

OLRFC



Saturday, April 7th, 2018 | Old Leamingtonians Vs Ledbury RFC 3.00pm KO

Photography courtesy of Tim Nunan



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WELCOME

Welcome to Old Leamingtonians, and a special welcome to the players, management and coaches of Ledbury, our opponents today.

We are looking forward to some exciting rugby now that the weather conditions are improving.

Results have been mixed during March, starting with a storming win over Bromyard RFC in front of a large home crowd of OL's members and patrons at the beginning of the month.

This was followed by another good win over at Alcester on the road, these wins have raised our promotion prospects for next season. However this was followed by a frustrating defeat by a late score against Dunlop, again an away game. An important win is required today to keep us in the promotion race. Remaining league matches –

14th April – Manor Park, Away 21st April – Old Coventrians, HOME

OL player, Jason Ashley finished his 12 game challenge, the final match being played here at the Crofts and ending in a 26-26 draw, which mucked up the win-loss stats. He raised a goodly sum for charity, had a great deal of fun and as a by-product raised the profile of the club with an article appearing in March's edition of Rugby World.

My final news is to note there has been much interest in our Old Leamingtonians' Facebook page, especially amongst older members. Photographer Tim Nunan has posted a large archive of images of players from the 1990's, including myself. We are eternally grateful for his coverage of games at all levels in the club, which he generously shares and also allows us to use in these programmes. He previously scanned a large number of prints from the film era of photography and although they have appeared previously elsewhere, the range of games covered and the passage of time make them all the more poignant. Well done and many thanks Tim, as always.

I hope as all of us do, that today sees an entertaining open game for all supporters to enjoy.

So, all that remains to be said is please support the players and officials in the true OL tradition, enjoy the game and as always, please join us in the bar after the game.

Phil Eales Chairman



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Midlands 3 West (South)

| # | Team | P | W | D | L | Pts | For | Ag | Diff | Pl | P | For | Ag | Diff | Pl | Form |
|----|---------------------|----|---|---|---|-----|-----|----|------|----|----|-----|-----|------|----|------|
| 1 | Rugby St Andrews | 19 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 14 | 0 | 5 | 535 | 285 | 250 | 79 | 1 |
| 2 | Old Leamingtonians | 19 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 4 | 13 | 0 | 8 | 505 | 345 | 160 | 85 | 1 |
| 3 | Old Coventrians | 18 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 1 | 8 | 488 | 513 | 176 | 88 | 1 |
| 4 | Singleton On Street | 18 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 12 | 1 | 5 | 482 | 325 | 158 | 81 | 1 |
| 5 | Alcester | 19 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 11 | 0 | 8 | 438 | 361 | 77 | 89 | 1 |
| 6 | Ledbury | 19 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 10 | 0 | 9 | 272 | 422 | 150 | 48 | 1 |
| 7 | Woodruff | 18 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 10 | 0 | 8 | 389 | 334 | 55 | 86 | 1 |
| 8 | Dunlop | 19 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 9 | 309 | 359 | 50 | 46 | 1 |
| 9 | Manor Park | 19 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 11 | 7 | 1 | 11 | 295 | 469 | 174 | 40 | 1 |
| 10 | Upton-on-Avon | 19 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 16 | 214 | 512 | 298 | 9 | 1 |
| 11 | Old Wharfedale | 19 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 18 | 309 | 629 | 320 | 21 | 1 |
| 12 | Bromyard | 18 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 14 | 236 | 384 | 148 | 18 | 1 |

MATCH REPORTS

League: Midlands 3 West (South) Saturday 24th March 2018

Fixture: Dunlop RFC 1st XV - Old Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV

Venue: Burnaby Road, Coventry

Result: Result: Dunlop RFC 1st XV 20 - 17 Old Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV

OLs had to settle for a losing bonus point despite scoring three tries to Dunlop's two from a game that should have been won. From the kick off it was apparent that Dunlop's game plan was to play a forward based game and the that worked well for the first fifteen minutes with OLs committed to defending valiantly. Despite all of Dunlop's efforts the OLs defence was strong and held out but suffered from a number of penalty decisions when in good attacking positions that allowed Dunlop to gain good territorial advantages. It was from one such penalty that saw the home side move deep into the OLs 22 metre area and from a won lineout a number of forward drives saw Dunlop score a converted try.

OLs strategy was to use the three-quarters whenever opportunities arose. This tactic was proving difficult for the home side to handle and it was only a number of slack passing moves that prevented an OLs try, but perseverance paid off when from a move that started well inside the OLs half their faster three-quarters moved quickly into the Dunlop half of the field and full back Ciaran O'Connor came into line wide out to cross for a well-constructed try. The conversion was missed.



With half time approaching and OLs being penalised too often for infringements in the rucks, Dunlop converted a penalty from in front of the posts to go into half time with a 10 points to 5 lead.

The second half saw a number of OLs substitutions and the advantage of the slope and it was back row substitute Felix Heath who levelled the score for OLs when he broke away from a good period of forward play to touch down near the posts. The conversion was successfully kicked by Ciaran O'Connor to move OLs into a two point lead at 10 - 12.

The next score belonged to Dunlop with another converted penalty making the score 13 - 12. The game was played out pretty evenly for the next quarter with Dunlop still using the forwards and OLs defending well and using good kicks to gain ground well into the Dunlop half of the field but too often the follow up play was disrupted by conceding more penalties allowing the home side to recover ground. That said it was OLs that scored next when full back Ciaran O'Connor fielded a clearance from Dunlop and set off a run that took him through the first line of the Dunlop defence and a kick over the head of the retreating home side saw him out pace the defenders and dribble the ball over the goal line to touch down for a well taken try. The conversion was missed but OLs had regained the lead at 10 - 17 with four minutes of play left.

From the re-start the ball was kicked deep into the OLs half of the field and the collection was fumbled. From the resulting scrum Dunlop gained control and began rolling mauls towards the OLs line. The OLs defended well but in defending gave away no less than four penalties and suffered a yellow card reducing the forward numbers. Dunlop elected to kick for touch and from the fourth line out and follow up mauls scored wide out in the corner to regain the lead. A conversion followed to give a final result of 20 points to 17 in favour of the home side.

Match report from Denis Fisher

MATCH REPORTS

League: Championship Midlands 2

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

Venue: The Crofts, Bericote Road

Result: Old Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV 51 - 12 Wymondham 1st XV

After a series of defeats in the past weeks Old Leamingtonian Ladies found their drive again this week putting in a strong game against Wymondham and walking away with a well deserved win on home soil, with the final score standing at 51 - 12.

Old Leams kicked off the match hitting Wymondham with a strong defence that left them being pushed backwards, this enabled the determined home side to turn over the ball and put in a fierce attack catching Wymondham off guard resulting in gaps in the defensive line which is all Hooker, Emily Worrall, needed to bring in the first try of the match and with a successful conversion from Captain Jen Vermeulen the score stood at 7-0 to OLs 5 minutes in.

Utilising the back line and taking advantage of the reeling defence put n by Wymondham outside centre Hannah Trenholm used her quick feet and dangerous pace to smash through the line and bring in another try for Old Leams.

Wymondham found their feet and pushed back with a frustrated attack. Old Leams kept them at bay but Wymondham number 8 had a lucky break and found her way to the try line bringing in the away sides first points of the match, with an unsuccessful conversion the score stood at 12-5 to OLs.

Old Leams responded with another ferocious attack determined not to let any more try's get past them. With some big hits from the forwards, the ball got out to the backs and some fancy moves later fly half, Lois Moulding, carried the ball over the line.

The forwards not to be left out had their time to shine with a strong scrum metres away from Wymondham's try line, number 8, Charlie Stephens, took no prisoners when she picked the ball from the scrum and ploughed through to the try line.

The final try of the first half was delivered by a quick pass from winger Chrissy Walding to Moulding who scored in the corner, bringing an end to the first half with the score standing at 29-5 to Old Leamingtonians.



The second half started with Old Leams receiving the kick. Both teams wanted a win which ensued a relentless game of back and fourth rugby, however Old Leams were the ones to push harder finding themselves yet again playing metres away from Wymondham's try line. Second row but acting as prop, Lorna Holloway, smashed through and scored her first try for Old Leams (after 4 seasons of playing for them).

The forwards continued to show their power with Stephens and Carrie Steadman bringing in two more tries.

An assault from Wymondham slowly brought them to Old Leamingtonians try line and with many minutes spent pushing hard they eventually slipped through to bring in their second try of the match with only minutes left on the clock.

But Old Leamingtonians had the last word; Captain Vermeulen took a quick tap penalty and evaded an exhausted Wymondham defence to deliver the final try of the match in the last play. The final whistle was blown and the score stood at 51 - 12 to Old Leamingtonian Ladies.

Back of match: Hatty Cumber
Forward of the match: Charlie Stephens
Report provided by Mikala Raines

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

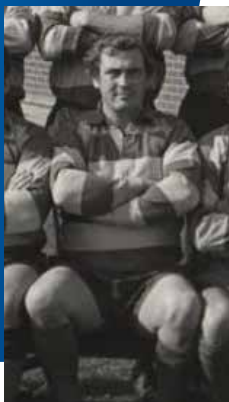
A warm welcome to everyone attending
The Crofts today where we entertain
Ledbury in the first team league
encounter.

Ledbury hosted OLs back in December and in a hard fought affair managed to secure a 21 points to 15 points win. Since then the OLs have lost twice whereas Ledbury have lost four of their games and uncharacteristically have suffered two losses to nil at the hands of Woodrush and Old Coventrians over the last two weekends. This leaves them on 48 points and 6th position in the league with ourselves still in 2nd place behind Rugby St Andrews despite our narrow loss away at Dunlop last weekend. The league is a tight affair and seemingly with any of the top 5 clubs likely to be in the mix to take the title at the end of the month.

In the league below, Stoke Old Boys maintain their quest for promotion with 16 wins from 17 matches and the heady prospect of 3 home matches to close out their season. I would be surprised therefore if they do not win the league on their current form. Above us in Midlands 2 West, Old Yardleians disappointing season cannot end soon enough as they are yet to record a win. The four teams above them however, Silhillians, Southam, Nuneaton Old Edwardians and Berkeswell & Balsall, are all engaged in crucial relegation fixtures up until the final weekend, several of these ties being particularly significant as they are between the clubs in question.

Our Ladies had a good win against Wymondham Wasps Ladies just before Easter which saw them gain ground in the league on the visitors and with a win from their final game could see them leapfrog them into 5th position. In an effort to secure progression to the Ladies team the OLs have relaunched Girls rugby at The Crofts and the first 'Free Your Inner Warrior' camp is set to be held for girls from 11-18 years of age at the club on the 14th April. We hope that this provides the necessary platform for girls to follow their rugby aspirations."

Our Colts, as you will probably know by now have progressed to the final of the Warwickshire Colts Cup where they will meet Stratford upon Avon Colts at Butts Park Arena on the evening of the 9th April. In addition they sit on the top of the Warwickshire Colts League



with just a couple of games to go. We obviously wish them all the best in both cup and league but whatever the forthcoming results there is no doubt that they have enjoyed a tremendous season to date.

I trust you will join me in sending our warmest congratulations to all those involved in their campaign whether as players, coaches or supporters.

I hope that everybody enjoys their afternoon with us today.

Mike Hemming
Old Leamingtonians President



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TODAY'S SQUADS

Club colours: Gold and Royal hoops

OLD LEAMINGTONIANS 1ST XV

1. Bill Johnson
2. Reece Jones (c)
3. Kai Cott
4. Ollie Sarginson
5. Hugh Melhuish
6. Pete Nancarrow
7. Tom Smith
8. Felix Heath
9. Toby Lord (vc)
10. Henry Reynolds
11. Ryan Dee
12. Simon Hemming (vc)
13. Dave Canning
14. Liam Wellings
15. Ciaran O'Connor

REPLACEMENTS

16. Harris Priest
17. Sam Brittan
18. Tom Eales

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Chairman of Rugby: | Craig Ellis |
| First Team Manager: | Currently vacant |
| Coaches: | Scott Conduit, Adam Canning and Craig Ellis |

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Senior Section - Player Sponsors Update:

OLRFC 1st XV Player sponsorship is gathering pace with support from many of clubs supporters. Individual Player Sponsors are as follows:

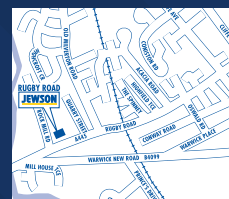
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Den Fisher
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Mike Hemming
Christie McNally
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Steve Smith
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Ray Griffiths

If you are interested in sponsoring a player please see Reece Jones 1st XV Captain.

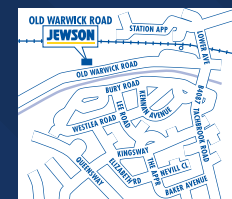
We are always looking for new support particularly for the U6s, U7s, U9s, U11s, and U15s. Please contact Jonny Shipton on 07476 405215 or Mike Vallance 07545 602029 if you are interested in supporting.



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SECTION NEWS

News from the M&J Section:

A warm welcome to the crofts from everyone in the M&J section, I hope you had a relaxing Easter and enjoyed a well earned week off.

We are now in the final run in of this season with only 4 weeks remaining, I cannot believe how quickly this season as has gone, with so many highlights it makes me very proud to be leading this wonderful section.

Our girls team has kicked off really well, thanks to all coaches for volunteering their support them, Naomi Draper (girls coach) is hosting an RFU #innerwarrior session on Saturday 14th April at the Crofts from 1030-1200 for any girls aged 11-18 (and Mum's!) please come along and support.

I was delighted to see that the Colts have progressed to the Warwickshire cup final and are playing Stratford on Monday April 9th at Coventry RFC Butts Park Arena, 1900 kick off, would be great to get lots of M&J support behind them.

Lucas Wager
Mini and Junior Chairman

Date for your diary - 17th March

Fixtures for the next two weeks as follows

8th April 2018

U13 - U16, Training at home (U15 week off)

U7 - U12, Hinckley Festival away

U6 Training at home

15th April 2018

U16, Old Sils home

U15, Chilton touring home

U14, Old Sils away

U13, Leicestershire cup home

U6 - U12, Training at home

M&J events & Activities

Friday 18th May - Summer Black Tie Ball

Sunday 13th May, Rugby4Heroes Mini Festival

Wasps 3 day Summer Rugby Camp, **29th August 2018** - Old Leamingtonians

www.wasps.co.uk/coachclass-programme/wasps-coachclass

Leicester Tigers 5 day Summer Rugby Camp

20th August - Leamington RFC

www.leicestertigers.com/community/rugby-camps/rugby-camp-finder

Mums and Daughters time to release the 'Inner Warrior'
14th April - Old Leamingtonians

www.play.buto.tv/DN2fy

MATCH REPORTS

League: Midlands 3 West (South) Saturday 17th March 2018

Fixture: Alcester RFC - Old Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV

Venue: Birmingham Road, Alcester

Result: Alcester RFC 17 - 27 Old Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV

This was a hard fought victory for Old Leams on a very cold, blustery day in a match that Alcester led until the last 15 minutes. The victory keeps OL's in second place in the league with four matches to go.

The match began with OL's adopting a game plan of 15 man rugby putting the home defence under pressure but a number of good scoring chances went amiss due to understandable errors in passing due to the icy wind and snowy conditions, but having seen the chances drift away it was OL's that took an early lead through a forward driven try touched down by Rhys Cory that went unconverted. Alcester then took control of the game for the next period of play, using their heavier forwards to good effect to put considerable pressure on the visiting defence which resulted in a forward driven try that was converted to take the lead. The game continued in the same vein with Alcester using forward pressure and OL's defending and it was Alcester that increased the lead with a second try that went unconverted.

With half time approaching a number of OL's backs moves saw the ball driven deeply into the Alcester 22 meter area and from good forward pressure that

followed, the home side was forced back over the goal line for back row Felix Heath to drop on the ball for OL's second try. The kick was successful and the first half ended at 12 points each.

The second half saw OL's facing a strong wind and the home side having the advantage of the wind at their backs. This they used to good effect to gain ground but despite the home forwards continuously driving at the OL's the defence the defence held firm until 20 minutes into the half when Alcester scored their third try with another forward drive. The kick was unsuccessful but moved the home side into a five point lead.

The final 20 minutes belonged to OL's. Keeping faith in the 15 man game plan the visitors were rewarded with three second half tries, all scored by right wing Paul Salvin. The first from a flowing move that saw the OL's forwards winning good ball inside the OL's half of the field and quick passing and interchange handling saw right wing Salvin appear wide out on the left to cross for the first of his tries. The kick was unsuccessful. The game continue to go OL's way with the visiting defence thwarting Alcester's forwards and winning good turnover ball, freeing up the OL's backs and from another move that began well into OL's half of the field, the ball was again moved quickly along the line for Salvin to score his second try, this time on his own wing.

Alcester came back into the game and put further pressure on the OL's defences but despite most of the late play being inside the OL's 22 meter area Alcester were unable to breach the defence and from a stray pass almost on time Salvin intercepted the ball and ran the length of the field to score his hat trick try and move OL's into a comfortable bonus point lead going into the final few minutes. The game ended with OL's 27 points to 17 victors to maintain the drive towards promotion.

Match report from Denis Fisher



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