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# Leith RFC

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Leith Rugby 7s  
Saturday 12 April 2014  
#Leith7s



## Captain's Corner Welcome to Leith 7s 2014!



**Doug Watters**

Everyone at the club is pleased to be hosting a 7s after a gap of seven years and we're delighted that eight sides have accepted our invitation to participate.

With teams from the East, West and Caledonian leagues competing, we feel the regions are well represented and we've got a couple of invitational teams and a rugby league side on show for good measure. The 7s will feature Cup, Plate and Shield finals, so there's a lot of silverware to be fought for. Obviously we'll be hoping for a repeat of 2007, when the home side emerged victorious, but most important today is that the event is a big enough success to ensure Leith becomes a permanent fixture on the 7s calendar.

It's been a big year for the club, following the East League title in 2012/13. The end of the season sees us in 8th position, which we should be disappointed with as I think we're better than a couple of sides above us. The table doesn't lie though. Now our younger guys have had a year to get used to this level - there's undoubtedly been a step up - we know it's a level at which we can aim for the top. Dalkeith and Berwick were the benchmark and both have been deservedly promoted - our guys need to emulate the discipline and structure these sides demonstrated as we seek to improve next year. I have no doubts we will, the chief reason being the long-awaited return of our 2nd XV this season. It had been 10 years since the club last put out a 2s, and to do so in itself was a sign of the great progress being made by Leith Rugby, while a 28-19 in their first fixture at Murrayfield Wanderers in January was a real lift to the club. Our intention is to field the 2s more regularly next season and there will be an intensifying of competition at the club, as well as more punters in the bar. Guys want to play for this club because we play and develop our own, (everyone wears the same socks) and it's something we're rightly proud of. This is testament to the coaching and beliefs of head coach Eric Jones, who has put in a phenomenal amount of work again this year, and to whom the players owe even greater commitment next year.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the players for their efforts this year, as well as everyone who helps out at the club including the committee, bar staff, tea ladies, supporters, raffle organisers to name a few. A final and special thank you to 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.

Back to the 7s, and here's hoping the weather stays dry, we see some great action, plenty tries, and all the clubs and their supporters enjoy the day. It's a pleasure to have you all along to Leith Rugby Club.

Thanks to Ballboys Max Bowman and Robbie Greenan

## Leith 7s: 2007 Revisited

Leith last hosted a 7s in 2007, and with the host club fielding four of the six sides, including Leith A (Scottish), Leith B (Internationals), Leith U-18s and Old Boys side, the Spring Chickens, there was always a good chance a home team would prevail.



**Leith U-18s**

Local rivals Portobello RFC and Inverleith RFC also participated and after several hours of battle, it was Leith Scottish who triumphed in a pulsating final against Portobello. Current club captain Doug Watters led a team also including current first teamer Willie Cook to victory, whilst Blair Skipper was voted Player of the Tournament. We're delighted the club is again hosting a 7s, and an expanded and a more inclusive one at that!



**Portobello wins the Plate**



**Victorious Leith Side**

Referees Paul Cyphus, Rod Glass, Alexander Gordon-Smith and Tony Reilly



Hosting our first 7s event since 2007, the club has consolidated its position in RBS East Division 2, following the East 3 title win in 2012/13. The end of the season sees us in 8th, which we are slightly disappointed with, as a couple of potential victories got away from us - but they all say that don't they!

Season highlights include a last minute win at home to Earlston in September, and everyone enjoyed the big cup win at Inverleith in March. Perhaps the biggest plus for the club in 2013/14 has been the rebirth of our 2nd XV after a long absence and it's great that the club is developing in this way. More competition for places and a spot by the bar afterwards!

**Player to watch** Craig Smith, who captains the side this weekend, has played all over the back line this season and excelled from 9-15.

## Leith Rugby



## Hyndland RFC

Hyndland RFC are based in Glasgow's West End playing their home games at Scotstoun Stadium, their home for the last 76 years which they now share with Glasgow Warriors.



Hyndland currently play in RBS West Division 4. It has been a mixed season for the club this year. After a strong start to the league campaign, Hyndland suffered a miserable January and look set to miss out on promotion. A season highlight was a 15-12 victory away to old foes Cowal, Hyndland's first victory "over the water" in Dunoon in 15 years.

**Player to watch** Nicky Gillan. A full-back with safe hands and a superb step. According to hooker Joe Halley, Nicky "can slalom through the defences like a slow motion Stuart Hogg!"

Founded in 1901, Lismore RFC is one of the oldest clubs in Edinburgh. Playing in RBS East Division 2, 'More currently run two senior men's and a ladies team, as well as delivering youth rugby in the local schools. There is also excitement off the field as a new 1st XV pitch is being created.

Hampered by injuries, Lismore have not enjoyed the best of seasons and in the words of team manager, Michael Wilson, "The rugby gods have not been smiling on us. Indeed on one Saturday we had 45 players unavailable through injury. If we had been able to field our strongest team on a regular basis we would have been more than competitive in all the games."

**Player to watch** Scrum-half Graham Hepburn was influential throughout 2013/14, including a man of the match performance in the Penicuik win.

## Lismore RFC



Fife Southern was formed in 1999 following the amalgamation of Rosyth and District rugby club and Dalgety Bay rugby club who were suffering from a decline in numbers, coinciding with the downscaling of the Naval bases and dockyard. The maroon was taken from the Rosyth shirt and the black from Dalgety Bay giving the clubs colours. Graeme Fleming was the First President of the new club, and Ronnie Masterton the first captain.

Leith played at Rosyth in pre-season and after a warm welcome in Fife are looking forward to returning that hospitality. The Sharks, coached by Graham 'Smudge' Smith finished 6th in RBS Division 3 Midlands in 2013/14.

**Player to watch** Stand-off Sam Green has impressed this season and will be orchestrating things for the Sharks this weekend.

## Fife Southern



## Penicuik RFC

Penicuik RFC celebrated their 90th year this season. The first season in 1924/25 proved to be an auspicious start, recording 15 victories from 22 games. The club also made its first venture into the 7s game at the Peebles tournament that season. Penicuik hosted their first 7s tournament in 1965 and this hugely popular event continues to be held annually. The club has enjoyed many notable successes and has provided exceptional players to the game including Grand Slam winning Scotland captain Jim Aitken.



Penicuik continue to promote the sport to all ages and have a thriving youth section, with a few of the players on show today being an example of that.

**Player to watch** Centre Simon Horrell had a good season in 2013/14 and will be looking to take that form into the 7s circuit.

The Occasionals first got together 4 year ago when a team pulled out of the Penicuik 7s and we got some boys down who fancied a game. They didn't get off to a dream start losing their first match. However The Occasionals did progress to the final in the ladies shield where they were narrowly beaten by a strong Dunbar side.

The Occasionals then decided to play 7s as a group of mates rather than individual clubs. Last year they played at Edinburgh Northern (Semi Finals - Big Cup), Penicuik (Semi Finals - Big Cup), Edinburgh 10s (Lets not talk about it), Walkerburn (Group Stages) and Rugby Rocks 7s (Winners - Open Level.)

**Players to watch** Jack Forrester, big strong and fast ball player and Ross Buchanan, who is super quick, tackles anything and gels the team together.

## The Occasionals



Edinburgh Eagles were founded in 1998 and entered the Scottish Rugby League Conference (SRLC) finishing runners-up in their first season. The Eagles are the most successful team in the SRLC, winning nine of the last fifteen titles. 2013 saw the Eagles finish 3rd in the Scottish league and missing out on a place in the Grand Final.

The Eagles squad will feature Scotland International Nick Broere and Scotland A player of the year Gareth Walker. The side also features Leith players George Nixon and Robert Stitt and are coached by Stuart Henderson who has recently returned to the club following a period in Australia.

**Player to watch** Nick Broere has played with North West Wolves (Melbourne) and will be out to impress in the shortened form of the union code.

## Edinburgh Eagles RL



## The Spring Chickens

After turning out in our 2007 event, the Leith Old Boys 7s, rebranded as 'The Spring Chickens,' will be looking to go one better than last time out last time out when they scooped victory in the Shield.



The squad was still being pieced together (almost literally in some cases) at the time of going to print, however we're expecting to see the 2000 league-winning captain, Derek Greenan, as well as members of the 2003 league championship winning side including Tam Bennett, Nigel Walker, Bruce Tyler and Richard Organ. With Royal Marine Doddie McHardy and tough-tackling Kiwi Tom Scott also in tow, you'd better run fast!

**Player to watch** Keith Aitchison. Don't worry if you don't watch long serving club stalwart 'Aitchy' as he'll tell you about it in the bar later anyway!

Linlithgow RFC was first convened in 1922, however was reformed after a period of dormancy in 1970. Linlithgow Reds have played in RBS East 1 East Division 1 over the last few years, finishing 5th in 2013/14. New coach Dale Lyon has encouraged the club to become involved in 7s tournaments this season and they are enjoying the chance of playing the shortened version of the game.

In their first tournament at Haddington 6 different players scored tries in the first match. It is the Red's teamwork and work ethic that defines their 7s squad. They played in the Lasswade tournament last night, so hopefully the legs/heads aren't too tired/sore today!

**Player to watch** The form of play-maker Euan "Les" Richardson will be key to the Reds game-plan today.

## Linlithgow RFC



## Leith 7s Participating Sides

Pool A	Pool B
Leith Rugby	The Occasionals
Hyndland RFC	Edinburgh Eagles RL
Lismore RFC	The Spring Chickens
Fife Southern RFC	Linlithgow RFC
Penicuik Rugby	

## Schedule

12.00	Leith Rugby v Fife Southern RFC	-	Pool A
12.17	Lismore RFC v Penicuik Rugby	-	Pool A
12.34	The Occasionals v The Spring Chickens	-	Pool B
12.51	Edinburgh Eagles RL v Linlithgow RFC	-	Pool B
13.08	Hyndland RFC v Fife Southern RFC	-	Pool A
13.25	Leith Rugby v Lismore RFC	-	Pool A
13.42	Linlithgow RFC v The Spring Chickens	-	Pool B
13.59	Penicuik Rugby v Fife Southern RFC	-	Pool A
14.16	Leith Rugby v Hyndland RFC	-	Pool A
14.33	The Occasionals v Edinburgh Eagles RL	-	Pool B
14.50	Lismore RFC v Fife Southern RFC	-	Pool A
15.07	Hyndland RFC v Penicuik Rugby	-	Pool A
15.24	The Spring Chickens v Edinburgh Eagles RL	-	Pool B
15.41	Linlithgow RFC v The Occasionals	-	Pool B
15.58	Penicuik Rugby v Leith Rugby	-	Pool A
16.15	Lismore RFC v Hyndland RFC	-	Pool A

16.42	3rd Pool A v 3rd Pool B	-	Shield Final
16.59	2nd Pool A v 2nd Pool B	-	Plate Final
17.16	1st Pool A v 1st Pool B	-	Cup Final