

SERRANO & MANCHEGO

COFFEE · BAR · TAPAS



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



LEITH RUGBY

BT East Region League 2

LEITH RUGBY
V
EDINBURGH UNI MEDICS

21 JANUARY 2017

leithrugby.com





"The Leithers must register a bonus point win to make it into the top six."

Kenny Dannfald
Club Captain

Hello and welcome to Academy Park for the first time this New Year (unless you were at the Hogmanay party, but more on that later!).

After last week's cancellation against the Medics the game has been hastily rearranged due to its 'pre-split' significance on the league. Quite simply the Leithers must register a bonus point win to leap frog Edinburgh Northern and make it into the top six. Anything less than that and the Academy Park men will face the bottom eight and the chance to compete for the 'best of the rest' title. So I'm sure you're all behind me and the team as we aim to avoid the bottom eight and get closer to where we would like to be.

However despite knowing the permutations required, the boys have been working hard in training in the past few weeks to ensure that they are in a good position to register the win before thinking about a bonus point. Our opponents are not to be taken lightly despite a lower league position. They have had several close games against teams higher up the league and like Leith, not a stranger to a try or two, so full concentration from Leith will be required to get the win.

Away from the pitch the club is still recovering from a fabulous Hogmanay bash which saw around 90 revellers squeeze into the clubrooms, countdown the bells and toast the new year that arrived. Many thanks to Danielle Haggon and Craig Winton in helping me organise the night as well as our bar staff for the evening, Jim Smith and Russell Duncan (along with their helpers Robert Stitt and Craig Smith amongst others). It was a great night and we are already looking forward to the next one!

Keep your eyes peeled in the club house and on social media for information and details of our future events which are sure to be just as good!

YOUR AD HERE

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AND YOUR COMMUNITY**
LEITHRFC@GMAIL.COM



Kenny Dannfald

The game kicked off with Leith going up the hill with a gentle breeze against them, and it was the hosts who started the brighter but the Leith defence was functioning well and holding out Dalkeith's big runners. However the home team did leave with 3 points after an infringement around the breakdown outside the 22m. After some midfield play with both teams trading blows, the home team started to exert some pressure and despite a determined defence effort the numbers in attack eventually took their toll and the home team were able to score in the corner.

8-0 down and at this early stage the next score was crucial. With the bigger Dalkeith pack starting to tire midway into the first half, Leith were beginning to get some more joy in the midfield and making breaks. After some good runs from Andy Homer, Mike McLeish and Fraser Forsyth, Dalkeith were eventually called offside and Kenny Dannfald split the uprights from 35m meters out.

The game was finely poised, however after some poor Leith tackling the home team were able to slip in under the posts. In an expression of Leith's determination and fight Andrew Paterson raced off the line and was able to charge the kick down with a strong right hand. Leith did kick on from here and start to put some good play together with Wilkinson marshalling things in the middle of the park. Leith were stretching the defence left and right which eventually allowed number 8 Forsyth to burst through a hole on the halfway line. As he bore down on the 22 and with the covering defence coming across, he slipped a pass to the supporting Paterson who was able to touchdown under the posts. Dannfald added the extras.

Leith were more than in the game at 13-10 down, however in the last 10 minutes of the first half a couple of lapses in concentration let the home team in for a couple of scores, the latter right on the dot of halftime. This was a disappointing end to the half but even at 25-10 down Leith knew they were still in it, the Dalkeith pack would tire in the second half and there would be chances.

That indeed was the case and Leith were starting to put Dalkeith under more pressure within their own half. Good work from the likes of McLeish, Ollie Main, Stuart Wilson and Bruce Connolly ensured that the home pack wasn't having it their own way, whilst Dannfald and new Leithers Joel Doherty were keeping the Dalkeith backs on their toes. However it wasn't slick play that led to Leith's next try. After some good defensive play from Javier Hervas meant that a Dalkeith ruck on their own 22m was disrupted, a ball spilled loose he was able to toe it forward. Dannfald was the first to react for Leith and outpaced the covering defender to touch the ball down. He converted his own try and Leith had their tails up.

Leith had their foot to the floor and were determined to make it count in a period which could define the game. Leith were the ones to get the next score. From a quick tap penalty Paterson gave second row McLeish the pass and with the home defence in a bit of disarray he was able to slip through the tackles of one of the props and sprint in from 40 metres out. Once again Dannfald converted to bring the scores to 25-24 with 25 minutes of the game left to play.

Unfortunately for the Academy Park men, having got themselves back into the game there was once again a period of poor concentration, as the home team ran in three unanswered breakaway tries ranging from some good play in their backs to an interception from the halfway line. However credit to Leith as they kept plugging away, playing the remainder of the game in the Dalkeith half as they tried to get what could prove an important bonus point. It was not to be their day though as the ball was knocked on one to many times, and the game ended with Dalkeith kicking it dead on their own 5m line.



Andrew Paterson



Mike McLeish



LEITH HAWKS

Leith Youth Rugby Development (LYRD) was set up as a charity earlier this year to deliver rugby to children within the local Leith primary schools.

Following on from the initial delivery period a very successful Festival of Rugby was held in June at which 300 local children attended. The feedback from the day was incredible. From the short questionnaires handed out:

97% of the participants said they enjoyed the rugby sessions

91% said they wanted more rugby sessions

66% said they would like to attend an after-school rugby club

The second session of curriculum time delivery has already started with sessions taking place in five local primary schools involving upwards of 300 children. We have also helped deliver at some of the schools' Healthy Living weeks and after the October school break, LYRD has arranged to deliver curricular time rugby to S1 and S2 pupils at Leith Academy.

We are involved with Active Schools in the Friday afternoon coaching of early year secondary pupils and a primary school cluster club has recently been set up and has generated a great deal of interest.

LYRD is dependent entirely on contributions from charitable funds and trusts, private donations and our own fundraising.

Starting in February we look forward to delivering rugby to Primary 6 & 7 pupils in the Leith primary cluster. We will be delivering sessions at Lorne Primary, Leith Primary, Craigintinny Primary and St Ninians. This is the first time we have worked with Primary 7 pupils and we look forward to this being a stepping stone towards rugby at Leith Academy. We are also starting to delivery curriculum rugby to the S1 pupils at Leith Academy. Our afterschool clubs start



"Rugby is much more fun than football"

**Festival of Rugby
Attendee**



up again this week for both our primary cluster and secondary afterschool clubs. We're also looking forward to hosting a rugby festival at Leith Rugby after the 6 weeks of delivery at the primary schools. We plan to start Minis rugby on Sundays after the Easter break. We will be looking to create an opportunity for children to come along to Leith Rugby to participate in rugby and develop their skills. This is a really exciting time for Leith Rugby club youth section.

The Christmas raffle was a great success raising over £700 for the youth rugby development. Congratulations to all who won (full details on website or from Derek Greenan) and many thanks to all who bought and sold ticket.

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 LYRD 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 week we sat down with stand-off Ben Wilkinson and 2nd row Sam Davies to pose some questions, including getting the views of the Ulsterman and a Welshman on Scotland's prospect in the upcoming 6 Nations.

BEN WILKINSON



Position
Nationality
Appearances
1st XV 14

1ST XV

PLAYER PROFILES

2ND XV

SAM DAVIES



Position
Nationality
Appearances
2nd XV 4

What was your first rugby club gents?

BW: Malone RFC Belfast, age 5.

SD: Outside of school, it was Aboyne RFC (now Deeside) when I was about 14.

How did you come to join Leith?

BW: It was the closest club on Google maps. Came down with my pal Chris Johnson, and the first session was a fitness test!

SD: I heard they were looking for sub-standard, overweight 2nd rows and I was looking for some new drinking buddies.

Best moment in rugby?

BW: Being at the Millennium Stadium in 2009 for Ireland's 6 Nations Grand Slam win.

SD: Being thrown up and down by a bunch of honorary Welshmen in Beer & Skittles during Mike Brown's infamous tantrum interview after losing to Wales in the 2015 World Cup.

What's your night out tipple?

BW: Quite enjoy an IPA but as the night goes on you'll usually find me on the WKD blue.

SD: Green VK (aka Buffalo Champagne)

Did you make any New Year's resolutions?

BW: To never ever ever gamble again.

SD: To miss less tackles.

How do you think your teammates would describe you?

BW: Hopefully a decent fella. Decent craic.

SD: Big and daft?

Speaking of craic...who's was the best on the Player's Christmas night out?

BW: Everyone was great craic on the Christmas night out. My shout would be the phantom vomiter. The mystery still remains.

SD: Chris Moriarty and his size 10 flashing Tesco value Christmas jumper.

LEITH RUGBY V EDINBURGH UNI MEDICS 2PM ACADEMY PARK

LEITH LAST THREE

07/01/17 LEAGUE
DALKEITH 44 V 24 LEITH
17/12/16 LEAGUE
GALA 20 V 34 LEITH
10/12/16 LEAGUE
EARLSTON 29 V 38 LEITH

LEITH FORM



UNI MEDICS FORM



BT DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

LEITH 2ND XV V EDINBURGH
UNIVERSITY 3RD XV
12PM | ACADEMY PARK | LEITH

LEITH

K DANNFALD (C)	15
J DOHERTY	14
D ROBERTSON	13
A HOMER	12
J DERRIN	11
B WILKINSON	10
A PATERSON	9
L MCKINNEY	8
J HERVAS	7
O MAIN	6
T KIRKWOOD	5
M McLEISH	4
B CONNELLY	3
T LAWRIE	2
S WILSON	1

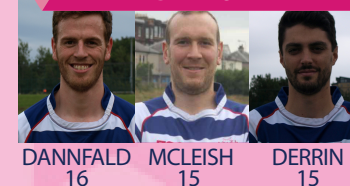
UNI MEDICS

D GARDNER	
T TRUTLAND	
A CRAWFORD	
H SEARLE	
F THOM	
N BELLAMY	
R OSBORN	
N BROWN	
C MCKEE	
T SEMPLE	
C WEIR	
H MILLAR	
D MACLEAN	
R WEIR (C)	
M KEEGAN	

16/17 BT EAST LEAGUE 2

#	TEAM	P	PTS
6	NORTHERN	13	35
7	LEITH RUGBY	12	31
8	LISMORE	12	24
9	INVERLEITH	13	21

GAMES



DANNFALD 16 MCLEISH 15 DERRIN 15

POINTS



DANNFALD 155 WATTERS 40 MCKINNEY 35

TRIES



DANNFALD 13 WATTERS 8 MCKINNEY 7

ASSISTS



WATTERS 12 DANNFALD 11 WILKINSON 10

MAN OF MATCH



WATTERS 2 MURPHY 2 MCLEISH 2

Which of your teammates would you want in your corner in a scrap?

BW: There's a few come to mind. Fraser, mad Eoin but I'll go with big Ross Marwick.

SD: Anyone but Ginge - I've seen him throw a punch. Bruce could help hide a body...?

And which of your teammates fancies themselves the most?

BW: Wee Andy Pat. Most guys turn up on a Saturday in a tracksuit, he normally busts out the designer gear and groomed hair.

SD: Big Fras.

What are your hopes for the rest of the season?

BW: Game today is a must win. It is essential we are competing in the top part of the league.

SD: ...to miss less tackles...

What do you make of Scotland's (and Ireland/Wales) prospects in the upcoming 6 Nations?

BW: Scotland will do better than previous years. England are the team to beat so I think whoever can beat England will win the competition. As for Scotland v Ireland? Ireland by 20 points :)

SD: My heart says Wales 1st and Scotland 2nd. My head says Wales v Scotland is more likely to be the wooden spoon decider.

Valentine's Day is also coming up. What are you getting the Mrs?

BW: Sorry it's a secret, just tell her to wrap up warm.

SD: I'll take her out for a nice meal with the vouchers she doesn't know she won at the Club's Christmas raffle.