

What's happening at the Rugby Club ?

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1. 1st XV Warm-Up Fixtures and Senior Fixtures

To help us get ready for the new season by blowing out the cobwebs and getting some match fitness we are, as usual, playing three warm-up games. They are :

- Saturday, 17 August : Goole (Away)
- Saturday, 24 August : Beverley (Away)
- Saturday, 31 August : Doncaster Phoenix (Home)

All of the senior teams' fixtures are available to see on the website. Those for the 1st XV are at <https://www.driffieldruffc.com/1st-xv-fixtures-results/> - from that page, you can follow a link to other teams. The first League fixture is on Saturday, 7 September at home to York. We hope to see you there.

2. Off-Season Update

If you were not able to get to the AGM in July, here are some key points from the meeting :

- Andrew Chapman formally handed over to our new Chairman Dominic Thompson. Chappie will stay on as Vice Chairman
- Richard Dee took over from Tony Rowbottom as President, and David Dinsdale was voted Senior Vice President
- The financial accounts for the year were positive – we made a profit this year
- Pip Snaith has agreed to take over the subs-chasing role carried out for some years by John Turner
- Henry Waterhouse is the new Chair of Mini Junior rugby
- Andrew Chapman and Patrick 'Bash' Burdass were made Honorary Life Members in recognition of the many years of hard work they have done for the Club
- All captains continue from last season : Rob Mewburn 1st team ; Sam Parker 2nd team ; Rob Norman 3rd team ; Pat Kneeshaw / Edward Megginson 4th team

3. O2 Touch Rugby Tournament on Sunday, 18 August

Our Touch Rugby team has arranged a tournament for local businesses and teams. The event will raise awareness in the community about the team, and how to enjoy a form of rugby that has a lower risk of injury while being enjoyable. It is great for more senior players who cannot deal with the knocks.

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There should be around 80 players, with supporters and referees so it should be a good day. We hope to have two group stages followed by play-offs. The matches will be half the time of a normal match to allow them to be played in the day from 10-4pm.

There will be a pitch-side barbecue and bar for easy access for spectators and players. Confirmed teams include : Wolds Gym, Legends and Rebels Barbers, Curtis Woodhouse Gym, Health Hub, Harry Sheader's Gymnastics Gym, Driffield JFC Football Club.

4. Pre-Match Lunches

These have been selling fast, and there are very few tables available. Ladies Day on 21 September sold out almost straight away (as is usual), and the second half of the season is almost sold out.

There are limited numbers of tables for these dates :

- 7 September
- 28 September : a fund-raising event catered by the Pipe and Glass
- 26 October
- 16 November
- 7 December
- 4 January

If anyone is interested in any of these dates please contact Ben Medhurst on 07710 344603 or email ben.medhurst@pph-commercial.co.uk , or call Veronica in the office on (01377) 256598.

Because of late cancellation of some tables last season we need to implement late cancellation charges for the coming season, as follows : within 14 days - 50%; within 7 days - 100%.

5. Members Subs and Mini Junior Registration

A reminder to all members who are not life or 10-year members that subs for 2019-20 are now due and we would be grateful for early payment. There has been a slight increase in subs for all playing categories - the new rates are shown on the website at <https://www.driffieldruffc.com/membership/> . We are happy to take your money in a variety of forms :

- cheque made payable to Driffield RUFC Ltd
- online banking to Sort Code 40-10-12, Account number 61588303, reference "Your name"
- debit or credit card at the bar
- we even accept cash!

Please remember that we will reactivate your member's discount card once you have paid for the coming season – we hold any balance on the card until then.

We are holding Mini / Junior Registration Days on Sunday, 1 September and Sunday, 8 September.

6. New Sponsors

We are always looking for more, so are delighted that we have some new sponsors for the coming season:

- Williams Food Service and Cash and Carry

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- Delaney Marling Partnership
- Dave Shotton Transport
- Garth Pig Practice

Sponsorship of 1st XV playing positions continues this season and those for the subs' positions are still available. If you would like to take one of these please contact Kyle Dench on 07792 212347, or call the Club.

7. Volunteers Needed

We are always looking for people who can spare just 2 or 3 hours a week to help the club run smoothly. Could you help ? Perhaps helping to update the website, or make sure our social events run smoothly. If you think you can help, please contact one of the Alecadoos on the Executive.

8. Spectator Conduct

Once again, the RFU's annual survey of everyone involved in the game has shown how much influence a positive response from spectators has on retaining players and officials. We all want Driffield RUFC to be a place where visitors, players and officials have a great day : so much so that they can't wait to come back and do it all again.

Your good conduct as a spectator or player can only help that and we encourage you to praise good play and officiating, and to be thoughtful when things do not go the way you saw it from the side-lines.

9. Welsh Rugby Singers on Friday, 18 October

Rob Leason is once again linking up with Dunvant RUFC to hold a night of singing at Driffield. You might want to pencil it into your diary : more details will become available in the coming weeks.

10. Game On Regulations

The RFU has introduced Game On to make sure that more games are played this season. Based on feedback from players and with the aim of reducing the number of cancellations, Game On will allow teams to be more flexible with the rules to allow the match to go ahead. The Game On principles will be introduced to all adult male and female rugby outside RFU Leagues and Cups.

You can find out more on the RFU Website, but here is how it works :

- a match can now take place as long as a team has a minimum of 10 players
- the result will stand as long as the match is a minimum of 40 minutes rather than 80
- rolling substitutions can be made and both scrums and lineouts can be uncontested
- both teams must agree which of the Game On principles will apply to the match and must let the referee know 30 minutes before kick off

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11. Half-Game Rule

England Rugby has confirmed that, following a trial in 2017/18 and an implementation year in 2018/19, from September 2019 the rule will be regulation in all Age Grade Rugby across clubs, schools, colleges, representative pathways and academy activities.

The rule, applicable to players aged six to 18, will ensure that all players in a match-day squad will get to play at least half a game. It means that every age-grade player in clubs, schools and colleges is guaranteed to get half the available game time.

Details can be found at <https://www.englandrugby.com/news/half-game-rule-introduced-regulation/>

12. And finally, ... Season's Statistics

This is a summary of senior rugby played by Driffield RUFC in the 2018/19 season :

- 104 games were played by our five senior teams, of which 52 were won by Driffield - there were 3 draws
- 202 Driffield players took to the pitches, plus 9 'lent' by the opposition
- A total of 1,920 'appearances' were made, either in the starting line-up or as a replacement
- Our players scored 2,887 points :
 - 436 tries
 - 277 conversions
 - 51 penalties, and
 - 0 drop goals
- Top scorers were :
 - Overall : Colin Lucas with 248
 - Try-scorers : James Rafter with 22
 - Kicks at goal : Colin Lucas with 198 (75 conversions and 16 penalties)