

CAPTAIN'S CORNER



"Hopefully today's match will show another improvement"

Ben Wilkinson Club Captain

Good morning, and a warm welcome to Academy Park to our visitors, North Berwick RFC. This week sees the return of the BTEdinburgh Shield cup competition and Leith will be looking for an upset as we take on opponents who are flying highin BT East Division 1. Leith and North Berwick haven't played much in recent years, save for a friendly in early 2016, which saw a spirited performance from the Leithers at Recreation Park, before eventually falling comfortably to the hosts.

Last weekend, Leith entertained Dalkeith in what was a nail biting encounter. Leith started well taking a 19-0 lead. After trading a few scores, Dalkeith came very much back into the game. Leith edged the victory in the end 39-36 but will need to learn from mistakes that let them back into the game. Leith again collected maximum points but failed to show the complete performance we are capable of. Hopefully today's match will show another improvement.

The 2nd XV are in action today away to Musselburgh 3rdXV. Last week again saw a good performance but unfortunately the game went to Watsonians. A tough encounter but there were a few standout performances including Tony Kestner who was awarded man of the match. Again, we continue to fulfil every 2nd XV fixture available, which is a good sign of progress for our club - and more than many so-called bigger clubs can manage.

In club news, the clubhouse is the place to be for the Autumn Internationals. All those not going to the game at Murrayfield, please do join us. Come on Scotland! (And Ireland).

Good luck to both teams today and hopefully we'll be in for an entertaining game of rugby. Enjoy the game.

ERSKINECaring for Veterans since 1916

LEITH RUGBY ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE ERSKINE TRUST

Today marks Remembrance Day when the UK remembers all those who have lost their lives in war.

War is not a thing of the past, and neither is the need to support our country's ex-service and serving men and women.

The Erskine Trust cares for Scottish ex-Servicemen and women from all backgrounds. Each year Erskine need to raise £9 million to continue to provide high levels of support and care. All programme sales and player match fees today will be donated to the Erskine Trust. Your donation can make a difference to the lives of veterans who were prepared to sacrifice their lives for ours.

You can donate at the game or give £5 by texting WISH to 70660 Find out more about the trust at www.erskine.org.uk

MATCH REPORT LEITH 39 - 36 DALKEITH

Leith went into Saturday's encounter with Dalkeith not having beat the King's Park side since 2009, albeit spending much of that time in different leagues, and coming out the wrong side of a few close battles. With the two sides next to one another in the table, it was an opportunity to build on the previous week's victory over RDVC and establish some momentum going into the final five games ahead of the Christmas break.

Leith came roaring out the blocks. The game was barely 5 minutes old when former Dalkeith player Steven Eadie came in off his wing to pick from the back of a ruck, scoot up the blind wing and offload to the returning Mike McLeish to open the scoring. Kenny Dannfald added the extras for a 7-0 lead. A few minutes later the backs moved the ball wide inside their own 22, and Dannfald put Andrew Paterson away to sprint home from halfway, extending the lead to 12-0.

A couple of infringements allowed Ben Wilkinson to stick the ball into the 22, and from the lineout several phases later, Fergal MacNamara dived over in the corner, the halfback spotting a gap at the side of the ruck. Dannfald added the difficult conversion for a 19-0 lead. Dalkeith then opened their account, their winger going over in the corner for 19-5. The sides then swapped tries as man of the match McLeish popped up out wide, as any good 2nd row should (...) to put Eadie in from 30m, before Dalkeith crashed over from close range.

Leith had the final say of the half, as a long range break, and several offloads, the last from the inspired Eadie, who perhaps would've scored he had not slipped (stepped himself), to Wilkinson, and the standoff dived over near the posts for a half time lead of 28-10.

By half time Leith had lost Michele Crolla to a head knock, and Stevie Muirden to a rib injury, and despite the strong first half time lead, with several others playing through more minor injuries, there was concern that the depleted squad could see the game out -and despite starting the 2nd half well, Doug Watters putting Dannfald in for a 33-10 lead, Dalkeith grew into the game, twice rumbling over from close range to bring the score back to 33-24. To compound matters, Paul Haggon was then shown a yellow card for an infringement at the same time as Leith were awarded the penalty - which Dannfald kicked for a 36-24 lead.

Leith then thought they'd out the game to bed when a sweeping move from right to left had the Watters/Dannfald combination in for another, which was incorrectly (but we would say that, sir!) ruled out for a forward pass earlier in the build-up. A man to the advantage, Dalkeith stuck on the pressure at this point and their outside centre managed to ground the ball whilst falling in the tackle for 36-33.



Mike McLeish Man of Match

The returning Haggon then made amends with his second try saving tackle of the day, and some aggressive D (too aggressive in Joe O'Neil's case, as he went to the bin for the final couple of minutes) saw the ref blow for full-time with Leith edging a victory that earlier in the day had looked like it would be considerably more comfortable.

Credit to Dalkeith for their second half showing, and for a game, which despite our two cards was played in good spirit (honest!) Credit too to the Leith boys for rallying when down to 15 fit bodies, and getting a very welcome victory.

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 October 12th Leith Rugby Club hosted their 5th rugby festival. 250 P4 children were involved with the touch rugby festival. Schools included Leith Primary, Lorne Primary, Craigentinny Primary, Hermitage Park Primary and St Ninian's Primary. It was a great day out for all the pupils and lots of fun was had. The quality of the touch rugby on show was first class and the day ran smoothly. There was a tackle station on the day so some children got to try out contact rugby for the first time.



In conjunction with the seven week block of rugby, we have been running 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. 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 pupils who attend the afterschool clubs. After the October break rugby delivery starts again for P5 pupils in the five schools. After 6/7 weeks of rugby delivery we will host another rugby festival.

During the summer Leith Rugby Club in partnership with Active Schools ran a summer camp for the first time. We had a mixture of boys and girls from P4-P7.

LEITH YOUTH RUGBY DEVELOPMENT - CONTINUED

The summer camp covered some of the fundamental skills of rugby and also looked at playing through the game by playing fun games and developing the children's game understanding and skills. Looking forward we plan to run an Easter camp next year and also a summer camp.

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 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 LYRD 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.

LYRD

PLAYER PROFILES

This being remembrance week, the programme team sat down with two ex-serviceman among the Leith ranks, in Lance Corporal Paul Haggon (Aircraft Tech in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) and Private Steven Eadie (Royal Regiment of Scotland, 3 Scots / Blackwatch), whose Charlie company, recon platoon spent considerable time overseas, including a 6-month tour of Afghanistan. Paul and Stevie selected Erskine Trust as the beneficiaries of today's programme sales, and player match fees.

PAUL HAGGON	PLAYER PROFILES			STEVEN EADIE
2 L a	eith Academy, ged 12	Position Age First club	Wing 25 Royal High, aged 14	1
A	orrester FP, 9 RGT AC Nunster	Former clubs Pro team	Blackwatch, Edinburgh Northern, Liberton, Dalkeith Edinburgh Rugby	

How and when did you come to join Leith?

PH: With going to Leith Academy and training the same nights as the adults it was always my ambition to play for Leith, and even with a few years at Forries due to lack of numbers in the school team, I still always had my heart set on playing 1st XV here.

SE: I was introduced to the club through Mr Calum McKay back in 2013-14.

What's the best thing about playing at Leith?

SE: Being part of a really good group of guys. I should know - I've moved around a bit!

PH: The atmosphere we have as a club. No matter who you are you're always welcome and made to feel at

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

PH: Keeping your position safe is the most challenging. There is that many new guys pushing to get positions that you can guarantee if you don't step up your game every week you're gonna be out.

SE: Personally, it's trying to turn up for a training session!

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

PH: I'd be big Luke McKinney - simple fact he is allowed to turn up pretty wasted and has a cool office dog. SE: Any of the ones that can get to training!

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

SE; Out first, this guy Paul Haggon! He'd wind up/get wound up by somebody. Ben10 to win.

PH: Robert Stitt would be out first due to his richter scale snoring and to win it probably Craig Winton as you may see him put a smile on his face.

Which teammate never buys his round?

PH: Bruce Connelly - he's even started working behind the bar to get away from the round!

SE: [David] Meadows is drunk so early he goes home before it's his round.

Which teammate is best dressed?

PH: Ross Marwick SE: Andrew Paterson

And worst?

PH: Definitely Russell Smith

SE: Nah, that's Stitto

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

SE: The girlfriend's. But shhhh, don't tell her

PH: Yeah, my wife ... (joking, Danielle)

Best moment of your rugby career?

PH: Scoring 3 tries against Dalkeith in my first senior game for Leith [Really Paul We've never heard this before...] SE: Still waiting for it!

LEITH RUGBY V NORTH BERWICK 11AM ACADEMY PARK

16/17 BT SHIELD

/01/17 SEMI FINAL NORTH BERWICK 31 V 36 MURRAYFIELD WANDERERS **DUNBAR 60 V 53 LEITH**

LEITH FORM



NORTH BERWICK FORM



LEITH RUGBY NORTH BERWICK

K DANNFALD 15 C JOHNSTON GLEES 14 CELMS A PATERSON 13 B RITCHIE FMCNAMARA 12 LWEST SEADIE 11 B MOFFAT **BWILKINSON 10 AWILLIAMS**

R KILGOUR 9 N HAMMOND L MCKINNEY 8 BBUCHANAN (C)

MTEIXEIRA 7 GWALKER PHAGGON 6 R SPENCE

TKIRKWOOD 5 CBRYSON

M CROLLA 4 C MCLEAN B CONNELLY 3 J GARDNER CWINTON 2 SLORRIMER

SWILSON (C) 1 B CAIRNS

CKERR 16 CLEKKAS CLAWRIE 17 PLITTLEFAIR R BARCLAY 18 FTHAIN O JENKINS 19

Who was your favourite player growing up?

SE: Jonah Lomu. A winger of similar build. PH: Keith Aitchison

Describe your playing style in no more than 5 words.

PH: A-lot of unfair yellow cards SE: Just run and don't pass

Most embarrassing moment of your rugby career?

SE: Dropping the ball over the line in a high school cup final under game against Boroughmuir

PH: Telling a ref exactly what I thought about him and getting a red for it at Gala

Who is your dream date?

SE: Scarlett Johansson

PH: Wonder Woman - while eating a tub of Ben and Jerry's half baked, watching the sunset in Bora Bora [He's given this some thought..]

Trump or Kim Jong?

PH: TRUMP!!! He is the man

SE: Kim Jong shades it on hairstyle

Tell us something your teammates don't know about you?

SE: I'm seriously scared of needles

PH: I only have 1 kidney!

Which team do you look forward to playing the most each season?

PH: Any Borders team as I know it's gonna be a horrendously tough game SE: Anyone I've played for!

What's the first sporting result you look for after a Leith game?

SE: Anyone else l've played for! PH: I check F1 results

How many games will Scotland win from the Autumn series?

PH: 2. we will get pumped by New Zealand but at least we can get those Oz boys back for the world cup.

17/18 BT EAST LEAGUE 2 # TEAM PTS

11

22

09 LEITH RUGBY 10 21

08 EARLSTON

10 ED UNI MEDICS 8

11 PENICUIK 10

GAMES



DANNFALD 12

POINTS



DANNFALD MARWICK WILKINSON

TRIES



DANNFALD MARWICK

KILGOUR

ASSISTS



WATTERS DANNFALD KILGOUR

MAN OF MATCH



FORSYTH KIRKWOOD MUIRDEN