



LEITH RUGBY BULLETIN

Official Publication of Leith Rugby Club



LEITH RUGBY VS PORTOBELLO

2PM. ACADEMY PARK. EAST DIVISION LEAGUE 1

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

I wish you all a warm welcome to Academy Park for the 2022/23 Leith Rugby President's Day.

Today sees us renewing our rivalry with our close neighbours, Portobello RFC, in an East Region Division 1 League match. The first game earlier this season saw Portobello come out on top. Hopefully today's game will be equally exciting with a reversal of the result in favour of Leith Rugby.

I take this opportunity to welcome the players and friends of the women's rugby team who have recently joined us and will be playing under the Leith Rugby banner. This is a momentous step forward in the development of Leith Rugby and rugby in general in Leith area. The addition of the women's team will provide a pathway for the young people who have been receiving rugby coaching at school and in the after school clubs from our two Youth Development Officers and their assistant coaches.

It has been a mixed season so far on and off the field but I am sure we can recover and go from strength to strength in the new year.

We have several events to come this year at Leith Rugby not least the Quiz night tonight and Ladies Day in March. Details of social events will be advertised in this programme and on our social media. I look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you for coming and supporting Leith Rugby and I hope you enjoy the day.

Jim Smith
President



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MEN'S CAPTAIN'S CORNER

A very warm welcome to everyone attending Academy Park today, and also to those following from further away, as we host our neighbours Portobello.

In our first meeting this season Portobello took the spoils 22-15 in a close game at Cavalry Park. I think it's fair to say we didn't play to our potential that day and I know the boys will be looking to put that right today.

Our 2s, meanwhile, will venture into the borders to face Jed Forrest. With only 7 league points separating the sides it promises to be a tightly fought contest for the first proper 2XV outing of 2023.

While rugby success is usually measured by results on the pitch, our newly formed Woman's Team represents a major step forward for our club. While it may be a few weeks before our woman's team take the pitch they have already had a massive positive effect at the club, especially during our joint training sessions. Very exciting times lie ahead for *everyone* at Leith Rugby.

Good luck to everyone pulling on a Leith top today and I'll hopefully see a few of you down at the club for our quiz night this evening!



PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Name : Thomas 'Choo' Lawrie

Position : Hooker

Joined the club : I joined the club in 2014 after attending the annual quiz night and being convinced to give rugby a go after stopping in high school

Sporting Hero : No hero in particular but a quote by Michael Jordan comes to mind, "I can accept failure, everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying"

Favourite food : Mexican or Italian

Pre Game Hype song: Lamb of God by New Colossal Hate

Fun Fact: I have had long hair since I was 14

Favourite Leith memory: promotion at the end of last season!

CLUB NEWS

Womens team - As you have no doubt heard, we have been able to launch our own women's team over the past month following on from the cessation of Liberton Ladies. We have been working with the team for a number of months to ensure a smooth transition and the team have already started training, with hope to have a match in the coming months. If you would be interested in playing, volunteering or sponsoring please get in touch

Sevens - Our Sevens again returns for another year on the 29th of April. A day that is always filled with fun, sun and faced paced rugby (that is if the 1 tonne titans get an invite!!). Be sure to put it in the Diary as it is one for all the family!

Doddie Aid - Well done to all of those who took part in Doddie Aid at the CLub, a total of 1769 miles were logged over the 6 week period with £360 raised for MND and Doddies foundation. Well done to Ross Johnston who just pipped youngster Abi Cook to the most miles with 241 miles.

Coaches needed - We need coaches! At all levels from coaching the minis and midi's on a Sunday morning to assiting with our Men and Women's teams at various levels and ways - if you would like to know more or get involved get in touch at Leithrfc@gmail.com

SRU Surveys - The SRU have released a number of surveys which we appeal to members to complete. The first one relates to concussion and your experiances of (<https://bit.ly/3YH7pq2>) and the second relates to a Scottish Goverment consultation on alcohol advertising in sport - this could have a major effect on all of Scottish Rugby and our club (<https://bit.ly/3XEYgwU>)

Club 100 - COngratulations to the afformentioned Thomas 'CHoos' Lawrie on making his 100th Leith appearance against Ross High. Choos has improved year on year since joining the club and is a real asset to the team, we hope to see him turn out for many more appearances. There are a few others reaching milestone appearances, potentially even today, so keep your eye out for those.



LEITH HAWKS



It has been a busy few months for Leith Rugby's Development team. In February we have been delivering rugby sessions to P7 pupils in 12 Primary Schools around the Leith area. We are running 4 Primary afterschool sessions with over 80 male and female players. We continue to run the Developing player programme at Leith Academy, the programme aim is a school of rugby model where S3 & S4 pupils take part in rugby sessions and strength and conditioning sessions. We now run pre-school strength and conditioning sessions. We continue to grow our partnership with Drummond High School running a lunch club with further curriculum delivery planned in the coming months.

On March 16th we are hosting a P7 festival at Leith Rugby club and are expecting 350 kids throughout the day. If you want to help out on the day please get in touch. Also on that week on Sunday 19th March we will be running a come and try session. The focus here is to welcome new players along to the club who are new to the game or looking to get back into rugby. The session will be free and running 10:30-12:00, Age 3 to U16's.

Over the course of the past few months our boys and girls Secondary School teams have been involved in weekly fixtures and festivals. Our girls teams were very excited about the announcement that Leith Rugby have now set up a Women's section and this will be a great pathway for all our your female players to aspire to.

We have 2 U15 boys players who have been nominated for the Player Development Hubs as they progress through Scottish Rugby's performance pathway.

We have a busy few months ahead and if you would like to get involved with coaching on Sunday's please get in touch we have over 120 youth members and are always looking for additional helpers when it comes to coaching and running fixture weekends.



Dates for the Diary at Academy Park

1st XV Fixtures

4th March v Duns

11th March v Forrester

18th March v Broughton

2nd XV Fixtures

4th March - Kelso Sharks

11th March v Edin Accies

25th March - Lasswade 2XV

Social Fixtures

26th Feb - Scotland V
France

11th March - Ladies Day

12th March - Scotland V
Ireland

NEXT CLUB EVENTS

The club will be hosting its annual Quiz night, following on from today's game and President Day celebrations. Tickets are £5 per person and teams of up to 6 are permitted. The quiz night is always great fun and new Quiz master James Nimmo has been hard at work creating a great night for all. So grab 5 friends and get along for a great night.

Our Ladies day on the 11th of March is fast approaching, and tickets are now live and can be purchased from the club's website. Tickets cost £20 per person but it's set to be a fun filled day that you won't want to miss out on. Along with all six nation games being shown at the club it's the perfect time to come down and join in on some of the fun.



LAST GAMES

Once again it has been a case of so near but yet so far for the Leith men. Due to the weather and the 6 Nations, playing time has been a bit limited of late but recently the Academy Park me took the trip along the A1 to play Haddington.

In a game where Leith managed to sneak the win in the fixture at home, the team knew it would be another difficult outing with the hosts out for revenge. And it proved to be that revenge was the dish to be served in the cruelest of ways. Despite tries from Ahmed Mohamed, Craig Smith and Michele Crolla, the men from Haddington managed to sneak the win by just 1 point.

The Leithers can though be optimistic that despite traveling to Haddington with a depleted squad a point was all that separated them against an established division 1 side



THIS WEEK'S GAMES

This weekend the 1st XV welcome Portobello to Academy Park for their second game this season. The previous battle saw Portobello leave victorious, but with only 7 points difference, it was a very close game. The 1st XV have really been building momentum in their past two games, and have been narrowing the gap to secure them a win. Could this be the week?

Our 2nd XV are travelling to Jedburgh to take on their 2nd XV, Jed-Forest (A). This will be the first time the two teams have met this season, as the previous game was called off due to insufficient players. Hopefully this will be a chance for the 2nd XV to get some points on the board.

RIFKIND & BROPHY
OPTOMETRISTS | EST. 1966

TEAM LINE UPS

LEITH 1ST XV v PORTOBELLO

HOME

AWAY

T LAWRIE	1.	E GIBSON
B CONNELLY	2.	W MURRAY
C FINDLAY	3.	G MILLAR
P BLASCO	4.	M WILSON
M CROLLA	5.	J BOYLE
J DRUMMOND	6.	S KNEESHAW
C ALLAN	7.	J COOK
S MCATEER	8.	L WILLIAMS
J RODRIGUEZ	9.	R WEIR
R JOHNSTON	10.	C BRITTEE-STEER
R MARWICK	11.	L HEPBURN
B WILKINSON	12.	F BOYTER
C SMITH	13.	O HEPBURN
L PALMER	14.	C BOYLE
A SLESSOR	15.	L CHAN
N PATERSON	16.	W WALLACE
D MULLINS	17.	A GLASS
R GREENAN	18.	C DEMPSEY
S GUESFORD	19.	F MACKAY

