



Leith Rugby Awards 2014

Leith Rugby Club

Saturday 26th April



Order of Ceremonies

Welcome by Club Captain - Doug Watters
Introduction of Compere - Paul Allison
Presentation of Annual Awards
Coach's Review
Accie of the Year Award
Buffet
DJ and Disco

Coach's Review

Good Evening.

Welcome to the 2013/14 Leith Awards Evening. Hopefully tonight will bring as much, if not more, fun and excitement as previous years.

On first glance of RBS East League 2, it does not appear that we have had a great season - finishing eighth. However, there are many positives to this year that are worth pointing out. Firstly, we were taking a step up after winning East 3 last season. It was to be expected that we would find the standard higher than previous years and we survived relatively easily in East 2. In fact if we had won one more game with a bonus point we would have finished fifth. All the players know due to the games we threw away (Lismore, Northern and Inverleith) that this, and more, is easily achievable next season.



Eric Jones

Whilst results usually provide the 'definitive guide' to a clubs season for onlookers, we must also consider a number of other factors including players and teams performances. Our last game of the 15s season saw us put in probably our best overall performance resulting in a first victory at Arboretum in my 3 years of coaching. The score line of 35-22 flattered the hosts and shows we are heading in the right direction. While on 25 January the Club fielded two sides for the first time in a decade. We are one of the only clubs in the Edinburgh area that are actually growing at senior level without having to provide financial/alternative enticements. The reason players are coming to Leith and staying must be that they are enjoying their rugby and hopefully learning all the time.

The 2nd XV have continued to take part in the Edinburgh Rugby 'Play On' programme and played a very strong Boroughmuir 4th XV. The 2nd XV has not only featured new players, but also a few familiar faces pulling the boots on again, which for me is a sign that we are moving in the right direction. Another success is the return of the Leith 7s as we welcomed teams from Edinburgh, Fife, Glasgow, rugby league and an invitational side. Captain Doug Watters and helpers put on a great show which, possibly aside from the Melrose 7s, had the best teams on show that day. Whilst other clubs look beside and below themselves, we are looking to challenge ourselves with teams in higher divisions. We eventually lost in the final to Linlithgow. However, all the players that played or spectated must have taken confidence from them not being 'out of our league'. It's testament to our players that the Occasionals, an invitational side who are normally filled with National League players, invited one of our 7s team to play with them.

We can see the Club has achieved a lot this season and we should sit back tonight and enjoy that. However, we'll be back at work tomorrow so that next year we can again look back at the Clubs progress. Enjoy your evening.

Captain's Corner



Doug Watters

Welcome to the annual Awards Night at Leith Rugby Club, one of the best nights in the club's calendar, and it's great to see you all in your finery - no courtroom jokes please.

Following on from winning East 3, 2013/14 has seen us back at a higher level, one which is the minimum the club should be operating at. We stayed up comfortably and we've all had a look at this level now and I think it's one at which we can aim for the top. I believe we're better than a few sides above us, but the table doesn't lie.

The top 3 sides, Dalkeith, Berwick and Forrester have shown us the standard and discipline required, and I can assure you they are all training regularly both at the club and in their own time.

This is the commitment required to challenge at the top of East 2, where the guys are fitter and the hits are harder. While work-rate will be the determining factor in our progression, I'm in no doubt about that there is the talent here to rival anyone at this level and beyond. This is a testament to the hard work of both Derek Greenan who coached many of the guys at youth level, and head coach Eric Jones whose commitment to developing us all as players is unrivalled in my rugby career. We owe him an even greater commitment to improve next season.

I have no doubts we will improve our position next year - this club is going places, and one of the major reasons is the long-awaited return of our 2nd XV this season. It had been 10 years since the club last put out a 2s. A 28-19 in their first fixture at Murrayfield Wanderers was a real lift to the club on a fantastic day for Leith Rugby with two sides playing simultaneously before returning to the clubhouse for our Burns Night celebrations. There will be an intensifying of competition at the club, both for jerseys and spots at the bar. Guys want to play for this club because we play and develop our own. Everyone wears the same socks – and this is something we're rightly proud of.

As well as thanking Eric for his tireless work, I'd also like to thank the committee, particularly Eileen Aitchison, and our sponsors for their support. Also the bar staff, tea ladies (and gents), raffle organisers, tour and social committee and club supporters deserve great credit for all the work they do. The club could not function without you. A special thank you for Andrew Paterson kit man extraordinaire, without whom we'd look an even bigger rabble than we are. Your efforts have been massively appreciated Andrew, a big thanks from all the players as you move into well-deserved retirement.

And finally to the players, thank you from me for the commitment you've shown this season. It's because of your efforts that we're all here tonight, and that everyone else works so hard for this club. We've got a fantastic set of lads here, who all support one another through good and bad times. Have a good summer, and make sure you come back fitter than when you finished this season. We should be having a right good crack at this league next year. I hope everyone has a great evening.

Leith Rugby Squad 2013/14

Eric Jones | head coach | @Ejones80

Head Coach Eric juggles his role with that as Scotland Women's U20 Assistant Coach and Development Officer at Lismore RFC, but still manages to put in an insane amount of hours to the Leith cause, as his wife Lauren will testify. He has us playing an attractive style of rugby, and is keen that we all develop as players and climb the leagues playing rugby the right way. It is a testament to the work he has put in, and the beliefs he holds that we should develop our own, that the playing pool has grown to such an extent that a 2nd XV was re-born in 2013/14. As players we owe him a lot already, and provided we demonstrate an even greater commitment next year, anything is possible with Jonesy at the helm.



Brian Archer | forwards coach | @Archer_Brian

BA has been helping out the pack this year as forwards coach, particularly those involved in the dark arts of the front row. There are a number of young props at the club at present and all have benefited from the advice, experience and coaching. Happy-go-lucky Brian is also always at hand to help out the club at events and is a dedicated follower of the team, who we appreciate greatly.

Gordon Anderson | kicking coach

Ando came on board the coaching set-up in 2013/14 as kicking coach, after several years on the club committee, and while the kickers (Doug, Kenny, Ben....Neil) haven't had as many opportunities to go for goal as in 2012/13, we think they've all improved (so they tell us) which is testament to the work Gordon has put in, particularly in pre-season. He is also now Coaching Coordinator for the club, which is much appreciated, and we look forward to his continued involvement with the club.



Claire Hagan | physio | @Clairey_Bell

As club physiotherapist, Claire is responsible for looking after us when we're injured/faking it, and what an awesome responsibility. Her no-nonsense style suiting Head Coach Eric, as does her ability to convince us we're not as soft as we think we are, and to get back out there! The players all appreciate her work this year, particularly those who've had the more serious injuries/bouts of softness.

Keith Aitchison | anywhere he wants

The man that refuses to retire! And for this we are ever grateful, as despite the advancing years (and lighter hair) 'Aitchy' still carries great influence whenever he pulls on the boots. Stepping in against one of the top teams in the league in Berwick early in the season, he showed no signs his abrasive style has wilted. Well, maybe till the next morning! He was also pretty in pink in the 2s games against Murrayfield Wanderers and RC De Wrotters, and captained the Spring Chickens at the Leith 7s. He has also been involved on the coaching staff as a forwards and line out coach, and his experience in this area is crucial in developing our younger guys.



Grant Aitken | hooker/flanker | @GrantAitken2

Grant put in some typically bullish performances at the start of the season before leaving to join the Army. His ability to win turnovers at the breakdown rivals any in the league. With a surprising turn of pace coupled with a low centre of gravity, Grant is one of the most difficult players to stop, especially metres from the line. Three tries in only six starts testifies to this, and his loss will be felt.



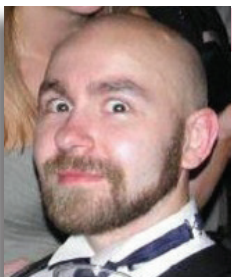
Paul Allison | prop forward | @PAllison71

Paul came out of retirement to help the club out last year, and enjoyed it so much he has continued playing this season! As well as his support to the club off the pitch, on the committee and as tour organiser, Paul is a powerful scrummager putting in solid performances every time he's called upon and his experience is vital in helping to develop the many young prop forwards at the club. Man of the match in the home game with Lismore in November, when our scrum dominated to such an extent it got a couple of assists! Also rolled back the years (or should that be tears?) in turning out for the Spring Chickens at the Leith 7s.



Chris Bobby | blindside flanker

Chris is a powerful runner and tackler, equally adept in the backrow or at centre, and is a key component of the 2nd XV, although he was involved with the 1st XV at the beginning of the season before undertaking his Masters degree. His brother may play for Trinity, but we don't hold that against him (much!)



Ian Briscoe | openside flanker | @ianbriscoe2

Briscoe is another who has often been unavailable due to work this season, however again, when free is an important member of the squad. He displayed his value with big performances away at Edinburgh Northern and home to Lismore, although in the latter his game was cut short due to an injury suffered when demonstrating his excellent support running in finishing off a length of the field try! A very quiet, subdued kind of bloke.



Rory Clarke | no. 8/blindside flanker

Due to injuries and work Rory hasn't featured much for Leith this season but in the games he has played he has been impressive. Very physical in defence and a strong runner with the ball grasped in one hand, Rory makes an impact when starting or coming on from the bench. He is also the only man capable of starting (winning) a fight whilst laying underneath his combatant (Berwick away). Here's hoping he can make more appearances next season as long as our budding Tree Surgeon doesn't fall out any more trees.



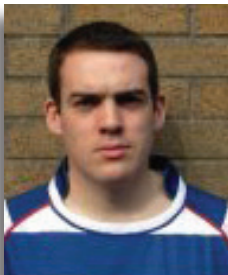
Willie Cook | hooker | @WilliamCook10

Long-serving player and sensational party animal, 'Cookie' has had an excellent season, despite nearing the 19th anniversary of his 21st birthday. Like fine wine, he appears to get better with age, despite still carrying (in)fame(y) for the "offside blue number 2" call from referees. He has been a near ever-present in 2013/14 and his work-rate and experience in the tight is invaluable to our youthful pack. He also demonstrated his skills in the loose with an outrageous dummy and go at Trinity in January. Willie is looking forward to finally getting in the 2s team next year.



Patrick Duignan | prop forward/hooker

Another who has unfortunately not been able to attend much due to work commitments, running the family business. Patrick made an appearance for the 2s against Murrayfield Wanderers. A fierce competitor Patrick has tried his hand at many positions in the forwards during his time at Leith and we hope to see more of him in the future.



Dani Garrido-Cordoba | 2nd row

The tall Spaniard joined us late in 2012/13, making his debut at Fife Southern in pre-season this year. The forward has played when he can as he has commitments to work some Saturdays. Playing for both the 1st and 2nd XV Daniel is an excellent squad player who is very committed when he can make it to training and games. The man from Seville has fitted in well and is full of laughs and jokes, whilst his pigeon-Italian was very useful when our Italian winger, Stefano first joined!



Kyle Gow | 2nd row/blindside flanker

Kyle has only been at the club for around 2 months but has been a huge addition to the club. Making his 1st XV debut in the cup win at Inverleith, he has also played in all the 2nd XV games to get fitness back after a break from the game. We don't think he's missed a training session since he joined! Kyle is a very committed physical player who loves the contact, who has also taken to 7s since joining and has played a lot of minutes in tournaments. It will be good to see more of him next season, after a full pre-season, and we expect he'll make a big impact in the first team. The Stockbridge lad is tonight enjoying the last night of his youth, as he turns 30 tomorrow!



Greg Hancock | openside flanker

Another Borderer, Greg has been at the club for a few years now is a key member of the squad. Although he can't always train and play due to work and "first aid courses", when available Greg is a vital player in the forwards, probably the best over the ball at ruck time. What he lacks in height and weight he more than makes up for with courage, bravery and an intense work-rate. Famous at the club for wearing a blue'n'white striped tee shirt one night, the 'Selkirk Sailor' will hopefully be around next season - armed forces applications notwithstanding.



Andy MacIntosh | flanker/2nd row | @andy_mac74

One of the golden oldies in the squad "Mac" has played for the club for many years now. The Edinburgh Leisure funboy prides himself on his fitness and has demonstrated a fantastic work rate this year. His greatest attributes are his breakdown work, defensive line speed, tackling and quiz night hosting. All bar the latter being key in our cup victory over arch-rivals Inverleith. Although he has many nicknames, some unprintable, Andrew is a very well liked gentleman at the club and is very welcoming to new players to help them blend in with the team as soon as possible. Chief banter officer on team nights out.



Colin Marshall | tighthead prop | @colinm86

Colin is Ulster player Luke Marshall's cousin, although his more famous relative is former Leith captain, now red wine connoisseur, Gareth Marshall, who brought 'Chopper' along so he could retire. Player of the season in 2011/12, Colin has been at the club for a 3 seasons now and is a very influential player, an incredibly mobile tight head prop and a key part of our scrum and forwards play around the park. 'Unlucky' to miss the title win in 2012/13 having separated his shoulder on a skiing holiday mid-season (now banned!), the hard-hitting Northern Irishman fits in very well at the club and loves a good night out.



Jamie Martin | tighthead prop



The young front row is another new addition to the squad this year and has lots of potential ahead of him. For such a big guy he has great pace and is very strong with ball in hand. With guidance from the coaching staff the 19 year old can go far. Jamie has featured for both the 1st and 2nd XVs this season to maximise his match experience and fitness, and scooped Man of the Match against Murrayfield Wanderers in January. He is keen to learn as much as possible so lets hope we see plenty of him next season starting in pre-season.

Doddie McHardy | no 8/blindside flanker

Sergeant Doddie has again put in the grunt work in the pack when he has been available. Bringing his tough, abrasive style to the forwards he has helped the younger guys mature with the step up in competition this year. Helps us to have the best pre-season preparation of any club at this level, for which we are very grateful - even if it doesn't feel like that when we're at it! Not happy with just being a player he has become a talent scout recruiting 4 new players for the club this season. Equally adept anywhere in the back row, Doddie takes no prisoners, even hammering the female De Wrotters player when she snuck round a ruck!



Cal McKay | prop forward | @CalsShiteTweets



Cal joined us this year from Liberton and after a delayed start to the season due to a 'misunderstanding' with an Earlston player, proved a very useful acquisition adding strength and depth to our front row, as well as a couple of appearances at 8. A fan of a bottle of rose (as an aperitif) Cal's powerful ball carrying and turn of pace will be missed next year as he moves to New Zealand. A popular player at the club who also loves a good night out, we wish him all the best and hope to have him on board for the start of the season before he departs.

David Meadows | no.8 / flanker | @MeadowsLRFC

Playing mostly across the back row David brings energy and youthful enthusiasm to our pack. A willing and talented ball carrier, competitive defender and one of the main lineout jumpers, he has been key to the forward effort this season. Just no more chip kicks! Meadows was rewarded for his hard work with a push over try against Lismore at home, whilst operating in his preferred position of number 8. Has moved back to Leith from Gilmerton, so we're bound to see more of him at training once he gets over his ankle injury!



Pete Mitchell | blindside flanker

Continued the form that saw him win Players' Player of the Year last season with another big campaign this year. Never seeking the spotlight Pete spends his time doing the dirty work in the tight and making tackles for our halfbacks. A physiotherapist, ex Stew Mel player Pete has also found a new role in trying to piece Burgess back together after his latest injury. Deserves a beer for listening to Burgess yap we're sure!



David Montgomery | hooker/flanker | @dangemonty

Unfortunately an injury away at Berwick in October cut David's season a little short, before he returned to action for the last couple of fixtures. An energetic hooker/backrow forward with good handling skills and a nifty turn of pace, Dange has proved a useful member of both the 1s and the 2s playing a key role in the win over Murrayfield Wanderers. Will be in the Jamhouse later fo' sho'.



Neil Paterson | 2nd row/blindside flanker

Policeman Neil joined us half way through the season and proved to be a key member of the team. A physical presence at the breakdown with a good work-rate the former Greenock Wanderer isn't afraid to put his head where it hurts. He's also a strong ball carrier, dancing through gaps around the ruck area and showed he is more than just a bruiser with a drop kick conversion against Boroughmuir at the start of the month. Was working on the Christmas night out and admits to some trepidation when he got a call to break up a fight between guys in Christmas jumpers on Rose Street! (It wasn't us.)



Ben Place | 2nd row

Englishman Ben is Mr Consistent for Leith and a lot of his hard work goes unnoticed by those keeping their boots clean on the wings. Always puts in 100% and showing that age is just a number, his high work-rate usually means he is the first support runner to any line-break, especially when they are close to the line. The big second row is desperate for Aitchy to finally retire so he can too!



Mark Phillips | 2nd row | @markphillips198



The man who impressed even the Royal Marines with his tyre-throwing at RM Condor in pre-season, Vice-Captain Mark has led from the front with some commanding performances this year. Showing a lot power and a great turn of pace, Mark has led a forward pack that may have been smaller than most in this league but has often out worked those bigger packs. A strong contender for player of the season, Mark's work in the boiler room is absolutely vital to the team. He has also been a key part of the 7s side this year even if he did think he was going to pass out after the Leith 7s!

Shuggie Rodden | prop forward/2nd row/no 8

Shuggie made sure he came up the road from York to play at least one game this season, having come out of retirement last year to help us over the line in East 3, chosing the friendly with RC De Wrotters to show he's lost none of his strength, even if he wasn't expecting to get an hour! Shuggie also came up to watch us a couple of times this season and is a great friend to the club, having helped with tour organising last year, and is apparently joining us on tour in Cardiff this year as well!



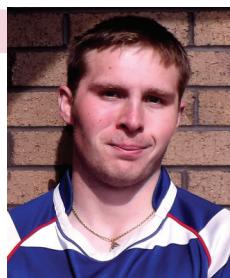
Russell Smith | undefeated 2s captain/blindside



The younger (and tougher) of the two Smith brothers at the club has made his father Jim proud as he has joined the forwards. He currently plays back row but also fills in at scrum-half when needed. Sadly due to work commitments Russell has not been able to play much as last year, and Dundee's gain has been our loss as we've missed the tackling talents of last year's Young Player of the Season. He is now proudly also 2nd XV captain and will take great pleasure in pointing out, an undefeated captain at that!

Robert Stitt | loosehead prop | @RobertStitt5

Ex-Hawick Linden loose-head Stitto has played for Leith for 2 and a half years now and is coming off his best season to date. After overcoming a shoulder injury, and moving up to Edinburgh from Hawick, Robert has improved his scrummaging and work in the tight to go with his attributes in the loose. Always keen to play, he has featured both for the 1st and 2nd XVs and plays rugby league in the summer for Edinburgh Eagles, for whom he played in the Leith 7s.

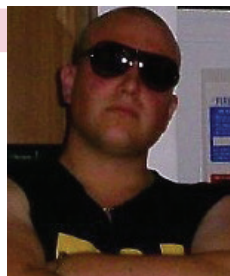


Craig Winton | loosehead prop/hooker | @winton_90

The two-time Young Player of the Year has moved from high school stand-off to the backrow when he first graduated to senior rugby and is now a marauding loose head prop/hooker. Winto has been an ever-present this season, and whether its been starting games or coming off the bench the front rower has demonstrated his excellent running lines and ball skills running off our stand-off/inside centre. A hot favourite in the donkey race, and a key part of this year's 7s squad. Craig has also put in a great deal of work off the pitch as part of the club's social committee and touring committee, which is hugely appreciated.

Jack Whyman-Farina | prop forward/2nd row

You may be astounded to know that big Brummie-lad Jack, who joined the club this season, is only 20 years young. The big forward used to play in the backrow at school but since joining Leith has been trained in the front row and also had a couple games in the second row. Playing for both the 1st and 2nd XV this season Jack has been a great addition to the squad, with his size and strength important as we make the step-up. Jack has blended into the team straight away and praised the coaches and players for how welcome he has felt since coming here. Here's hoping we see a lot more of the forward next season both on the pitch and on nights out with the team. Here's hoping we see a lot more of the forward next season both on the pitch and on nights out with the team.



Leith Rugby Awards 2013/14

The Fastest Sissy Award
(Backs race)

The Tackle of the Season

The Most in touch with their
Feminine side Award

The Neil Clarke Fastest Donkey
Award (Forwards race)

The Jean Lemaitre
2nd XV Player of the Year

Leith 7s Player of the Season

The Beer Goggles Award

The Stevie Meadows
Pantomime Act of the Year

The Best Trainer Award

The Top Points Scorer Award

The Top Try Scorer Award

The Try of the Season Award

Management Young Player of the
Season Award

Management Player of the
Season Award

The Most Improved Player of the
Season Award

Accie of the Year
Presidents Choice

The Cornie Waugh Players Young Player of the Year

Craig Winton

Two-time Young Player of the Year, Winto has been an ever-present this season, and whether it's been starting games or coming off the bench the front rower has demonstrated his excellent running lines and ball skills. He has worked extremely hard on his physique over the past 12 months and his fitness and pace have improved dramatically as a result. A hot favourite in the donkey race, and a key part of this year's 7s squad, Craig has also put in a great deal of work off the pitch as part of the club's social committee and touring committee, which is hugely appreciated. As well as his off-field leadership qualities, he has the attributes to lead on the field as well, and we're sure he'll have a big hand in the future of this club.

Ryan Burgess

The move from outside back to scrum-half this season has suited Ryan's game, and he has been one of our most consistent performers, putting in excellent displays and winning several Man of the Match awards. His electric feet and eye for a gap have left many fringe defences chasing shadows and he will always carry the fight, his determination to succeed continuing unabated in the face of any opposition. His terrier-like approach and love for turnovers has added a new dimension to his game in defence where he punches well above his weight. Showed off his pace in the December quagmire at home to Penicuik when he sprinted in from halfway to win the game in the dying seconds for a score that will live long in the memory of those who saw it.

Jamie Martin

Jamie joined Leith in the summer, having not played since school. The young prop is only 19 and has taken to the task of ruffling feathers with far older and more experienced front rowers this season with great relish. Never one to take a backward step, Jamie has great pace for such a big guy and is very strong with ball in hand. If he can take on everything the coaching staff are throwing at him, he has the potential to go very far in the game, as his natural attributes are not in any doubt. That his teammates have nominated him for Young Player of the Year after only a few months at senior level speaks volumes for his potential and everyone at the club is excited to see him flourish over the coming seasons.

Craig Smith



The Bob Munro Players Player of the Year

Craig Smith

'Gerrard' has excelled at standoff, scrumhalf, wing, fullback and even centre this season. Despite playing all over the place Craig still has a big influence on a game and is one of our key playmakers. Unfortunately Craig was out of action for about 8 weeks after damaging his shoulder, but once recovered he returned to finish the season as the club's top try scorer, which is testament to his skills. A dummy that everyone has seen so many times but can't do anything about, a cracking goose step and sublime ball skills make him very difficult to stop anywhere near the line, and his reading of the game allows him to run lines in support of his teammates. Has added leadership qualities to his game in 2013/14, talking less experienced players through training and games, and captaining our 7s side.

Kenny Dannfald

In his second season with the club, Kenny has again proved a key member of the first team and finished as the club's leading points scorer. A rock at the back where his ability to return the ball via hand or foot is a big attribute, whilst his attacking threat when coming into the line is a frightening prospect for defences. He has a few important tries and assists this year, none more important than against Earlston where in the last minute of the game he kept his nerve to nail a long penalty to get us the points on Ladies Day. Kenny is one of the club's most consistent trainers and has done a great deal of conditioning work off his own volition. This kind of commitment to improvement is replicated by Kenny off the field as well, where he has taken on many projects to help the club develop socially.

Ryan Burgess

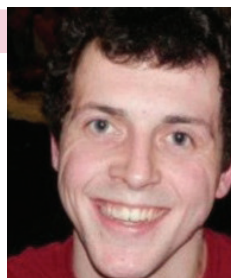


Mark Phillips

Vice-Captain Mark has led from the front with some commanding performances this year. Showing a lot of power and a great turn of pace ("sh*t he's quick" a miked up referee was heard to remark this season), Mark has led a forward pack that may have been smaller than most in this league but has often outworked those bigger packs. He demonstrates excellent leadership qualities both through his actions on the park and the thoughtful and concise manner in which he communicates with his teammates. He is a shining example to the younger forwards never to give your opponents too much respect, as he is always prepared to take the ball in the heat of battle. His commitment to the club during a season in which he and wife Hannah celebrated the arrival of their first child, Ellie, has been immense.

Matt Balmer | centre/wing

A new arrival at Academy Park this season, Matthew scored a vital try in his debut against Earlston before grabbing a double away at Penicuik, where he demonstrated that despite his lithe build he is incredibly difficult to get hold of. His season was sadly cut short due to a foot injury and his loss was considerable. We hope to see him back fighting fit next season, not least because he's got a 100% win record with the club!



Ross Barker | fullback/wing | @minijimmi

Ross is a Sports Studies student at Napier University and keen Aussie Rules player, with Scotland caps to his name in that sport. Through a club connection, Ross turned out for the 2nd XV in the game with Murrayfield Wanderers at fullback and is a talented player we'd like to see more of in 2014/15.

Andy Barr | wing | @andybarr_se

A powerful winger with a good turn of pace Andy causes defences many problems. Not always available due to occasional Saturday work at David Lloyd (or hamstring problems), when he is able to play he leaves his mark - just ask the Boroughmuir winger who he flattened in a 2s game this season. Scored a cracking try in the home game with Lismore in November and is a key member of the 7s team, helping us reach the final of the Leith 7s.



Ryan Burgess | scrumhalf | @Burge_91

The move from outside back to scrum-half this season has suited Ryan's game, as he has been excellent throughout, putting in several MOTM performances that have made him a strong contender for Player of the Season. His electric feet and eye for a gap have left many fringe defences chasing shadows this year, although don't ask him to do it more than once! His terrier like approach and love for turnovers has added a new dimension to his game in defence and he punches well above his weight. Showed off his pace in the December quagmire at home to Penicuik when he sprinted in from halfway to win the game in the dying seconds. Will have to hand over his Fastest Sissy title this year after injuring himself in the warm up at training for 7s.

Kenny Dannfald | fullback | @Kensa2010

Keeping up his consistent performances in the 15 jersey this year, Kenny has again proved a key member of the team, and finished as the club's leading points scorer. A rock at the back and big attacking threat when coming into the line, he has a few important tries and assists this year, none more important than his winning kick against Earlston at home, although he never likes to mention it! He seems to enjoy playing against the Borders side, scooping Man of the Match honours in both fixtures this year. Kenny has also been a great organiser off the pitch, helping with training as well as social pursuits, including masterminding some of tonight's entertainment.

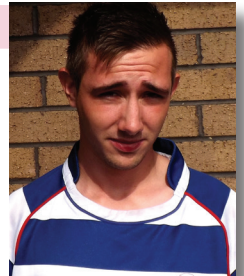


Stefano De Palma | wing

Italian lawyer, SDP joined us this season adding strength and depth to the backline. Showing a lot of power and pace Stefano was a useful addition to the squad, who was cruelly denied his first try in a Leith jersey against Lismore as the ref blew his whistle early when advantage would have seen him coast over for a score.

Steven Eadie | wing

The flying winger out of Royal High has proven a great addition to the club - if it wasn't for the smokes he'd probably rival Carlin Isles! A prolific scorer for the 2nds this year grabbing a double against Murrayfield Wanderers and a hat-trick against Boroughmuir ("I only score at Murrayfield"), Stevie is also a very tough defender and strong ball carrier. He is a key member of the 1st XV and 7s squad, and we look forward to his further development in 2014/15.



Mark Halliday | scrumhalf | @Markhal82

The wee scrum half from Kelso, with the toughest paper round in Scotland, only arrived this season, pitching up during pre-season keen to get back into rugby after a couple years out the game. Mark played for Kelso 1st & 2nd XVs and his experience at such a high level has been invaluable in helping develop the younger guys, particularly Ryan Burgess. Sadly the Borderer is heading back home for work purposes so this is his first and last year at the club. All players and staff are sad to see him go, as even with the muttering of retirement we'd have loved him to coach - hopefully he shall stay in touch and we'll see him in the future for a few beers. Plenty borders trips in the league next year!

Rich Hastings | centre/ stand-off

Rich 'Ginge' Hastings came out of retirement this season to play 2nd XV rugby, and has certainly got the bug back, chasing US for more 2nds games, when it's usually the other way around. Exemplifies the need for the club to provide 2nd XV/social rugby in order to keep guys around the club when other commitments preclude the commitment required to play 1st XV rugby. Ginge has been outstanding in both 2s games he's played and we look forward to his continued involvement next season.



Toban Hunt | wing/centre

Another Ulsterman, Toban joined Leith this season and coming from that famous rugby school of Campbell College in NI, there was a fair bit of expectation on Mr Hunt when he arrived. He didn't disappoint either, as despite only featuring in a handful of matches for the club (due to a startling dedication to his university studies), he has had a big impact in the games scoring 2 tries in 4 appearances. The quick feet and speed he possesses are a real threat to the opposition and give him a high chance of beating any player one-on-one. Toban can play both at outside centre and on the wing, and we hope to see a lot more of him next season.



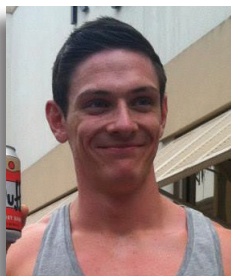
Chris Johnson | wing/centre | @chrisyj9

Due to his work taking him through to Glasgow, Chris has only made one league appearance this season away against Trinity, which is unfortunate, as when present he's a powerful runner - something he displayed in his debut appearance as an ex-player, for the Spring Chickens at the Leith 7s. He was subsequently promoted/demoted into the Leith squad that attended the Edinburgh Northern 7s.



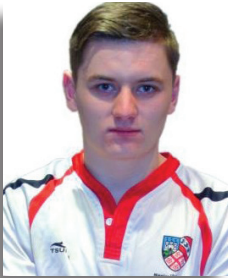
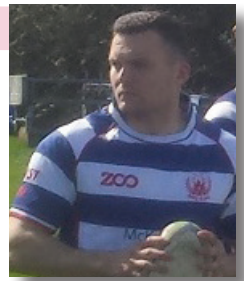
Ross Marwick | centre/wing

The tall and deceptively quick centre/winger has only played in 3 matches for the club since joining late in the season, but in all his appearances displayed real power and strength in the contact giving the backs a much needed physical presence. Unfortunately tore ankle ligaments in his third game for the club and has been out for a number of weeks but made a good comeback at the Edinburgh Northern 7s last week. Hopefully Ross will be injury free in 2014/15 and able to play a big part in the club's season.



Callum Munro | wing

Callum is one of Doddies new recruits this year. With power and pace he has been a good addition to our backline. Also proved to be a useful member of the 7s squad scoring a couple of tries at the Leith 7s. Hopefully he can make more appearances next season, as due to working commitments he was only able to make 3 appearances this season. Keeping the country safe does have to come first though!



George Nixon | centre/stand-off | @georgenixon34

Joining us late in the season, George primarily plays for Edinburgh Eagles RL but has shown good union skills by slotting in well to our side this year. Played a key role at 10 in the win over Murrayfield Wanderers, as well as turning out at fullback, and at centre in the cup win over Inverleith. A strong runner and big hitter, he proved he can also play the short form of the game, helping Eagles to Shield victory at the Leith 7s.

Rich Organ | centre

2013/14 was the first year for as many as we can remember that Mr Organ didn't play in a league fixture, however Rich still rolled back the years to help out the 2s against Boroughmuir and also starred for the Spring Chickens at the Leith 7s. He showed he still has the skills, making crunching tackles (Boroughmuir winger felt that one) and powerful runs. We hope he can continue to play next season - maybe even a league game! The creative genius behind tonight's event.



Andrew Paterson | wing/fullback | @andypat9

Pat made his first appearance of the season down at Berwick in the 15 role, producing a terrific defensive performance and also played (and was sinbinned for offside!) in the Dalkeith home game. With limited opportunities to play due to work commitments he managed to grab his single try for the season against Dutch touring team De Wrotters with the last play of the game. Another who's injury has robbed us of a talented 7s player. Snipers everywhere!

Elliot Richardson | centre

The first of Doddie's recruits for the club, Royal Marine Elliot burst onto the scene at Leith scoring a double in the home victory over Earlston in September. With great acceleration, (leaves Burgess in his dust), powerful defence and a strong hand off he made an instant impact in his two appearances. More next season please!

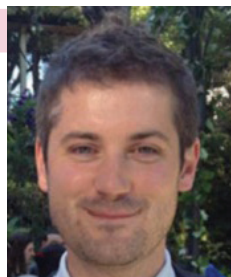


Dave Robertson | centre/wing | @DavidWRPhysio

Last season's top try scorer, Dave's tireless work rate and experience, not to mention gas, make him a key member of a young backline. Inventor of the 'ankle-breaker side-step', Dave is Scotland Under 20s physio, and has missed a few games when away with them, but adds hugely to the team when available. Currently out with a knee injury which has unfortunately prevented him playing for the 7s side, Dave has also done some coaching this season, and we look forward to him returning injury-free next season. We're going to get him to learn everyone's name too!

Chris Seenan | centre | @chrisseenan

Chris joined Leith this season and has slotted in at 12 for the first team, although he has not played many games due to injury and work commitments. He had a big impact on the team in defence with his strong tackling (that Lismore player is still buried out there on Academy Park) and work ethic and 'Choco' has fitted in well at the club. One of three physios who play for the club so we all know we are safe when we injure ourselves. Sadly Chris and his wife have moved to Glasgow as they both work there so it is unclear whether he shall be playing much next season, which will be a big loss to the club.



Lucas Shearon | wing/centre

Lucas joined the club this season and has played mainly on the wing for the first team when available. He has also played centre and wing for the 2nd's team, where he scored his first try in the win over Murrayfield Wanderers. With very good line speed and tackling Lucas' defence is key to his game alongside his speed in attack and ability to spot a gap. We look forward to his continued development in 2014/15.

Craig Smith | stand-off/wing/fullback

The elder of the two Smith brothers at the club, 'Gerrard' has definitely been what you'd call a utility back this season playing and excelling at stand-off, scrumhalf, wing, fullback and yes...even centre! Despite playing all over the place Craig still has a big influence on the game with ball in hand, and is one of our key playmakers. Unfortunately in the second game of the season Craig made a rare tackle (not his forte) and damaged the AC joint in his shoulder which put him out of action for about 8 weeks meaning he missed a large part of the season. Since coming back he has played in most of the games and has been captaining the sevens side, winning player of the tournament at the Leith 7s.

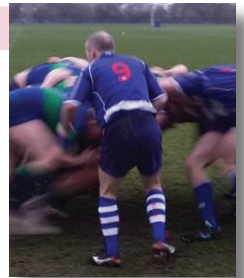


Shaun Tennant | wing

A friend of Robert Stitt's from Hawick, Shaun played on the wing in the 2s win over Murrayfield Wanderers and we hope to see more of him next season.

Bruce Tyler | scrumhalf

The scrumhalf snuck out of retirement to play for the 2s against Boroughmuir where he showed he's lost none of his distribution and game management skills, even if the legs aren't what they were in his pomp! Bruce also played for the Spring Chickens in the Leith 7s, and it was great to have him back around the club.



Sam Walker | centre

Another new signing this season the big ball-carrying, big tackling centre joined as he got a new job in Edinburgh and didn't have to commute to London any more. Unfortunately for the Englishman he has had injury problems in his first season with his groin keeping him out since February. However he showed in the first half of the season how valuable he is to the team, and we hope he'll return fully fit next term. Sam had a moment of madness at Earlston when he lost his bearings, catching a penalty which fell short of the goalposts, and grounding it, before realising his error just as he got smashed in the tackle. Feel free to remind him of this!

Doug Watters | stand-off | @dougalai

Club captain Doug has had a very busy 2nd year as captain - as well as organising the team each week and getting availability, he was the driving force behind the Leith 7s and tonight's event. On top of his off-field activity, the skipper has been playing at stand-off and also in his new-found position of inside centre, one which he is not keen to play but plays very well! He was also mistaken in the Berwickshire Advertiser for a "big winger" when scoring a breakaway try in January. Doug has worked tirelessly to get the best team available for the coaching staff and has done lots of work behind the scenes on many different projects. Was on sparkling form on the club's Christmas night out.



Mikey Welsh | centre | @MikeyWelsh89

Son of former Leith great, Mikey Welsh Sr, the footballing goalkeeper/2nd row-cum-inside-centre has only recently joined and played in just a couple games. Mikey was very surprised as to how hard rugby is fitness-wise and freely admits being a goalie is much easier! Although new to the game Mikey fitted in straight away at the club and is down whenever possible to support the team and support funding the bar as he loves a drink and a night out with the team. Mikey started out at 2nd row, but moved to the backs as "four touches of the ball wisnae enough!" Here's hoping he continues with the oval-ball game in 2014/15.



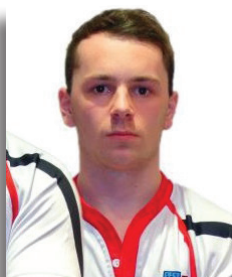
Ben Wilkinson | stand-off

Northern Irish lad, 'Ben10' joined the club 18 months ago and has not looked back fitting in instantly with the team and has been a very useful addition to the squad playing at either stand-off or outside centre as well as offering previous experience at full back. Ben's key attributes are his long range kicking from hand and excellent distribution off both hands. He also has a really spicy pair of boots. The Leith back has a tendency for shouting "sh*t it" at opposition kickers to try put them off their clearance kick which you often hear during a game. Although receiving plenty of banter about his perceived lack of pace Mr Wilkinson has setup a few tries this year, exploding through gaps, and was very influential in both the wins over Inverleith.



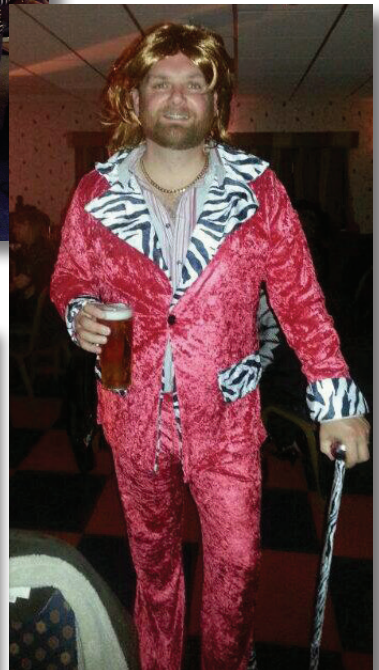
Struan Whyte | wing

A sports student at Napier, Struan played in the 2s win over Murrayfield Wanderers, and also plays university rugby league. A talented winger, we hope we'll see more of him in 2014/15.





Donald grasped the opportunity provided by the rebirth of the 2nd XV to get back into rugby, having not played since school. He has played in all the 2nd XV fixtures this season and has been down to support the first team whenever possible, and seems to be enjoying his (overdue) return to the sport. Donald and his partner, Ciaran have recently found out they are having a second child so big congratulations to them both and here's hoping we see him and the family at more games next season. Welcome back to egg-chasing Donald!



Leith Rugby Results 2013/14

RBS East Regional League Division 2 2013/14

Date	Fixture	Tries	Assists	POTM
07 Sep	Lismore 25 v 19 Leith	C Smith G Aitken K Dannfald	C Marshall D Watters C Smith	C Smith
14 Sep	Leith 25 v 24 Earlston	E Richardson x2 M Balmer	C Smith x3	K Dannfald
21 Sep	Forrester 72 v 10 Leith	T Hunt		R Burgess
28 Sep	Leith 9 v 3 Inverleith			R Clarke
05 Oct	Penicuik 10 v 26 Leith	R Burgess M Balmer x 2 M Halliday	D Watters B Wilkinson x2 D Robertson	D Watters
12 Oct	Leith 0 v 21 Trinity Academicals			W Cook
19 Oct	Edinburgh Northern 33 v 28 Leith	R Burgess x2 A MacIntosh G Aitken	D Meadows D Robertson	A MacIntosh
26 Oct	Berwick 55 v 7 Leith	G Aitken	R Burgess	R Burgess
02 Nov	Leith 3 v 52 Dalkeith			G Aitken
16 Nov	Leith 50 v 5 Lismore	K Dannfald x2 D Robertson x2 A Barr M Phillips I Briscoe D Meadows	C Seenan K Dannfald D Robertson A MacIntosh x2 C Smith x2	P Allison
23 Nov	Earlston 42 v 15 Leith	C Smith K Dannfald	R Burgess D Watters	K Dannfald
30 Nov	Leith 0 v 65 Forrester			M Halliday
07 Dec	Inverleith 15 v 14 Leith	D Robertson C Seenan	C Smith	C Smith
14 Dec	Leith 8 v 7 Penicuik	R Burgess	D Robertson	C Marshall
11 Jan	Trinity Academicals 49 v 12 Leith	R Burgess D Robertson	D Watters	W Cook
18 Jan	Leith 20 v 8 Edinburgh Northern	R Burgess C Smith	B Wilkinson	R Burgess
25 Jan	Leith 5 v 67 Berwick	D Watters		D Watters
01 Feb	Dalkeith 68 v 19 Leith	C Smith x2 R Marwick	D Watters	C Smith

RBS Edinburgh Regional Shield

Date	Fixture	Tries	Assists	POTM
31 Aug	Portobello 36 v 7 Leith	C Smith	D Watters	R Clarke
01 Mar	Inverleith 22 v 35 Leith	C Smith x2 D Robertson K Dannfald C Winton	D Watters x2 R Burgess K Dannfald R Marwick	B Wilkinson W Cook

Date	Fixture	Tries	Assists	POTM
25 Jan	Murrayfield Wanderers 3rd XV 19 v 27 Leith 2nd XV	S Eadie x2 R Hastings R Clarke L Shearon		J Martin
09 Mar	Leith 43 v 12 De Wotters (Netherlands)	S Eadie x2 C Smith A Paterson C Winton K Aitchison K Dannfald		R Smith
04 Apr	Boroughmuir 4th XV 34 v 21 Leith 2nd XV	S Eadie x3	M Phillips G Nixon D Watters	S Eadie

Notice

The AGM is taking place on 3rd May at 1pm.
All club members are encouraged to attend.

There is also a Tour meeting at 12pm on the same day.
All tourists heading for Cardiff **must** attend.

Season Stats 2013/14

RBS East Regional League Division 2 2013/14

#	Team	P	W	L	D	+/-	PTS
1	Dalkeith	18	17	1	0	859	84
2	Berwick	18	16	2	0	844	77
3	Forrester	18	14	4	0	424	68
4	Trinity Academicals	18	10	8	0	168	49
5	Earlston	18	7	11	0	-108	38
6	Edinburgh Northern	18	8	10	0	-297	35
7	Inverleith	18	7	11	0	-340	34
8	Leith	18	6	12	0	-351	30
9	Penicuik	18	3	15	0	-351	18
10	Lismore	18	2	16	0	-848	8

Scorers 2013/14

Tries	Points	Assists	POTM
8 C Smith	59 K Dannfald	8 D Watters	3 R Burgess C Smith D Watters
6 R Burgess	53 D Watters	7 C Smith	2 R Clarke W Cook K Dannfald
5 K Dannfald D Robertson	40 C Smith	4 D Robertson	
3 G Aitken M Balmer	30 R Burgess 25 D Robertson	3 R Burgess B Wilkinson	

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Leith Academy

Club committee

Eileen Aitchison, Club Treasurer

Social Committee

Tour Committee

45 Commando

Tea ladies

Bar staff

Physiotherapist, Claire Hagen

Kitman, Andrew Paterson

Playing and coaching staff

Last but not least all the people who come to
watch us play.

Leith Rugby

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e LeithRFC@gmail.com

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