



Gate Post No. 143 February 2023

This newsletter is sent to all the supporters, current and past members of Harrogate Rugby Club for whom we have an email address. Please forward the newsletter to anyone else who may be interested. If you would like to be added to our database for future or past copies please send your email address to brianforshaw4@virginmedia.com. Your contributions would be most welcome along with your feedback.

Richard Brown



Harrogate RUFC is sad to announce the death of Richard Brown on Wednesday 11th January 2023. Richard will be greatly missed by his wife Jenny, three daughters, eight grandchildren, the wider family and friends.

He was a committed supporter of Harrogate Rugby Football Club for many years, and his daughters fondly remember spending many Saturday afternoons there with him.

Many at HRUFC will know Richard through the Touchline International events, Annual Golf Days and Annual Dinners, where he organised teams and tables.

Those with longer memories will know that Richard was a former auditor of the Club when we were at Claro Road.

More recently he particularly enjoyed taking his grandchildren to the club on match days, and he was at the recent home game against Fylde.

A memorial service was held at 1pm on Friday 27th January at St Robert's Church, Pannal, HG3 1JZ with refreshments afterwards at Pannal Golf Club, HG3 1ES.

William 'Bill' Kirtley



Harrogate Rugby Club is sad to announce that Bill Kirtley died at the beginning of January 2023. Bill was a Patron member of Harrogate Rugby Club club for several years and regularly attended 1st XV home matches and club lunches with the 'Corner Group.'

He had a distinguished career in the Electricity Supply Industry (CEGB) and was Manager of the Ferrybridge Workshops and previously, Deputy Station Manager at Eggborough. His funeral took place on Tuesday 31st January 2023 at St Andrews Church Corbridge, Northumberland

Aled Jones (Harrogate RUFC Coaching team)



Aled has been with us at Harrogate for two years now, so it is time you knew more about him. He was appointed as Harrogate's 2nd team Coach in 2018.

Date of birth: 15/09/1993.

Place of birth: Eastbourne, East Sussex.

Places lived: Eastbourne, played local school rugby.

Moved to Dubai when aged 12, played junior rugby for the Dubai Hurricanes, school rugby for Dubai English Speaking College from under 14's till colts.

Rugby positions played: Started at No.10, the older and fatter I got the closer to the

front row I got.

Early rugby memories: going down to the local rugby club for the first time at the age of 7. Getting beaten up for half an hour on a solid pitch. Think I may have even worn shin-pads to the game! That was it for me and mini/junior rugby! Until I moved out to Dubai and two coaches, Mo Cooper and Ron Erasmus, re-ignited my love for the game. Played for the club all the way through to senior rugby.

Played for Dubai Exiles, Dubai Hurricanes, Dubai Beavers (Social Rugby Club)

Occupations: Commercial Diver 2012-2016.

Student at Leeds Beckett 2016 – 2019.

Rugby Coach 2018 - Present.

Family: Father Mark – Played for Eastbourne Rugby Club 1982 – 1995 (Captained in 1987)

Christine Huntley (Mother), David Jones (Brother)

Coaching qualifications and experience: Level 2 RFU Coaching Certificate. BSC Sports Coaching Degree. Coach: Harrogate Colts from 2018 till present. Harrogate Georgians coach 2022 to present. Harrogate rugby club is one of the best clubs I've been involved with. Its thriving junior section is a testament to the hard work of everybody involved with the club from the kitchen to the car park volunteers. The club is underpinned by great people who want to use rugby to better themselves, their family and the community and you can really feel that. The incredible grounds means the club has big potential to become an even bigger part of the community, opening its doors to everyone and truly promoting the core values of rugby throughout Harrogate.

Aspirations for Harrogate rugby club? My role has one goal, spread rugby as far and wide as possible within Harrogate. Ensuring that as many barriers to play the sport are removed and that whether you are in a Year 1 class at school, a middle aged workaholic, or retired, Harrogate Rugby club is offering you a chance to be part of our family.

Harrogate RUFC Subscriptions 2022/2023

- We have been reviewing our list of members following the recent difficult times and the return to normality.
- Many members have remembered to renew their membership subscriptions for which the club is most grateful.
- Some members have not renewed their subscription and we would like to know whether you wish to continue as a club member. If you could let us know about your membership status please reply to: brianforshaw4@virginmedia.com
- If you have not paid your subscription, and wish to do so, you can pay at the club bar by card, cash or cheque (made payable to 'HRUFC Ltd.)
- You can also pay using BACS: Account number: 58328181, Sort Code: 53 - 50 - 21, with your name as reference.

New Members

- If you are a new member please complete an Adult or Age Grade Membership application form which is available behind the bar or on the Harrogate RUFC website.

Membership Categories

Vice President: £264, Patron: £132, Social Membership: £110, Player/Coach: £130

Students & unemployed: £85, Touch Rugby: £50, Coaches: £100

Age Grade Membership Subscriptions:

- Player: Age 6 - 16: £130 - Additional Sibling: £75
- Junior Parent £55 with child membership.

Twenty Years Ago - 2002/2003

Harrogate 1st XV Squad 2002/2003 (below)



(Number of appearances in brackets) Back row left to right: Frank Carter (Chairman), Ian Gair (Secretary), Graham Siswick (First XV Manager), Nic Davies (Bar and Clubhouse Secretary), Martin Pepper (Assistant Coach), Rob Johnson, Jonny Marston, Jamie Barker(26), Peter Taylor(19), Ed Smithies(21), Oliver Cook(23), Rob Wilson(24), Nick Beaumont, Craig Chapman, James Tapster(24), Andy Boyle(24), John Newton, Paul Clayton, Roger Shackleton, Gerry Chambers (Chairman of Rugby), Alun Jones (Commercial Chairman), Ralph Zoing (Coach).

Front row left to right: Rob Vickers, Lee Cholewa(25), Graeme Sarjeant(1), Steve Hobson(17), Mark Erven(22), Roy Guy (President), Rhys Morgan(27) (Captain), Richard Wade(8), Mike Worden(24), Paul Gabriel(21), Owen Drane, Matt Duncombe(26). Other players during the season: Kenworthy(1), Kneale(5), Lauriston(1), Dudley(18), Peterson(1), Farrar(22), Milne(5), Johann Visser(8), Richard Windle(1), Damian Warren(2), John Newton(1).

First XV playing record 2002/2003: Played 26 League games, won 16, drawn 0, lost 10, points for 606, points against 493. Home: Won 11, drawn 0, lost 2. Away: Won 5, drawn 0, lost 8. Harrogate finished the season 4th in the National League Two Table. Leading points scorer, Lee Cholewa 187, leading try scorers Ed Smithies and James Tapster both with 11 tries. The 1st XV used 42 players during the season. Rhys Morgan, Mark Erven and Rob Wilson appeared in every match.

Highs and Lows of the Season

Highs: A last minute victory against Penzance with a hat trick of tries for Mark Farrar. Demolition of Doncaster at Claro Road. Defeat of Wharfedale. The Georgians achieved their highest ever finish in the Northern Merit Table coming second. Ed Smithies was selected to play for Yorkshire. Matt Duncombe played his 100th League Game against Doncaster. Winning the Yorkshire Cup.

Lows: Peter Taylor said farewell to the club after 217 League appearances with Harrogate. Mark Farrar announced his retirement from the game after 242 League appearances. Defeats at Stourbridge, Esher, Sedgely Park and Launceston were the low points of the season.

Georgians playing record in the Northern 2nd XV Championship: Played 21, won 15, lost 6 and finished second in the league table.

Pythons playing record: Played 28, won 18, lost 10. The Pythons lost to Ripon at Skipton in the final of the North Yorkshire Trophy Competition.

Colts playing record: Played 28, won 8, lost 20. Peter Corner and Ben Marshall played for Yorkshire Colts.

Club Officials 2002/2003: President: T. Roy Guy, Chairman: Frank Carter, Secretary: W. Ian B. Gair, Treasurer: John Graham, Chairman of Rugby: David Oswin, Chairman of Junior Rugby: David Fotherby, Commercial Chairman: Alun Jones, Bar and Clubhouse: Nic Davies, Club Captain: Rhys Morgan, First XV Manager: Graham Siswick, First XV Coach: Ralph Zoing, Assistant Coach: Martin Pepper, Georgians Captain: Tom Anderson.

Harrogate Junior Festival 2002 U12 Winners

The U13s and U14s also won their Yorkshire Cup Competitions. The annual Junior Festival was another great success.

Sad Loss to HRUFC

On the 9th February 2003 the club was sad to announce the death of Mike Hymas who had served Harrogate RUFC for so many years in so many ways. The Who's Who section includes a tribute to Mike.

Women's Rugby

Colette Dunn was appointed as Chairperson and Captain of the Harrogate Women's Rugby Section for 2002/2003.



Relocation

On Wednesday 3rd December 2003 Harrogate RUFC were informed that the planning applications for both Claro Road and for a new ground at Moorlands Farm, Killinghall had been recommended for refusal by the Secretary of State.

Junior Section



The U11's won their Yorkshire Cup Competition.

Five U15 players represented the county: Chris Oswin, Dan Hart, Billy Graham, Matt Taylor and Elliot Barron. The season finished with another highly successful Junior Festival.

Sport England Clubmark

The Club was the first in Yorkshire and the 3rd rugby club in the country to obtain the RFU and Active Clubmark Award on 11th December 2002.

National Two 2002/2003 HRUFC Results

Overall: Won 16 / Drawn 0 / Lost 10

Home : Won 11 / Drawn 0 / Lost 2

Away : Won 5 / Drawn 0 / Lost 8

Harrogate celebrate after winning the Yorkshire Cup by defeating Doncaster 13 - 12 at Morley on Wednesday 14th May 2003. (below)

The Harrogate Squad: Ed. Smithies, Mark Farrar, Jamie Barker, Johan Visser, James Tapster, Lee Cholewa, Rhys Morgan (Captain), Paul Gabriel, Mark Erven, Rob Wilson, Paul Clark, Andy Boyle, Mike Worden, Steve Hobson, Richard Wade, Oliver Cook, John Dudley, Alistair Milne, Steve Garrett, Graeme Sarjeant, Matt Duncombe, John Newton. Ed. Smithies and Rob Wilson scored tries with Lee Cholewa kicking a penalty.

