



# DRIFFIELD R.U.F.C.

Member of The Rugby Football Union and Yorkshire Rugby Football Union

[www.driffieldruffc.com](http://www.driffieldruffc.com)

## Newsletter

### Director's notes

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

After a slow start, mainly because of unavailability due to injuries and work commitments, the 1st XV are now playing entertaining and exciting rugby. We are back to winning ways and find ourselves leading the Yorkshire One League. There is still a long way to go so we will continue to work hard as many tough games lie ahead.

Spirit within the squad is good. The coaching team have been excellent and the players have responded to undertake the responsibilities asked of them. The squad is as strong as it has been for many years, especially in the forwards. We've welcomed back Mike Bradshaw who was on loan from us to Wharfedale and Mark Anderson has returned to the Club having played his junior rugby at Driffield.

Dave Lewellyn is back in the area after three years at university and Josh Pratt has returned from Newcastle. Jordan McGregor the talented Australian joins us for his second spell at the Club. I'm delighted to say that he is here for two seasons. Like all clubs we still have our injury problems. Gary Shipley, John Dervey and Sam Beachell are all on the long term list. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

The 2nd XV has made a solid start in the Yorkshire Premier League winning five out of the last eight league games. It is worrying that all the fixtures in this league are not fulfilled. Huddersfield was unable to raise a side to visit Driffield and Scunthorpe has pulled out of the league. This is a surprise as Scunthorpe for many years regularly turned out five teams. I hope it is only a short term blip in their fortunes. The Yorkshire Premier is a competitive league and it provides our players with a good grounding for stepping up into first team rugby.

Rob Norman and Chris Massey have taken over the reins of the 3rd XV and are successfully encouraging young players into their first season of senior rugby. They are also persuading the senior players not to hang up their boots too early. Similar to the 2nd XV, the 3rd XV is punching above its weight playing in a strong league against local second teams.

The 4th Development XV this season is under the captaincy of Simon Baker.

He has a tough task but it is one he is relishing and one that is an integral part of senior rugby in the club. We must always strive to turn out four senior teams. This requires a lot of hard work and enthusiasm but I am confident we have the coaching staff and captains in place for this to continue.

It has been difficult to get the Colts XV fixtures on a regular basis (not through lack of trying!). The Colts have played four matches against schools and club sides. I am confident that Saturday colts rugby will eventually return on a regular basis so it is important that we are heavily involved when it does. My thanks to Tim Coleman, Travis Plumridge and John Hodgson who are our Colts coaching team.

Attendance at training is very good and we try to involve everybody in the session whether they be seasoned players or colts. This makes everyone feel part of senior rugby and creates the positive spirit that I mentioned earlier. Another positive aspect is that 16 players under 21 have already played for either the 1st or 2nd XV this season. Senior rugby in the club is as strong as ever. We will not be resting on our laurels as we continually push for improvement.

Thanks

Bash



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Official  
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#### Contact details

In order for the Club to improve communications to Members, efficiently and cost effectively, it is our intention, in future to issue this newsletter electronically instead of the traditional hardcopy.

For this to happen we require all members to confirm their email address to the Club at [DRUFFC@aol.com](mailto:DRUFFC@aol.com). This will also enable us to communicate details of forthcoming social events, changes to fixtures, the AGM, etc. all via email.

Your cooperation on this matter is greatly appreciated to improve the efficient running of our Club.



## Thoughts of an ancient supporter



It is now over 40 years since I "emigrated" to Driffield. I well remember my first visit to the Club. I was staying at the Bell Hotel whilst a house was being built and was informed that the local rugby club had an early season evening game. I went to watch and whilst standing next to the dilapidated small shelter at the showfield, I was approached by a member.

This turned out to be JU Burdass "Where are you from, lad?" "Liverpool" was the reply. "Oh, heck, that's in Lancashire isn't it?" I confirmed his geographic knowledge and he continued "Well it's better than the West Riding!" Such was my introduction to DRUFC.

I am asked what changes I have noted during the last 30 to 40 years. Some are very obvious and mainly to do with facilities. The purchase of the 'Mucky Duck' pitches and the installation of floodlights spring to mind. I remember Rodney Dukes, JH and I putting them on for the first time one evening and trying to punt the ball as high as possible, to see if it was still visible in the lights. The refurbishment of the old clubhouse I recall, involved turning the bar round and making it longer. Then there was the extra skin put on the exterior walls and the change of bathing facilities.

The old entrance was made into a referees' room, instead of that poor individual having to change with the home team and hear all the complaints! We had the erection of the kitchen and the splitting up of the main room to make extra changing rooms and also be able to be converted into a stage for the Christmas cabarets. Each team in those days had to put on an act. I remember the flooding outside when the soakaway was full and the bath emptied.

There are many more old memories, for example, the way JH overcame our accommodation problems. I reminisce going to see him in his School office when I was the Chairman and looking in wonderment at his large table simply covered with DRUFC papers and money.

There are memories regarding pitches, playing and training on Hopper's field outside the old Clubhouse, with those rickety lamp standards. During training one listened for the rattle of the gate near the Clubhouse, knowing it was Mark Wilson slipping off in the dark for an early exit.

Hopper's pitch became pretty damp and bare mid winter, but it was still better than having to make the trip up to School when playing in the junior sides. Clive Whyley (headmaster of Cottingham HS) was

our usual tame, home referee and he was very hot on back chat, once giving a stern lecture to that unlikely candidate Nigel Brass. What a fantastic improvement was the new pitch outside the Clubhouse, levelled, drained and one of the best surfaces in Yorkshire. Woody, JH, Michael Clubley and Pip Megginson must take a lot of credit for that. The stone picking parties on the Showfield are thankfully a thing of the past.

The new Clubhouse was a terrific effort, fronted of course by JH. Rodney Dukes' and Mike Furbank's input must also be acknowledged and more recently the all weather pitch, which took over from Woody's cricket square.

With regard to the important matter of actually playing rugby, one thing that has changed is selection. The Chairmen of Selectors arranged their meetings at the Club on Monday nights. Various members had watched the junior teams as well as the 1st XV and gave their reports. Together with Captains they sorted out the following Saturday's teams which were then given to the Driffield Times. Now it is less democratic, but I am certain just as diligently done. We have a Director of Rugby, with his various coaches and I am sure the Captains, who produce the selection each week and a good job they do.

The names of the teams have changed. There used to be a Centenarians (3rd XV) and an extra Centenarians (4th XV) and on many occasions an Extra A (5th XV). On a few occasions we even had an Extra B (6th XV) team. I know because I played in it! The problems now seem to be getting opposition. In those far off days I remember playing for Driffield 5th XV v Hessle 5th XV at the foreshore ground. They were short, so I played for them in a 12 versus 13 game. There were Priestmans, Lambwath, Hull Spartans, Old Hymerians, Ionians and not to forget BP and the dreaded trip to Withernsea... The bathing facilities at Withernsea were so primitive; that I remember one time we all drove to Hornsea to have a shower.

What has changed dramatically is the quality of the rugby and the general fitness of the players. It is only a decade ago that Driffield were third at the end of the season in North One league. We are not as high up the league system now, but I bet we play better rugby today and certainly from 30 years ago. Forwards are more mobile and have to carry more often, and front five men now have to tackle! Teams go on the field today with plans and try to execute them. The old system of turning out and see what happens is long gone.

What marvellous Club Dinners we used to have, many at the School, needless to say a JH production. So the game, the facilities and grounds are all different, but the camaraderie is still there and long may it last.

Ian Douglas

### Quote

*"Winning is habit. Unfortunately, so is losing"*

Vince Lombardi (Head Coach, Green Bay Packers & Washington Redskins)

## Mini/Juniors

The season is now almost half way through and we have almost 200 children registered. It never ceases to amaze me how many newcomers at the Under 7 level, complete with parents want to join our Club to play rugby. They are all most welcome and we must credit the coaches and team managers who work in the 'cage' on Sunday mornings.

The rest of the mini section is again thriving, albeit the U12's could do with a few more players. If you know anyone out there who wants to play with an oval ball and is under 12 years old please ask them to join us.

The U10's and U11's are faring well, with the U10's beating stiff opposition to win the Malton Festival. A great achievement!

The U9's have finished tag and watching them train last weekend I suspect they are relishing getting stuck into contact rugby (nearly as much as the coaches)!

The U13's have moved into the junior section and are now playing on full size pitches. They have adapted well to their new conditions.

The U14's and U15's have played some tough sides in the early season and although picking up quite a few injuries are still able to field a full team.

The U16's have also had their share of injuries. We are looking to forge relationships with Bishop Burton College at this age group. Representatives have already been to Driffield to coach our boys and give a presentation about the College.

The Colts, as you will have read from the Director of Rugby Report, have made significant progress this season with one or two players making their 1st XV debuts. Congratulations go to the whole of the Mini Junior section for winning the Whistlers East Yorkshire Trophy. This is an award given to the club, who in the referees' opinion, has been the most hospitable.

**Tony Rowbottom**  
Director of Mini/Juniors

## Pre-match lunches

Tables for 1st XV pre-match lunches continue to be well received. There is limited availability for the friendly fixture against Pocklington on 29th December and also for the Yorkshire One league fixture with Knottingley on 12th January.



A pre-match lunch will be organised for the 2nd XV fixture versus Hull Ionians on 16th March. After the game at 5pm Wales entertain England in the Six Nations Championship. This will be screened live in the Clubhouse. If you would like tables for any of these lunches, please do not hesitate to contact:

**Ben Medhurst 07710 344603**  
**Dave Stevenson 07774 416630**  
**Mitch 07776148668**

## Statistics

Evergreen Jeremy Harrison would not be considered as one of the younger players at DRUFC but in the 2011-12 season Jeremy took to the field more times than any other player with 29 appearances.



Henry Waterhouse and Lester Bell were close behind with 28 appearances and John Dervey and Sam Furbank managed 27 each. Big Ol' Borman, Robin McGill, Simon Pettinger and Gary Shipley all appeared 26 times and 'Pat' Rafter and Sam Havler played 25 times each.

Gary Robb was the highest points scorer with 156, closely followed by Sam Furbank with 150, Lee Birch 119 and Robin Kitching 112.



Sam Furbank notched up an incredible 26 tries with Oliver Newburn, Tom Wright, Danny Smith and Gary Shipley all crossing the whitewash 12 times, while Robin Kitching scored Driffield's only drop goal of the season.

## Diary date: 29th December

Steve Knowles Memorial Game – kick off: 12 noon followed by Driffield v Pocklington – kick off: 2.15pm

## Quote

*"Show me a good loser, and I'll show you a loser!"*

Vince Lombardi

## Chappie in the chair

### Andrew Chapman



We are half way through another season and rugby continues to flourish at Kelleythorpe. The 1st XV has been in stunning form of late playing the style of rugby we have long wished to see. The 2nd XV too are more than holding their own in the Yorkshire Premier League, and the 3rd XV and 4th XV development teams are battling on manfully. The Mini Junior teams from U7s to Colts provide rugby for over 200 young Woldsmen.

Off the field our catering team is maintaining the high standards we expect, whether it be for pre-match lunches or the plethora of 18th and 21st birthday parties, weddings and social events that we host here at Kelleythorpe.

It would be understandable for an outside observer to conclude that the Club is fully functional, self

supporting and not in need of help. How wrong that is, because actually, we need every bit of support we can get.

The Executive Committee works very hard to ensure the Club runs smoothly. Many unpaid hours are put in to what sometimes seems a thankless task. When you witness well attended functions and the teams playing so well then it makes it all worthwhile.

We are supported as well as any club in the North of England running a large facility that provides for our players very well. We wish to continue to grow and develop the players and facilities at Driffield so please continue to back us in any way you can.

Choose the Club for your social function or simply come down and watch our teams play on a Saturday. Be an integral part of a rugby club that encourages a young, home grown senior squad playing a blend of dynamic and entertaining rugby.

After a period of consolidation both on and off the field it feels like we are ready to move forward again and the future looks full of promise

Thanks

## A straight dozen!

The 1st XV win against Wath upon Dearne on 8th December means that the team has chalked up 10 consecutive Yorkshire One League victories with an additional 2 wins in the Yorkshire Shield – 12 consecutive wins in all.



In these 12 games a total of 515 points were scored resulting in 49 league points, 9 of which are bonus points for scoring 4 tries in the game.

Credit goes to the coaching team of Stu Cooper, Ces Sellar and Ali McClarron. Even Coops should manage a smile!

## New sponsors

We are delighted to announce that three new sponsors have joined the very successful stakeholder sponsorship scheme. Manor Farm Feeds, Garth Veterinary Practice and Wayside Holiday Parks have committed to the popular scheme which was introduced two years ago and now has twenty members.

Dave Stephenson, who organises the commercial sponsorship on behalf of the Club said "We are delighted that these three businesses have come onboard to join our other existing stakeholders and main sponsors. Without their continued and valued support we would not be able to offer the standard of rugby in excellent, safe surroundings that the members enjoy at Driffield RUFC.



## Events for 2013

- Club Night - 26/01/13
- 2nd 120 Club Lunch - 03/02/13
- Ladies Night - 08/03/2013
- Members & Senior Players Annual Dinner - 28/03/13
- Driffield Mini Festival - 14/04/13
- 3rd 120 Club Lunch - 28/04/13
- Annual General Meeting 2013 - 09/07/13

## Quote

*"If winning isn't everything, why do they keep score?"*

Vince Lombardi

REMEMBER: the Club needs your support