

2026/27

Official Club Newsletter

August Edition

DINNINGTON RUFC NEWS



SEASON KICK-OFF

CONTENTS & HIGHLIGHTS:



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Craig West opens the new season with updates on tickets, facility developments, and thanks to Steve Clarke, Matt Starr, and club staff.



2ND XV COACH SPOTLIGHT:

DEAN MCAULAY

Dean McAulay steps up to lead the 2nd XV as they enter the Yorkshire Leagues for the very first time.



COLTS SPECIAL:

A spotlight on our Colts setup and supporting the next generation of Dinnington talent.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **SATURDAY 3RD OCT:**
Selby (H) – Sponsors Day

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@dinningtonrufc1968
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Season Update from Chairman Craig West



Welcome to the latest club update as we prepare for the upcoming 2026/27 season! We have plenty of exciting news to share, including coaching announcements, pitch development updates, and key dates for your diary.

Coaching & Staff Updates

• **Second XV Coach:** We are thrilled to announce the official appointment of **Dean McAulay** as our new 2nd XV Head Coach!

"We're delighted to announce Deano as our new Second XV coach. He's tasked with elevating our Second XV, and he is definitely the best man for the job."

– **Craig West, Chairman**

(Turn to Page 4 for an exclusive player & coach spotlight on Dean!)

• **Match Day Gate:** A big thank you to Stewart Dodds, who has kindly accepted the role of Gate Man for the coming season.

A Heartfelt Thank You

We want to extend a special note of gratitude to a few key individuals who have contributed immensely to DRUFC:

• **The Sponsorship Team & Matt Starr:** A big thank you to all our sponsorship team, and especially to Matt Starr. Matt has stepped back from his committee role as Vice Chair, but he continues to drive the club forward on many fronts!

• **Victoria Hall** for her dedicated work with Safeguarding.

• **Amy Leitch** for her incredible 10 years of service as our Club Physio.

• **Alex Dolly** for his fantastic work coaching our Senior Men's teams over the last 3 years.

"Your hard work and dedication mean the world to everyone at the club!"

Congratulations to Alex Dolly on three years of coaching and player development with Dinnington FC! Alex's dedication, from youth to senior level, has been instrumental to our progress, and his impact on club spirit is immeasurable. A true cornerstone of our team.

Been an absolute pleasure to be involved at Dinnington Rugby Club for the past three seasons. To everyone that made me feel so welcome and supported me through my time there I would just like to say thank you and catch you all for a beer soon!

Coach of the year 2024 - celebrating 3 years of commitment

THANK YOU, 'ALEX DOLLY'!
For 3 Fantastic Seasons



Season Tickets & Match Day Admission (2026/27)



1st XV Season Tickets

Club Members: £40 | **Non-Members:** £60

Match Day Gate Admission

1st XV Games: Entry fees remain frozen at £5 for Members and £7 for Non-Members.

2nd XV Games: Free admission! We kindly ask supporters attending 2nd XV matches to consider purchasing our club **50/50 draw tickets** to help support the team.

Grounds & Infrastructure Updates

Tarmac Pavement Extension:

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) has confirmed extra funding to extend the tarmac pavement directly to the rugby club entrance. We are currently awaiting their proposed timescales for completion.

Section 106 Funding Application

The club has officially resubmitted its application for the **Section 106 funds** linked to the new housing development across from the ground.

Our bid includes key pitch and facility upgrades:

- Installation of match-standard Pitch 1 floodlights
- A much-needed **borehole facility** for pitch maintenance
- Enhancements to **Mini Meadows** (new posts, rock removal, and topsoil)
- Reseeding and topsoil replenishment across all pitches & levelling out **Pitch 1**
- RMBC has advised that a final decision will be made **this month**—fingers crossed for a positive outcome!

A Note of Thanks:

A special thank you to everyone who contributed vital information towards the bid, and an extra special thank you to **Steve Clarke** for putting the bid together!

• Looking Ahead

• Members Cards (September):

Starting in September, we will be re-introducing **Members Cards** at the clubhouse bar. Be sure to have yours ready!

- **Player Sponsorships & Man of the Match (MOM):** We will once again offer **Player Sponsorships** and award **Man of the Match** honours for both Senior teams this season. Details on how to sponsor a player will follow shortly.

- **Bonfire Night (Saturday, 7th November):** Dinnington Town Council has formally confirmed their continued commitment to our joint **Bonfire Night Partnership!** A special thank you to **Tom Naughton** and **Mal Kershaw**, who are jointly chairing the organizing committee. We hope all members can attend to make it a bumper event!

- Thank you all for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you around the club as the new season gets underway!

Best regards,

Craig West

Chairman, Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club



Coach Spotlight

Dean McAulay Takes the Reins for the 2nd XV

We are delighted to formally welcome **Dean McAulay** into his new role as Head Coach of the 2nd XV! Dean is a true Dinnington man through and through. Having represented the club since the age of 17, his playing journey spans every level of our senior setup:

- **3rd XV:** A three-time Captain's Player award winner who skippered the side to a memorable league title.
- **2nd XV:** A former player and captain for the team.
- **1st XV:** A key leader with **103 first-team appearances**, earning the Coaches' Player award for the 2024/25 season.

Alongside his extensive playing background, Dean is a qualified **Level 2 Coach** with a proven track record of player development at the club—most recently guiding our current U16 squad all the way through from their early days in Micros.



Building on Success: The Season Ahead

Dean takes charge of a 2nd XV side in fantastic shape. Coming off a dominant campaign where they finished top of the table and narrowly missed out in the Merit League final, the core of this squad is proven, talented, and hungry for more.

The upcoming **2026/27 season** marks a historic milestone: for the very first time in club history, Dinnington 2nd XV will compete in the **Yorkshire Leagues**—a massive step forward for both the team and the club as a whole.

11 *"With a great mix of youth and experience in the squad, my aim is to replicate the success our 1st XV has enjoyed over recent seasons. There's no reason why we can't keep pushing the boundaries. I'm really looking forward to getting started and seeing what this group can achieve."*

– Dean McAulay

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Please join us in wishing Dean and the 2nd XV squad the very best of luck as they step up to take on the new league challenge!



Colts 2025–26:

A Fantastic Season for the Colts

Following a challenging previous season, the Colts, with a small squad, were apprehensive about the season ahead.

During pre-season training, the focus of the new coaching team was on building a strong team ethos, blending the U17 and U18 groups. The two groups of players quickly gelled, and off we went to the first match of the season away at Market Rasen & Louth.

After a shaky tactical start, the team won, setting the tone for a largely unbeaten season. A few "old" Colts returned, and the small squad rallied to win the Yorkshire Colts League East, Division 2. Highlights included a 7–5 win away at Tigers and a massive victory over a strong Scarborough squad.

Equally, success was seen in the Cup; following a vital win over York, a concession by Driffield and a defeat to Scunthorpe saw us in the Shield semi-final against Doncaster at Doncaster. It was a very close match that we sadly lost, but so much teamwork was evident.

Individual success was also celebrated this season with county honours for two of our players. **Jacob Cartwright** was selected for Yorkshire U17s, and **Luca Orchard** was selected for Yorkshire U18s—a fantastic achievement for both lads and a proud moment for the club!

With lots of east-to-west travels to Market Rasen, Driffield, Scarborough, and Selby, we enjoyed a few day tours on coaches with fancy dress themes. We also went on the first Colts tour since COVID to Betws-y-Coed, enjoying river scrambling and gravity karting. This was topped off by beating a strong Wrexham side in a fierce contest.



Jacob Cartwright



Luca Orchard

What a fantastic season!

One of our roles as Colts coaches is to help the players progress into Senior rugby. Four players played Senior rugby this year, with others training pre-season and looking to play more in the upcoming season.

Looking ahead, numbers are over 30 for the season ahead—we're hoping to build on last season's success and enjoy lots of Colts rugby!



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FIXTURES



REGIONAL 2 NORTH EAST

2026

Bradford Salem (A) 12th Sept
Wath-Upon-Deane (H) 19th Sept
Pontefract (A) 26th Sept
Selby (H) 3rd Oct
Wetherby (A) 17th Oct
Malton and Norton (A) 24th Oct
Moortown (H) 31st Oct
Morley (A) 7th Nov
Old Brodleians (H) 21st Nov
Pocklington (A) 28th Nov
Cleckheaton (H) 5th Dec
Wath-Upon-Deane (A) 12th Dec

2027

Pontefract (H) 9th Jan
Selby (A) 16th Jan
Wetherby (H) 23rd Jan
Malton and Norton (H) 6th Feb
Moortown (A) 13th Feb
Morley (H) 20th Feb
Old Brodleians (A) 6th Mar
Pocklington (H) 13th Mar
Cleckheaton (A) 3rd Apr
Bradford Salem (H) 10th Apr

COUNTIES 4 YORKSHIRE C

2026

Goole 2XV (H) 12th Sept
Sheffield Oaks (A) 19th Sept
Wheatley Hills 2XV (H) 26th Sept
Stockbridge (A) 3rd Oct
Thornensians (H) 17th Oct
Sheffield 3XV (H) 24th Oct
Wortley (A) 31st Oct
Wath-Upon-Deane 3XV (H) 7th Nov
Barton and District (A) 21st Nov
Hallamshire (H) 28th Nov
Maltby 2XV (A) 5th Dec
Sheffield Oaks (H) 12th Dec

2027

Wheatley Hills 2XV (A) 9th Jan
Stockbridge (H) 16th Jan
Thornensians (A) 23rd Jan
Sheffield 3XV (A) 6th Feb
Wortley (H) 13th Feb
Wath-Upon-Deane 3XV (A) 20th Feb
Barton and District (H) 6th Mar
Hallamshire (A) 13th Mar
Maltby 2XV (H) 3rd Apr
Goole 2XV (A) 10th Apr



CLUB METRICS & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Our growth on the pitch is backed by a powerhouse community off it:



Active Members:
Over 900

Adult Players:
Over 70 registered

Mini/Junior Pathway:
The largest section in South Yorkshire with 300+ thriving young players

Digital Reach:
Approximately 100,000 Facebook post views per month keeping our community connected

Foot Traffic:
Welcoming roughly 3,500 visitors to Lodge Lane every month.



Follow us on Social Media
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SUPPORT THE CLUB

PARTNERSHIP PACKAGES

By aligning your brand with Dinnington RUFC, you gain direct access to our growing community while driving the development of grassroots sport.

Bronze

Package Includes:

- Social membership for 2 people
- 1 pitch-side advertising board
- Quarter-page programme advert
- Yearly social media spotlight,
- 2 season tickets,
- and 1 player sponsorship.

£1,100 +VAT

Silver

Package Includes:

- Social membership for 4 people
- 2 pitch-side advertising boards,
- Half-page programme advert
- Quarterly social media spotlight
- 4 season tickets
- 2 player sponsorships
- and prime kit branding

£3,000 +VAT

Gold

Package Includes:

- Social membership for 8 people
- 2 pitch-side advertising boards
- Full-page programme advert
- Monthly social spotlight
- 8 season tickets
- 4 player sponsorships
- Driveway entrance signage
- and international ticket draw access

£5,000 +VAT

Want to get involved?

For individual player sponsorship (£350 + VAT), matchday advertising, or bespoke corporate packages, contact **Matt Starr** on **07969 329 396**.

None of this would be possible without our amazing sponsors:

PLAYER SPONSORSHIP



Player Sponsorship £350+vat per player*

SPONSOR GETS:

- Featured in matchday programme alongside your player
- Invitation to sponsor days
- Featured across all platforms when our player is featured
- Free admission for sponsor to all home games
- Discounts on additional sponsorship
- Use of club facilities

This helps the player with a

- Playing Membership
- Gym Membership
- Kit Bundle

*Other sponsorship packages available



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SPONSORSHIP

Club & Senior Teams sponsors



Dinnington U17's sponsors



Nigel Warren

John Brown



Dinnington U14's sponsors



Dinnington U13's sponsors



Dinnington U12's sponsors



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Dinnington U9's sponsors



Dinnington U7's sponsors



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