

**Member Profile – Former Club Captain and current Club Photographer - Chris Lishman**  
(1<sup>st</sup> XV Caps – 237. Young Player of The Season 1987-88)

**Education;**

Chantry Middle School, KEVI, Durham School

**Employment;**

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**Favourite Bands/Acts;**

Elvis Presley, Queen, The Who, The Jam, Take That & an eclectic mix of anything that's good to listen to!

**Favourite Concert;**

Michael Jackson at Roundhay Park

**Favourite Film (s);**

Shawshank Redemption, Green Mile

**Favourite Position;**

Full Back = with 10

**Most difficult opponent to play against;**

Many but generally any nuggety 7 that was in my face just as the ball was arriving (sometimes before).

**Favourite Player to play with;**

In all honesty, I enjoyed playing with every player that was on the same side in whatever team I ever played with whether at mini's, schools, Australia, County or back home in Morpeth. I can remember virtually every players strong points and perhaps their not-so strong points but if I were to single out one player (which is difficult), it would have to be "the protector of fly halves" as I tagged him, Gus Nelles....one of my rugby heroes!

**Favourite Morpeth game/games;**

From playing for the first team as a schoolboy on a muddy April afternoon in 1985 at Mowden Park, I just loved playing for Morpeth and there were so many great moments and games that I was lucky enough to be involved with.

I grew up watching the first team of the 70's and all those players were my early rugby heroes and "I was there" when we played Rosslyn Park in the semi-final of The John Player Cup with straw bales etc. and a double decker bus surrounding the pitch. The game was on Rugby Special but unfortunately has been lost in the BBC archives, but I still have the cassette of the commentary when we defeated Bath at The Rec in the quarter final.

However, it would be wrong if I did not mention the first time, we won the County Cup beating a very strong Tynedale side at Northern. It was a very special occasion when Richie Young received the Trophy from the then County President, David Turnbull (who I had

known as Uncle David since the age of 5).....In fact that brings a tear to my eye as I write this! I don't think I've ever mentioned this, but I knew we were going to win that game when I watched the faces of the boys as we left that changing room!

Thank you Morpeth RFC for giving me so many fabulous memories.... I now always enjoy returning to hopefully capture some memories for the players of today with the camera. Keep going as long as you can boys, 'cos you never know which game might be your last one!

\*\*N.B. Prints available on [www.chrislishman.com](http://www.chrislishman.com) \*\*

Club notes for Chris Lishman & his debut season 1984-85;

*Chris Lishman played his first 1st XV game on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1985 at Mowden Park as a scrum half – we lost 3-0.*

*Chris started playing regularly in 1986 until 1998 – missed 3 seasons and then came back in 2003 to play 12 games for the 1<sup>ST</sup> XV after Toby Flood went back to the Falcons – he played his last game on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2004 coming on for 2 minutes as a sub for Nick Harper in a game against Middlesbrough. He was a non-playing sub for the Cup Final against Tyndale that we lost by 6-20.*

*Altogether he played 237 games – playing at scrum half, full back and fly half. He captained the Club in 1990-91 and 1991-92 and in his career scored 1374 points – second only behind John Wilson.*

*The team for Chris's first match at Mowden Park was;*

*J Midgley, P Barrow, M Calder, A Atkinson, A Thompson, A Brown, C Lishman, C Tait, M Robson, M Lillico, D Dungait, D Brady, N Bailey, D Brown, P Gordon.*

*Dave Pledger was the usual scrum half but was injured – the previous week John Leithead had filled in as scrum half.*

*The 1984-85 season we ran 6 senior sides plus a Colts side;*

*First XV played 38, won 20 and scored 560 points of which Colin Green the captain scored 314 – still a Club record. Andy Brown played all 38 games and 12 players were awarded their 1<sup>st</sup> XV ties. We used 53 players and Ian Pringle played his 400<sup>th</sup> game for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV.*

*Reivers captained by John Midgley played 30 games - won 19 with Paul Barrow scoring 28 tries and a young Chris Lishman scoring 7 points (2 conversions and a penalty)*

*Stags captained by John Elliott Senior and then John Leithead played 33 games winning 25 and for second year running got to the County Cup Final but again lost losing 6-12 to Northern 2<sup>nd</sup> team.*

*Third XV played 28 games and lost only 3 and had a tremendous season scoring over 650 points captained by Stephen Forster - it included old hands with Brian Garnett, Harry Kennedy, David Learmouth, Bill Tarbit and Roger Biggs.*

*Fourth XV played 18 games won 9 while our 6<sup>th</sup> XV the Ranters played 10 games and won 5 and the Colts side played 20 games winning 12.*

*In that 1984-85 season the 6 senior Club sides played 157 games (average of 26 games per side) with a difficult winter approx. 170 games were arranged – in our last full season of 2018-19 season our 4 Senior Club sides played just 84 games (average of 21 games per side).*

**Lishy's MORPETH CLUB QUIZ QUESTION;**

Q. Who won the first Morpeth RFC Young Player of The Year 1975-76?

A. Peter Gordon.