



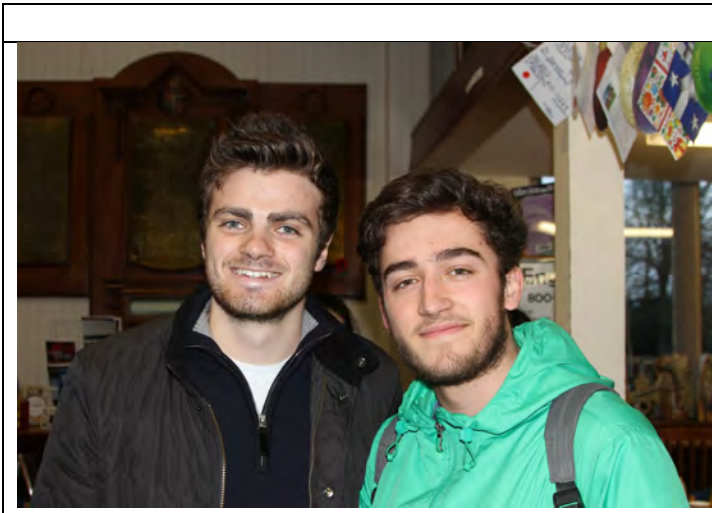
2015: Old Riponians' Winter Reunions

This year's winter reunion was held on Saturday, 19 December. Heavy rain in the preceding weeks had resulted in waterlogged grounds but following a last-minute pitch inspection by Mr Pearman, it was declared that the football could go ahead as planned. The hockey match was again held on the all-weather AstroTurf and the netball teams were able to battle it out in the comfort of the sports hall. Refreshments in the school library were enjoyed by many and it was wonderful to see old friends catching up and reminiscing after the games.

The school was also delighted to host the Old Rips' rugby game which this year took place on a bright and crisp New Year's Eve.

It is always a pleasure to welcome both players and spectators - young and old - to these events and we look forward to seeing many more of you in 2016.





Old Riponians – Hockey Match report 2015

The Old Riponians' hockey match was as popular as ever, with great attendance from both alumni players and spectators!

Due to the enthusiastic turnout from various generations of Old Rips, it was decided that mixing up the teams would make for a better game of hockey! The teams put together were the RGS first XI and the generation of the 1992 North Yorkshire champions versus anyone in-between these ages!

It was a closely fought match with some fantastic teamwork from both sides. However the competitive edge of the sixth form team and their deadly combination with the 'Older' Rips left no gaps in their defence to give them a clean sheet. The strength in attack could not be matched by the opposition, resulting in a 3 – 0 win for the RGS First XI and 'Older' Rips!

Many thanks go to Dick Edwards for volunteering his time to umpire – particularly in light of the pitch re-jig and lack of linesmen!

Finally, enormous thanks go to the current RGS first XI team players who were able to attend for making the event a success!

Hannah



Old Riponians – Netball Match 2015

Easy to spot the intelligent folks - a sport played indoors away from the rain!



Old Riponians – Soccer Match report 2015



There certainly was not a shortage of goals in the Old Rips Day Football match 2015. With a number of the over 21s now experiencing the pressures of employment, not many were able to make it back for the match. The result was a rather dubious splitting up of those who could attend, making two teams which may be more appropriately named the 'just under 21s' vs the 'just over 21s'. The shortage of players was not the only obstacle to overcome. With the girls using the astro-turf for the hockey game the wet field was the only option for the footballers. It was no surprise that very little of the match was played down the left hand side of the pitch, which was so boggy and slippery that the wingers resembled amateur ice skaters. The rain died down however, and the players managed to soldier on despite the conditions. The match started off fairly evenly, with goals from the 'just over 21s' being answered quickly by goals from the 'just under 21s'. As the game went on however, it became clear that those extra months of life experience made the difference for the 'just over 21s' as a hat-trick from Jacob Lockwood and even a goal from Glenn May enabled them to win the game 8-3. Spirits were high for all players at the end of the match despite the crushing defeat for the slightly younger ones and an amicable game of few fouls and only a couple of light hearted jibes at the referee was wrapped up with refreshments in the library. Not all the usual players could come, the conditions were far from perfect and the quality of football was hardly Brazilian but there was certainly no shortage of fun.

Toby

New Year's Eve Rugby Match Report

Old Old Boys vs Old Boys.



The "over" 21s team



The "under" 21s team

Now in its third year, Old Riponians took the opportunity to catch up with old faces and represent their school in the annual Old Boys rugby fixture. The match saw recent leavers, Old Boys (under 21s (U)), take on the wiser and unbeaten Old, Old Boys (over 21s (O)).

Before kick-off, the usual intense warm ups took place, with banter at the forefront of any 'moves' created and stretching only deemed necessary to pick up the one or two (hundred) dropped balls.

A quick huddle back in the 'PAV' and a squeeze on the pitch before Old Boys, playing towards the clock tower and captained by Pete Marsden (U), were ready to kick off to Old, Old Boys, captained by Jonny Frank (O). With the weather on our side and an impressive attendance from the crowd; Andy, refereeing for free, blew his whistle.

The early exchanges saw the Old Boys keep hold of better possession and territory. A terrific tackle on Sam Watkinson (O), by his youngest sibling Guy (U), only added to the competitiveness

from both sides. Measured play by scrum half George Foster (U) and a concerted effort from Miles Warriner (U) at number 8 to bring 'flair to the game', served to entertain throughout. After strong runs from Alex Reed (O) catching kicks at full back, the tide began to turn. 30 minutes in and Robert Barker (O), known for having 'all the gear, no idea', received a yellow card for 'hands in the ruck' after some good play by the Os. If anything, this inspired his side.

Another superb tackle, this time from Will Butterworth (O) using his head (who went on to injure his thumb later in the game (get well soon)) led to the flamboyant Warriner (U) receiving a dead leg, somewhat stifling the impact the U21s had from the back of the uncontested scrums. A knock on from Reed (O) with the try line at his mercy and a few more penalties awarded to the Os in quick succession, eventually proved fruitful with George 'North' Dobbins (O) crashing over in the corner on the stroke of half time.

Half time score 5-0 to Os.

After a close fought first half, the half time refreshments were well deserved and a few changes on both sides saw fresh legs coming on.

10 minutes in and Joe Rowntree (O) burst through from the half way line in open play and evaded 6 tackles to drop down under the posts. More good play from the Os and a terrific 'bounce' on Pete Marsden (U) by Graham Currigan (O) (much to the amusement of the mesmerized crowd), followed by an unselfish offload, resulted in try number three for the Os. The return kick off, taken well again by the immaculate Sahil Patel (O), saw a break from Sam Watkinson (O) through the middle of the park, drawing and passing to Alec Porter (O) in support who offloaded again, this time to the prolific Reed (having scored in every Old Boys battle), for a great team try. Another try from Paul Smith (O), cruising over the line after a trademark break, saw the margin open further. More possession from the kick off, and a few 'pick and gos', notably from Matt Pickles (O) and Charlie Johnston (O), supported by the ever present and unselfish Will Park (O), provided the platform for the Old Boys fly half, at his influential best, to execute a delightful cross field kick for the terrific Currigan (O) to catch and pass to Dobbins (O) for his second try.

At this point, the Us could be forgiven for giving up, however they were undeterred by the onslaught, raised their game and gained territory, only for spring chicken, Rob Harrison (O), to gallop clear down the touch line after turnover ball and to seal the win with a sixth and final try for the Os.

The under 21s were not going to go away empty handed however, having seen a 15 man maul held just short of the line and the ball turned over shortly afterwards, the imperious Glenn May (U) received a clearance kick and returned at pace to slide through the Os defence, stopping 10 metres short of the line, quick recycling of the ball and intelligent play exploiting the numbers on the right, led to a deserved try for man mountain, Alex Ellerby (U).

Final Score 32-5 to Os.

Man of the Match: Molloy.

Handshakes and smiles all round, followed by team photos and that was that. A bottle of whiskey for the referee to say thank you for his time and good humour.

A big thank you to the school for allowing the fixture to go ahead and for the use of the nostalgic pavilion changing rooms. This is an open fixture for any ex Ripon Grammar school students and serves as a focal point for Old faces to catch up, whether that is watching or taking part in the match. This year saw the largest crowd yet and another crop of recent leavers taking part. Given the light hearted nature and good spirits with which the game is played, this annual event will no doubt go from strength to strength for years to come.



Back Row (L-R):

Guy Watkinson, James Wolfenden, Alex Clayton, Tom Newby, Joe Rowntree, Alex Priestley, Alec Porter, Alex Reed, Andy Braithwaite, Sam Watkinson, Matt Pickles, Pete Marsden, George Dobbins, Rob Harrison, Alex Ellerby,

Middle Row (L-R):

John Rowe, Scott Thompson, Graham Currigan, Paul Smith,

Front Row (L-R):

Matt Bell, Chris Bucktrout, Theo Mortimer, Cameron Aitken, Jonny Frank, Miles Warriner, Robert Barker, Glenn May, Charlie Johnston, Charlie Yates, Bently Briggs, Sahil Patel, George Foster, Will Park, Tom Sowerby.



Jonny Frank Pete Marsden

The Winners Cup



Some of the spectators lucky enough to get tickets!

