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ABOYNE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB NEWSLETTER

*At the recent annual general meeting the membership voted for a name change from Aboyne Rugby Football Club to Deeside Rugby Football Club, and this is now in place as from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2008.*

## A New Era Has Begun...

The meeting which followed on from the annual Captains vs Presidents game, had a good turn out, and all members present voted for the name change.

The new name better represents the club's membership catchment area, in keeping with the original aim of the club to promote rugby in the Deeside area. It was also emphasised by club president, John Colleran, that this builds on the successes of ARFC and marks the start of a new era for the club.

There are also other developments in the pipeline for DRFC, that will involve the unification of the mini's, micro's, youth and senior teams, in the hope that DRFC can develop further talent and enthusiasm for the sport through all age groups in the North-East.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of July the new web address for the club will be [www.deeside-rfc.co.uk](http://www.deeside-rfc.co.uk) or [www.scottishrugby.org](http://www.scottishrugby.org)



### Captain's Comment

Well, it seems only yesterday I was writing last years captains letter before the start of pre-season training and now we are here again.

I will keep it short...

Big transformations are planned for the senior team this year and I'm sure we can build on the good aspects of play that we came out with last year. With the prospect of promotion on the horizon we need to all work hard, pull together and give it all we have got in training and start to build the winning side that we all want, and that we all know we can achieve. Let's do it...

Neil Scott

DRFC Seniors Captain



## DRFC Annual Golf Day

Pictured here is the winning team of the afternoons Texas scramble, Andy and Steve Scott and Andy Kier. The day was a great success with 7 teams, one caddy, two buggies, a first aid kit consisting solely of a six pack, and even though the players were subjected to the odd shower when the heavens opened, nothing could dampen their spirits as the beer was flowing.

Andy Scott also won the morning round having scored the most points, and congratulations to Ross Alsop who survived his first round on a course, under the watchful eye of Mini's coordinator Mike Fraser.

The longest drive, quite unbelievably, went to Jack 'Ginger' Moody, and closest to the pin to Doug Ballentyne, on one of the rare occasions he hadn't lost his ball.

**T**hank you to the Player's Player and ex vice captain Gareth Austin, for three years dedication and commitment to the team. We hope Claire appreciates what you are doing for her – but remember – if all else fails, we will always have you back!

## Coach's Letter to Players

"More than any other year this will be a momentous season for the club. For 30 years our club has built an excellent reputation known throughout NE Scotland. Changing the name from Aboyne RFC to Deeside RFC reaffirms the club's commitment to helping rugby development on Deeside and providing player opportunities.

This evolution gives the club a big window of opportunity to really put down a marker for the future. Changes in the league structure will mean less traveling and a great chance to win promotion. We will be playing a total of 12 games home and away against 6 clubs giving us a great chance to kick on into a 4 game play off and promotion'

Sounds great but without players and a commitment for 16 games then this will only serve as a bridge too far, so players are needed. We also hope to begin a 2<sup>nd</sup> XV again where older players at the veteran stage can combine with young players making the transition up to senior rugby.

We have some big warm up games against Gala, Garioch etc to name but a few so for me this will test our fitness and understanding before the season starts".

Mike Avis  
DRFC Head Club Coach

### Did you know...?

Rugby balls have always been oval. The boys at Rugby School used footballs made from inflated pigs' bladders which are, themselves, oval in shape!

### Dates to Remember

\*6<sup>th</sup> September, First Game of the Season for DRFC Senior's Team



## Send-off; not sent-off for Roger

As the club opens an exciting new chapter under the new brand of Deeside Rugby, it is an appropriate time to express our sincere thanks to Roger "The Dodger" Cummins.

Roger is not only one of the original Aboyne Rugby Club members but has for the last 30 years devoted an enormous amount of time, effort, enthusiasm and friendship to all involved in the club. Uniquely Roger is the only person to have played for the Senior side in every single season of Aboyne's 30 year history, whilst managing to hold down every Committee position going (not all at the same time though – even Dodge draws the line somewhere!).

On tour Roger is the interpreter, choir master (I'm Singin' in the Rain....) and tour guide, at club functions he's first on the dance floor and on the field his huge experience is passed on to other players.

### Dodger Showing Support to Fellow Players



### Players Tip:

**Juggle Bottles For Better Hands:** This is a top tip for a player who has notoriously bad hands: juggle plastic bottles. Start with one from hand-to-hand and then progress from there. The hands will adjust to the size of the bottle and the way it falls, replicating the oval shape of the ball and its unusual arrival at times.

But the thing that sums Roger up is his commitment to the cause of rugby in Aboyne and across Deeside, for which he has the respect of not only his fellow club members but lovers of the game across both the North East and indeed as far as the club has traveled over the years.

Now that Roger has stepped down from the Committee, we look forward to trying to emulate his commitment; oh and by the way Dodge keep those boots in the back of the car – just in case!!!

### Seniors Fixtures 08/09

#### Saturday 6 September

Deeside v Huntly

#### Saturday 13 September

Deeside FREE

#### Saturday 20 September

Shetland v Deeside

#### Saturday 27 September

Deeside v Westdyce

#### Saturday 4 October

Peterhead v Deeside

#### Saturday 11 October

Deeside v Aberdeen Wanderers

#### Saturday 18 October

Banff v Deeside

#### Saturday 25 October

Huntly v Deeside

#### Saturday 01 November

Deeside FREE

#### Saturday 22 November

Deeside v Shetland

#### Saturday 06 December

Westdyce v Deeside

#### Saturday 17 January 2009

Deeside v Peterhead

#### Saturday 24 January

Aberdeen Wanderers v Deeside

#### Saturday 31 January

Deeside v Banff