

### The Official Newsletter of DURFC

### **MESSAGE FROM ALEX KEAY (HEAD OF RUGBY)**

I have been fortunate enough to have enjoyed quite a few "happy rugby days" over the last decade and I must say this season to date has been incredibly pleasing. Starting with a fantastic unbeaten California tour through to Le Crunch on the Crum with the 3's v 4's, in one of the most entertaining games you could hope to see and with the whole club cheering on.

The 5's are unbeaten in their league and are in the quarter finals of their Cup competition.

The 4's find themselves in the Northern 1 (the same league as the 3's). As previously mentioned, the game between the 'devsmen' in front of the whole club was an absolute humdinger. Close defeats to Liverpool 1 and Northumbria 2 have seen massive efforts from the boys.

The 3's are top of the league with some great wins against Liverpool 1 and twice against Northumbria 2. Fingers crossed, they will hopefully return to Premier 2.

The 2's, after a tough start in Premier 1 against Edinburgh, have rallied with big wins against Newcastle 1, Nottingham Trent 1 and Leeds 1. The most pleasing aspect is that this team is predominantly a 1st/2nd year team, so there's still plenty of potential.

The 1's are currently at the top of the BUCS Super Rugby league, the toughest league in university rugby. There is not one 'easy' game and the boys are working relentlessly to maintain their position at the top.

We continue to face challenges off the field and could really do with more sponsorship. If anyone is interested in our sponsorship opportunities, please contact me at <a href="mailto:alex.keay@durham.ac.uk">alex.keay@durham.ac.uk</a> or 07507 64950.

The commitment of all the players is incredible, demonstrated by smashing personal bests in S&C sessions, pushing each other during training and even getting back from Swansea and Exeter at 5am. The Alumni match in London against Bath was a huge highlight of the club year and we were so pleased to see so many alumni supporting the Club – Thank you. With huge wins from all 5 teams against various universities from around the country, this is a memorable season whatever the end point.

Finally, probably my best memory of the season was over 3000 people watching the club against Northumbria for the charity 'Sport in Action'. Whilst the result was especially pleasing, the way the Club worked together as one to make it such a great occasion reflects what is best about DURFC – no wonder the crowd sing "I just can't get enough!".

A massive thank you to all the Captains, Committee, President, Coaches, Team Managers, S&C Staff, Performance Analyst, Physios, Players, Alumni, James Kennedy and advisory board and to all our Sponsors.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Alex Keay

**Head of Rugby** 



### **MOVEMBER CAMPAIGN**

The month of November saw members of DURFC refraining from shaving their upper lip in the annual Durham University Movember campaign. The Movember Foundation addresses some of the main health issues faced by men across the globe, such as testicular cancer and mental health problems. As a club, through donations, fundraising and the Movember Charity Match, we are pleased to announce that we have raised in excess of £2,700. With an increase of £864 from last year, it has been an absolutely formidable effort from everyone involved.

Thank you to all for your generous donations... despite some of the questionable facial hair we provided.







# 1<sup>st</sup> XV:

Pos	Name	Played	Points
1	Durham Men's 1	11	47
2	Exeter Men's 1	11	39
3	Leeds Beckett Men's 1	9	35
4	Loughborough Men's 1	11	29
5	Cardiff Met Men's 1	10	28
6	Hartpury Men's 1	11	26
7	Swansea Men's 1	11	26
8	Bath Men's 1	11	16
9	Cardiff Men's 1	11	11
10	Northumbria Men's 1	10	9

## 2<sup>nd</sup> XV:

Pos	Name	Played	Points
1	Nottingham Trent Men's 1	10	42
2	Newcastle Men's 1	9	35
3	Birmingham Men's 1	10	28
4	Nottingham Men's 1	8	21
5	Durham Men's 2	10	20
6	Edinburgh Men's 1	10	18
7	Leeds Men's 1	9	17
8	Loughborough Men's 2	10	15

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> XV:

Pos	Name	Played	Points
1	Durham Men's 3	7	25
2	Liverpool Men's 1	7	23
3	Doncaster Men's 1	6	23
4	Northumbria Men's 2	7	22
5	Newcastle Men's 2	7	20
6	Durham Men's 4	6	4
7	Keele Men's 1	6	3

<sup>\*</sup>League standings as of 12th December\*



Meet the Team - Fergus Hamilton



### Role:

My name is Fergus and I am the DURFC Club Captain for the 2019-2020 season. My primary role as Club Captain is essentially ensuring the smooth and efficient running of the club. I coordinate the Club's committee teams, liaise with Team Durham regarding all aspects of the club's successful management and resolve any internal or external issues that may arise.

## **Favourite DURFC Memory:**

Every end of season club dinner. Always good to celebrate the achievements of the past season, while having one last social with leaving clubmen.

## **Interesting Fact:**

I regularly volunteer at GOAL, providing an entertaining pastime for young adults with learning difficulties in County Durham.

