





LEITH RUGBY

BT East Region League 2

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

LEITH RUGBY BARNTON

leithrugby.com





"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, off 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 EARL STON V LEITH RUGBY

SAT 3 SEPT LEITH RUGBY V LEITH RUGBY

SAT 30 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 DALKEITH

SAT 18 NOV LIBERTON V LEITH RUGBY

SAT 2 DEC LEITH RUGBY V TRINITY ACADEMY

SAT 9 DEC INVERLEITH V LEITH RUGBY

SAT 10 DEC LEITH RUGBY V LANGHOLM



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 Muirden, 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.

LEITH YOUTH RUGBY DEVELOPMENT

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 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



EWAN MURDOCH

PLAYER PROFILES

STEVEN MUIRDEN



Openside Flanker 27 Edinburgh Royal High Costorphine

Outside Centre Position Age 25 Hometown Nairn Former club **University** of Stirling



When did you both start playing rugby?

EM: I started at Edinburgh Academy, as an 8 year old

SM: I was slightly later, I started playing at high school - Nairn Academy - when I was 13

How did you come to join Leith?

SM: Mostly location - I live around the corner! I came along to the club's Tartan Touch sessions over the summer, enjoyed it, and looking forward to getting back into rugby now EM: I'm location too - wanted to play for a club closer to home than my last one

And what are you enjoying about the club so far?

EM: The welcoming atmosphere. When I first came along there were a lot of new guys, some who hadn't played much before, and all players, regardless of skill level or experience were encouraged to join, with a lot of the existing squad doing their best to make them feel welcome and taking time out to help them develop their skills.

SM: The craic with all the lads and the laid-back but tough training

For those who haven't seen you play, and no pressure but....which pro player do you play like?

EM: Jacques Burger, but not on account of the crooked nose. More the total disregard for personal wellbeing and safety

SM: Lomu!

What is your favourite moment of your rugby career so far?

SM: Mine is winning the Highland 7s with Nairn

EM: Winning the league and promotion at my last club, Royal High

LEITH RUGBY V BARNTON 3PM ACADEMY PARK

LEITH 21 V 36 HMS SOMERSET **BO'NESS 0 V 34 LEITH** PAISLEY 71 V O LEITH

PRESEASON

LEITH 45 V 14 PRISON SERVICE

LEITH 0 V 43 KINROSS

LEITH 7 V 33 FORRESTER

LEITH FORM



BT DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

LEITH 2ND XVV FIFE SOUTHERN 1.30PM | MURRAYFIELD

BARNTON LEITH

K DANNFALD 15 D SHERMAN R MARWICK 14 C BATHO S MUIRDEN 13 S SIMPSON (C) R ALLEN 12 KWATTERS A PATERSON 11 C FERGUSON **DWATTERS 10 M SCOTT** RKILGOUR 9 A HAYNES

F FORSYTH 8 A REEN GAITKEN 7 A FRASER

R FINLAY 6 D SUTHERLAND LMCKINNEY 5 KWILLIAMSON

N PATERSON 4 E CULLEN JO'NEIL 3 A HICKS

CWINTON 2 RHANNING SWILSON (C) 1 DWILLIAMSON

TLAWRIE 16 JMARKHAM PHAGGON 17 KMURRAY M TEIXEIRA 18 C MENGHAM

D MEADOWS 19 RWHITTON EMURDOCH 20 G DOIG

GLEES 21 PALLANSON FMCNAMARA 22 RBUCHANAN

16/17 BT EAST LEAGUE 2A

#	TEAM	Р	PTS
3	TRINITY	5	59
4	DALKEITH	5	56
5	HAWICK LINDEN	5	52

LEITH RUGBY

GAMES*



POINTS*



DANNFALD WATTERS MCKINNEY 193

What are your hopes for this season?

EM: To secure a place in the 1st XV and continue to work on personal performance objectives

SM: Just to play regularly and get some Ws!

It's your competitive debut this weekend - looking forward to it?

EM: I'm really looking forward to playing at a competitive level again, after

DANNFALD WATTERS

MCKINNEY a fairly disappointing last year at my last club where I was injured a lot, missing the majority of games. I can't wait to experience the pre-game excitement again, and challenge myself to outdo my opposite number. SM: Just looking forward to playing my first league game in a while and hopefully we can do enough to get the win against what will be a strong Barnton team.

And finally, as one of the new guys at Leith, tell us something interesting your team mates don't know about you yet?

EM: I once performed in a musical at The Fringe! (Despite further questioning, this is all Ewan would reveal for now - quick, someone buy him a few pints)

SM: I was named after the place I was born (Stevenage) - imaginative parents!

* Statistics refer to season 16/17

TRIES*



ASSISTS*



DANNFALD WATTERS WII KINSON

MAN OF MATCH

