

Member Profile - Richard Young (Richie) – Club Captain for 4 Seasons 1994 to 1998

(1st XV Caps 202, 1st XV Player of The Season 1996-97)

Education

Crookhill Infant/Junior School years and years ago.

Ryton Comprehensive.

Newcastle College.

Employment

Left school and began an engineering apprenticeship with Huwood on Team Valley Gateshead who made mining machinery back when coal mines were still a thing but only just.

I was made redundant at the end of my apprenticeship due to the decline of mining.

I walked straight into a role with Metro Radio as a roadie setting up and organising road shows and public events.

1988 – 2018 - I had the pleasure of doing the job I always wanted to do right from the days of watching John Thaw and Dennis Waterman in The Sweeney. I was a Police Officer with Northumbria Police making it to the dizzy heights of a Shift Sergeant for the last 11 years of my service. These 30 years were some of the best I could have ever imagined both working and rugby wise. It is basically because of the police I ended up playing at Morpeth R.F.C.

Upon completion and retiring from the force I had to do something, so upon seeing an advert for a driver's job at Lloyd BMW in Newcastle I applied and I'm currently working there at the moment. Collecting and delivering cars around the country. BMW cars nice cars but overpriced for a German badge.

Favourite Music

I listen to every type of music except Rap and RnB.

My choice of music usually depends on my mood or activity I'm doing. Whilst cycling it's always rock music the heavier the better and whilst driving I'm currently working my way through the decades of music from the 60's to present day.

Favourite Concerts

Muse at the Emirates Stadium Manchester 2019 best stage show and performance assembly I've ever seen.

Best concert I heard but was not physically in the stadium was Bruce Springsteen 4th June 1985 St James' Park. He started at the same time I started a two-hour exam at Newcastle College. Brilliant and I even managed a distinction in the exam - how I don't know.

Position I would want to play?

I started as a No 8 and moved forward to the second row and I really enjoyed both positions.

There was an appeal to play fly half however I didn't have the pace or the game sense to probably play there, plus I wasn't into hair gel and perfume so had far more fun with the big boys..

Most Difficult Opponent/s

Black brothers at Horden were hard gnarly physical, in your face stamp on your body in a ruck, players who were driven into violence by a very vocal crowd. Happy days.

Wade Dooley - I had the pleasure of playing against on a couple of occasions. He was an absolute towering monster of a beast who just seemed to be all over and around you constantly. He was also a very arrogant pr*ck on and off the field.

However, as a collective Tynedale were probably the most difficult games. They are a good Club and produce very good teams and during my time we had a lot of difficult games against them. The Parker brothers always gave to a good battle (sometimes literally), Simon Clayton-Hibbott was the typical mouthy pain in the ar*e scrum half and John Fletcher playing at centre sometimes looked untouchable.

Favourite player/s in the same Morpeth Team

This is the hardest of all these questions because without doubt every player I played alongside in a Morpeth team gave everything to the best of their abilities on the day. Duncan Clark and Andy Clark (remarkably not related !!!) who managed to lift me at line outs.

John Goodfellow and Michael Robson two very good hookers who regularly battled each other for the No 2 shirt.

John Stafford one of my second-row partners who gave his all would stand his ground on the field then provide most of the off-field entertainment...

The back row players - Mick Lishman monster of the blind side with enormous tackles, Steve Rank a gritty Yorkshire open side, Gary Stephenson a dedicated and committed player, Gus Nelles summed up in one word "Awesome", Duncan Hutton "Hut" does not need any comments he has legendary Club status at Morpeth and rightly so.

The backs are worthy of a mention as well as when we the forwards allowed them the ball they did do well. Scrum halves in Iain "Paddler" Laidlaw, Neil "Chippa" Phillips, Michael Dungait (with those huge thighs), Keith Dungait and Paul "Jacko" Jackson were all really good players. John Dungait was a tenacious no nonsense won't back down winger who will live long in my memory for a game I'll mention later.

This part could go on forever and mention everybody I played alongside.

However, my favourite Morpeth player has to be **Ben Dale**. Ben is a very quietly spoken person off the field. On the field he was a very knowledgeable and somewhat vocal

contributor to our game. He played at No 8 and controlled the patterns of play between the forwards and backs brilliantly. He was also a very durable and hard player in the sense he took a lot of punishment during games but kept on going and only on the odd occasion did he lose it!

Most Memorable Match or Matches

International game whilst playing for Berwick played at Shield Field, home of Berwick Rangers, against Hasting brothers (Gavin 61 Scotland Caps and 6 British & Irish Lions Caps, Scott 65 Scotland Caps and 2 British & Irish Lions Caps), John Jeffrey (40 Scotland Caps), David Sole (44 Scotland Caps and 3 British & Irish Lions Caps), and the Calder brothers (Finlay 34 Scotland Caps and 3 British & Irish Lions Caps, Jim 28 Scotland Caps and 1 British & Irish Lions Cap) – it was a very good game.

Two British Police Cup Finals against Welsh opposition Dyfed Powys and South Wales with both teams packed with Welsh internationals were both an experience even though we were comprehensively beaten in both games. My ray of light was scoring a try against South Wales.

The first Charity International game whilst playing at Morpeth, September 1992, was a privilege and honour to play in as I had not been at the Club long. My accomplishment on that day was to win the first line out against Paul Ackford then never win another one all game!

However, the most memorable match can only be one game:
Morpeth v Tynedale 1998 Northumberland Senior Cup Final.
Played at Northern.

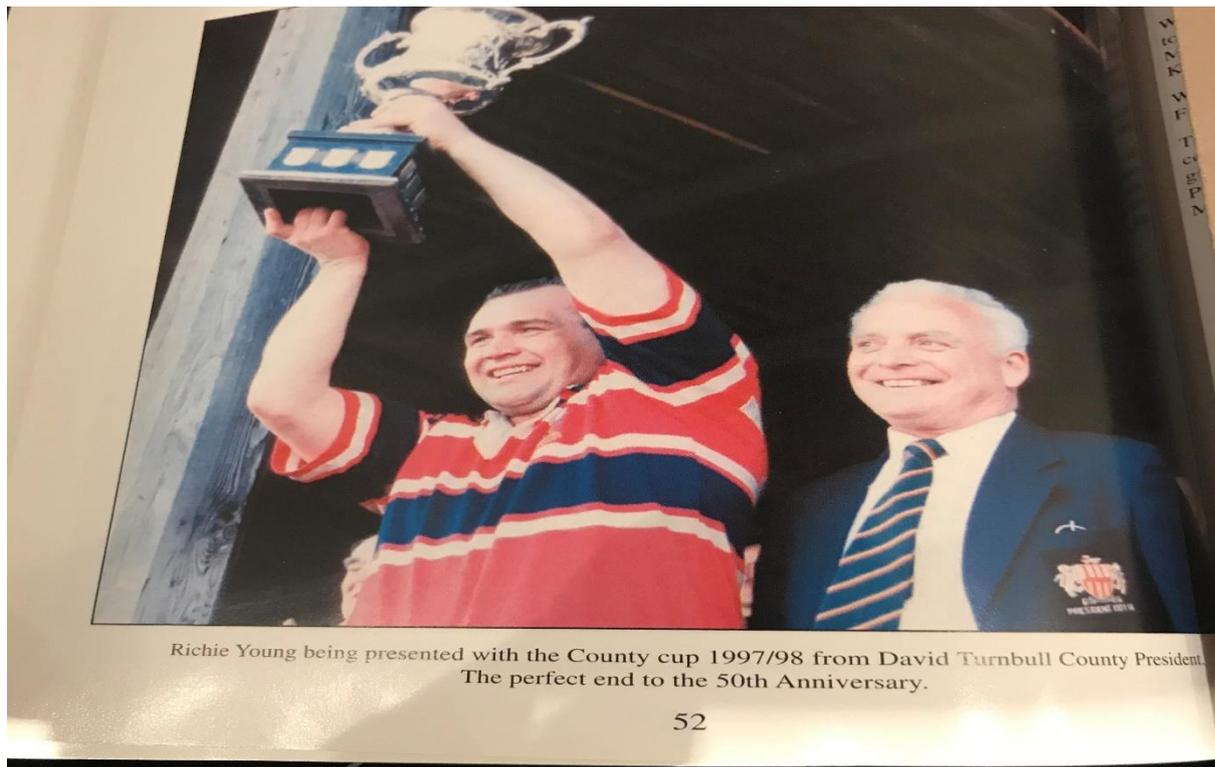
The preparation for this game was excellent and in truth had been going on for years long before by players, coaches, and club members.

Before the game, the trophy was in the clubhouse on display to view however I did not want to look at it as being Captain the time I wanted to see it was at the end of the game in my hands.

We had a game plan which mainly revolved around stopping the human juggernaut on the Tynedale wing in the shape of Epi Taione. The initial contact fell to John Dungait who never took a backward step during that game and met Taione head on every time. To me this epitomised the Morpeth team that day and every player took strength from these challenges and committed to their own roles resulting in a dominant performance against a very good Tynedale side. Who at the end were also unsporting losers...

The time then came to get my hands on the trophy from Morpeth's own David Turnbull. The pleasure and pride in his face at our achievements that day was clearly obvious and the words we exchanged were magical before lifting that trophy not just for the players but the whole Club.

Still gives me goose bumps to this day!



My Rugby Journey

As a child I was always into sports with football being the main game especially as that's what the schools I attended catered for the most.

I played for the school teams but didn't really have much skill so was played centre half to knock people about a bit- fun!

At the age of 10 or 11 I also started to attend regular Judo training sessions and really began to enjoy this contact sport however a rather unfortunate incident whilst on a crowded judo mat meant I sustained a crippling injury to my left foot because of it being landed on by a rather large lady who had been thrown by her opponent. I broke my left foot and two toes but damaged every muscle and tissue as well with the hospital informing my mother I'd walk with a limp for the rest of my life (wrong). No limp but my left foot is larger than the right.

I spent several weeks off school and when I returned, I learned of a game of rugby to be played by my school Crookhill and Ryton for a trophy called the Canada Cup. I wanted to play so managed to sneak in as a last replacement and loved it. I can't remember who won or even if the game became an annual event as I then moved up schools to Ryton Comprehensive.

Unfortunately, the sport of choice again was football due to all the P.E teachers being footballers.

I never played football here for my year group I wanted to play rugby and every year we would have one game against West Denton which was more of a punch up than rugby match.

As I moved through the years at school, I was allowed to play for the year above who had a very good team with lots of interested pupils who wanted to play.

This led me to joining Ryton Rugby Club and played Junior Colts at 14 yrs old winning the Durham Junior Colts Cup around 1983/84 and some appearances for the Colts team before moving up to the Colts from 16-year-old. At this time played for Durham County Colts and made my first team debut for Ryton aged 18 years away to Wharfedale.

I played first team rugby for another few years at Ryton and gaining honours for Durham U21 and North of England U21.

In 1988 I joined Northumbria Police and was stationed at Berwick upon Tweed, so I started playing rugby at Berwick breaking into the first team after two second team games and played there for two seasons with the most notable game being against an international team filled with Scottish Internationals.

I also played a couple of games for Durham County B team during this period.

I moved from living in Berwick to living in Morpeth so left Berwick and concentrated on settling into a new area and house. The house needed some work and in particular the garden so off to Heighley Gate for garden type stuff and arranged a delivery of gravel. This was delivered by none other than Mick Lishman who quickly asked if I played rugby and would I like to come to Morpeth. He gave me a very extensive run down of the Club and when and where to come training.

This encounter was quickly followed by another, in The Sour Grapes Wine Bar in Morpeth, with a certain John Stafford who had had a few drinks and was also very insistent I join Morpeth to play rugby.

So, one Tuesday I made my way to Morpeth for a training session and simply had the best rugby years of my life with some of the finest people I have had the pleasure to meet in my life.

The Police again took me south working in Newcastle and living in Low Fell, so I made my way back to Ryton Rugby Club possibly for a farewell to finish where I started and played a couple of seasons again and played a couple of games for Durham County.

I consider myself to have had a great career with rugby enriched by the people I have played alongside and against along the way which has forged the person I am today.

My body is shot from playing but would I do it again HELL YES!

Richie's 4 x Morpeth Club Quiz Questions

Q. Season 1995-96 there were 9 scrum halves played for the 1st XV – can you name them?

A. Keith Dungait, Michael Dungait, John Dungait, Martin Evans, Paul Jackson, Iain Laidlaw, Chris Lishman, Neil Phillips, George Robson - George, played most of his rugby at Alnwick but he was playing for Newcastle Gosforth at the time, guested at an away game at Tynedale after we ended up short – the company he worked for, MSP from Berwick, were sponsoring the game.

To note JD played his only 1st XV game at scrum half in the penultimate game of the season, away to Novos after Paddler didn't arrive till half time, after not realising it was an early kick-off...the early kick-off was to allow the players to go to North Shields to watch 2 x County Cup Finals – Reivers v Ashington and Ranters v Novos 7Cs.

Q. Season 1995-96 there were 5 different players played fly half for the 1st XV – can you name them?

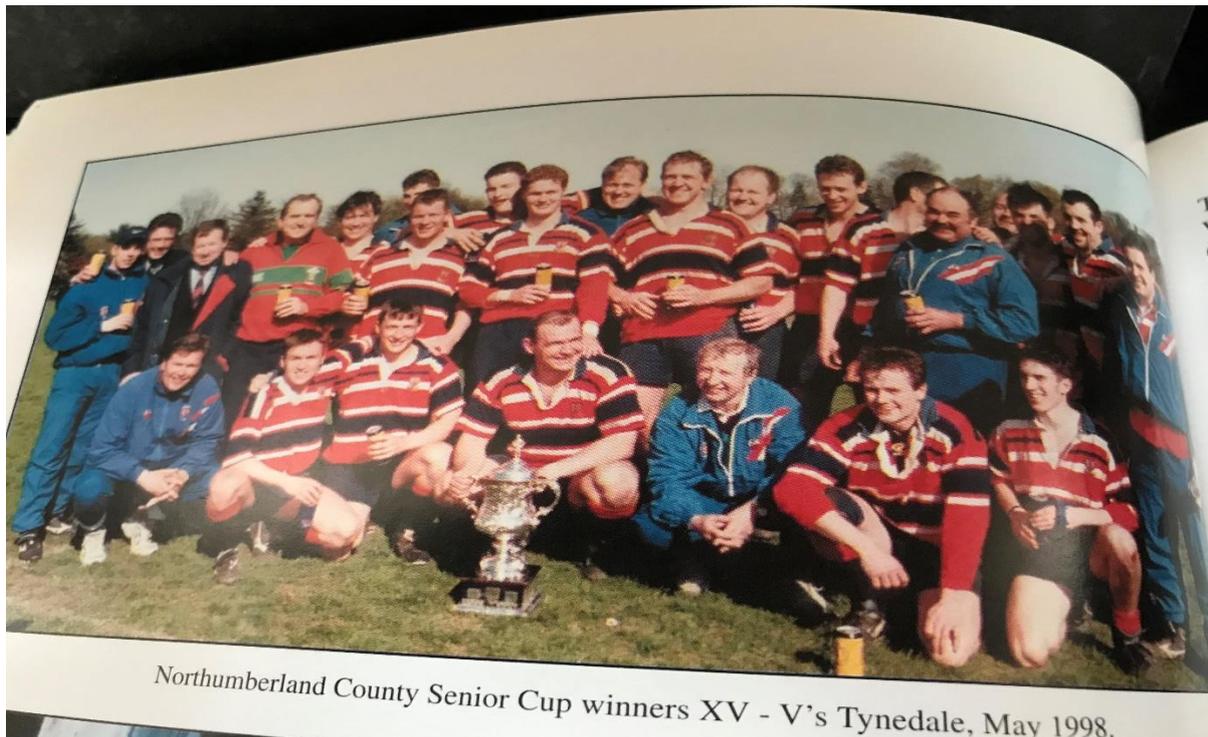
A. Keith Dungait, Iain Laidlaw, Chris Lishman, Michael Old, Alan Mole – veteran Alan played 1 game, an away game at Alnwick – his old Club.

Q. Who won Young Player of The Season 1997-98?

A. Neil Dodds.

Q. We beat Tynedale 21-13 in the 1998 Senior Cup Final – who scored our points?

A. John Goodfellow try, Chris Lishman try, Neil Dodds 3 penalties and 1 conversion.



Club notes for Richie Young and his 1st XV debut season 1992-93

Richie joined Morpeth in the summer of 1992 after playing beforehand at Ryton and Berwick. He was already an established 1st XV player and had played for Durham County at Under 21s level. He made an immediate impact on the Morpeth 1st XV – in his first 2 seasons 1992/3 and 1993/94 he played in every match – 36 in his first season and 30 in his second season. He was appointed Club Captain in his third season and was Captain for the next 4 seasons – at the time only John Wilson had Captained the Club for 4 seasons - in the 1960's, and Ted Laidlaw who Captained the Club for the first 6 seasons of its inception. In his first season as Captain, we were in the North East One League playing only 12 matches – we ended up 7th in the League. In his second season as Captain, we ended up 4th in the League and at the end of that season the Leagues were reorganised, and we were to play 18 matches. In that 1996/7 season which was his 3rd season as Captain we finished up winning

the League and being promoted into the North Division 2 where we were to play 22 League games.

The 1997/8 season which was Richie's 4th season as Captain was to say the least challenging – it was our 50th Anniversary season and we were playing in a much more difficult League. We struggled at first winning only one of our first 9 games – but gradually we found our feet and ended up 6th in the League of 12 having some tremendous victories against Bradford and Bingley, Huddersfield and reversing a 42-0 defeat against Alnwick with a 28-14 win.

But it was in the Northumberland County Senior Cup Competition that Richie's side made Club history. We played Northern in the semi-final at Mitford Road – we had narrowly lost both League games and Northern had already gained promotion - but we won 18-10. The Senior Cup Final was against Tynedale who were well ahead of us in the Leagues system and our record in Cup Finals was played 7 and lost 7 – but on the afternoon at McCracken Park Richie Young's 1st XV were worthy winners. Richie was presented with the Senior County Cup by the Northumberland President David Turnbull of Morpeth – David had in fact played for Morpeth in 1958 in our very first Cup Final against Percy Park.

After his 4 years as Club Captain, Richie had one more full season with the Club in 1998/99 then played a few games in 1999/2000 before leaving the Club to go back to his first club at Ryton. He ended up having played 202 games and in his 7 full seasons from 1992/3 until 1998/9 he missed only a handful of games.

Richie Young's place in the Club's history is unique – he was the first Club Captain to gain promotion in the League system and was the first Morpeth Captain to be presented with the Northumberland County Senior Cup. But more than anything Richie Young was one of the reasons that the Club had so much success during his period at Morpeth. He was a member of a tremendous Club set of forwards = the Clark's, Goodfellow, Stafford, Gus Nelles, Hutton, and Ben Dale. It was a pack without any flashy players, an honest hard-working pack who it is fair to say could look after themselves on the pitch – and Richie was in the heart of that pack most afternoons for 7 full seasons. Richie was the sort of player that other players liked to play with - he brought the best out of other team members – players saw him working hard and they did the same.

Season 1992-93 – we were running 5 Senior sides plus Colts

President, George Brown, Hon. Sec. Ken Fraser, Hon. Fix Sec. Bill Hewitt, Hon Treasurer John Wright, County Rep. David Turnbull, Rugby Chairman David Pringle, Bar Chairman Michael Parrish, Chairman Selection Ian Pringle. Ground David Brown, Mini Rugby Duncan Madsen, Junior Rugby Barry Richardson, House Ken Davidson, Sponsorship John Naylor.

1st XV Captain Iain Laidlaw - Manager Dave Metcalfe.

Reivers Captain Peter Gordon - Manager Sam Duckworth – won 19 out of 33 games scoring 852 points.

Under 21 XV Captain Bob Young – Manager W McClement – won 11 of 24 games.

3rd XV Stags Captain Pooch Thornton – Manager George Hakin - won 6 of 24 games.

4th XV Captain Phil Gregory - won 4 of 18 games.

Colts Manager John Naylor.

*1st XV won 22 of 36 games – in League won 7 of 12 games and finished 5th out of 12.
In Sept. played International XV – the Colin Young Memorial Game - Captained by Paul Ackford - proceeds (Over £20,000) to Marrow Transplant 2000.
Captain Iain Laidlaw was injured and did not play again that season. Martin Calder also injured only played 3 games, Coaching Staff included Duncan Madsen the Gosforth and Scottish International
Chris Lishman was top points scorer with 207 points out of 564 and Duncan Hutton with only 7 tries was top try scorer for 1st XV (only scored 67 tries in 36 games).
Richie Young in first season played all 36 games – he and Simon Crawford and Steve Rank got 1st XV ties.*

*Chris Lishman played County Championship game against Yorkshire.
Paul Fourie, Duncan Clark, and Duncan Hutton played for County “B” with Steve Rank sub.
Ian Whitfield and Ed Bennison played County Under 21s.
Michael Dungait (present coach) played Scottish Under 19s.
John Goodfellow - Young Player of Season.
Will McTurk – Top Try scorer
Gary Stephenson won the First Year of The George Brown Trophy – for contribution on/off the field.
At end of season Iain Laidlaw and Michael Robson went to Canada with Northumberland Touring squad.*