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1. 1st XV Fixtures

A full list of fixtures for all senior teams is on the website at : <https://www.driffieldrugby.com/1st-xv-fixtures-results/> - there are links from there to all teams. For our 1st XV's, March fixtures are :

Men - remember that we have now gone to a 15:00 kick-off

- Saturday, 04 : Ilkley (Away)
- Saturday, 11 : Paviors (Home)

Note for anyone travelling to Ilkley : the club is now cashless so make sure you take a card for use at the gate and the bar.

Ladies

- Sunday, 12 : Crewe & Nantwich (Away)
- Sunday, 19 : Preston Grasshoppers (Home)

Our men's 1st XV is entered in the Papa Johns Community Cup which was due to start immediately after the end of League games, but has been delayed to April to allow clubs to play all postponed games. We do not yet have any details of the proposed fixtures.

2. Charity Game on Saturday, 11 March

Following the success of last year's charity shirt day, we have decided to again do a one-off shirt and raise money for a charity close to the DRUFC family. This year, the shirts will be to raise money for Leeds Hospital Charity.

Simon and Beth Pettinger's nephew, Frankie Beasley, was born prematurely on 13 August 2021 and treated at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Leeds Children's Hospital. He lived a short life but, because of the work of the staff at the Hospital, his family were able to spend what time they had with Frankie loving and supporting him.

The Beasley Family have spent the last 18 months raising funds in memory of Frankie to help Leeds Hospital Charity to continue the great work they do supporting families. To date, they have raised an incredible £18,000.

Simon very rarely says anything serious but, when he asked if this year's charity shirt could help the fundraising effort in memory of Frankie, he said it was a 'no-brainer'. We think everyone in the club will feel the same.

The shirts are available to buy at £40 each, and can be ordered through Chris Young.

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

3. 2nd XV v Wharfedale on Saturday, 18 March

This game is between the two teams at the top of the Yorkshire Merit League - Yorkshire and North East Premiership. We are providing a lunch before this crunch game, and tables have already sold out.

As there is no 1st XV game that day, why not come along and give the 2nd XV your support and encouragement?

4. Annual Dinner on Thursday, 6 April

As is the tradition, this will take place at 7:00 for 7:30 in the clubhouse on the Thursday before Easter. The evening will include the usual dinner, and the award of the following :

- Ladies Player of the Year
- 1st XV Player of the year
- 2nd XV Player of the year
- 3rd XV Player of the year
- 4th XV Player of the year
- Most improved player of the year
- Young player of the year
- Colts / U18s XV Player of the year
- John Harrison award
- President's Award

Tickets are £15 each and must be reserved in advance. Captains will be organising their own tables, and anyone else who would like to go should contact either Dominic Thompson, or Kerry in the office.

5. Mini / Junior Festival on Sunday, 16 April

The Club's annual festival is running again, and seven other clubs have confirmed that they will be sending sides at every age grade. This year, the clubs that are attending are all 'local'.

The event takes a lot of organising, and the coaches and managers work flat out to manage the on-field activity. They would really appreciate volunteers to help with car parking at the start of the day, to make sure we get all the vehicles off the main road quickly and safely.

We would really appreciate it if you can set some time aside, and let Volunteers to help with the running of the day are always welcome – if you can spare a few hours please get in touch with Jonathan Lane or Simon Farnsworth.

6. RFU Tackle Height Update

The RFU Board, Council and executive staff have apologise for the anger and concern that has been created among the rugby community by announcing the decision to lower the tackle height from next season.

They said : "In our desire to act quickly to reduce head impacts and concussions in the community game, which represents 99% of the rugby playing population in England, we have upset many of you who are the

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What's happening at the Rugby Club ?

champions, volunteers, and ambassadors of our game. We fully acknowledge we got the engagement wrong, and we are truly sorry”.

Citing trials in New Zealand and France, the statement maintains that “a large body of scientific evidence” shows that the risk of head injury and concussion would be lowered by a reduction in permitted tackle height, but the RFU admits it must better define any ambiguity caused by the term “waist and below”.

The RFU would like the game to help define how we describe a lower tackle height to reflect what the research is telling us in a way that is understood by all. They will now begin a series of forums and workshops with players, coaches, match officials and volunteers, to explain and develop the details of the domestic law variation.