

# Gate Post

Harrogate Rugby Union Football Club  
Founded 1871



## Gate Post No. 149 August 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 copies please send your email address to [brianforshaw4@virginmedia.com](mailto:brianforshaw4@virginmedia.com). Your contributions would be most welcome along with your feedback. If you would like copies of previous editions, please contact [brianforshaw4@virginmedia.com](mailto:brianforshaw4@virginmedia.com)

## Forthcoming Events at Harrogate RUFC

Saturday 12th August 2023 Longest Day Event starts 7.45 a.m.

Under 17s play New Brighton U17s kick off 13.00

England v Wales on the television, kicks off 5.30 p.m. Free barbecue from 3.00 p.m.

Foundation Fitness classes 6.15 p.m. every Wednesday

2nd September Harrogate 1st XV v Driffield (away)

## Events from the past at Harrogate RUFC

With a full calendar of events planned for the coming season you may enjoy reading about some past events from previous years. If you have any photos or further information about these events please contact [brianforshaw4@virginmedia.com](mailto:brianforshaw4@virginmedia.com)

## Sponsored Walk Raises Funds

On Sunday 5th May 1968, 150 members took part in a 20 miles sponsored walk, organised by John Rhodes and Bryan Watson, which raised £890 for club funds.

## Donkey Derby 22nd June 1968

John Rhodes organised a Donkey Derby at the club on 22nd June 1968. 'This Donkey Derby was very nearly a washout, with torrential rain the previous night and on the Saturday morning which meant a great deal of extra work, moving stalls into the marquee etc. Fortunately, the weather cleared about lunch time and, all things considered, it could have been a lot worse. The piano smashing competition provided one of the highlights of the afternoon.'

## The Gala and Donkey Derby 7th June 1969

'This being the biggest social event of the year, everyone kept their fingers and thumbs crossed for good weather on 7th June - and what a marvellous day it turned out to be.

By two o'clock, with the sun shining, the crowds were rolling in at the gates and by 2.30 everything was in full swing. It was estimated that at about 3.30 there were over three thousand people present and still more were to come. This year there were more side-show events than ever before with added attractions in a Children's Fancy Dress Competition, a Children's Pets Corner, a Physical Training Display by the Army Apprentices College and a mammoth Piano Smashing Display.

Once the event got under way, everybody, including the volunteer helpers, were thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Star attractions were the magnificent Tombola run by Malcolm Towns and Barry Witton and the excellent and ever popular Bingo board provided by Messrs. Hart, Gamble and Moorhouse and their ladies with 'Busker' Terry Moorhouse at his best.

The grand finale was the final of the Piano Smashing Contest in which 14 teams took part. It was won by The Auto Wreckers and we are sure that the prize of a barrel of beer must have been very welcome.

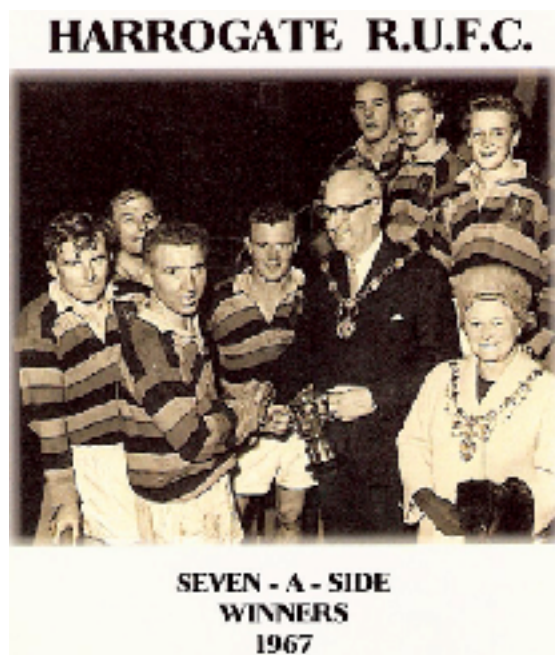
To complete the day's activities a dance was held in the evening which was very popular judging by the 200 people who came to it. The event raised in the region of £600.'

Report by Bryan Watson

### **The Gate Post**

From 1966 the club produced a regular newsletter known as 'The Gate Post' which was printed by Ken Butler-Smith's West Yorkshire Printing Company. The programme notes for 11th February 1967 refer to the fact that the first edition of the Gate Post Magazine was published during the 1966/1967 season. The first editor of the Gate Post was Tim Tugman followed by Peter Turner and in August 1969 Victor Melling took over. The first five editions of the Gate Post are missing from the club's archives. Bryan Watson compiled the January 1970 edition and in August 1975 Brian Forshaw became the Gate Post editor.

### **Harrogate RUFC Seven - a - Side Winners 1967**



Left to right: Bill ? , Gerry Wood, Jack Smith, ? , ? , Mayor, ? , ? , Mike Milburn, Mayoress.

A Sevens competition was organised by the club from the 1960s to the 1980s.

### **200 Club Fund Raiser 1965/1966**

W. Keith Robinson, the club solicitor, organised a 200 Club Draw with a Mini Car as the First prize.

### **Buy a Brick**

One of the fund raising activities during the centenary year, 1971, was to purchase one of the bricks for the new extension to the clubhouse at Claro Road. These bricks could still be seen in 2014 with the initials of the purchaser carved into them. The contribution was three pounds per brick.

A.L.B.F.	Adam Frank	S.V.H.M.	Vic Melling
E.T.B.	'Teddy' Bainbridge	J.R.	John Rhodes
S.W.K.F.	Simon Frank	A.&.C.W.	
N.G.B.	Gordon Beattie	H.McP.	Hector McPhee
A.J.B.	Joe Brogan	L.W.F.	
W.C.B.	Bill Beattie	S.R.H.	Stephen Richard Hynes
J.A.E.	John Englefield	J.A.H.	John Hudson

W.R.U.F.C.	Wharfedale RUFC	N.H.H.	Norman Hesp
M.A.H.	Mike Hymas	D.L.S.	Donald Lewis Sanders
K. J.W.	K. Judith Webb	P.K.	P.H.Kelsey
A.L.		S.J.B.	Sid Bradley
R.M.C.		R.D.W.	Rodney Ward
W.A.H.	Tony Hill	T.V.	
D.B.	David Bursnell	D.G.R.	Geoff Roberts
I.K.	Ian King	G.B.F.	Gordon Frank
D.C.S.G.	David Grant	D.M.G.	
HUGH	Norman Hesp (Hugh)	R.L.H.	
D.S.	David Simpson	F.B.H.A.	Frank Armstrong
B.A.H.	Bernard Henry	QUINS	Harlequins RUFC
C.T.W.	Tony Wood		
R.A.W.			
A.B.S.	Barry Stevenson		
S.B.	Sandra Bursnell		
K.B.S.	Ken Butler-Smith		
J.M.G.			
W.D.H.B.			
S.E.H.	Sean Edward Hynes		
B.M.T.	Malcolm Towns		



### Summer 1972 Fund Raising Events

A Donkey Derby, with real donkeys, was organised on Saturday 17th June 1972 with Rodney Ward, Brian Watson and Alan Everson promoting the event. On Saturday 24th June 1972 Norman Hesp organised a Gymkhana at the club.

### Harrogate RUFC Gymkhana 21st June 1975 (see photo)

Norman Hesp organised a successful Gymkhana in the summer of 1975 to raise funds for the club. Norman is standing with his arms folded in the photograph.



### Pub Sevens

On Sunday 5th May 1985 the Pub Sevens Competition took place at Claro Road with 16 local pubs entering a team: The Belford, Black Swan, Claro Beagle, Devonshire, General Tarleton (2 teams), Hop and Scotch, Milepost, The Nelson, New Inn, Oakbeck, Old Tradition (2 teams), Squinting Cat, and Travellers Rest. The Old Tradition provided one of the trophies. Some of the proceeds from the day were given to the 'Dial a Ride' charity.

### **Annual Pub Sevens 1992**

Although known as the Pub Sevens in 1992, the teams contained many outstanding rugby players. The team known as the Elephant and Castle, led by Howard Graham and containing players from the 7th Paratroop Regiment, won the competition beating the Mother Shipton team led by Ericson Atkins. The other teams were: Jimmy's, The Salt Box, The Blue Bell Arkendale, The Regency, The County, Pegasus Club (Aldershot), The White Horse (Ledston), The Damn Yankee, the King William, The Full Measure Inn (Driffield), Carringtons, The Vikings(London) and the Harrogate Arms. The referees were: Howard Bevan, Brian Forshaw, Lesley Osborne, Mike Proctor, Gerry Dempsey, John Henry and Stewart Taylor.

### **'Joey' Roberts Golden Game**

On Saturday 24th September 1988 Paul Roberts celebrated his 50th birthday, and his retirement from playing, with a game between 'Joey' Roberts Golden Game XV against S.D. Wilkins Select XV kicking off at 5.00p.m. after the 1st XV game.

Loose head prop 'Joey' joined HRUFC in 1968 and played for every team in the club during his 20 years. Following this game he planned to concentrate on his off the field duties as Team Secretary for the 1st XV and Georgians. 'Joey' Roberts XV from: P.Clegg, K. Gascoigne, B. Forshaw, S. Everington, M. Roberts, R. Shackleton, B. Huddart, P. Roberts, V. Lloyd, J. Young, J. Finnegan, B. Jewitt, S. Swift, A. Bristow, T. Crystal, A. Abbott, M. Newport.

S.D. Wilkins XV from: D. Helm, S. Wilkins, M. Watson, K. Crawley, P. Dennis, C. King, P. Bainbridge, R. Jones, D. Layton, S. Ward, S. Cochrane, S. Holgate, D. Clegg, P. Townsend, G. Beattie, J. Monaghan, P. Hughes.

Referee: Mike Ramsden (Yorkshire Society)

### **Chris Miller Memorial Game      Harrogate 50 - 66 The Luddites**

This memorial game to the memory of Chris Miller, who died in 1987, was played on Sunday 18th December 1988 kicking off at 11.30 a.m. Money raised on the day was donated to cancer charities.

Harrogate Squad: Ian Hassall, Clive Ware, Wilson, David Annett, Sean Ledger, Ralph Zoing, Gary Irvine, John Woodthorpe, David Broadley, John Tinker, Simon Croft, Simon Brown, Mark Foster, Robson, Mike Green, David Croft, John Howarth, Andy Simpson.

The Luddites Squad: M. Thomas (Harlequins), Joyce, John Buckton (Saracens and England), Bryan Barley(Wakefield and England), J. Fletcher, Steve Townsend(Wakefield and Yorkshire), Dave Scully(Wakefield and Yorkshire), Paul Huntsman(Headingley and England), Adam Machell(Headingley and Yorkshire), S. Cruise(Wakefield), M. Greenwood(Nottingham), P. Wood(Wakefield and Yorkshire), N. Harrison, Peter Winterbottom(Harlequins, England, British Lions), G. Walker(Roundhay), N. Hargreaves(Headingley), D. Lester (Otley).

### **Sportsman's Dinner**

On Wednesday 2nd December 1992 a Sportsman's Dinner was held in the clubhouse with guest speakers John Spencer (Cambridge University, Yorkshire, England and British Lion) and Freddie Trueman (Yorkshire and England cricketer).



### **John Tinker Memorial Match**

On Sunday 7th February 1993, one year after his death, the John Tinker Memorial Match was arranged at Claro Road between a Harrogate Invitation XV and a Yorkshire XV. The fund raising from this match totalled over £1500. £1000 of this was donated to the Graeme Wood Fund. Graeme was a junior member of the club who was paralysed in a road accident in the previous year.

