



DRIFFIELD R.U.F.C.

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

Newsletter

President's notes

We are almost three months into a new and exciting season. Our members, and particularly our opposition in Yorkshire One, have seen some frighteningly good rugby.

Memories have to go some way back to remember a Driffield start to the season as good as this. The First XV have been beaten only once in the league and are playing with tremendous team spirit, with great defence and exciting attacking flair.

Much credit must also go to all the other teams including Minis and Juniors – we are blessed with talented players and committed coaches and team managers who will never lose sight of the fact that they are moulding the building blocks of the continuing future success of DRUFC.

I applaud all of you who willingly give up your time and boundless energy to support all aspects of the smooth running of our Club. To those not involved, to paraphrase the words of a former President (sic!),

'Ask not what your club can do for you, ask, what you can do for your club?'

Whatever you do – enjoy your rugby – be it playing, coaching, watching, sponsoring or administrating. Please keep supporting our club at as many events as possible, we certainly owe it to the hard work undertaken by our officials and to our generous sponsors and stakeholders.

If you don't know me, please introduce yourself as I would be delighted to meet you and share the knowledge of our great game!



Thanks

Tim Cooper
President DRUFC

Are you a member?

The reason you have received this newsletter is as a result of your being either a valued sponsor/ stakeholder or because you are included on our database of Club 'members'. A member may be a player, non player or Vice President.

True and constitutionally correct membership however involves not only the joining of the Club by application or being proposed, but also the payment each year of the relevant subscription, or a donation.

In recent years some people on the database have not paid any subscription, and this season to date I still await a considerable number of 'members' making their payments. I often see some of you at the Club on Saturdays, clearly therefore still supporting the teams, and hope that you do all consider yourselves members, I look forward to receiving subs and donations from everyone as soon as possible. In the event that you no longer wish to be a Club member it would be helpful to hear from you so we can update our records.

Adrian Harrison
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Club sponsorship

The Club continues to enjoy fantastic support from the existing commercial sponsors, being Newitts, AMK Fuels, Dee Atkinson & Harrison, Carlsberg Tetley and JB Fuels.

The new stakeholder sponsorship package has been very well received with some 20 local businesses now partnering with the Club for mutual benefit. The Club is looking to build on and expand the number of stakeholders over the next few years.

The pre match lunches have been tremendously well supported this season. They have been sold out since mid October to the end of the season. There is always the odd cancellation, so if you want a table, or wish to reserve one for next season, please get in touch.

The Club is always looking to enhance its links with the local economy. If anyone would like to discuss sponsorship opportunities or table requirements for next season, please contact:

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Chappie in the chair

Andrew Chapman



We are over a third of the way through the season and on the playing front everything is going in the right direction. The senior squad has started the season well and the numbers of players training and playing on a Saturday is encouraging. The emergence of the Colts XV gives one a particular source of pride. It is vital to nurture and grow at this level if we are to sustain four senior teams on a Saturday.

We are fortunate at Driffield to have a large team of staff and volunteers that work tremendously hard to ensure that everything from rugby to catering is delivered in a professional way. It is important to provide the right environment to allow our sponsors and supporters to enjoy the rugby experience.

The success that we have enjoyed over recent years has been due in large to the support of the member-

ship of which we are very appreciative. It would be very easy to relax, assume that we are financially sound and expect everything to tick along nicely.

There is no doubt that we are well placed to compete with anyone in the area for our social functions and events, however we are not immune from the economic down turn. It is now more important than ever to guard against complacency, to spread the word about our facilities, support club events and pay your subscriptions (those of you who have yet to do so).

On a national basis the game is currently on the decline. At Driffield we are proud to be able to say that the number of people enjoying rugby from the U7s to the Over 35s (and older!) is growing. We are a club of considerable size that takes a dedicated team of people to sustain it.

Whether you are a committee member, player, coach, parent, regular or occasional supporter you should feel part of that team. Our senior coaches know their aim is to reach national league rugby within two years, it is up to us to give them every opportunity to realise that goal.

Thanks

Chappie

Mini Junior update

So far this season we have registered 235 players which we understand is a record and would like to thank all those involved in making that happen, particularly the team managers.

The mini age group recruitment campaign that began in the summer with a 'taster session' at the Club has been a huge success. We currently have 22 new players in our U7s alone (another record) and in total 60 new players have joined us this season across all age groups which is a fantastic achievement.

We have put in place a coaching development plan which includes a Continuing Professional Development Programme consisting of four specific skills development sessions for all our coaches. In addition, we will continue to support those coaches who wish to gain a coaching or refereeing qualification. This season we have introduced a programme of



skills development sessions for both mini and junior players delivered with the support of the RFU and Sport England through our sports match project. The new Director of Mini Junior Rugby, Tony Rowbottom, has been impressed with the level of support for mini junior rugby from everybody at the Club, the level of commitment from all of the coaches and volunteers and also the enthusiasm from the players and their supporters. One of the key

focuses for us this season is the provision of support for the transitional age groups (U17s - 18s) to help players progress from junior to senior rugby as smoothly as possible.

Not only will this ensure that our junior players have the necessary support and skills to move to adult rugby but it will also ensure that we retain more younger players in the game in years to come.

As well as dedicated coaching support from the senior coaching team, we have the support of the RFU in the delivery of those sessions. We have also been able to put in place a new Colts team and have arranged junior colts games for them with schools such as Ampleforth College, St. Peters and Hymers (see below).

Colts Rugby

On 4th February our U19s will play against Rotherham at Clifton Lane in a curtain raiser before the SSE National League 1 game between Rotherham Titans and Cornish Pirates. The kick off time is yet to be confirmed.

Other Colts fixtures arranged so far:

Monday 12th December - U18s v Hull Collegiate (Home) - K.O. 6.45pm

Saturday 14th January - U19s v Rotherham (Home) - K.O. 2.15pm

Saturday 21st January - U18s v Pocklington School (Away) - K.O. 2.15pm

Quote

"If history repeats itself, I should think we can expect the same thing again"

Terry Venables
Football Manager

Referee Development

Firstly, I feel as though I should introduce myself. My name is Chris Lunn. Having played at Driffield RUFC for many years I suffered an injury that meant that I was unable to play rugby again. Still feeling as though I had more to give to the game I started thinking of things that I could do to keep me involved at the Club. A brief discussion with a referee on the touchline of a 3rd XV game persuaded me that I should give refereeing a go. I am now in my second year as a referee and can honestly say I am enjoying every minute of it. I have also recently been asked to help out with referee development at the Club.



This leads me on to why I am writing in this newsletter. Our Club simply needs more referees at the mini junior level. There are some very capable referees at DRUFC who kindly give up their time to officiate on Sunday mornings; however a lot of these referees are now refereeing at a high level on a Saturday and cannot be relied on every week. My first objective in my new role is to find two people for each age group to assist with refereeing on some weeks at the Club. One of these people could be the coach; ideally I would like at least one non coach to put themselves forward for the role.

If there are any parents or other volunteers that would like to have a go at refereeing, I would more than gladly come to watch and give you some pointers or answer any questions you may have. This would be

done very informally with the focus being on safety and enjoyment for those involved. It would not be to know the law book inside out!!

In addition, the Club will be putting on some courses for prospective referees. Initially they will be aimed at refereeing the mini-midi level and will give you the key points to going onto the field with a whistle. I will be asking each age group to provide a volunteer to take part in the sessions but if anyone else would like to be involved please feel free to contact me.

Another idea that I am looking to introduce at the Club is the utilisation of generic courses that focus on rugby at the youth level. These short sessions will look at the overview of the basics of refereeing and also the laws and new directives. They provide an ideal opportunity for new referees to come down, ask questions and improve their own performance.

Team coaches can attend to inform themselves on what the referees are looking for and how to help their teams with the benefit of this knowledge.

Driffield RUFC is always so successfully supported by volunteers throughout the Mini-Junior section. The one area that needs more help is refereeing. Refereeing is a vital part of the game of rugby and whilst I understand how the concept of being in charge of a group of children can be daunting, without a referee a game would not be able to happen.

Why not give it a go? You never know, you may just enjoy it!

Chris Lunn 07776 292023

Christmas Fayre

On Friday 11th November DRUFC hosted its annual Christmas Fayre organised by the Ladies' Committee. Over 130 people visited the 25 stalls to buy various foods, crafts, cosmetics and pleasantries. The stallholders reported healthy trade and over £1000 was raised for Club funds. Well done again to the Ladies' Committee and many thanks to those who supported the event.



Quote

(Adjusting to living in Italy and playing for Juventus) "It was like being in a foreign country"
Ian Rush – Liverpool footballer

Director's cut

Pat (Bash) Burdass
Director of Rugby



After the disappointment of last season it was vital that we got off to a good start this time around. A lot of hard work was done off the field during the summer and after a good pre-season we have got the start we were looking for. There is still a long way to go so we must keep our feet firmly on the ground and keep working hard.

Yorkshire One is more competitive now than when we were last in the league. I am sure the spectators are enjoying the local derby games which create lots of rugby talk and extra interest. This can only be good for the game.

There is plenty of competition for places in the 1st XV and which will become stronger in the coming weeks. The arrival of a new player from Southern Districts, Australia, Rob Hamilton's return and Robin Kitching's recovery from a serious ankle injury should further ensure this.

We still continue to turn out four senior sides. The 2nd XV struggled initially but are starting to turn it around. The 3rd XV is again a mixture of old and young (mainly young) playing in a difficult league against 2nd XVs of the likes of Beverley, Pocklington, Malton and Scarborough. It does seem a little unfair but it is because we prefer our 2nd XV to play in the more competitive Yorkshire Premier League better preparing our players for 1st XV rugby.

Steve Raines again heads the 4th XV and we all thank him for the time and effort he puts in.

The senior players and coaches continue to help the mini and junior teams. Paul Sellar, John Hodgson and Chris McClarron are coaching the newly formed Colts XV. Mitch, Greg Bone, Alasdair McClarron, Robin Kitching and Piggy Holland are all helping with the U7s to U17s. We are always trying to improve our coaching standard whether it be utilising coaches within the club or outside help. It is vitally important that we continue to produce home grown players capable of playing 1st XV rugby.

Once again thank you for your continued support towards the Club in whatever role it might be.

Bash

Purse strings

Mark Goodson
Club Treasurer



Metaphorically speaking it was a long hot summer for the finances of the Club.

Compared to last year the bar takings were down by a third to the end of September. This coupled with lower than expected food sales has caused cash flow issues for the Club during the summer period. The main reasons for this downturn are the national economic crisis, several cancelled functions (due to third party circumstances) and a below par attendance at the Driffeld Show.

As you can imagine, I was pleased to see the back of the summer, not only for my abysmal tennis performances but because it meant we were moving into the sunlit uplands of the rugby season and positive cash flow! We started the season well with a terrific Ladies' Day and full houses for the lunches on most match days. This is encouraging as we usually struggle to fill match day tables at the early stage of the season.

In addition, there has been a terrific response for Stakeholder Sponsorship of the Club. These successes are due in large to the efforts of the commercial sponsorship team of Dave Stephenson and Ben Medhurst. There are one or two difficult months ahead when finances will be tight (such as

February when there are no home 1st XV fixtures) so cost control is imperative and income from other sources is crucial.

With regard to the latter it will be a great help to the Club and Adrian Harrison (Director of Membership) if members pay their subscriptions on time and VP's their donations. In supermarket parlance 'every little helps!'

Website of the week

Our Club website recently featured as 'Website Of The Week' in the 29th September issue of the Driffeld Times & Post. Visit www.driffieldruffc.com to read match reports, fixtures and results, forthcoming DRUFC events, player statistics and download past newsletters. If you have any news or ideas that you would like to be considered for the website please send an email to druffc@positiveaction.co.uk

Forthcoming Events

- 10th Dec – Christmas Club Night
- 15th Jan – 2nd 120 Club Lunch
- 31st Jan – New Year's Eve Party
- 3rd Feb – Murder Mystery Night
- 9th Mar – Ladies' Night
- 16th Mar – Annual Mini Junior Dinner
- 24th Mar – Madonna Tribute Night
- 5th Apr – Members & Players Annual Dinner
- 14th Apr – Seaside Danny Wilde
- 15th Apr – Driffeld Mini Festival
- 22nd Apr – 3rd 120 Club Lunch
- 5th May – Rugby Club May Ball

Quote

"I'd like to play for an Italian club, like Barcelona"
Mark Draper - Aston Villa footballer