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1. 1st XV Warm-Up Fixtures

As usual, we have arranged some warm-up games to help us get ready for the new season by blowing out the cobwebs and getting some match fitness. They are :

- Saturday, 18 August : Derby (Away)
- Saturday, 25 August : Bridlington – Turnbull Trophy (Home) KO 14:00

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, 2 September at home against Harrogate.

2. Next Year's 1st XV League Opposition

The following teams will take part in the 2023-24 Regional 1 North East league :

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|--------------|
| • Alnwick | • Driffield | • Pontefract |
| • Blaydon | • Harrogate | • Sandal |
| • Cleckheaton | • Heath | • Scunthorpe |
| • Doncaster Phoenix | • Ilkley | • York |

The Ladies 1st XV retain their place in Championship North 2 and will play :

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| • Birkenhead Park | • Sheffield | • Southport |
| • Nantwich | • Sefton | • Crewe and Nantwich |
| • Kendal Wasps | • Manchester | • One other team |

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

3. Off-Season Update

If you were not able to get to the AGM in July, here are some key points from the meeting - the minutes are on the website at: <https://www.driffieldruffc.com/annual-general-meeting-2023/>

- Rodney Hogg took over from Philip 'Pip' Snaith as President
- Adrian Harrison stood down as Hon. Sec. and Brad Webster has taken on the role
- The financial accounts for the year were positive – we made a profit last season
- Membership subs are not being increased
- The current economic climate, fewer home games and more travelling will make this another tricky season
- Captains for the next season will be: 1st XV – Adam Brankley ; 2nd XV - Matthew Rowbottom; 3rd XV – Will Megginson; 4th XV – Gareth Culpan ; Ladies XV – Laura Harris

We have started a series of improvements around the club and grounds :

- We have ordered new fencing to go around the 1st XV pitch, which should be in place for the start of the league season
- A borehole has been installed for the 1st XV pitch
- The phone system has been changed over to VOIP (an internet-based system) provided by MainTel
- The audio visual system for the club has been replaced and upgraded by local company, MH Solutions
- We have updated all the Honours Boards, the first time since 2011-12
- We have been awarded a grant to allow us to improve the fencing at the training pitches, and provide car park lighting. We hope to be able to start work soon

4. Pre-Match Lunches

These have been selling fast, and there are tables available at £36 per person only on the following dates :

- 2 / 30 September
- 16 September – Ladies Day
- 18 November
- 9 December
- 6 / 27 January

If anyone is interested in any of these dates please contact Kerry Booth at the clubhouse on (01377) 256598.

5. Overseas Players, and Coaching Team

Bryce McKinnon is returning for another season with us. He will be joined by Kalani Grant, a no. 10 from Hawke's Bay in New Zealand.

We have found accommodation for them – it is unfurnished, so we need your help to make their stay more comfortable. If you can lend us any of the following, please let Bash Burdass know : beds, wardrobes, chests of drawers, dining chairs, settees, microwave oven, cookware, crockery and cutlery, and TV.

Paul Cooke of Hymers College will be joining the coaching team, as Tosh Askew may be spending some time in Italy.

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6. Members Subs now due

Please remember that all subs fall due on 1 September so, if you have not already taken care of them for the season, we would encourage you to do so. Subs have not increased and are :

- Senior Player : £170
- Development Squad : £100
- Player in full-time or further education : £100
- Ladies Player : £115
- Mini/Junior : £110 for first child, and £100 for siblings
- Under 6 : £60
- Touch Rugby: £30 for over-16s, and £15 for under-16s
- Vice President : Donation (at least equal to a non-player member's subscription)
- Non-Playing Member : £70
- Life Member : £1,200
- 10-Year Member : £600

You can pay by :

- BACS to Sort Code 40-10-12; A/c no 61588303; Ref "Surname Initials"
- Credit / debit card at the bar
- Cash
- Cheque : payable to Driffield RUFC Limited

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. Also that the RFU insurance does not cover playing members until they have paid in full for the season, or have set up a Standing Order to cover the full subs.

7. Mini Junior Registration Days

We hope Mini / Junior players and parents have had an enjoyable summer break and are looking forward to a new season of rugby at Driffield. This will start with a Registration Day on Sunday, 3 September. We will be in the clubhouse from 10am - 12.30pm when it will be possible for players old and new to register for the season and pay their subs.

If you are unable to attend this Sunday, we will repeat the process on Sunday, 10 September. After that, if you have been unable to make your payment you should contact your Team's Manager or Coach as soon as possible since it may not be possible to play games for the club if you are not a paid-up member, and registered with the RFU.

Payment details are as above, but please use Ref "Player surname year group" e.g. Smith U12.

8. Age Grade Player Registration

Parents who have not already done so should log into their RFU account to re-affiliate (now called Register) their age grade players – details of how you login are in the footer of the email that includes this newsletter. If you have received the email then you already have an account, so please do not create a new one – it will

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What's happening at the Rugby Club ?

create a duplicate. Please only create a new account for a family that is new to Driffield RUFC – you can add a child to an existing parent account.

Parents are now responsible for their own children's data, easing the administration burden on volunteer club administrators. The process allows you to check and update your details, such as a change of address. Details of how to do this are on the club's web page at:

<https://www.driffieldruffc.com/2021/08/28/age-grade-player-affiliation/>

If you are having problems, please contact Brad Webster on driffieldruffc@gmail.com

9. New Sponsors

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

- Albanwise Farming
- GSC Grays
- Harland Builders

10. Pensioners' Lunch on Friday, 1 December

Pip Snaith is organising this once again, and would welcome offers of help on the day or financial contributions to the costs. You can email him at philipsnaith@gmail.com or call 07968 983 114.

11. National Fan Survey

England Rugby recently launched this survey to connect more with fans and help them improve the England Rugby Fan experience in the future. The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete and is open until 09:00am on Friday 11 August 2023.

To thank you for your feedback, there will be an opportunity to enter a prize draw to win one of ten £50 gift vouchers for respondents. You can read more at :

<https://www.englandrugby.com/news/article/take-part-in-the-national-rugby-survey>