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LEITH RUGBY

BT Edinburgh Shield

LEITH RUGBY
V
NORTH BERWICK

11 NOV 2017
leithrugby.com



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 high in 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 3rd XV. 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.

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**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 Muir 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, Craightonny 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 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

