

Member Profile – current player Tony Moody

(Current 1st XV Caps – 166. 1st Team Player of The Season 2015-16)

(Current British Police Caps - 13 & English Police Caps - 15)

EDUCATION;

KEVI Morpeth

University of Life

EMPLOYMENT;

Northumbria Police

FAVOURITE EMPLOYMENT;

Pop Sticker Technician

FAVOURITE BAND/S;

Metallica, Madness, Foo Fighters

BEST MUSICAL EVENT/S ATTENDED;

Leeds Festival 2003 - utter carnage!

FAVOURITE FILM/S;

Rambo – First Blood

IF YOU WEREN'T A PROP WHAT POSITION WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE PLAYED;

I have been known to turn my hand to second row due to my excellent line out jumping! However, I would also love to play on the wing as that's where I spend most my time standing when we play touch and it seems pretty easy!

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT/S ENCOUNTERED;

I can remember in 2003, as an 18-year-old, playing a second team cup final against the twins who played front row for Berwick who were massive. They did nowt round the park but battered me in the scrum. Propped against one each half and got destroyed - we won the cup though!

Also 2019-20 season British Police played Cambridge University and playing for them were international 2nd rows Flip van der Merwe and James Horwill - 2 canny players...

BEST PLAYER TO HAVE PLAYED WITH;

Toby Flood – played County age groups with him.

FAVOURITE/BEST MORPETH PLAYER/S IN SAME TEAM AS MYSELF;

Far too many too mention I have enjoyed the craic of playing rugby with pretty much every player I have played with. Team camaraderie is what makes rugby such a great game.

BEST MORPETH RUGBY MATCH/MATCHES;

Beating Alnwick in the dark and mud November 2019 to win the County Cup was special but favourite Morpeth game was beating Malton and Norton at home in the play off in 2015 to get promoted - 80 minutes of hard graft and solid gutsy defence - what a night afterwards at the beer festival as well!

Tony's 2 x MORPETH CLUB QUIZ QUESTION;

Q. Who won the first 1st Team Player Cup 1995-96?

A. Gus Nelles.

Q. Who won the Young Player of the Year 1989-90?

A. Duncan Clark.

Club notes for Tony Moody & his debut season 2003-04:

Tony played his first senior game on April 17th, 2004 at Mitford Road in a League match against Horden – we won by 51 -5 – scoring 7 tries.

The Morpeth XV was;

Bradley Hills, David Wall, Stu Hills, Iain Menzies, Alan Rogers, Nick Harper, Chris Reynolds, Rob Leiper, David Dickinson, Tony Moody, John Stafford, Duncan Hutton, Ally Hall, Gus Nelles and Paul Scott.

Tony played 3 games in the 2004/5 season and then left to play at Ashington. He played at Ashington for 9 seasons and returned to Morpeth in the 2014/15 season. In his first season back, Tony was awarded his 1st XV tie and he has now played 162 matches out of a possible 168 since his return – missing only 6 games in 6 seasons – a remarkable achievement.

The 2003/4 season;

Sam Duckworth was President, Dave Crawford Treasurer, Colin Green Chairman of Rugby, and John Stafford Club Captain with Barry Richardson in charge of the Colts and Ian Pringle their Coach. Alan Dawson oversaw Junior Rugby and the Ladies section was run by Rob Winter. A young Tom Green was our Press Officer. John Leithead, Bill Hewitt and John Hillier-Hall were the club coaches.

The Stags captained by Chris Oakey with Dave Marshall their manager won 16 of their 25 games and won their Northumberland League. The side included several ex 1st XV players including the Dungait brothers and Duncan Clark.

The Edwardians captained by Paul Gillie and managed by Tom Duckworth won 15 of their 28 games ended up second in their Northumberland league.

The Reivers captained by Duncan Nelles with team manager Ian Blakey had a tremendous season winning 23 of their 26 games and finished the season at Old Novos winning the County cup in defeating Alnwick by 11-5.

The 1st XV captained by John Stafford with George Brown and Peter Kirkup managing had a good season winning 21 of their 29 games and ending up 3rd in the League behind Hull and Middlesbrough. The side scored 133 tries and 903 points – both Club records. We won our first 7 league games and at the end of the season had to beat Middlesbrough away from home to gain a playoff place – but were well and truly beaten and ended up 3rd. We reached the County Cup Final and lost to a strong Tynedale side that included 2 ex Morpeth players – Keith Dungait and Paul Mooney.

Toby Flood played for us until November (his last game was the day England won the World Cup) and after he left, we had great problems in the backs – Bryan Stewart played in the centre with another 9 partners!!!

David Wall, Bryan Stewart, Rob Leiper and Paul Scott gained their 1st XV ties, Alan Rogers scored 24 tries – Toby Flood scored 83 points in his 8 games and a young Bradley Hills joined us and scored 122 points in only 9 games and Chris Lishman came out of retirement to help and played 12 games.

Marc Nardini, Stu Hills and Robin Lavin played for the County Under 21s, Rory Morrison played for Scottish Under 18s Schools and Paul Scott was our only senior County player - coming on as a replacement in 3 games to gain his County tie.