season questions have been asked of coaches and players and frank and open discussions have taken place. A committee of senior players has been formed to interact and feed back information to the coaching team. We will learn from our mistakes, work for one another and gain promotion back to North One East.

At this moment in time all players have signalled their intent to play next season. We hope to recruit one or two players so that our squad will be stronger, more focused and crucially more experienced than at this time last year. I see no reason why our goal of National Three League status should not be achievable within three years.

Driffield RUFC is a club with a wholehearted support. In Yorkshire One local derby games will be the norm rather than the exception so we can expect an even greater attendance on a Saturday. We will continue to thrive.

The end of the season has brought to a close the term of our President Dave Watt. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dave for his dedication to duties throughout the year.

Thanks

Chappie

Sponsorship

DRUFC now offers a number of different sponsorship opportunities for local companies that are interested to support the Club.

These range from kit sponsorship to the newly introduced stakeholder package. This proved to be very popular in the first season and includes tables for lunch before 1st XV games, a pitch side advertising board, advertisement in the match day programme, free club house hire for your company functions and access to England international tickets.

We also place your company logo on the DRUFC website and in the Clubhouse.

The Club is always keen to renew old friendships and make new acquaintances. Why not take a table of ten for lunch before a 1st XV fixture and enjoy some real East Yorkshire hospitality.

For further details please contact:
Dave Stephenson 07774416630 or
Ben Medhurst 07710344603

Team captains 2011-12

1st XV Tom Wright
1st XV vc Ollie Cooper
2nd XV Ben Cooper
3rd XV Russ Smith
4th XV Steve Raines



Quote

"The main difference between playing League and Union is that now I get my hangovers on Monday instead of Sunday."

Tom David

Festival fun!

Pictures of the Driffield Mini Junior Festival held at Driffield RUFC on 17th April.



Palmanova tour

In the recent tour of Palmanova Driffield RUFC kept up its 100% win record on Spanish soil beating both North Bristol and host team El Toro in a round robin tournament.

The Driffield side comprised players from all our four senior teams and a smattering of 'slightly' over 35s. In the opening game the Woldsmen despatched a large North Bristol side by two tries to one. In the second game, despite the Majorcan heat and the effects of the previous night, Driffield managed to hang on to beat El Toro and maintain the 100% record.

The tour was organised by Ollie Cooper and Paul Dervey who also celebrated his stag night in Magaluf.



Mini juniors

Congratulations to all our junior Woldsmen on another fine season of rugby at all levels. The dedication of parents, volunteers and coaches is second to none and helps to make Sunday mornings at the Club a really nice place to be.

Our festival is a true reflection of the way we approach our rugby at Driffield. By common consent it is regarded as the best run festival in the North of England, a tribute to Karen Clark and Dave Stephenson for the mammoth amount of work put in. The final game of the season was our U19s fixture against Market Harborough who had not been beaten for four years.

Sadly we lost 33-35 but it proved to be a fantastic game of rugby and highlighted what we are trying to achieve.

The 2011-12 season sees Tony Rowbottom taking over as Director of Mini /Junior Rugby. Tony played all his senior rugby at Driffield and has a son Matthew playing in our U17s. We wish Tony all the best in his new post and are confident that under his leadership junior rugby will continue to grow and thrive at Driffield.

Quote

"To play rugby league, you need three things: a good pass, a good tackle and a good excuse"

Anon

Director's cut

Pat (Bash) Burdass
Director of Rugby



There is no hiding from the fact that the 2010/11 season has been one of the most disappointing for many years. It has culminated in our relegation to Yorkshire 1 for the 1st XV where we started our league rugby over 20 years ago.

There were many games in which we contributed to our own downfall, but we also gained ten losing bonus points in matches that could have so easily gone the other way. We had injuries to key players at vital times of the season, particularly to Tom Wright and Oliver Borman who both missed the first eight league games.

We also lost players mid season and the snow caused havoc with trying to keep any continuity. These are not excuses but factors that added to what was already becoming a difficult season.



We all take responsibility for the position that we now find ourselves in, none more so than Greg Bone and I. Greg will continue to be head coach next year and we are already starting to plan for next season.

As most of you know Ces Sellar is standing

down as first team forwards coach. He will, however, still be coaching but not in a full time capacity. I would like to thank Ces for all the time and effort that he has put into the club and am delighted that we will not be losing his coaching skills completely.



The 2nd XV had an excellent season finishing mid table in the Yorkshire Premier League. My thanks go to Ben Cooper and James Holland (Piggy) for running the side. The 2nd XV has had many successful years due in large to the excellent team spirit that has been created.

Dan Watson has done a sterling job with the 3rd XV bringing a combination of older and younger players together. It was important to keep as many of last years U17s playing rugby and the 3rd XV certainly helped to do that.

Steve Raines probably has the hardest task of all the captains keeping the Extra Cents playing rugby every week. Available players on any given Saturday can range from 12 to 20. The majority of our 4th XV fixtures were fulfilled; an achievement that cannot be claimed by many clubs in Yorkshire. Well done Steve.

A major goal for us next season is to secure more fixtures for the U19s (formerly the Colts). We cannot afford to lose our junior players after all the hard work that has been put in by the coaches at the various age groups. Once players become of age for senior rugby we need to make every effort to keep them. A combination of U19 rugby and senior rugby can ensure that happens.

My thanks go to all the coaches for their time and efforts and to everybody who has helped in any way. Thank you to all our supporters for your continued loyalty and hope to see you all next season.

Enjoy the summer,

Bash

DRUFC AGM 2011

TUESDAY 5TH JULY 2011
7PM AT THE CLUBHOUSE

Volunteers needed!

Karen Clark
Club Secretary



Success for DRUFC is not just about what happens on the pitch. Players and coaches are vitally important but so are the many dedicated volunteers who work hard behind the scenes to help the Club to function.

Our recent mini rugby festival is a classic example of how people from all parts of the Club working together can make us successful. You do not have to be a rugby expert to get involved. You might be a

current player, an ex player, a parent or a supporter. You can still be a valued club volunteer.

After a recruitment drive this season for next season's mini junior teams we are fortunate to have been able to find twelve new team managers, six new coaches and three new first aiders. To help develop mini junior rugby further we are looking for volunteers in the following administration roles:

- Assistant Child Safeguarding Officer
- Mini Junior Membership Administrators
- Junior Fixtures Secretary

If you are interested in any of these roles, please contact me by email at:

kjclark22@aol.com
or call me on 07791 420404.

Quote

"On the biggest change after returning to the Union code: "It's the first time I've been cold for seven years. I was never cold playing rugby league"
Jonathan Davis (1995)