

## **Member Profile – David Dickinson – Club Captain 2005-06**

*(Current 1<sup>st</sup> XV Caps 270, County Caps approx. 30, England Counties 5 Caps)  
(1<sup>st</sup> XV Player of The Season 2003-04)*

### **Education**

Pegswood First School, Chantry Middle School, KEVI Morpeth, Kirkley Hall College – YTS in Agriculture, De Montfort University ND in Arable Mechanisation.

### **Employment**

J.O. Straughan & Co. Ltd - working alongside my father Roger, Brother Stuart, Wife Debbie, and Mum Sandra, organising, and running the family business.

Started working summer holidays 1993-4 from school picking stones on Butterwell opencast site when it was being restored.

Joined full time after GCSE's in 1996 and did 3 years of block release at Kirkley Hall before heading south to Lincolnshire to University for two years.

### **Favourite Music**

All depends on what mood I am in, anything from dance to classical.

### **Favourite Concerts**

Kings of Leon - Stadium of Light 2011

Bon Jovi - Old Trafford 2011

Pink - Glasgow 2019

### **Favourite films**

Gone in 60 Seconds and most of the Fast and Furious films, really anything with guns and fast cars in!

### **Position I would want to play if not a front row forward**

Probably inside centre for my burst of pace and my slick hands!

### **Most Difficult Opponent**

Scarborough loose head prop around 2002-3, I cannot remember his name, I think he came back from playing at a higher-level rugby. He taught me a few lessons in the front row that I will never forget, did not matter what I did, dropped my shoulder, head butted him, went low or high in the scrum, nothing worked and went back at a rate of knots most scrums with head up my backside!

### **Favourite Player/s on The Same Morpeth Team**

Staff, Hut, Moggy and Gus for looking after Scotty and myself on and off the pitch when we were just young lads starting our first team journeys and educating us how to drink...

All the fellow front row union that I have played with on good and bad days we always stick together on and off the pitch.



**1<sup>st</sup> XV @ Horden April 2005**

### **Most Memorable Morpeth Match**

Against Alnwick at home on a snow-covered pitch in December 2001, always remember photo of George Brown clearing the snow off the lines on the pitch. It was freezing on the legs and hands but a very enjoyable match.

### **DD's Other Rugby Journey**

Tynedale 1<sup>st</sup> XV Caps 61.

Season 2009-10, debut against Esher, I propped against a very young Joe Marler. On my 9<sup>th</sup> game I snapped my ACL, got it reconstructed and was out for a year. Returned to Morpeth for the backend of the 2010-11 season when knee was good. Returned to Tynedale for seasons 2011-12 and 2012-13. Enjoyed my time at Tynedale playing at Level 3 rugby and very similar Club to Morpeth with an agricultural undertone.

Northumberland RU Senior Caps approx. 30.

Started playing Colts in 1998 and played Under 20s in 1999. Went as a youngster on the Senior Tour to Czech Republic in 2000 with Hut, Alan Keenleyside, and future Morpeth player Liam Casey. Played for Senior on and off up till 2013.

England Counties Caps 5.

Played against Ireland Clubs XV at Preston Grasshoppers ground in 2012 followed by a tour to East Africa where I played in two of the three test matches against the Uganda Barbarians and the Elgan Warriors.

Played against Ireland Clubs XV away at Cork and at Ealing against France Federal in 2013.

### **DD's 2 x Morpeth Club Quiz Questions;**

Q. Who won The George Brown Cup for contribution on/off the field 1997-98?

A. Jimmy Pringle.

Q. Who won The Young Player of The Season 2002-03?

A. Scott Ramsay.



**1st XV 2007 Senior County Cup Winning Squad**

### **Club notes for David Dickinson and the 1998-99 Season;**

*Dicky played his first 1<sup>st</sup> XV match at Mitford Road in April 1999 against Gateshead Fell. It was the last game of that season and at that time we often played a non-league match late in the season and always took the opportunity to play some of our younger players as well as young colts to give them some 1<sup>st</sup> XV experience. The Morpeth side that played was – O Redpath, A Rogers, S Rogers, I Davies, D Nelles, C Lishman, N Dodds, D Dickinson, B Smith, R Morrison, J Stafford, R Young, D Hutton, A Watson, N Adams.*

*Ollie Redpath was one of the young players along with Tom Bramald who came off the bench, while Dicky was one of 4 colts that played that afternoon – along with Alan Rogers, Andy Watson while Paul Dodds came on as a sub. We won the game in style by 57-7 scoring 9 tries with the Rogers brothers scoring 2 each.*

*Dicky played 8 games the following season and then at the end of the 2000/01 season he became a regular 1<sup>st</sup> XV player. During the next 8 seasons he played more than 20 games per season – he gained his 1<sup>st</sup> XV tie in 2001/02 playing 28 games. He had a spell at Tynedale but was unfortunately injured and then came back to play at Morpeth in 2013/14 playing 17 games. He “retired” from 1<sup>st</sup> XV rugby but continued to play lower down the sides when he could and then in our last season in 2019/20 he played 13 games to help the 1<sup>st</sup> XV after Ben Sandall was injured.*

*The Club have been fortunate to have several props who have played for a long time and played over 200 games for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. Top of the list is Mike Stoney who played 338 games in a remarkable 12 season career. Three players played for 14 seasons - Andy Clark played 288 games, Duncan Clark played 244 games and Scott Ramsay played 215 games. Dicky however*

has now been playing for an astonishing 22 years and has so far played 270 matches for our 1<sup>st</sup> XV and with his Northumberland Senior County games as well as his England County XV matches, he has probably played more Representative games than any other Morpeth player.

Dicky played for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV when we were particularly strong in the front row - as well as Dicky we also had Richard Moggy Morrison, Graeme Younger, Rob Leiper, Scott Ramsay as well as Chris Pringle. At one stage we used to have a rota system with the front row players – but as Dicky could play anywhere in the front row he was always selected. He can look back at an impressive rugby career at both Mitford Road and at Tynedale.

### 1998/99 season

Bill Hewitt was President and Fixture Sec., Ken Fraser was Hon. Sec., Rod Bramald was Hon Treasurer, David Pringle our County Rep, Ian Pringle Chairman of Rugby, Dave Metcalfe in charge of Bar, John Dungait in charge of Grounds, Mike Brunskill in charge of Mini Rugby, Barry Richardson in charge of the Colts, Ashley Jones, Andy Hindhaugh and Colin Green oversaw Senior Coaching.

Duncan Clark was 1<sup>st</sup> XV Captain and George Brown was Manager. Duncan was unfortunately injured halfway through the season. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV had a good season finishing up in 4<sup>th</sup> position in the Thwaites North 2 League. Bradford & Bingley won our League and were promoted with Driffield - we beat Driffield at home and beat Bradford & Bingley in both games – 40-12 at home and 26-16 away when Paul Jackson scored 3 tries after our pack pushed the Bees back from well outside their 22 area. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV used 47 players in their 30 games and Neil Dodds played in every match – top scoring with 152 points. Neil Dodds, Paul Jackson, and Duncan Nelless gained their 1<sup>st</sup> XV ties while John Stafford and Duncan Hutton only missed one game. We beat Wigton in the National Knock Out Competition but lost in the next round at Cheshunt by 26-33 having been down 6-30 at half time.

The Reivers captained by Steve Rank and Sam Duckworth as Manager had a tremendous season only losing 3 of their 29 games and scoring over 800 points. They won the Journal 2<sup>nd</sup> XV League for the second year running, were second behind Tynedale in the newly formed Northumberland RFU Junior League were 3<sup>rd</sup> in a North of England 2<sup>nd</sup> XV League behind Tynedale and Blaydon and ahead of Doncaster, Sandal and Bradford & Bingley. They ended up winning the Northumberland County Shield Cup Final beating Tynedale at Novos.

The Edwardians were captained by Steve Oxley and managed by Tom Duckworth. They won 20 of their 28 games and finished up 3<sup>rd</sup> in their County League.

The only disappointment of the season was that the Stags struggled to turn out a side until Dave Marshall took over the side and they finished by playing only 10 games.

Gus Nelless once again played for the Northumberland Senior County XV in Championship games. Andy Clark, Richie Young and Paul Jackson got on the field as subs in the County Championship games while Steven Rogers played for a County XV against Cumberland. Neil Dodds and Tom Bramald played for the Northumberland Under 21s - this was the last season for Under 21s and it changed to Under 20s from the 1999-2000 season.