

What's happening at the Rugby Club ?

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1. 1st XV fixtures for April

Our League season finishes with three games in April (subject to any play-offs), of which only one is at home :

- 07 April - Morpeth (Away)
- 14 - Penrith (Home)
- 21 - Bradford & Bingley (Away)

2. Volunteers needed for Mini Rugby Festival

This annual event takes 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, over 800 players attended the event, raising over £4,500 towards club funds.

Dominic Thompson is still looking for volunteers to fulfil roles like marshalling 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. If you are able to help, please speak with or email [Dominic Thompson](mailto:Dominic.Thompson)

3. RFU National Draw

The final amount raised was £4,714, and we retain £4,239 of it to use towards improvements at the Club. We had a winner : Rich Dee won a rugby ball signed by the British and Irish Lions after the 3rd Test in New Zealand. The prize is even more remarkable as Rich was actually there for that match ! As far as he knows, he was the only club member at that game.

This year's winner of the prize for most tickets sold was not Selby, who won the title for the previous two years, but Bishops Stortford RFC with sales of £7,000.

4. Annual Golf Day

This regular club fund-raising event will take place on Friday, 18 May at Driffield Golf Club. The day costs £200 for a team of four players, and includes green fees, a two-course meal and prizes. If anyone is interested please contact Ben Medhurst on 07710 344603 or email ben.medhurst@pph-commercial.co.uk

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5. Players' and Volunteers' Awards

For those that were not at the Annual Dinner, this year's awards went to :

- 1st XV Player of the year : Rob Mewburn
- 2nd XV Player of the year : Sam Parker
- 3rd XV Player of the year : Lyndon Warcup
- 4th XV Player of the year : Josh Fry
- Most improved player of the year : Sam Parker
- Young player of the year : Ben Dinsdale
- Colts / U18s XV Player of the year : Ben Glover
- John Harrison award : Laurie Fergusson
- President's Award : John Leason

6. Harper Adams v Newcastle Agrics

Polly and Edward Megginson are hosting a charity rugby match at the club during the Bank Holiday weekend, on Sunday, 27 May in aid of 'My Name's Doddie', an organisation which is supporting former Scotland rugby union international Doddie Weir, who was diagnosed with motor neurone disease in 2017. When Weir was diagnosed, doctors told him there was nothing they could do, which he believed was unacceptable. Doddie set up the charity to raise awareness and raise money to fund long overdue research.

The charity match will consist of a pre-match dinner in the clubhouse followed by an auction before the highlight of the day: Harper Adams University Old Boys will take on the University of Newcastle Agric Old Boys. The game is set to attract a large crowd of locals, as well as supporters from further afield.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses along with the opportunity to buy tables of 10 for £250, which includes a three-course meal and match entry. If you are interested in supporting the day and the charity, you can get further details by emailing polly.megginson@gmail.com or edwardmeg@hotmail.co.uk

7. Interesting Statistics

Simon Pettinger organised an event to celebrate Jake Douglas' contribution to this season's rugby before Jake, and Andy Elmer, returned to Australia. The evening included a quiz, which had the following questions about statistics for games played since the 95/96 season :

- who is the club's second highest scorer of drop-goals (Colin Lucas is the highest) ?
- who has come onto the pitch as a replacement for the 1st XV the most times ?
- who has scored highest ratio of points per game played for the 1st XV ?
- of the 123 players who have played but never scored for the 1st XV, who played the most games ?

Answers at the bottom of the document.

8. Quilter Cup Junior Party Offer

Are you looking for a special end of season trip for the club's young players? Why not take them to England v Barbarians on Sunday, 27 May 2018 when the two teams compete for the new Quilter Cup at Twickenham Stadium. You can see England in action from £10 for juniors and £15 for adults – if you would like a junior party application form, please email Adrian Harrison at adrian@dee-atkinson-harrison.co.uk

Ideas for content for the Monthly Update are always welcome – just send the idea or 50-100 words to Brad Webster.

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All other club groups can book up to 20 tickets online at EnglandRugby.com/tickets

9. NatWest Rugby Force Weekend

The club has once again signed up to this annual event, which will take place on Saturday, 23 and Sunday, 24 June. The weekend brings members to the club to make improvements ahead of the new season. Clubs that register for the weekend can receive a range of benefits from online toolkits, to marketing and communications advice and access to special offers – all to help clubs make the most of their weekend.

Further details about what / where / when our event will take place will be in a future Club News, but in the meantime why not pencil in the weekend. We hope to get people from all sections of the Club there : players of all ages, all types of rugby, and non-players too.

10. Respecting Match Officials

Late last autumn, the second National Rugby Survey was completed with responses from over 14,000 coaches, players and match officials. A 'cut' of the data was requested that focused on the responses of match officials – their biggest concern was spectator behaviour. Interestingly, a similar response was found amongst players and coaches.

The point made is that spectator behaviour, and that of parents of age-grade players, is not just a referee problem alone; it is a problem for our Game as a whole and needs to be tackled as such. We hope that Driffield RUFC will be a place where our spectators respect the officials, without whom the game cannot continue.

Answers

- Phil Jones, with 6 (Colin has 13)
- Col Yates, with 68
- Lee Birch, with 9.23 per game (Jim Iveson averaged 8.95)
- Henry Waterhouse, with 110 games

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