

OLRFC



Saturday, February 15th 2020 | Old Leamingtonians RFC Vs Woodrush RFC 2:15pm KO



Photography courtesy of Tim Nunan

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WELCOME

A warm welcome to Bericote Road on the occasion of this season's second Patrons' Lunch We extend this hearty greeting to all management, players, supporters and guests from our friends at Woodrush RFC.

I'd like to thank Dennis Fisher for once again organising a superb lunch for over 85 patrons, members and guests. Hopefully another Dennis won't interfere in today's game which at the reverse fixture earlier this season saw the much needed sub suits in action in a close encounter with Woodrush winning 22-12.

With 3 league points between us I hope we will see a highly entertaining rugby match but with one obvious result! The First team had a rest week last weekend so we are hoping that the niggling injuries and knocks we seem to keep getting will have had a chance to settle and they will all be back to full fighting fitness. Despite the presence of the big storm last weekend we managed a pretty full range of fixtures across all the sections of the club. It was nice to see the Medics' side out in force on Saturday and the Ladies managed a creditable draw on the Sunday in the teeth of the gale.

The big news is a double, both regarding the Colts. Firstly their great win in the National Cup over Hinckley last Saturday, taking them forward to the final 8 of the Cup, and ready to take on anyone in the country. After being on the road in all the previous rounds to Dudley, Lichfield and Stourbridge, they finally played in front of a large home crowd who were thrilled to see the quality of the win. The team and their management played the conditions perfectly. They certainly have all done us proud. Round 5, the quarter finals are scheduled to be played on the 14/15 March.

Secondly another massive congratulations to four of our colts, Sam Bayliss (Prop), Ed Righton (Flanker), James Crabtree (Scrum Half) and Archie Semple (Full Back). A final drill down to a 23 man match day squad will see our Midlands lads play against one of the other three England regions (North, South West and South East) at Stourbridge this Sunday, with the ultimate reward being an England U18s Cap if selected. Along with successes in the other age grade teams and the upcoming strength in depth in our mini and junior sides, the continuity for Old Leamingtonians rugby club looks very healthy.

Remember to keep Friday 20th March free when the Ladies' section is hosting bingo at the club. Check out the Club's Pitch Hero website www.pitchero.com/clubs/oldleamingtonians where section news, match reports, photos and result are archived.

Lastly, please read the Club Development section, exciting news for our club.

So, as usual, can I wish you all an enjoyable afternoon here at our wonderful Crofts facilities, and ask that you respect the officials and players in the true tradition of OL's. See you in the bar after, I'm the one with the empty glass.

Phil Eales
Chairman



#	Team	P	W	D	L	PP	PA	FC	TS	LB	PTS
1	Rugby Str Andrews	18	13	0	5	405	149	277	10	3	64
2	Old Leamingtonians	18	10	0	8	330	194	319	13	3	54
3	Barkswell & Bubb	18	11	0	7	375	155	219	8	3	55
4	Letchworth	18	9	1	8	328	126	13	6	0	40
5	Coventry Welsh	18	8	0	10	267	262	8	6	2	40
6	Woodrush	18	8	0	10	218	342	122	5	1	38
7	Old Leamingtonians	18	7	0	11	319	380	49	6	1	35
8	Stoke Old Boys	18	6	0	12	341	334	13	7	4	35
9	Alcester	18	5	1	12	252	285	64	3	5	31
10	Manor Park	18	4	1	13	254	374	120	6	3	29
11	Burford	18	4	0	14	276	429	143	3	0	29
12	Berkswell	18	3	1	14	146	326	158	0	0	18

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Bericote Road, Blackdown, Leamington Spa CV32 6QP

Round One

Saturday 1st February


 **Wales vs Italy** 

14:15 KO

 **Ireland vs Scotland** 

16:45 KO

Sunday 2nd February

 **France vs England** 

15:00 KO

Round Three

Saturday 22nd February


 **Italy vs Scotland** 

14:15 KO

 **Wales vs France** 

16:45 KO

Sunday 23rd February

 **England vs Ireland** 



15:00 KO

Round Two

Saturday 8th February

 **Ireland vs Wales** 

14:15 KO

 **Scotland vs England** 

16:45 KO



Sunday 9th February

 **France vs Italy** 



15:00 KO

Round Four

Saturday 7th March



 **Ireland vs Italy** 

14:15 KO

 **England vs Wales** 

16:45 KO

Sunday 8th March

 **Scotland vs France** 

15:00 KO

Round Five

Saturday 14th March

 **Wales vs Scotland** 

14:15 KO

 **Italy vs England** 

16:45 KO

 **France vs Ireland** 

20:00 KO



COACH'S CORNER

Adam Canning gives us his views:

Welcome back to The Crofts after a mini winter break in the M3WS schedule. The squad haven't been to Dubai but a piss up at Mini Golf in Coventry will hopefully have had a similar impact on morale.

Last time out against OC's was a disappointing day. After a very encouraging opening spell, in which we scored a fantastic try from a driving maul, we were on the end of a good hiding in all honesty. OC's are going to be promoted and showed us the level we need to be at in terms of physicality and accuracy if we have any ambitions to do the same any time soon. The most disappointing aspect of our performance was the defence - an area we have vastly improved on overall in recent months. The difference between doing it week in week out versus doing it every other week is the difference between the top two and us at the moment. We are good enough to compete on our day but our day has to become more regular!

Woodrush are the visitors today and it's a great opportunity to revenge a frustrating defeat in the reverse



fixture earlier in the season. We probably had more than 80% of both possession and territory but couldn't break down their aggressive defence and then let them off the hook too often when we were just starting to apply the pressure.

We have had a great week of training and the effort from the lads in the week continues to impress the whole coaching team. Let's hope we can all enjoy the fruits of their labour with a win this afternoon.

MATCH REPORTS

League: Women's NC 1 West Sunday 2nd February 2020

Fixture: Old Leamingtonians RFC Ladies XV v Five Ways RFC Ladies XV

Result: Old Leamingtonians RFC Ladies XV 5 - 5 Five Ways RFC Ladies XV

Venue: The Crofts, Bericote Road

On Sunday 2nd of February Old Leamingtonians Ladies took on Five Ways at home. Old Leamingtonians were gunning for the win as last time they played Five Ways they took a massive defeat.

Five Ways kicked off, Old Leams ran the ball straight back to them and almost scored on the left. Unfortunately they were unable to get over the try line but OLS continued to attack and a try was scored by Aleksandra Czyz on the right wing. No conversion was made.

Five Ways restarted, OLS back in their faces again, but a penalty was given to Five Ways. OLS managed to get a turn over and received a penalty in their favour. The ball was lost by but Five Ways were quickly pushed into touch.

Another penalty was given this time against OL's, and it was kicked out into touch. Old Leams won the line out and continued to dominate. They were camped out in Five Ways 22 and almost scored before a knock on in the left corner. After several phrases of play Five Ways were given a scrum where the ball was out quickly to the backs. OL's were up

quick in response resulting in the ball being knocked on. Persistence by OL's in the Five Ways 22 resulted in a high error count from Five Ways due to conditions. Half time whistle blew. 5-0 to Old Leams.

Leams restarted the second half and were up in Five Ways half quickly. Several penalties were given against OL's. Old Leams managed to turn over the ball several times before yet another penalty went against them. Five Ways gained possession and made a break for OL's half before being tackled in to touch by new player Grace Standbridge. Five Ways come back hard at OL's and score after several phrases of play. Conversion missed.

Old Leams set up quick and ran back at Five Ways to finish the remainder of the game camped out in Five Ways 22. The final whistle blew with the game finishing a draw at 5-5.

Old Leamingtonians next game is away against Rugby Lionesses on 23rd of Feb.

Report by Vicky Lewis

MATCH REPORTS

League: Colts National Cup Round 4 Saturday 8th February 2020

Fixture: Old Leamingtonians Colts XV v Hinckley RFC Colts XV

Result: Old Leamingtonians Colts XV 20 - 10 Hinckley RFC Colts XV

Venue: The Crofts, Bericote Road

OLs Colts Proceed to Round 5 (Quarter Finals) of the U18s RFU National Cup

OLs for the first time in this prestigious tournament were allowed a home match, after travelling in previous rounds to Dudley, Lichfield and Stourbridge.

As the wind began to increase in intensity ahead of Storm Ciara, the match commenced at the Crofts to decide who would be group 4 winners of the RFU National Cup and therefore one of the top eight U18s (Colts) teams in England.

Hinckley kicked off the game against the wind. Inevitably the ball was just short of travelling 10 metres but OLs decided to play on and muscle their way towards the opposition 22. An early penalty within sight of the posts was too good an opportunity to give up and a comfortable kick by Archie Semple saw the three points go up on the board.

OLs dominated the play again from the restart and within minutes were back in Hinckley's 22. More hard work from the forwards resulted in a powerful Sam Bayliss try. The wind proved too much for the kick and the score moved to 8 - 0.

Hinckley got the better of the restart and won several penalties to bring them twice within 5 metres of OLs try line but the defensive intensity of the home team kept them out on both occasions. For the remainder of the half both teams battled hard with OLs finally coming out on top 2 minutes before the whistle with a try under the

posts from Lewis Mellor. Two extra points were added with a straightforward kick by Semple making the score 15 - 0.

With all subs swapped for the second half, OLs once again took it to Hinckley and despite the headwind were back over the goal-line after 10 mins with a maul that was eventually deemed to have been held up. Not to be disheartened OLs were again over the try line on the 53rd minute with Haynes dotting down far out from the posts.

The score was now 20 - 0.

Not to be out done, Hinckley came back at OLs with a sustained attack and kick through leading to a scrum not far from the OLs line. The resulting passage of play led to a Hinckley try. The conversion by Wilson was missed making the score 20 - 5.

With a renewed spirit, Hinckley caused OLs some problems and with the penalty count mounting, forced another try in the 64th minute. Once again the wind made conversions difficult and the kick was missed.

Old Leamingtonians 20 - 10 Hinckley, which was in fact the final score.

The last 6 minutes felt like 20. Both teams attacked with a fierce intensity matched by equally physical defence. OLs came within 10 metres of scoring, only to be turned around and then see the Hinckley scrum half racing down the wing, dodging one tackle before being brought down by an almost impossible tackle from Alaraic Haynes in what was potentially a game saving moment. OLs kept up the defence and had a few attacks of their own and successfully ran down the clock to secure the win and a place in the quarter finals.

Round 5 (quarter finals) scheduled to be on the 14/15 March.

Report and photo by Jeremy Jackson



MATCH REPORTS

League: Midlands 3 West (South) Saturday 1st February 2020

Fixture: Old Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV v Old Coventrians RFC 1st XV

Result: Old Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV 10 - 47 Old Coventrians RFC 1st XV

Venue: The Crofts, Bericote Road

OLs kicked off in bright sunshine and with a strong wind at their backs immediately pushed OCs into their 22.

Within two minutes of the start of the match Old Leamingtonians scored a push over try touched down by scrum half Bradley James, who followed the score with a conversion from wide out on the right of the pitch.

The lead was short lived however as OCs gained good ground through fast distribution of the ball down the threequarters and with the home defence missing tackles the visitors scored an unconverted try to reduce the arrears on the six minute mark. The conversion against the strong breeze fell short.

At the restart OLs kicked long again and OCs failed to secure the ball. From good forward pressure by OLs inside the OCs 22 metre area the visitors conceded a penalty in front of the posts which James converted to move OLs into a 10 points to 5 lead.

From this point on OCs took control of the game, with the OLs defence having an off day missing defensive tackles. Whenever the home forwards did gain possession, loose passing saw the ball returned to OCs who capitalised by scoring two more unconverted tries before the interval going in at the break with a 15 points to 10 lead.

The second half was dominated by Old Coventrians who, now playing with the wind, kept the OLs defence at full stretch. The OLs Pack were more than holding their own and having a good day in the tight and set scrums. Good

possession was provided to the backs but time and time again the ball was kicked away into the wind ceding possession to OCs and providing them with numerous opportunities to create scoring movements. The heavier and stronger OCs backs created problems for the home side and too many missed tackles allowed OCs to run in six more tries without any response from OLs. With only one of the nine tries scored being converted OCs left The Crofts with a 47 points to 10 bonus point win.

There is no league game next week for OLs who next entertain Woodrush on 15th February when club Patrons and Life members are in attendance for the Patrons Lunch. There is a game at The Crofts next Saturday when the Colts entertain Hinckley RFC in round 4 of the National Cup, a game well worth coming along to watch. Kick off 2.0pm.

Report by Den Fisher and photos by Tim Nunan



TODAY'S SQUADS

Today's referee is Billy Richards

Club colours: Gold and Royal hoops

OLD LEAMINGTONIANS 1ST XV

1. Mike Robertson
2. Sam Button
3. Kai Cott
4. Tom Gover
5. Big Ollie Wright
6. Ollie Sarginson
7. Harvey Broadbent
8. Andrew O'Toole
9. Toby Lord
10. Bradley James
11. Tom Eales (c)
12. Henry Reynolds
13. Ciaran O'Connor
14. Liam Wellings
15. Callum Semple

REPLACEMENTS

16. Harris Priest
17. Rhys Cory
18. Sam Brittain

Chairman of Rugby:	Craig Ellis
First Team Manager:	Reece Jones
Coaches:	Adam Canning Tom Cruse Ben Harris
Physio:	Emily Hickman

WOODRUSH 1ST XV

1. Ciaran Dougan
2. Liam Wallace
3. John Deeks
4. Caleb Whittle
5. Ollie Hartnett
6. Dave Ingram
7. Anton Taylor
8. Lewis Lawlor
9. Luke Boden
10. Steve Goode
11. Jem Lilley
12. James Evans
13. Jordan Maddocks
14. John Paul Board
15. Aaron Higgins

REPLACEMENTS

16. Ed Lorna
17. Tom Morris
18. Sam Jones

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OLRFC Home Fixtures 2019/20

Bericote Road, Blackdown, Leamington Spa CV32 6QP

Men's First Team Fixtures

August 2019 Friendlies

17th Aug Barkers Butts
22nd Aug Pinley

September 2019 - 15.00 KO

7th Sept Broadstreet 2nd XV
28th Sept Coventry Welsh

October 2019 - 15.00 KO

19th Oct Manor Park -
Patrons Day

December 2019 - 14.15 KO

7th Dec Alcester
21st Dec Berkswell & Balsall

January 2020 - 14.15 KO

11th Jan Ledbury

February 2020 - 14.15 KO

1st Feb Old Coventrians
15th Feb Woodrush -
Patrons Day

22nd Feb Rugby St Andrews

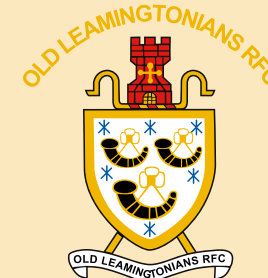
29th Feb Stoke Old Boys

March 2020 - 15.00 KO

28th Mar Bedworth

April 2020 - 15.00 KO

18th Apr Burbage



Ladies' Team Fixtures

September 2019

8th Sept Cannock Lionesses
15th Sept Drybrook

October 2019

13th Oct Hucclecote

November 2019

17th Nov Rugby Lionesses

January 2020

5th Jan Sutton Coldfield

February 2020

2nd Feb Five Ways Old
Edwardians

March 2020

1st Mar Greyhound

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SECTION NEWS

News from the M&J Section:

Last Sunday all the minis were due to play Kenilworth RFC but unfortunately our fixture was cancelled due to Storm Ciara. This Sunday they play away at Old Coventrians.

Under 13s Match Report

Blustery conditions, horizontal rain and two strong local teams culminated in a great morning of rugby at Leamington RFC, as Old Leamingtonians U13's travelled over the fence to play the local derby. Both teams had a strong line up, Leamington were stronger at the breakdown and OL's benefitted from passing rugby, with some strong running, resulting in a win overall on the morning.

Under 14s Match Report

A couple of weeks ago saw our Under 14 team arrive at Stratford for our Warwickshire Cup Plate semi-final. After an initial try by Stratford I'm afraid our boys couldn't make it through their strong defence and Stratford continued to score. We did manage to score one try but things just weren't on our side and we were, unfortunately, heavily defeated!

Under 15s Match Report

The team has progressed to the Warwickshire plate final with a comprehensive 38 - 0 win over Alcester RFC in the semi final. The boys controlled the game from the outset and the hosts were overpowered in the forwards, allowing our half backs to control field position. Alcester played with real commitment and pushed our team hard but came off second best. With our hosts wishing us well for the final we left happy and content with the result. Now on to play our opponents from last year's final Earlsdon on the 5th of April 12:00 at Barker Butts.

Fixtures for Sunday 16th February:

Minis are away at Old Coventrians
U13, U14 & U15 are hosting Old Coventrians at home
U16 – away at Market Harborough

Liz Wilding
Vice Chair, Minis and Junior Section

Future Social Events for your new Calendars!

End of Season Family Party at the Crofts – 26th April 2020

R4H Beer & Gin Festival – 8th/9th May 2020

End of Season Black Tie Ball – 20th June 2020
Chairman Mini and Junior Section



ARRUNDALE
FINANCIAL PLANNING



News from the Ladies Section:

Join Us For Training on Mondays and Wednesday at 19:30pm for Women's Training and Sunday at 10:30 and Monday at 6:45pm for Girls'.

Do you live in Leamington Spa, Coventry, Stratford Upon Avon, Nuneaton, Warwickshire or the West Midlands? Do you want to play rugby for the oldest established ladies team. OLs Ladies are recruiting players for the remaining 2020 season.

Gemma Lewis
Ladies Chairperson

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Once again on behalf of Old Leamingtonians I extend a warm welcome to everybody attending The Crofts today.

I would particularly like to welcome the players, management and supporters of Woodrush RFC for this home league encounter, today's match officials and all those Patrons returning for their second pre-match lunch of the season.

Very much like ourselves, being a club initially formed from school old boys, Woodrush formed a club in 1966, albeit somewhat later than us. Old boys of Woodrush High School approached Graham Williams a Master at the School for his advice and guidance on how to set up a rugby club. Graham was duly elected Chairman and was later followed by another Welsh 'missionary' Nelson Wollacott, before one of the 'old boys', Mike Betts took over the reins. Their influence during these early years enabled good foundations to be built both on and off the field.

Woodrush Old Boys first match was played on the school pitch on Saturday 29th October 1966 against Redditch. Unfortunately they lost 8-10 but Bobby Gibbs secured the honour of becoming the Clubs first try scorer. The Club relied heavily on the School for its facilities and still today maintains good relationships with its birthplace. The Head Teacher of the school had always been President of the Club and the first three Heads, Mr Bingham, Mr Toogood and Mrs Kirkham were all active in their support. In 2001 the Head teacher, Ms Warnes, accepted the invitation to become the first Patron of the club and at the same time Mike Betts became President until succeeded by Ken Hussey in 2012 who continues in this key position today.

The club logo derives from Woodrush High School. When the school opened in 1957 the two green field sites it was built on were 'Woodrush Field' at the front of the school and 'Houndsfield Field' at the rear. The school took its name from the Woodrush Field. Occupying the central part of the school badge is the Worcester Black Pear Tree standing on the banks of the river Severn. This motif was taken from the Worcestershire coat of arms, the two hounds, Talbot hounds represent the Houndfield estate on which the greater part of the school was built.

The Peacock Inn was the original watering hole until 1968 when they hired a pitch from Wytham Community Association in Silver Street and used its other facilities as their social base. During the 10th season, in January 1977, they purchased land at Icknield St, Forhill and built the present clubhouse and at the same time it was agreed to drop Old Boys from the title. To celebrate their 20th Anniversary, additional changing rooms



and a lounge bar were built. In 1994 this was followed by building a small gym and additional shower facilities. The same year mini/junior rugby started and has developed into a thriving section of the club with over 120 members regularly taking part on Sunday mornings. A significant number of players in the senior sides have come through the juniors.

The current Woodrush side opened their 2019-20 season with 3 wins before suffering back to back defeats against Old Coventrians and Berkswell & Balsall. They bounced back at the expense of our lads at Icknield Street last November in a weather affected game securing a 22pts – 12pts win at the final whistle. Since then like us they have experienced mixed fortunes and now sit just above us, 5th in the league, by a 3 point margin. A good win today for our lads could see us leapfrog them.

Our Colts played a superb match last weekend in testing windy conditions at The Crofts to claim a hard-fought 20pts – 10pts win against strong opponents Hinckley in the National U18 Cup. Very well done lads and the very best of luck in the next round which I understand is scheduled for week ending 14/15 March. In addition I am sure you will join with me in congratulating all the lads from this group who have already turned out for Warwickshire or Midlands U18 training squads and those three who have gone on to be selected for the Midlands U18 match against North U18 at Stourbridge Lions tomorrow. Very well done all of you. Down to earth for today's game for the Colts however as they travel somewhat closer to home to Pinley for a Bob Coward League fixture.

Our Seconds have the benefit of a home fixture today against Barkers Butts Tanners as their original opponents Market Bosworth scratched through unavailability of players. A continuing worrying trend!

That's it for now but I hope that whatever the outcome of the matches today everybody enjoys their day at The Crofts with us.

Mike Hemming
President Old Leamingtonians RFC



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