

**What you can read about in this edition :**

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**1. 1<sup>st</sup> XV Fixtures**

A full list of fixtures for all senior teams is on the website at : <https://www.driffieldruffc.com/1st-xv-fixtures-results/> - there are links from there to all teams. For our 1<sup>st</sup> XVs, February fixtures are :

Men

- Saturday, 05 : Durham City (Away) – rescheduled game
- Saturday, 12 : Cleckheaton (Away)
- Saturday, 19 : Moortown (Home)

Ladies

- Sunday, 27 : Sheffield Tigers (Home)

Please note that both our Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> XV would have had more fixtures in February, but both York and Sunderland Ladies have withdrawn from the league.

**2. National Rugby Survey**

Every year, the RFU wants to hear from you about what rugby is like for a player, match official, parent or volunteer. This knowledge and feedback helps the RFU to try and meet the needs of the game. The new survey is now live on Englandrugby.com for you to have your say.

<http://englandrugby.f46dc318191d.alchemer.eu/s3/?marketingpreference=optedin>

Prizes are on offer for both individuals and clubs - ten £50 vouchers for respondents chosen at random and a prize draw for signed England Rugby merchandise for clubs who collect 10+ responses.

**3. Supporters Coach to Old Brodleians on Saturday, 5 March**

There are still a few seats on the coach to Old Brodleians to see the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XVs play. We have also booked spaces for lunch at the club beforehand. You can secure your place for £30 : £10 contribution to the cost of the coach and £20 for the two-course lunch including comic 'turn'.

Please contact Brad Webster, on 07771 633020 or [driffieldruffc@gmail.com](mailto:driffieldruffc@gmail.com) to book your place.

Ideas for content for the Monthly Update are always welcome – just send the idea or 50-100 words to [Brad Webster](mailto:Brad Webster).

#### 4. Annual Dinner

A reminder that this will take place at the Clubhouse on Thursday, 14 April starting at 7pm. Keep the space in your diary – we will post more details around the club in the coming weeks.

#### 5. Steve Knowles Memorial Match

With great regret, Driffield RUFC made the decision to postpone the annual Steve Knowles Memorial match, scheduled to take place on Monday, 27 December. Although government guidelines at the time did not restrict us from running the event, the Committee felt that the surge in Covid cases at the time meant that postponing the game was the best thing for players and supporters alike.

We are looking to re-schedule the match for Easter weekend.

#### 6. The Touch Union

The RFU's new non-contact format of the game - The Touch Union – is officially launching this month with equipment, resources and webinars ready to go. The format is fun, fast flowing and social, while still building on the core rugby union skills - perfect for any age or playing ability.

The rules can be amended to suit all participants' needs and matches or sessions can be played with mixed genders. You can find out more by emailing [TheTouchUnion@rfu.com](mailto:TheTouchUnion@rfu.com) or by visit the RFU website at <https://www.englandrugby.com/participation/playing/ways-to-play/the-touch-union>.

#### 7. League Restructure

The RFU has committed to changing the leagues that our 1<sup>st</sup> XV play in, reducing them from 14 teams to 12 and introducing meaningful cup and knockout rugby tournaments that will take place after the end of the shortened league season. The aim is to flatten the existing pyramid of leagues to relieve pressure on amateur players, and should be in place for the 2022/23 season.

The national review asked players what they wanted from the game. Players who responded to the survey overwhelmingly wanted a reduction in the number of competitive games and less time spent travelling.

You can read more at : <https://www.englandrugby.com/news/article/future-competition-structure>

#### 8. Rob Stephenson Trust

Those of you that were at the game against Malton & Norton just before Christmas will remember that we decided to donate the proceeds from the day's Chairman's Challenge – just over £1,000 - to this charitable organisation. It aims to make young people's life more fulfilled through the participation in sport - all funds raised go directly to good causes. You can read more at <https://www.robstephensontrust.com/>

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**DRIFFIELD R.U.F.C.**

Member of The Rugby Football Union and Yorkshire Rugby Football Union  
www.driffieldruffc.com

Monthly Club News Update #40: February 2022

What's happening at the Rugby Club ?

## 9. McCain Foods GB Community Grant

Just before Christmas, we received a £1,000 grant towards community sport. This incredibly valuable support will help us to ensure that as wide a range of the community can enjoy rugby.

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