

What's happening at the Rugby Club ?

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1. 1st XV Fixtures

In December, we have three 1st XV games:

- 07 December : Moortown (Home)
- 14 December : West Hartlepool (Away)
- 21 December : Bradford & Bingley (Away)

Note that the 1st XV Yorkshire Shield game against Bradford & Bingley, which had been re-scheduled for Saturday, 23 November between each club's 2nd XV, will now take place as a 1st XV fixture on 21 December.

All 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.

On the subject of other teams, you may not know that our Ladies squad (unbeaten this season) recently beat Upper Eden to progress to Round 3 of the Junior Cup.

2. Supporters' Bus : 14 December

The next supporters' coach is on Saturday, 14 December for the game at West Hartlepool. The coach, which is free, will leave Driffield in sufficient time to get to the clubhouse where lunch has been arranged. It will return once everyone has had a drink in the clubhouse after the game and head direct to Driffield.

If you would like to join us, please add your name to the list held at the club, either by asking at the bar or calling the club on (01377) 256598.

3. Steve Knowles Game : 28 December

This annual fixture will take place on Saturday, 28 December with a 13:30 kick-off and will follow the usual format of 'Young' v. 'Old'. As well as a great opportunity to get together between Christmas and New Year, it gives us the chance to remember one of our former players.

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It is now a little over 40 years since Steve died in a motorbike accident on his way home. During his playing career, he played alongside some great men including Steve Cooper, Alan Stephenson, Russ Yeadon, the Kitchings and the Leasons.

4. Social Evening : 28 December

We hope that you will have seen the posters at the club about this Christmas event. Originally planned to follow the game against Moortown, it has been rescheduled to follow the Steve Knowles Memorial Game. The event is free to enter, and will be a great opportunity to get the festive season started with music and merriment. Make sure you wear your festive jumper.

5. Dogs Banned

At the Club Executive meeting on Tuesday, 12 November there were further reports of dog fouling on the pitches and the decision was taken, to protect the health of all players, to ban all dogs (except support dogs) from the 1st December.

The Club Executive would have liked to continue the policy of allowing visitors to the club to bring dogs on Saturdays so long as they were controlled, preferably on a lead, and rigorously cleaned-up after. However, some owners have not been diligent enough so the decision was taken by the Club Executive. They recognise this will be disappointing to those owners that have always acted responsibly with their dogs, keeping them on a lead and picking up after them.

Dog faeces can transmit diseases like salmonella, campylobacter, roundworms and hookworms. This is a greater risk to children, who are much less likely to wash their hands after playing in the grass. The eggs of roundworms, for example, pass in the faeces of dogs and can survive in the soil for many years – regardless of weather extremes.

If the eggs are accidentally ingested, the worms can cause serious neurological, pulmonary and vision problems in the body. Ocular toxocariasis, although rare, most often affects young children and can cause serious ophthalmologic disease, including blindness.

6. JustGiving - Scunthorpe

Scunthorpe RUFC recently announced that 1st XV player James Walker, who joined the club this season from Lincoln, had passed away at the age of 23.

The Club's representative said that his death had been a shock to not only those close to James, but the wider community as a whole, and vowed the team would do everything in their power to do his memory proud. A JustGiving page has been set up to raise £50,000 in his memory for 'One for the Lads' - a Scunthorpe-based men's mental health support group to help with mental health issues and depression.

Our Club has already donated 50% of the Chairman's Challenge from 16 November. If you would like to make your own contribution please visit this link :

[justgiving.com/crowdfunding/scunnyruffc?utm_id=66&utm_term=5j5kmykG5](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/scunnyruffc?utm_id=66&utm_term=5j5kmykG5)

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7. Code of Conduct / Referee Sanctions

The YRFU and Yorkshire Federation of Referees' Societies has updated its Code of Conduct with the addition of the following paragraph : ***Any player or coach shown a red card should return to the clubhouse without delay.***

Separately, there is ongoing concern about the abuse of match officials both on the pitch, and after the game. The RFU, following the purge on the high tackle, are now aiming to stop abuse by players, coaches, club officials and spectators. The Yorkshire Society have decided to adopt a zero tolerance to abuse - this is already in effect and two coaches have recently been given significant bans.

Advice given to referees includes :

- for players, a one-off appeal like “knock on ref” is not a sending-off offence. But constant appealing can result in a yellow and ultimately a red card
- a foul abusive slur is a straight red
- for coaches, club officials, and spectators constant appealing can result in being sent to the clubhouse and the completion of an abuse form. A lot of shouting from the touchline is “white noise” but a vociferous coach can wind their players up

We all have a part to play in making sure our club supports this initiative.

8. Subs are overdue

We are now in December, almost half-way through the full season and many senior players and non-playing members have still not paid their subs. Those players that have not paid yet are highlighted on the playing statistics posted on the notice board. We would like to remind playing members they are not covered by RFU insurance until their subs are paid.

Payments can be by :

- Cash
- Credit/debit card
- Cheque made payable to Driffield RUFC Ltd
- BACS to: Sort Code 40-10-12 ; A/c no 61588303 ; Reference "Surname Initial". It will help if you can also send an email to drufc@aol.com confirming a bank payment sent.

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

9. Member's Lapel Pins

Still looking for small Christmas gifts ? We have had a range of lapel pins made for members to buy. These include :

- Past President
- Past Captain
- Life Member
- Ladies
- Executive Committee

If you would like to buy one of these pins, costing just £2.50, please ask at the bar.

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Please remember that there are still plenty of the credit-card sized 1st XV fixture cards available.

10. 150th Yorkshire Celebrations / Supporters Shop

This year rugby in Yorkshire celebrates its 150th Anniversary and YRFU's year of celebration rugby started in July 2019 with 150 days of rugby and 150 games of rugby. A dedicated online shop has a range of items for wet days, chilly days and Christmas Days to help you commemorate things, at :

<https://www.yorkshirerugby150.co.uk/shop/>