

What's happening at the Rugby Club ?

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1. 1st XV Fixtures for December

- 02 December : Morpeth [Home]
- 09 December : Penrith [Away]
- 16 December : Bridlington [Home] – League / Turnbull Trophy
- 23 December : No fixture
- 30 December : Beverley [Away] – to run off the Christmas Pudding - **to be confirmed**

To see what fixtures are planned, look at the Club Diary at driffieldruffc.com/whats-going-on-at-the-club/.

You can see each team's progress on the pages at driffieldruffc.com/1st-xv-fixtures-results/ - just choose the side from the list at the left-hand side.

2. Ladies Rugby Match on Saturday, 16 December

Driffield Ladies will play Northallerton Nightmares on Saturday, 16 December as a curtain-raiser for the 1st XV's game against Bridlington RUFC. Kick-off will be at midday, with two 30-minute halves.

This is the first home match for our ladies team – they have already played at a number of development festivals and away at York RUFC in October. Come along and give them your support on the day.

The team is always looking for new players to join them : if you, or someone you know, are interested please contact Laurie Fergusson or come and join in the training on Wednesday evenings starting at 7pm on the floodlit pitches at Kelleythorpe.

The RFU has launched its women and girls action plan for the next four years. This is an integral part of the RFU's overarching Strategic Plan and funding agreement with Sport England. Running from 2017-2021, the action plan recognizes the significant growth in the female game over the last four years and sets out a plan for the next four years to continue to grow the number of women and girls engaging in rugby. The ambition is to attract a further 100,000 players and have 350 more active adult women's teams by 2021.

3. Steve Knowles Memorial Match on Saturday, 30 December

The Club will hold its annual game in memory of Steve, on Saturday 30 December at 13.30. Many of our more recent members may not know that Steve was a young player of ours with significant potential, who was sadly killed in a car crash many years ago. Ever since his untimely death the Club has held a game in his memory, attended by representatives of his family who present the trophy to the winning side.

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It would be great if you were able to come along to the game to watch some enterprising 'Barbarians-style' rugby played by sides representing the 'Oldies' and the 'Youngsters'. It's a great opportunity to get away from home-based Christmas events, meet up with friends at the Rugby Club, and pay our respects to a former player.

4. Mini Juniors Christmas Party

The Under 6/7/8s are holding their Christmas Party on Friday, 15 December starting at 5pm. The event is only open to those involved with the teams.

If you would like to discuss an event of your own please talk with Ali Ulyott at the club – (01377) 256598 or drufc@aol.com.

5. Christmas cabaret ?

At the moment no cabaret has been organised, but we still hope to hold an event of some type before Christmas. We'll keep you posted about what and when.

6. Yorkshire Cup Semi-final v Hull Saturday, 24 February : Lunch tables

Our 1st XV has progressed to the semi-final of the competition with a home draw against local rivals Hull. This is set for the **Saturday, 24 February** – put the date on your calendar.

This extra fixture brings a further opportunity to attend one of the popular pre-match sponsorship lunches; a quality 3-course meal (starter/main/cheeseboard and tea/coffee). The price of £30 per head (tables of 10 are available for £300) includes entrance to the game.

Let's fill up the clubhouse and make sure our first team is given great support before, during and after the game. Bookings are being taken and anyone interested, or wanting further information, should contact Ali Ulyott in the clubhouse office (01377) 256598 or call Ben Medhurst on 07710 344603.

7. RFU National Draw

As we have previously written, the Club is again taking part in this Draw – this is much-needed financial help for the Club, and your help making it a success is very much appreciated. The club makes 90p tax-free from every £1 of tickets sold as the RFU arranges everything needed to take part in the fund raising: prizes, tickets, instructions, promotional material – even the postage is pre-paid. You can read more at :

englandrugby.com/governance/club-support/facility-development/funding/grand-draw/

Tickets have now been distributed to a series of coordinators, to disseminate to all members. If you haven't had yours yet, please let the Draw Organiser know. The initial allocation of 4 books of 5 * £1 tickets to each member will raise towards £10,000 if we sell them all.

Any sponsors and stakeholders wanting to buy a block of tickets to give to employees as Christmas gifts should contact the Draw Organiser direct : brad.webster@virgin.net .

If you do not live locally and still want tickets to sell or buy, let us know and we will get them to you.

What's happening at the Rugby Club ?

8. Members subs overdue

Remaining subs continue to come in, but there are still almost 100 non-players / players we continue to 'chase'. If you haven't had time to make your payment yet, don't be shy – our membership team (Charles Burdass and John Turner) will be delighted not to have to chase, so make their day by seeking them out.

For many people, particularly those that don't get the opportunity to visit the Club very often, payment will be easiest by BACS through online banking. The account details to use are :

Driffield RUFC Ltd **40-10-12 61588303** Payment reference <yourname>

If you prefer to pay by cheque please make it payable to Driffield RUFC and post or drop off at the Rugby Club.

9. Family Connections

Following on from an earlier article about family connections at the Club, the Kitching siblings are another example, not only as players :

- Andrew : Chairman for many years before handing on the baton to Andrew Chapman. A stalwart supporter of the Club who takes all the sponsorship tables for the last home game of the season
- Steve : life-long member, first team player who represented Yorkshire, formerly landlord of the Full Measure, responsible for maintaining the grounds of the Club, making them the envy of many clubs
- Nigel : helped instigate mini rugby at Driffield. After spending many years in South Africa, Nigel took over the role of Club handyman this year and has done a lot of work with painting and decorating, and other general maintenance tasks
- Kay : married to Richard Hornby, Kay has been a regular visitor to the Club for many years, and loves to watch son Simon play
- Nicholas : moved to New Zealand many years ago but still maintains an interest in the success of the Club
- Andrew's son, James : famed for his Laser Beams Discos, and many other things. He is now Communications Manager on the Club's Executive
- Nigel's son, Robin : played for the 1st XV, Otley and Yorkshire. Recently retired from playing he now coaches the Under 10s.

10. Your Club Needs You

The Club's Executive Committee of nine people already give generously of their time - the January edition will outline their roles. In addition to them we are always looking for volunteers who can give a little extra time to help run the Club and continue to make it a successful community rugby club. Without new volunteers we risk withering on the vine.

We already have a great pool of parents who coach younger players, referee their games, provide first aid, and arrange fixtures. There are also people who support the senior teams.

If you are a former player, or parent no longer as actively involved with playing, perhaps you could give a few hours a month ? Maybe you have coaching / personal development skills to help our coaches and club referees be the best they want to be ? If you would like to discuss how you could help please have a word with either Andrew Chapman or Dominic Thompson.

Have a very Happy Christmas

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