

SUGGESTED DONATION: £1 - ALL PROCEEDS TO LEITH YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

PRESIDENT'S DAY 2017



LEITH RUGBY

BT East Region Division 2

LEITH RUGBY
V
TRINITY ACADEMICALS

02 DEC 2017
leithrugby.com



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



Jim Smith
Club President

Welcome to our President's Day at Leith Rugby.

I hope you enjoy the game and the hospitality at Academy Park before and after the match.

I have been involved in Leith Rugby for many years now in various roles. In that time I have seen us go from fielding six Senior and one Colts team every Saturday down to only managing to field one Senior Team with the help of several Colts from the school. I am delighted to say that through the hard work of several members we were able to have three teams in Leith colours a couple of weeks ago. Long may that continue.

Come along and cheer us on and even consider a membership of Leith Rugby. Visit leithrugby.com or talk to us today.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER



"I'm proud of Leith Rugby for the continued efforts to increase participation in the game"

Ben Wilkinson
Club Captain

This week we welcome the players and supporters of local rivals Trinity Academicals to Academy Park. Leith will be looking to continue their three match unbeaten run in the league. Trinity, sitting in fifth, will hope to return to winning ways after a tough loss to Langholm, while after losing the last two derbies, Leith will be desperate to reverse the trend today.

The last league fixture saw Leith take on Liberton. This proved to be a good day for the Leithers picking up maximum points, tries coming from Ross Marwick (2), Luke McKinney (2), Doug Watters, Toby Kirkwood and Paul Haggon. However, Leith again failed to show full potential and letting the home side in with a few scores highlighted points to work on for this week.

The 2nd XV return action today away to Barnton, after last week's fixture against Ross High was postponed. It was frustrating to have no game last week, as two weeks ago saw a momentous day for our club - the first time we have fielded 3 competitive sides on the same day since 1996, with the 1st XV at Liberton, 2s at Dunfermline and 3s hosting Queensferry. I'd like to say how proud I am of Leith Rugby for the continued efforts to increase participation in the game, and big thanks to everyone who made this possible. Hopefully we can continue to grow and establish the 3s as a more regular occurrence.

In club news, Thursday 7th December will see another fantastic Youth festival, with 200 children expected at the club for a great day of rugby. Your support for this is much appreciated. Good luck to both teams today and hopefully we'll be in for an entertaining game of rugby.

To mark **President's Day**, we have published an excerpt of former Leith President George Jack's history of the club from 1961-1978. George was a top class hooker who captained Leith, was selected for Edinburgh and went on to be President of the SRU. Read the full article on www.leithrugby.com

At the start of the 1960's there was little to indicate that Leith Academicals F.P.R.F.C. would move out of the junior level of rugby in Scotland. However, several strands came together that over the period made the 60's and 70's a golden time for the Club.

In 1961, 12 players from the Academy 1st XV appeared and gave the Club a real lift. The FP Committee decided they would keep them together for a season as a 3rd XV with a couple of older players – Jimmy Ballantyne and Ian Leitch – to look after them. With player numbers growing, Willie Neill took over as Team Secretary and Corny Waugh as Fixture Secretary. Both were key to the upward march of the Club on and off the field.

In 1968 the Club's Annual Dinner was held in the Carlton Hotel. The main speakers were Cliff Morgan (British Lion) and David Coleman (presenter of BBC Grandstand). Norman Mair (Rugby Writer of the Scotsman) proposed the toast to the Club with G.W Jack (Club Captain) replying.

By 1972 the Club ran 6 XV's and the 1st XV was able to hold its own on the field against all senior clubs in Scotland with the notable exception of Hawick, then ten times Scottish Champions.

1973-74 saw the start of formal National leagues, and Leith Accies were disappointed to be placed in Division 3. However, this was simply delaying the move, and in season 1975-76 Leith were promoted into National League 2, losing only one league game.



**Leith Academicals RFC
1st XV c1974**

**B Samson, C Jackson,
C Galloway, C Pratt,
D Main, C Gardner**

**B Monro, G Anderson,
W Henderson,
M McNeill, D Armstrong,
J McMaster, T Bolland**

**D Brock, C MacLeod,
G Jack, P Welsh, R Green**

In the 1970's George Jack, Derek Brock, Peter Welsh, David Armstrong and later Tom Bell, were selected to play for the senior Edinburgh XV, holding their with internationalists and British Lions. Memorably for a local club, George Jack (Hooker) and Derek Brock (on the bench) were selected for Edinburgh against the touring Australia XV at Myreside in 1975, Edinburgh losing 10-19.

Leith gained a well-deserved reputation for sociability off the field, though not many sides fancied their chances against Leith on the field. The Hawick RFC match programme for Hawick v. Leith Accies in 1972 bears testimony to that– "Today we welcome Leith Accies who can justifiably claim to be among the top ten clubs in Scotland this season".

To share your own memories of Leith Rugby, contact the club on leithrfc@gmail.com

LEITH YOUTH RUGBY DEVELOPMENT - INTRODUCTION

Leith Rugby Youth Development was set up with the following aims:

- ▶ **To increase participation in rugby among 5-18 year olds in the Leith area**
- ▶ **To increase participation in adult men's rugby by developing a link between Leith Academy and Leith Rugby Club**
- ▶ **To support the development of the women's game in Leith through increasing participation among girls at primary and secondary school**



Boys teams will go under the name of Leith Hawks, girls teams will be known as Leith Vixens.



On December 7th Leith Rugby will host their 6th rugby festival. 185 P5 children will be involved in the touch rugby festival. Schools include Leith Primary, Lorne Primary, Hermitage Park Primary and St Ninian's Primary. There will be a tackle station set up for the kids to be introduced to the contact side of rugby.

In conjunction with the primary school curriculum and the festival, we continue to run after school clubs at Leith Academy and St Ninian's Primary school. We have seen numbers continue to grow at these afterschool clubs and are always looking for more kids to come along.



After the festive break we will be opening our Leith Academy afterschool club for primary pupils to 40. At the afterschool clubs we play touch rugby and contact rugby. Going forward we are starting to organise Friday afternoon fixtures for the P6/7 who attend the afterschool clubs. After the Christmas break rugby delivery starts again for P7 pupils in the 5 schools. After 6/7 weeks of rugby delivery we will host another rugby festival. Leith Rugby club youth section is also looking at the idea to start Sunday youth rugby at Easter. We are still putting coaches through required coaching qualifications.

LEITH YOUTH RUGBY DEVELOPMENT - CONTINUED

We are also starting to put volunteers through rugby qualification courses so they can help out game coaching at our rugby festival and assist the rugby development going on in the Leith area. We have a number of school pupils attending Level 1 rugby coaching courses over October school holidays. In addition to this the LRYD were given money to spend on rugby equipment and have purchased rugby balls and branded Leith Hawks bibs which have been given to the schools.

LRYD can now apply to charitable trusts and foundations for funding to carry out its programme, as well as organising in-house funding events such as sponsored events and raffles.

This is great opportunity for the members of Leith to support the hard work of the youth rugby committee so that we can continue the funding of primary and secondary school rugby.

We all know the benefits of team sport, the health benefits to be gained from children being active, how sport can help develop social skills, build self-esteem and confidence and help kids learn valuable life skills. We also know how rugby helps you make life-long friends.

We have all been there and we have all experienced the above and we still do. If it wasn't for rugby would you be reading this today? Would you be standing reminiscing about a tour to somewhere 20 or 30 years ago with someone you would never have met if it hadn't been for playing rugby?



Rugby is a great game to be enjoyed by all. Please help LRYD pass on these opportunities to the local children in Leith by supporting our work.

The LRYD steering group is made up of:

Gordon Anderson, Bruce Tyler, Derek Greenan, Alex Bowman, Willie Cook, Russell Duncan, Brian Samson and Andrew McIntosh.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and please do get in touch should you wish to discuss any of the above.

LRYD

PLAYER PROFILES

CRAIG WINTON



Prop
27
Leith Academy, 13
Leith Academy
Edinburgh Rugby

PLAYER PROFILES

Position
Age
First club
Former clubs
Pro team

Wing
29
Leith Rugby, 29
None
Edinburgh Rugby

PETE DUNCAN



How and when did you come to join Leith

CW: Played for the Leith Academy under 18's and at the time Leith coach Tam Bennett came along and asked us to come along to adults training with the promise that he would protect us from Aitchy...

PD: I've been a rugby fan for almost 20 years but never played. Really enjoyed Tartan Touch over the summer and was encouraged by Kenny and Winto to join Leith for preseason.

What's the best thing about playing at Leith?

CW: Dave Ritchie's post game cooking.

PD: Couldn't find a more welcoming bunch of guys.

What's the most challenging thing about playing at Leith?

CW: Trying to understand Robert Stitt and Bruce Connolly when they speak in their broad Hawick accent.

PD: Lack of experience on my part. Guys have been really helpful getting me up and running.

If you could be one of your teammates for a week....who would it be and why?

CW: Any of the backs as it must be nice to turn up to training and do absolutely nothing except pass a ball about.

PD: Joe [O'Neil] or Toby [Kirkwood]. It would be fun to be able to run over the top of someone!

Which one of your teammates would get voted out/win Big Brother/Celebrity Jungle first?

CW: Voted out first... 100% would be Willie Cook as it's hard to put up with him for an afternoon never mind any longer. Winner would be Handsome Jon Derrin as all the girls would obviously vote for him to win.

PD: No idea who'd be voted out first. George Easdon to win. Such a happy, laid back guy.

Which teammate never buys his round?

CW: Hands down, no competition, Robert Stitt! Tightest guy I've ever met.

PD: Haven't found that out for myself yet. Heard a few rumours though.

Which teammate is best dressed?

CW: Would be a tie between Fraser [Forsyth] and Russell [Smith] – seldom seen without a blazer.

PD: Andrew Paterson is always immaculately dressed.

And worst?

CW: Andy Mac purely as he is never 'dressed' long enough to judge.

PD: Haven't seen any shockers. Might change my mind after the Christmas night out!

You win £50million on the lottery - whose number do you delete first?

CW: David Meadows – would be after a lend before the final number was drawn.

PD: Probably some former bandmates from my time as a metal drummer.

Who was your favourite player growing up?

CW: When I thought I was a standoff - Johnny Wilkinson, and when it became clear I wasn't... Alan "Chunk" Jacobsen.

PD: Mike Blair was great to watch. Often on a different wavelength to the rest of the team. He was definitely born 10 years too early!

Describe your playing style in no more than 5 words.

CW: Soft, hands, soft, moan, soft. No....a standoff playing front row.

PD: Try to run round them.

So which pro player does that mean you play like?

CW: Dan Parks if he tried to play hooker...

PD: I won't do any player that disservice! I'd love to be able to play like Mark Bennett.

Best moment of your rugby career so far?

CW: Winning the league with Leith back in 2013, incredible day and incredibly messy night.

HOGMANAY 2018



Sunday Dec 31 from 8pm

@ Leith Rugby Club

**A great way to
bring in the bells!**

Come along for:

Tunes

Food

Drinks Specials

Fireworks

**Tickets only £10 if bought
before Dec 16!**

£15 thereafter

For tickets see Craig Winton