

# Old Johns Rugby Club



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## Special points of interest:

- [www.oldjohnsrugbyclub.com](http://www.oldjohnsrugbyclub.com)
- Club Reunion - Saturday 26th October 2013
- Old Johns - Friday 8th - Sunday 10th March
- BUCS Fixtures 2012-13
- Club Tie on sale - 26th October

## The building of the Old Johns Rugby network

The highlight of this rugby season has to be the summer Lions tour to Australia. For the Old Johns Rugby Club hopefully another highlight will be the 1st Annual Rugby Reunion.

The Reunion will be on Saturday 26th October in York. We hope by confirming the date early that all members may have the opportunity of keeping the date free and attending the event.

We are slowly amassing a membership base with numbers recently passing the 100 mark. I must thank the Old Johns of the 1981-85 period for spreading the word of the Club. As the numbers grow the History of the Club in recent years

is building through a vast collection of pictures and stories.

The website will be updated at the end of this year and all the pictures will be online tracking through our recent clubs history. Please feel free to continue sending in any Old Johns pictures & stories.

With the increase of the Old Johns Rugby network there has been an interest of a reunion. For Old Johns to reunite with old team mates from years ago. The reunion will see the gathering of many periods of players—hopefully the building of our community of lifelong friend-

ships. All information of the reunion will be emailed out in Spring 2013.

Within this newsletter is the conclusion of last years current Johns. The introduction of the new batch of Johns & their BUCS fixtures. Profiles on two Old Johns - Andrew Jepson & Ben Horton. A review of Old Johns Weekend 2012 & the Old Johns Rugby Annual Events Program. Enjoy the read.

**Nic Humphries**  
**Old Johns Rugby Club**

*If you would like any further information then please contact the Club or visit the Club website.*



## British & Irish Lions - Australia Tour 2013

Warren Gatland says he'll be looking at more than just on-field attributes when picking his Lions squad next spring.

He insists discipline and a 'one-for-all, all-for-one attitude' will play a crucial role in ensuring it's the Lions, not the Wallabies, who are celebrating in the summer. "There's two things, really: one thing is discipline off the field and the other is about the type of personal-

ity and character you pick in the squad. Players have got to be aware of that."

Gatland adds "Players often come from a country where they're number one to a Lions set up where they could be number two or three in their position. It's about how they handle that that disappointment or the challenge that brings."

"So you're looking for people with personalities that

can fit into a team environment. You expect people to be disappointed if they miss out on (Test) selection but it's how they handle it and add to the group. Geech (Sir Ian McGeechan) often spoke of Jason Leonard and they way he did that."

And concluded with "My philosophy is to look for guys that are tough, are selected on form, but are good buggers as well."

[www.lionsrugby.com](http://www.lionsrugby.com)

### Upcoming Fixtures:

17.10.12	Sheffield (A)
24.10.12	Hull (H)
31.10.12	Leeds(A)
07.11.12	Bradford (H)
14.11.12	Newcastle (A)
21.11.12	Northumbria(H)
05.12.12	Huddersfield (A)
12.12.12	Leeds Met (A)

[www.bucs.org.uk](http://www.bucs.org.uk)

### Next Fixture

Weds 17th October

Sheffield 3rd XV

V

York St. John 1st XV

Venue: Norton, Warminster Road,  
S8 8PS

## York St. Johns Rugby Club 2012—13 The New Committee.... (By Will Roberts)

This year see's Will Roberts (me) replacing Kris Starkey as chairman of the Lions. Moving up from social sec it will be interesting to see how the lads see fit to repay me for all of the drinking fines I handed out last year.

This year we're really pushing for promotion and with the talent we've seen from the freshers, this looks more likely than ever. Other targets on the agenda include 'Tough Mudder' a charity endurance event with a twist (one example of this is beer stops replacing the traditional h20 ones) and a casino night, which I am informed was a huge success when the Old Johns did it.

2nd year Chris Price is taking the position of social sec. Qualities such as a complete lack of self control when intoxicated will make him an ideal role model for the first years. Pricey has secured us two great sponsors, Yates's for cheap beers and holding socials, and the Biltmore bar and grill for team burgers (you stay classy San Diego!)

Despite being illiterate and having an uncanny resemblance to an ogre, Ewan Metcalfe will be providing great leadership as first team captain this year. As much as it pains me to say he has continued to impress in his 3 years and will no doubt be owning the park against Teeside this week at the first varsity hosted by YSJ.

Another enthusiastic addition to the committee is Mr Matt Halpin, whose involvement other the summer has been priceless. As the first sensible treasurer I have ever met, we might be able to hope for something productive from the club funds.

Joah Bradley (home alone) returns to 1st XV vice captain, although he appears to have been impregnated over the summer once again.

Joe Heywood takes the position of second team captain (thats right we have a seconds again!) and will be no doubt spreading alcoholism amongst his recruits alongside vice captain Will Gins.

Nicholas Thompson (Posh)

and 2nd year Sam Mattheson take the positions of fixture secretaries this year. They will be hard pressed to beat the tour to Croatia from last year, but I have no doubt they have some tricks up there sleeves.

Josh Parker takes the position of kit man and forwards coach this year. Although he has renamed himself Tim Riggins, based on the exploits of this fictional character in the American TV series 'Friday Night Lights' (definitely worth a watch).

All in all this looks to be a very promising season, although it has to be said that it will be a lot harder without Gary Pidgeon. This Wednesday (10th October) see's YSJ host varsity for the first time ever and I have to say the lads would love your support! Kick off is at 3, o'clock at Rowntrees rugby club (opposite Nestle).

**Will Roberts  
Chairman York St. Johns RFC  
2012-13**

## York St. Johns Rugby Club 2011-12 - Lions finish season in style (By Kris Starkey Chairman 2011-12)

Our first game back from after Christmas saw an under strength 1st XV travel to Sheffield Hallam to play on one of the steepest pitches in history. Unfortunately for the lads, the copious amounts of mulled wine and beer drank over the festive period took its toll and after a gruelling defensive effort and a wonderful try scored by the now Social Sec Chris Price, we went down 12-7. Things were indeed looking up!

As February rolled in so did the new faces, with first years finally realising (in true YSJ style) that 40% isn't actually that difficult to achieve. Sadly for the first XV the numbers at training didn't marry to the results on the pitch, with a strong Leeds Uni side leaving fortress RI with a 12-7 victory.

The lads then travelled to West Park, Leeds, to face a strong Leeds Met 3rd XV. With a cup week the week prior the boys were itching to get in and amongst the Leeds players, and this was shown from the outset. The tone of the game was set when the Lions' scrum half was sin binned for flooring the opposing No. 8, albeit a hideous punch. With a determine performance, the boys seemed desperate to get the season back on track and came away with a 28-25 victory, things were at last starting to look up.

The following week saw the Lions welcome arch rivals Teeside to fortress RI. Training in the week had been fierce and it was clear to see that the winds, they were a changing. The opening five

minutes to the match were testament to this with 2 early tries the Lions were back on track, the backs ran wild while the forwards did all the dirty work and the final whistle blew with the score at 64-5 in favour of the Lions.

The winning streak continued for another week with a 16-11 victory over Sheffield Uni, unfortunately, our new found glory ended there with harsh back to back defeats against Huddersfield.

The final two games of the season saw the first XV face Teeside and Northumbria, with wins needed in only one game to secure a place in the league for next season. The lads travelled up to Teeside and with an under strength side seemed to over

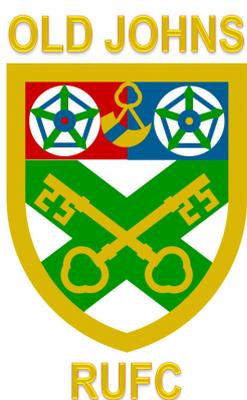
perform, with a drumming (again) of Teeside 67-7. This result left the Lions safe in the news that they have avoided relegation, but in true YSJ style, we wanted to end the season in style. And a win over Northumbria 29-24 seemed to do the trick!

A massive thank you must go to the third years who have now left and all the best for the future. Thanks must also go to everybody who attended the annual charity sevens which was this year held at York RUGC. The first choice sevens squad went on to win the tournament.

Important dates for this year:  
Varsity 10th Oct 2012  
Old John's Weekend 8-10 March



We would really like to hear from any overseas Old Johns. If you wish to contact us then please email: [nic.humphries@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com](mailto:nic.humphries@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com)



Creating a community of lifelong friendships

## IN THE SPOT LIGHT — Andrew Jepson (1969-72)

Andrew (Jeppo) was at St. John's as a student from 1969-1972 – Pete Mulligan was his personal tutor, and he was privileged to be taught by the likes of Stanley 'Binnie' Barnes and Stan Wilde to name but a couple of legends.

He returned many years after to coach the male and female rugby teams, and to conduct RFU Coaching Awards within the P.E. course curriculum.

This was during his 7 year employment with R.F.U., and in this period he was seconded to the Italian National team during Rugby World Cup 1999/2000, due to the fact that from 1985 – 1993 he had lived and coached full time in Italy, and was competent in the Italian language.

In 2002 Jeppo was invited to present a paper at the Italian Federation's Coaching Conference, and returned home to find an invite to return to

Italy immediately to discuss a job opportunity with Viadana Rugby; then Italian Super 10 champions. After brief discussions lasting about 5 minutes his wife Jean and Jeppo arranged to travel to a new life from Northallerton in North Yorkshire to Viadana in Lombardy; Northern Italy.

They lived in Viadana for 5 years where he had the job of Club Development Officer, with responsibility for junior coach development; schools projects and all recruitment aspects. They were followed by daughter Natalie who also lived in Viadana, and went on to play for Italy in the 6 Nations. During his time Jeppo developed an 'in house' Academy system; a non-rugby career linked pathway, and many other innovative activities.

During this time he was involved in senior player development, and worked with many of the Italian national squad who also played for

Viadana.

After 5 years Jean and Jeppo decided to leave the 'bright lights' and return to his roots in the Marche region, and took up residence in Fermo where he coached the local club.

After a year or so he closed the circle to return to San Benedetto del Tronto, a tourist resort famed for its 10 kms of palm trees and white beaches.

Jeppo is now involved with a couple of local clubs as coaching mentor having also qualified as an I.R.B. Coach Educator. Jean and Jeppo also conduct team building courses for major Italian companies, using Rugby as their delivery vehicle.

This year Jeppo is celebrating 50 years involvement in Rugby, and hopes he can be of some help to anyone from Old John's or current Johns who needs a hand.

## Ben Horton (2000-2003)

2nd XV Captain 2001-2003. Nickname: Benito. Best Moment: Winning Yorkshire Cup in 2001. Club family includes: Garrett (Grandad) Stretch (Dad) Bobby (Son). Subject: Sports studies and PE Worst fine: My initiation - previously an initiated footballer got lambasted all night (grand national, 6 nations, drink till you're sick- plus many other fines all drank through stinky Pete's boot).

After leaving St Johns Ben got onto a PGCE at Leeds Met and became a PE teacher. There were a group of Old Johns on the course known as the 'Muppets' (Simon Fletcher, Ben Noble, Rodney Gray and Mark Bedworth) mainly due to their shenanigans at University, now all are PE teachers and still keep in touch. Ben's first teaching job was in Hull at Hessle High School - a great first job with kids from all walks of life and great staff. After teaching in the UK for 3 years Ben and his girlfriend at the time (now wife Alice) thought there must be more to life than scraping together the pennies at the end of every month and decided to move to Dubai for the weather, tax free living (and free housing and flights etc. etc.) and great lifestyle. They have never looked back and got married in 2009 in Dubai, and are now expecting their first baby too - exciting times!

Ben has been Head of PE for the past two years at Jumeirah English Speaking School - teaching mainly British students and also runs the school rugby leagues. The standard of sport out there is pretty good and they regularly send kids back to schools such as Wellington College, Millfield and Rugby school so they can access higher representative honours. Ben has had some great sports stars in school delivering sessions to the kids from Peter Schmeichel to Martin Johnson and Francois Pienaar. Rugby world cup winning hooker Steve Thompson was guest speaker at this years sports dinner.

A combination of great lifestyle, weather and job satisfaction means they will be there for years to come - Old Johns welcome to visit! Also out in the desert of Dubai are Old Johns Simon and Emma Gray and James Geldart.



## Old Johns Rugby Club Annual Program

Old John Weekend	Friday 8th March - Sunday 10th March 2013
St. Johns Charity 7s	tbc - will be posted on website
Old Johns Reunion	Saturday 26th October 2013

## Old Johns Rugby Club Temporary Committee 2011-12

Chairman:	Nic Humphries	<a href="mailto:nic.humphries@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com">nic.humphries@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com</a>
Vice—Chair:	Nathan Ashman	<a href="mailto:nathan.ashman@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com">nathan.ashman@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com</a>
Social Sec:	Gary Pidgeon	<a href="mailto:gary.pidgeon@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com">gary.pidgeon@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com</a>
Liaison Officer:	Angus Miller	<a href="mailto:angus.miller@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com">angus.miller@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com</a>
Tel:	07921 082934	

**We are on the web!!**  
**www.**  
**oldjohnsrugbyclub.com**

### Did you know?

The oldest rugby club in the world is Dublin University Football Club. Founded in 1854, it is also happens to predate the first ever soccer club, Sheffield FC, by three years.

## New Club Tie



Club Tie will be released on Friday 26th October

Ties will be on sale through the Club website

## Old Johns Weekend 2012 Review (By Angus Miller)

Hi all! Thanks everyone for coming back for Old Johns this year it was great to see everyone.

Due to work commitments I could only make it down for the Saturday and Sunday.

It was 7 o'clock and I had a walk down to the Union to play a great game called "Drink the Beer". The atmosphere inside the Union was starting to build up. It was great to see the current Johns interact with the Old Johns - it was a shame there wasn't as many current Johns to Old Johns.

We left the Union and had a quick couple of pints in Keystones and then carried on to Vodka Revolution. The beer was coming to a stop and the Woo Woos were calling. I certainly can't drink as much as I use to!!

It was time for the takeaway so we descended on what was the spice box

now a chicken takeaway to my delight.

It was Sunday the 11th of March and Kick Off was approaching. The weather was beautiful and the head was pounding.

We played 13 a side with one of the Old Johns playing for the current Johns and mixing around after 10 minutes.

The Old Johns started with real athleticism Johnny Fairhurst breaking the line with ease and offloading to the

Rev (Johnny Wills) for the first try.

Everyone had a great game and the game was played in a good spirit. John Maw was down so we had a photo at the end of the game.

Final score around 32-30 to the Old Johns. A few of us then went back to the union and saw the English dominate the French.

**Angus Miller**  
**Old Johns Rugby Club**  
[angus.miller@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com](mailto:angus.miller@oldjohnsrugbyclub.com)



## Articles Wanted

We would like to hear from all Old Johns from all eras of the History. If you have any photos, stories, match or Tour reports then we would love to have a copy of them. The Club newsletter would also like any profiles or updates to add to the next issue. If you would like to feature or write an article then please get in touch.