

Member Profile – Current Player - Ben Hornby

(Current 1st XV Caps – 210. Young Player of The Season 2011-12)

Education;

- KEVI
- York St John University – Sport and Business Studies

Employment;

- Collingwood Marquees

Favourite Band/Music;

- Queen, Oasis, The Kooks, Kings of Leon, Coldplay, The 1975, Rolling Stones, Mcfly

If you weren't a fly-half what would you be?

- A full time Alickadoo and a very mediocre Golfer

Best Rugby Highlights;

- Winning promotion with my university 1st Team.
- Winning the 2nd team County Cup with the Reivers 2009.
- Winning the 1st team County Cup against Alnwick 2019.
- Earning 200 1st team caps.
- Playing rugby with both my older and younger brothers, unfortunately not at the same time.
- Playing 1st team rugby with several of our Colts team.
- Receiving Senior Male Sportsman of the Year 2019 at the Morpeth Sports Awards.

Best Morpeth player/s I have played with;

- Paul Mooney (Back) – great all-rounder with loads of experience and knowledge, a huge ability to organise and control the whole backline, very handy as an up and coming fly-half. He made my life a hell of a lot easier.
- Cole Wilson (Forward) – immense ball carrier, always takes a few people to bring him down, as well as having a huge work rate. Tackles hard and has a good set of hands.

Most difficult player/s encountered;

- Rob Cuthbert (Alnwick) – strong, fast and agile. Good all-round skill and always a handful. One of Alnwick's key players, and constantly makes things happen for them on the field. Really difficult to manage as a defender.
- Lome Fa'atau – Ex Samoan winger, played against England in the 2003 Rugby World Cup Group Stages. For some reason he headed north and played for Northumbria University and then a player/coach for Percy Park. Despite him being in his 40's, I think I managed to play against him while he still had a spring in his step. Unbelievably fast!! Somebody that quick is very hard to stop. Always looked dangerous.

Ben's 2 x Morpeth Club Quiz Question;

- Q. Who did Morpeth finally lose to in the 1974/75 National knockout Competition after defeating both London Irish and Bath?
- A. Rosslyn Park.
- Q. Who won Reivers Player of The Season 2015/16?
- A. Dan Hornby.

Club notes for Ben Hornby and his 1st XV debut season 2008-09;

Ben played his first 1st XV match at West Hartlepool in Sept 2008 in a game that we lost by 5-55. He played at fly half with his brother Dan at scrum half.

Ben was one of 5 players who made their debuts that afternoon - along with Andy Sutherland, Liam Casey, Andy Poxton and Jon Brennan.

The Morpeth XV that day was;

A Sutherland, A Rogers, L Casey, S Hills, A Manley, B Hornby, D Hornby, R Leiper, J Thornton, D Dickinson, A Poxton, A Shippen, J Stephenson, J Brennan, P Scott.

So far Ben has played in the 1st XV for 12 seasons and has joined the 200 Club now having played 210 games – having played in every position in the three-quarter line.

The 2008-9 Season;

The Club president was Martin Calder, Captain Alan Rogers, Coach Darren Cunningham and Chairman of Rugby Gary Stephenson.

Our new changing rooms were opened in the September by the RFU President Brian Williams – Brian was the 100th RFU President.

The Stags captained by Simon Crawford played 17 games and lost to Border Park in the County Cup.

The Edwardians were captained by Tom Woolhead and lost only 6 of their 23 games.

The Reivers side were captained by James Beefy Armstrong and ended a successful season winning the County Cup – defeating a very strong Tynedale XV at Ashington by 16-11.

The 1st XV used 42 players in their 28 games winning 15 and winning 12 of their 22 league games. Matthew Jinks score 282 points and Alan Rogers scored 21 tries. It was a season that Paul Mooney, Tom Wilkinson, Barry Hills and Paul Scott returned to the Club. Graeme Younger, Jo Forsythe and Andy Shippen gained their 1st XV ties while Alan Rogers and David Dickinson gained their Northumberland Ties. Matthew Jinks and Andy Duggan played one County game each and Chris Reynolds was on the bench for one County match while ex Morpeth player Simon Barber who had joined Blaydon also played for the County,