

## **Scoops Slot**

This September will be the first that I can ever recall where the excitement of a new rugby season will be sadly missing. In an effort to provide some engagement, discussion and most importantly much needed humour, a weekly profile of a club member, with their full cooperation, will be posted on the website.

This week's club member is **John Stafford (staffy)**

### ***Education;***

St Cuthbert's Newcastle, Kirkley College, currently still attending University of Life.

### ***Employment;***

Simpsons Malt Ltd Berwick.

### ***Favourite Band/s;***

ELO and Rolling Stones.

### ***Best musical event/s attended;***

Enjoyed them all! Rolling Stones (St James's Park 1990) Bon Jovi (Gateshead Stadium 2000) Queen and Paul Rodgers (Newcastle Arena 2008) Deacon Blue (Newcastle City Hall 2013) Billy Ocean (Newcastle City Hall 2018).

Biggest regret, whilst travelling Australia in January 1994 INXS were playing near where we were staying. For some unknown reason decided not to go, tragically in 1997 Michael Hutchence committed suicide, so I never got another chance.

Lesson in life - take those opportunities when they come your way.

***Favourite Film;*** Blues Brothers.

***Best Morpeth rugby moment;***

Derby game against Alnwick, always great rivalry. October 2000 we were 9-10 down in injury time and Alnwick had possession in our 22 before Barry Hills intercepted, ran the length of the field to score. It was the last play of the game and what a way to win the match.

***Best Morpeth match;***

The club's first ever county cup win 1998 v Tynedale – nobody gave us a chance.

***If you weren't a second row what other position would you have liked to play;***

Prop - because of the direct duel between you and your direct opponent.

***Most difficult opponent/s encountered;***

From a lineout perspective - Graham Yates (Tynedale) Steve Bainbridge (Blaydon, Gosforth and England).

From a nuisance perspective - Craig West (Cleckheaton), an openside nearing the end of his career, he was everywhere both in attack and defence.

From an impact playing perspective Garry Schofield, former rugby league international. He played fly half when we played Redcar. They beat us in a close, low scoring game at Mitford Road. During the match he hardly seemed involved yet had been instrumental in their scores.

***Best Morpeth player in the same team as myself;***

Forward - Nobby Clark.

Back - Chris Lishman.

***Staffy's Morpeth club quiz question;***

Q Who played 10 first team games at the start of the 2003/04 season and played his last game for us the day England won the World Cup?

A Toby Flood.