

What's happening at the Rugby Club ?

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1. 1st XV fixtures for February

Our League season continues with three games in February, of which two are away :

- 03 February - Northern (Home)
- 10 - Penrith (Away) rearranged game
- 17 - West Hartlepool (Away)
- 24 - No fixture

2. Yorkshire Cup semi-final

The game against Hull, originally planned for Saturday, 24 February has now been re-scheduled to Saturday, 17 March as Hull have to play a postponed League game which takes priority over the Yorkshire Cup.

The sponsorship lunch tables that had been booked for 24 February have been rearranged for the new date, and are all taken.

3. Six Nations Fixtures

This Saturday sees the start of the 2018 tournament when Wales v. Scotland kicks off at 14:15. The Saturday games will be shown on the screens at the Club, so you can come along for a drink while you enjoy the games.

- Saturday 03 Wales v. Scotland at 14:15
France v. Ireland at 16:45
- Sunday 04 Italy v. England at 15:00

- Saturday 10 Ireland v. Italy at 14:15
England v. Wales at 16:45
- Sunday 11 Scotland v. France at 15:00

- Friday 23 France v. Italy at 20:00
- Saturday 24 Ireland v. Wales at 14:15
Scotland v. England at 16:45

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4. Car Park Repairs

We are sure you have noticed the repairs to the car park that are under way – these are the first major repair works since the new clubhouse was opened in early 2002. The work being carried out by Ashcourt Group is being funded, in part, by the money raised from the 2017 RFU Grand Draw.

A new drain has been installed along the lower edge to help reduce the ponding along the side near the pitch, and the potholes have been smoothed out. The barriers along the showground access road are there to reduce the 'scrubbing' caused by goods vehicles using the car park as a turning area.

5. RFU National Draw

Money for the 9,500 tickets given to a series of coordinators is starting to come back in, and £645 has already been received towards our target. This is much-needed financial help for the Club, and your help making it a success is very much appreciated. Please remember that the club makes 90p tax-free from every £1 of tickets sold.

If you haven't already sold your allocation please do the best you can in the next three weeks. If you have sold them, please return them to your coordinator. If that is not convenient simply put the stubs and the cash in an envelope, with your name on the outside, and drop them into the Club when you are next passing. **Please do not leave them in the post box outside**, as that is not secure.

If you haven't yet received your tickets, would like some more, do not live locally and want tickets to sell or buy, or have any other questions, please contact the Draw Organiser direct : brad.webster@virgin.net .

6. Members subs are due

A thank-you to parents who have paid for their child's membership for the second half of the season.

The club has over 650 memberships in a range of categories, and fewer than 70 remain to be paid. 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 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.

7. Safeguarding Training

The 'Play It Safe' training for those involved with club coaching and refereeing is confirmed for Tuesday, 20 February at the Club. There are still five places available if you are interested - if you have not yet applied please speak with [Dominic Thompson](#).

8. O2 Touch Rugby

The popularity of this form of rugby continues to grow at the club, and the calendar for the year is starting

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to be filled. The first tournament in 2018 is The Northern Cup at Percy Park on the Saturday, 24 March.

A Facebook group has been started : North East Social Touch

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/1878079465543200>

This is a pitch'n'play-style group aimed at individual players 14 years plus with experience playing to FIT Rules and at least one season of ETA under their belts. It is aimed at local clubs within a 45min radius and so far we have 30 members from local RFU clubs. Individual players and teams give availability and, once there are the minimum to play, a location and referee is confirmed.

9. Club playing statistics

The February edition of Touchline, the RFU newsletter, included an item about Dennis Vittle who played his 1,000th game for North Bristol in 2015 and recently made his record-breaking 1,032rd appearance for the club's third team at the age of 67. Dennis has been on no less than 40 tours during which he played just 10 matches - he just loves a social trip with teammates. In total he has scored 53 tries, kicked one penalty and one conversion. That's a lot of rugby.

Driffield does not hold comprehensive records for all-time, but our database of games played by senior teams goes back to the 95/96 season. To give a sense of scale to the amount of records held, that means (not including the current season) :

- 2,388 matches
- 42,484 player records
- 8,405 tries
- 4,454 conversions
- 1,727 penalties
- 51 drop-goals

In that time :

- the greatest number of games played is by Jeremy Harrison with 541, closely followed by Henry Waterhouse on 533 and Oliver Borman on 527.
- the highest overall point-scorer is Jim Iveson with 1601, followed by Colin Lucas on 1477 and Alasdair McClarron on 1465.
- the greatest number of tries scored is 293 by Alasdair McClarron, some distance ahead of the 194 by Leon Boldock and 172 by 'Silky' Anderson.

10. Mini Rugby Festival

This annual event will take place on Sunday, 15 April when we expect to host games involving teams at all age groups from Under 7 to Under 12. Last year the event was attended by over 800 players, and raised over £4,500 towards club funds.

The coaches and volunteers for each team will be involved in running the day, but volunteers are always welcome to fulfil other roles, not least providing marshalling for the car parking from 8:30 to 11:00 in the morning.

It would be very helpful if you can make a note of the date in your diary, and keep some time free to help. Further details will appear in future Club News, or you can speak with [Dominic Thompson](#).

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