

Member Profile – Duncan (Nobby) Clark

Club Captain 1998-99

(1st XV Caps 243, Young Player of The Season – 1989-90)

Education:

Tritlington First School

Chantry Middle School

KEVI

Employment/Occupation:

Joiner/Builder - NB Clark

Favourite Band/s:

ABBA

Shania Twain

Best musical event/s attended:

Only ever been to three concerts.

Shania Twain – Newcastle Arena.

Concert in the park at Alnwick with music from the 80's ABC, Belinda Carlisle, Toya Wilcox etc.

Favourite film:

Where Eagles Dare

Best Morpeth rugby match/matches:

Versus Tynedale County Cup Final 98 and then beating them the following season at home.

Generally, any win in Yorkshire but Bradford and Bingley away stands out, they had so much individual talent in their team, but they got tied up in our strength's, we went on to win the game with the help of a Will Munro drop kick from the 10-yard touch line in front of a stand full of an appreciative Yorkshire crowd...

Best Morpeth Rugby Moments:

Duncan Madsen taking the first of many scrummaging sessions and adjusting people's body and mind positions – this led us onto a great deal of success.

Knocking Gosforth 8 over their line in 5 metre scrum to score a pushover following a Gosforth backrow stating just before packing down that 'Morpeth will never push us over'!

Horden away, April 1997, John Goodfellow had broken his leg in the December and Ian Pledger, who I have great admiration for, stood in for JG and the 1st half we were hanging on in the scrums against the big set of Horden forwards, 2nd half JG came on and the first scrum in 2nd half we took the upper hand, and we went on to secure the win and promotion.

Promotion in to North 2 league for the 96/97 season and winning the Northumberland County Cup 97/98 season and the Club celebrations that followed!

Alnwick's prop forward Andrew Frost a British Powerlifting Champion was a handful in early scrums, but thankfully a rugby match is longer than a Clean and Jerk...

Pre-season tour to Stockwood Park in August 1997, in the Clubs 50th anniversary season, first scrum went well looking forward to a dominant afternoon as we had the upper hand to discover following the 2nd scrum, we were going to have a very difficult afternoon.

Best Morpeth player in same team as myself:

Backs – Chris Lishman – loved taking the field with Chris he could kick, run, tackle, and lead.

Forwards – The pack of Mid/late 90's Andy Clark, John Goodfellow, John Stafford, Richie Young, Duncan Hutton, Gus Nelles, Ben Dale these players had their qualities of their own and complimented each other to create a formidable set of forwards that could challenge any team.

In my early 1st team days, the late Paul Anysley - strong 2nd row forward.

Nobby's 3 x Morpeth RFC quiz questions:

Q. Who scored the tries for Morpeth in 98 County Cup Final Victory?

A. Chris Lishman and John Goodfellow.

Q. Who said and wrote in his column in The Sunday Sun they would show their posterior in Fenwick's Window if Morpeth beat Tynedale in the 98 Northumberland County Cup Final?

A. David (Banty) Johnson.

Q. Who won the Abbey National Trophy for best team and the Mayor's Trophy in 1998 and who presented the awards?

A.



Club notes for Nobby Clark and the 1989-90 Season

Duncan began his playing rugby at Mitford Road in the mid 1980's first with the Colts and then with the young Stags side organised and run by Bob Young. He made his 1st XV debut at Alnwick on the 16th of April 1988 – in a game we lost 6-10. The Morpeth XV that afternoon was – A Brown, J Dungait, M Calder, P Morris, D Owens, A Old, I Laidlaw, T McDonnell, I Pledger, D Clark, P Aynsley, I Ireland, N Bailey, D Brown, P Gordon. Dominic Owens also played his first game that day. The following week Duncan played his second match at home to Sunderland which we won 34-8.

The following season - 1988/89 Duncan again played a couple of games for the 1st XV. It was in the 1989/90 season that Duncan established himself in the 1st XV when he played 22 games and became the Young Player of the Season. The next season 1990/91 Duncan gained his 1st XV tie when he played 30 games - missing only one.

Duncan became a regular first choice prop for the next 8 seasons. He badly injured his knee at the beginning of the 1997/8 season in a cup game at Bishop Auckland and missed most of the season but fortunately for the Club he returned in April to play against Northern in a County semi-final and then played in the County Cup Final against the strong Tynedale side when we won the Northumberland Senior Cup for the first time. The following season 1998/99 Duncan was the Club Captain but again was unfortunate to be injured and missed a large part of that season. He played only 6 more 1st XV games - 3 in each of the next 2 seasons. His last game, for the 1st XV, was on the 16th of Sept 2000 against Huddersfield and he then came back a couple of seasons later and played some games for the Stags at blindside flanker that he thoroughly enjoyed.

Duncan finished his Morpeth 1st XV career having played 243 games and joins a celebrated group of props who have played over 200 games for the Club – Jim Dirom 209, Scott Ramsay 215, David Dickinson 270, Andy Clark 288, and Mike Stoney with 338.

Duncan came to the attention of the Northumberland Senior selectors at the beginning of the 1990's. He played for the County "B" XV in 1991/2 and 1992/3 with Paul Fourie and Duncan Hutton. He made his Northumberland Championship debut in Sept 1993 at Hartlepool Rovers against Durham and scored the only Northumberland try in a 7-38 defeat. He played against Yorkshire with Duncan Hutton in a game that Duncan Hutton was injured and did not play again that season and then he played against Lancashire to gain his County Cap – in a game that Mike Lishman was a travelling reserve.

Duncan had established himself in the County side and in the 1994/5 season he played in all 9 County games finishing up playing at Twickenham in the County Championship Final where John Goodfellow was part of the squad. The following season of 1995/96 Duncan once again played in all the County Championship games and was asked to join Newcastle Gosforth, who were now a professional outfit, in the early part of 1996. Duncan however only stayed a short while, due to commitments with the family business making it unrealistic to devote the extra time needed and he returned to Mitford Road at the beginning of the next season when once again he played for the Northumberland Senior County side with Gus Nelles and Duncan Hutton.

Duncan can look back at his rugby career both at Morpeth and the County with a great deal of satisfaction. When he played for the Morpeth 1st XV for the best part of a decade the Morpeth side were stronger for his appearance. Duncan will always be remembered as part of a tremendous Morpeth pack – Andy Clark, John Goodfellow, Staff, Richie Young, Hutt, Gus Nelles and Ben Dale.

He will no doubt be proud that his son Elliott has already made his 1st XV debut at Mitford Road and hopefully he will be able to watch the next generation for many years to come.

The 1989/90 season – the Club ran 5 Senior Sides and Colts

Duncan was Young Player of the Season and played 22 games for the 1st XV.

President David Pringle, Hon Sec. Ken Fraser, Hon. Fix Sec. Bill Hewitt, Hon. Treasurer John Wright, Bar Chairman Alan Woolhead, Chairman of Rugby and Selection Stephen Forster, Chairman of Squash Bobby Thompson, County Rep. David Turnbull, Ground David Brown, Chairman of House Ken Davidson, Junior Chairman Mick Dungait, Fund Raising Dave Crawford.

1st XV Captain Ian Pledger - League Season played 10 won 4 and lost 6. Finished 6th out of 10 – beat Selby, Blaydon, Old Crossleyans and Novos - Stockton promoted and Selby relegated.

Full Season - played 33, won 17, drew 1, lost 15, points for 433 and against 445.

Top Try scorer Neil Campbell 14 and Top Points Scorer Chris Lishman 198.

Ian Pledger played 33 games, Alan Thompson and Ian Ireland 32, Chis Lishman 30, Tony Clark 28 and Stuart Taylor, Iain Laidlaw, and David Brown 25.

Won Blyth Sevens and finalists in County Sevens at Berwick - lost to Berwick – this was 4th final in a row, and we had won the previous season.

Reivers Captain – David Brown - who played most of season for the 1st XV - played 30 games, won 12, drew 1 and lost 17 - Manager Sam Duckworth.

Stags Captain Tony McDonnell - played 30, won 20, drew 3 and lost 7. Won Northumberland County Cup – beat Gosforth – included Brian Keenleyside and Martin Calder.

4th XV Captain Alan Patton - played 25, won 14, drew 2 and lost 9.

Ranters only played only 6 games winning 3.

Club Captain last 2 seasons - Ian Pledger – missed only 1 Club match in 3 seasons – when he was on Tour with Northumberland County Centurians.

Iain Laidlaw played in all Northumberland County Championship games.

Duncan McCrae played for Scotland, Anglo Scots and Northumberland U21s.

Northumberland County Presidents XV - Alan Thompson, Ian Pledger, Paul Aynsley, Paul Woodall.

Iain Laidlaw and Duncan McCrae played against the British Police.

Young Player of Season - Duncan Clark and Club Top Try Scorer - Will McTurk.

Junior Section – Keith Dungait and Will Munro - County U14s.

Alan Fleming, Adam Sykes, and Michael Dungait - County U16s.