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LEITH RUGBY

BT East Region League 2

A MINUTES SILENCE WILL BE OBSERVED BEFORE THE MATCH FOR BARNTON MEMBER ARTHUR ROSS

LEITH RUGBY
V
BARNTON

26 AUG 2017
leithrugby.com



CAPTAIN'S CORNER



"It is a huge honour to be asked to be captain of this great club"

Ben Wilkinson
Club Captain

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to Academy Park for the opening fixture of the 2017/18 season. Firstly it is a huge honour to be asked to be captain of this great club and I hope to emulate the success, both on and off the pitch, of my predecessors.

We're delighted to welcome the players, coaches and supporters of Barnton RFC for what we expect to be an 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's fantastic to see so many players retained from last year's squad, and an influx of new recruits (22!) over the summer. The lads have put in tremendous work behind the scenes and on the training pitch and everyone is keen to build on the momentum generated so far.

For the 1st XV it will be a tough league again with a host of teams looking to challenge for promotion. The 2nd XV have more fixtures this season, which is invaluable in encouraging player and club development. Youth development at Leith has also grown substantially with around 900 children getting involved in rugby in the last year, through our Leith Hawks primary schools delivery, which has now expanded into Leith Academy. Big thanks to youth coach Ross Johnston and the Leith Rugby Youth Development committee for their tireless work in this area. I'd also like to welcome back Eric Jones as Director of Rugby and thank the new player-led coaching team for all their hard work so far in preparing us for the season ahead.

Off the pitch, individuals have been working hard to support rugby at Leith by securing sponsors. I'd like to thank current sponsors Carrier's Quarters and club partners Everything 4 Rugby in particular for their support. We're always looking for more businesses to come on board, so if you can support us, please feel free to contact me.

Best of luck to all players who will wear the Leith colours this season and to the supporters, I wish you all a successful and enjoyable season both on and off the pitch.

LEITH RUGBY FIXTURES



SAT 26 AUG LEITH RUGBY v BARNTON
SAT 2 SEPT HAWICK LINDEN v LEITH RUGBY
SAT 9 SEPT LEITH RUGBY v LISMORE
SAT 16 SEPT EARLSTON v LEITH RUGBY
SAT 23 SEPT LEITH RUGBY v ED. NORTHERN
SAT 30 SEPT PENICUIK v LEITH RUGBY
SAT 7 OCT LEITH RUGBY v ROSS HIGH
SAT 14 OCT GALA YM v LEITH RUGBY
SAT 21 OCT LEITH RUGBY v ED. UNI MEDICS
SAT 28 OCT RDVC RFC v LEITH RUGBY
SAT 4 NOV LEITH RUGBY v DALKETH
SAT 18 NOV LIBERTON v LEITH RUGBY
SAT 2 DEC LEITH RUGBY v TRINITY ACADEMY
SAT 9 DEC INVERLEITH v LEITH RUGBY
SAT 16 DEC LEITH RUGBY v LANGHOLM

LEITH RUGBY TREASURE HUNT BACK FOR 2017!



Join us at Academy Park
for a night of fun,
exploration and challenges!



PRE SEASON ROUND UP

With so many new guys joining Leith this summer, and with the club moving to a player-led coaching setup, we've largely split the squad in half for the most of pre-season, testing new combinations, and allowing new and less experienced players to more quickly assimilate into the club alongside their new team mates. It's been a mixed bag result-wise, but most importantly it's allowed an equal number of minutes for all to get up to match fitness, and integrated the new guys into the squad. We may operate two teams at Leith, but it's very much a one club mentality, and we're looking forward to the 1st XV's BT East Division 2 kick off against Barnton today, and the 2nd XV's first competitive fixture on September 9th at Ross High in the East Region Development League. Before that though we've one more 2nd XV friendly fixture at Lasswade on September 2nd.



Pre-season started with two squads in action in a double header with Forrester and Kinross, and 48 guys pulling on the blue and white together, 14 for the first time. In a closely fought game with Forrester, the first side in action had a George Lees try to show for their efforts in a 28-7 reverse, before in the second outing, a loaded Kinross side were too strong for a Leith side which despite the result was a very positive experience with the team including 9 debutants, three of whom were playing their first game of rugby.

The following week Leith defeated Scottish Prison Service 45-14, with scores from scrumhalf convert Ross Kilgour, Ben Wilkinson, two apiece for Ross Marwick and Kenny Dannfald, and a debut try for Stevie Muiriden, while another Leith side joined up with Caledonian Thebans in a competitive game with Inverleith at Murrayfield, and another made the trip west to Paisley, where some poor defence resulted in defeat, and much to put right in the remaining two warmup games at Bo'ness last weekend and with the visit of HMS Somerset on Tuesday night.



Tries from Marwick (2), Kilgour (2), Lees and Craig Smith saw one Leith side triumph 34-0 in the howling wind at Bo'ness, while last time out a committed Leith went down 36 - 21 in an entertaining game at Academy Park with David Meadows (2) and Bruce Connelly scoring tries against the navy men.

All in all a successful pre-season campaign, in which 61 guys have worn the blue and white, including 20 debutants. Roll on the 2017/18 season, and successful campaigns for both the 1st and 2nd XVs.

#persevere



LEITH HAWKS

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

Starting in August we look forward to delivering rugby to Primary 4 pupils in the Leith primary cluster. We will be delivering sessions at Lorne Primary, Leith Primary, Craigintinny Primary, St Ninians and Hermitage Park Primary.

We are also starting to deliver curriculum rugby to the S1 pupils at Leith Academy. We have just begun a 6 week block of rugby for the boys and after the October school holidays we will be coaching the girls for 6 weeks. At the end of the delivery we will be running a rugby interhouse competition which has not been done before at Leith Academy.

Our afterschool clubs start up again Friday 1st September for the Secondary school boys while the Primary school cluster club starts back up again on Friday 15th September. In addition to this, we have now set up another afterschool club also on Fridays at St Ninians Primary school. This will start on Friday 15th September.

We're looking forward to hosting a rugby festival at Leith Rugby after the 6 weeks of delivery at the primary schools. The next rugby festival will be on the 12th October and will be for the Primary 4 children. We are still looking into the idea of having Minis rugby on Sundays in the coming months. 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.

During the summer Leith Rugby in partnership with Active schools ran a summer camp for the first time. We had a mixture of boys and girls from P4-P7. 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. We plan to run an easter camp and another summer camp next year.

Going forward we are starting to look at putting volunteers through rugby qualification courses so they can help out with game coaching at our rugby festival and assist the rugby development going on in the Leith area. In addition to this the LRYD were given money to spend on rugby equipment and with this we purchased rugby balls and branded Leith Hawks bibs which have been given to the schools.

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

For those of you that don't know what's involved it is an 11km trip from Stanley Mills to Perth on the biggest volume river in Britain. Certainly not for the faint hearted and we all wish Gordon good luck and a safe trip. Hopefully he'll stay dry! You can sponsor Gordon and help the youth rugby at www.everyclick.com/leithhawks

Derek Greenan is also in the process of organising a Christmas raffle that will be drawn in December. Some fantastic prizes have already been donated and we expect to be selling tickets for this soon.

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

