



**LEITH RUGBY 1ST XV**

**V CORSTORPHINE COUGARS**

**SAT 01 SEP | ACADEMY PARK | 3PM**

**TENNENTS EAST REGION DIVISION 2**



**#BELEITH**

## CAPTAIN'S CORNER



*"Pre-season events have been extremely positive"*

**Ben Wilkinson**  
**Club Captain**

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to Leith Rugby Club for the opening fixture in the 2018/19 season. Today we welcome Corstorphine RFC to Academy Park, and I'm sure we can expect a highly exciting, competitive game with the Leithers looking to make a winning start to the new campaign. Pre-season events have been extremely positive and it is fantastic to see so many players retained from last year's squad, with also the influx of a substantial number of new recruits over the summer. Two good performances from both 1st and 2nd XV in the pre-season fixtures will hopefully carry on into the season. The lads have put in tremendous work behind the scenes and on the training pitch throughout the summer and everyone in the club is keen to build on the momentum generated so far.

For the 1st XV, it will be a very tough league once again with a host of teams looking at challenging for promotion. The 2nd XV have are now competing in East Reserve League 2 which will see more consistent and competitive rugby. This will be invaluable in encouraging both player and club development. Speaking of development, our youth rugby development at Leith has grown substantially and has seen around 900 children getting involved in rugby delivered by our coaches in schools in the last year, and now with the introduction of Friday after school and Sunday morning rugby, there is a direct pathway from school to the club.

I'd also like to welcome Kevin Greenan as Head coach. Kev has been with us since beginning of preseason and has fitted in perfectly. We all look forward to continued success with him at the helm. Off the pitch, individuals have been working hard to support rugby at Leith by securing sponsors which help both senior and junior rugby. I would like to thank our sponsors Dropkick Murphys, Capital Document Solutions and Excel Mobile Valeting for their support and of course we are always welcome to new sponsors so if you, your business or you know of a business which can support us, please feel free to contact me.



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# LEITH v TRINITY

Leith arrived in good spirits after a good pre season and training games and started the brighter team, moving the ball well. After a good break from Andrew Paterson, who was tackled just outside the Trinity 22, Leith recycled the ball but knocked on. The referee awarded a penalty to Leith for Trinity No9 being offside, then after some back chat to the Referee he marched them 10 metres back. As Leith tried to take a quick tap the Trinity No 10 cynically impeded the Leith players and was yellow carded.

From the resulting tap penalty, Marcos Teixeira broke several tackles to score. Conversion good Kenny Dannfald for 0-7. From the resulting re-start Andrew Paterson managed to win the ball and break away, but after being tackled did not have enough support and was penalised for holding on.



This seemed to be the pattern of the first half. Trinity did increase their share of possession but good defence from Leith's centres Craig Williamson and Doug Watters snuffed out any threat. Trinity No9 put a good kick deep into Leith's half. Pat was there to retrieve the ball and with 3 Trinity players bearing down on him he had the foresight to fix them allowing Andrew Baxter to sweep around to receive the ball and clear their lines. Late in the half Leith just could not get anything going with the backs hardly seeing the ball. Trinity were awarded a penalty in Leith's 22 and with it being the last play decided to go for posts unfortunately their kicker missed. Half time 0-7.

After a stern talking to at half time Leith went on the attack but Trinity's defence was strong again but as much due to Leith making some poor decisions. Trinity made a break up the wing but a good tackle from Paterson first the Watters put the player into touch. The referee decided it came off a Leith player and awarded Trinity the line out. But indiscipline again from Leith by throwing the ball away to stop a quick throw resulted in a penalty. Trinity took it quick their forwards took it on and scored in the corner. Conversion good. 7-7.

Leith tried again to get on the front foot but just never got started. Trinity made a break and despite a strong tackle from Paterson and counter ruck from Watters and Neil Paterson, the referee awarded a scrum to Trinity, from which Trinity moved the ball wide and scored in the corner. 12-7. Leith were forced in to a few changes with Liam Wilkinson on for the limping Paul Haggon, and a change at flyhalf with Craig Smith in for the injured Kenny Dannfald, Ross Marwick on for Nick Andrews, and prop Bruce Connelly was replaced by Stewart Wilson. This gave some more impetus to attacking rugby from Leith with Marwick making a break down the wing. With the tryline approaching he was tackled 6 meters out. The crowd were screaming for a high tackle and penalty try. But the Referee only awarded a yellow card to the Trinity winger.

Leith kept attacking the Trinity try line. With the ball being released to Paterson he made a break for the try line but another illegal tackle resulted in a penalty to Leith. Leith took a tap with the forwards keeping the ball but when the ball did get released it was too late and the Trinity defence were on top of Leith's backs they recycled the ball and were awarded another penalty. With the last play the forwards picked and drove near the line, but an accidental offside decision saw the game ended by the referee and a final score of 12-7 to Trinity.

**Try:** Marcos Teixeira

**Conversion:** Kenny Dannfald

**Man of the Match:** Andrew Paterson



# LEITH v ED. NORTHERN

In the last pre-season outing ahead of the new season getting underway, Leith made the short journey to Inverleith Park to take on an Edinburgh Northern side who they will compete against in this year's Tennent's East Reserve League 2. It's a big year for the 2nd XV with their elevation from the East Region Development league into the league system proper, and Saturday's game would prove a great test against league contemporaries. A host of late summer holidays and some pre-kick off readjustments due to guys on call did not detract from what was a strong side fielded for the 2s, and led by standoff George Lees, and directed around the park well by scrum half David Somerville, they began the brighter in the lunchtime sunshine. While Northern shaded the early territory, some excellent defence grew into long phases of possession for the Leithers who were keeping the



ball alive in promising fashion with some slick back play and offloading through the middle from the pack. A penalty won 30 metres out saw the (somewhat controversial on the sideline) decision to go for goal, but Somerville pulled the kick just wide. Leith were carrying well, particularly in the pack and led by Matt Allison, but were unfortunate with injuries with debutant flanker Euan Humphreys pulling up with a tight hamstring, Matt Rea leaving the field with a shoulder injury, before the skipper Lees was forced to leave the field following a heavy collision with an ankle complaint.

Despite the reconfiguration, particularly in the backs - where Will Tuft moved into the 10 position with back rowers Jamie Drummond and David Meadows (delighting in) filling the centre positions - Leith continued to dominate possession, and following a sharp blind side movement were unlucky not to score as wing Peter Duncan was bundled into touch 10 metres out, having burst onto a smart offload. Leith would win the lineout however, and remain camped in the Northern 22 for the remaining 5-10 minutes of the half. Following an infringement from the hosts, Leith tapped the penalty and a series of forward thrusts saw Michele Crolla adjudged to been held up (although this reporter stood behind the goal line saw the ball on the turf!). Leith were not deterred however and after the forwards drove the scrum and then committed defenders with a series of pick and goes near the line, the ball was shipped wide through the (spicy) centres to fullback Andy Barr who drew the last defender and put the supporting Tuft in near the corner. Somerville with the conversion for a 7-0 half time lead.

The second half saw our hosts regain their composure and play their way back into the game with some nice rugby. Following the concession of two Northern tries, aided by the introduction of a couple of senior players, Leith did give themselves hope with the try of the game as following a great ruck steal, second row Allison broke several tackles to race 80 metres to score. Northern would win the wrestle in the remaining minutes to run out 24-12 victors, and we wish them well for the league season (in all games bar those vs Leith!) ahead.

**Man of the Match** for Leith was Matt Allison, but there were a host of excellent performances, boding well for the both the 2nd and 1st XV seasons ahead.

\*Brevity of second half reflections a result of this reporter having to leave the game at half-time.



22  
September

Leith Rugby Club  
PRESENTS

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## PLAYER PROFILES

### NICK ANDREWS



Wing  
25  
North Berwick, 18  
North Berwick RFC,  
RGU, Gordonians,  
Waid FPs  
Edinburgh Rugby

### PLAYER PROFILES

Position  
Age  
First club  
Former clubs

Pro team

Fullback / Wing  
25  
Duns, 8  
Duns, RGU  
Edinburgh Rugby

### ANDREW BAXTER



**To kick off the new season, the programme team sat down with two new summer signings, flatmates Nick Andrews and Andrew Baxter, to get their impressions of life at Leith so far - and their thoughts on the season ahead.**

#### How/when did you come to join Leith?

**AB:** Joined this season after moving up to Edinburgh from Duns and joining in with the tartan touch and finding out about the club though it

**NA:** I moved to Leith in Feb 2018 after graduating RGU. Wanted to join a local club. Trinity are the worst and Leith RFC was a stone through away

#### What are you enjoying most so far about playing at Leith?

**NA:** The Players and everyone involved with the club. Everyone has been so welcoming and friendly. I wanted to join a club with a good group of guys that wanted to play a good standard of rugby and have a laugh doing it. I certainly made the right choice.

**AB:** The good attacking rugby and the banter within the team!

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

**NA:** There is lots of competition within the squad. Everyone will need to put in the effort to train to retain their position. The competition is healthy!

**AB:** Making sure the foxes don't steal my trainers at training!

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

**NA:** I would be Aussie John. I want his accent and his breakdancing skills.

**AB:** Yeah Jon Derrin, for his sick breakdancing moves!

#### Which one of your teammates would you bet on to win Love Island?

**AB:** Andrew Paterson to win

**NA:** What is Love Island and how do I get there?

#### Who'd go out first?

**AB:** Probably Fergal

**NA:** Whoever has the worst chat? So, Baxter probably.

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

**AB:** My work's!

**NA:** Andrew Baxter. I hate that guy

#### Who was your favourite player growing up?

**AB:** Tommy Bowe

**NA:** Stephen Larkham

#### Describe your playing style in no more than 5 words.

**AB:** Fast paced and elusive

**NA:** Play Good. Don't play bad

**1ST XV**

**26 GAMES**  
**13 WINS**  
**13 LOSSES**  
**642 POINTS**  
**103 TRIES**

**2ND XV**

**23 GAMES**  
**8 WINS**  
**15 LOSSES**  
**183 POINTS**  
**31 TRIES**

**3RD XV**

**1 GAME**  
**0 WINS**  
**1 LOSS**  
**19 POINTS**  
**3 TRIES**



**DANNFALD 23**  
**WILSON 21**  
**FORSYTH 21**  
**LAWRIE 21**

**DANNFALD 191**  
**MARWICK 85**  
**MCKINNEY 60**

**MARWICK 17**  
**DANNFALD 14**  
**MCKINNEY 12**

**WATTERS 14**  
**MCKINNEY 13**  
**DANNFALD 11**

**Best moment of your rugby career so far?**

**NA:** Playing against my brother at Aberdeen Uni 7s or playing alongside British and Irish Lion Nathan Hines at North Berwick

**AB:** Representing the Borders from under 15 to under 18 levels

**Most embarrassing moment of your rugby career so far?**

**NA:** Not having a cap for Scotland yet. So disappointed

**AB:** Receiving a yellow card against North Berwick and Nick Andrews catching it on film to remind me for eternity

**Which team are you looking forward to playing most this season?**

**AB:** Edinburgh Uni Medics

**NA:** Dunbar. It was always a fierce game playing against Dunbar when playing for North Berwick, so I look forward to beating them twice this season

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

**AB:** Any rugby results!

**NA:** Check how my former teams got on that day usually. Will check Man United scores just in case my pals need a shoulder to cry on as they have many times the last few years



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