

OLRFC



Saturday, December 16, 2017 | Old Leamingtonians Vs Manor Park RFC | 2.15pm KO



Photography courtesy of Tim Nunan

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WELCOME

Welcome to The Crofts, home of Old Leamingtonians RFC. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the players, management, coaches and supporters of Manor Park, our opponents today, in this our final home League game of 2017.

I am very pleased to announce that Old Leamingtonians have partnered with Entrust Care along with the support of Wasps Rugby Coaches to develop a Mixed ability team. We hope to develop a team of people who all want to come together and play touch/tag Rugby, to lead onto playing in local and regional tournaments with other like-minded teams. The team is open to everyone aged over 14 years of age, so whether they have played Rugby before or not, are male or female, have a disability or additional need you are all welcome. A great opportunity for siblings, parents etc to come together and play sport.

We are hoping that some of you will want to be part of this exciting new rugby team, whether you are interested in starting coaching, or an experienced coach, the first 12 sessions will be supported by Wasps Community Coaches, and will be helping anyone wishing to help in coaching our new team. We will be holding another taster session on Thursday 21st December 2017 following a successful session last week, unfortunately the weather put pay to the one scheduled this weekend, we will then launch the team on Thursday 11th January and then will meet weekly for the rest of the Rugby season. The main session will be 6pm-7pm, we will meet at 5.45pm and the session will end at 7.15pm.

Entrust Care Partnership will have volunteers present to support everyone to access the sessions, if 1-1 support is needed then this can be arranged on an individual basis. If you would like offer to help in any way or for more details please talk to either myself or Julie Liddington.

Other news: I would like to wish all the teams playing in cup games this weekend the very best. The Under 15's and Under 16's played Leamington yesterday, the Under 14's play Newbold on Sunday. Please come and support the upcoming young club players.

Sunday 17 December U14s v Newbold RFC KO 11am

You may have noticed a number of the players and supporters wearing the newly released Oddballs Old Leamingtonians hats. Please help support a great charity (and help yourself keep warm this winter!) by purchasing one from the club for £15. Enjoy today's game as we hope for a home performance similar to the entertaining match on Patrons lunch day. Support the players and please respect the match officials. It now only remains for me to wish you all, the compliments of the Season and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Phil Eales Chairman





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MATCH REPORTS

League: Midlands 3 West (South) Saturday 2nd December 2017

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

Venue: The Crofts, Bericote Road

Result: Old Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV 22 - 18 Dunlop RFC 1st XV



Old Leamingtonians recorded their fourth win in a row to move into third place in the Midlands 3 West (South) League with a narrow victory over Dunlop who were second in the table before the start of the game.

On a murky wet and dismal afternoon the game kicked off with OLs taking play to Dunlop and keeping the game inside the visitor's half of the field, hardly allowing them any possession and the pressure paid off after 15 minutes when the home side won a penalty inside the Dunlop half that full back Bradley James converted. The lead was short lived however when an OLs infringement just inside their own half provided the visitors with a long range penalty conversion to level the scores at 3 - 3.

OLs continued to pressure Dunlop and with the home forwards gaining ascendancy the game was forced back into the Dunlop 22 metre area. On 25 minutes a turn over ball saw the OLs backs freed up quickly resulting in centres Dave Canning and Simon Hemming interchanging passes for Hemming to dive over for the first of OLs tries wide out on the left side of the field. Bradley James kicked an excellent conversion to move OLs into a seven point lead at 10 - 3.

Dunlop bounced back into the game but the OLs defence held firm until the 39th minute when the Dunlop pressure paid off with an unconverted try on the stroke of half time. The teams went into the break at 10 - 8.

The second half kicked off with OLs having a slender two point lead which was quickly wiped out when OLs

conceded a penalty in front of the posts inside their 22 that Dunlop converted giving them the lead at 10 - 11.

This spurred OLs into a higher gear and play was driven back into the Dunlop half of the field and with the OLs forwards having the better of the Dunlop forwards the game was camped inside the opposition 22 metre area. Following a number of forward drives, second row John Carlos drove over for OLs try number two. This went unconverted but put OLs back in front at 15 - 11.

The game continued with a passage of play in the centre of the field with both defences holding out and preventing any good scoring opportunities until following a good forward drive by OLs the ball was won just inside the Dunlop half and quickly passed out along the three-quarters to winger Liam Wellings. Taking the ball just inside the Dunlop half he outstripped the retreating Dunlop cover defence and finished off the move by hurdling the visiting fullback to touch down for a superbly taken try. This try was converted by Bradley James to move OLs into an 11 point lead going into the final 10 minutes of the game. Score at this point was 22 - 11.

Dunlop came back strongly and again took the game to OLs but the home defence held good with some decisive tackling. Unfortunately that defence was eventually breached for a converted Dunlop try five minutes from time and it was left to good solid defence play to enable OLs to end the game with a four point win at 22 - 18. Dunlop had to settle for a losing bonus point.

Report provided by Den Fisher

Photos by Tim Nunan

1.Simon Hemming

2 Liam Wellings



MATCH REPORTS

League: Women's Championship Midlands 2 Sunday 3rd December 2017

Fixture: Old Leamingtonians Ladies 1st XV v Lichfield Ladies 2nd XV

Venue: Floyd Field, Buckingham

Result: Buckingham Swans 1st XV 7 - 36 Lichfield Ladies 2nd XV



Old Leams ladies suffered a disappointing 7-36 loss against Lichfield ladies 2nds team at the weekend.

Within minutes of the game Lichfield were able to turn over the ball get it out to the backs and power over the try line. OLs responded with a strong defence that kept Lichfield at bay for a bit of back and fourth rugby however it just wasn't enough as Lichfield evaded OLs defence to score their second try of the match. Another try from Lichfield eventually ended the first half with OLs still not having any points on the board.

A strong start to the second half from Lichfield caught OLs out resulting in another early try for the visiting team. OLs upped their game putting on a strong attack with solid scrums and dominant line outs this was all enough to set captain Jen Vermeulen up to bring in a try for Old Leams with a successful conversion.

This success didn't last for Old Leams, with a lot of back and fourth rugby Lichfield managed to find the gaps in OLs defence and bring in two more tries to bring the full time score to 7-36 to Lichfield.

Back of the match: Louis Moulding

Forward of the match: Lorna Holloway

Report provided by Mikala Raines

League tables can be found on the OLRFC website, www.olrfc.co.uk

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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Season's greetings to everybody attending The Crofts today for our last home game of this year. Can I add a personal welcome to the players, management and supporters of Manor Park RFC., and echo Phil's good wishes.

Originally founded in 1960 the Manor Park club was formed by a band of former pupils of Manor Park Grammar School who had left the school and wished to continue playing rugby. In those days rugby in the Nuneaton area was dominated by Nuneaton RFC and the Old Edwardians. A few of their number ended up at Nuneaton RFC and began playing with their 3rd team, the Saracens. Around the end of 1959 after much discussion it was decided that it was time for them to set out on their own and Manor Park Old Boys was formed. They had no pitch, no shirts or a clubhouse and they ended up meeting on a regular basis at the Railway Tavern. One Tuesday evening they had a sort of General meeting and Manor Park Old Boys RFC was formed.

They applied to Warwickshire RFU for support in purchasing shirts but received a reply to the effect that no grants were available, but the then County President Col. Tom Clay sent them a cheque for £25 as a personal gift to help get them started. This enabled them to buy a set of shirts and they then set about trying to get fixtures, initially playing teams from Old Coventrians, Trinity Guild, Pinley and Rugby St Andrews. It was a good couple of years before they had a reasonably full list particularly as travel to away games proved difficult in those days.

Despite these difficulties and the accommodation problems of both playing and changing they have survived well beyond 50 years since their inauguration and have risen up the league structure.

Manor Park have won 3 of their league matches to date and sit 9th in the league having lost to Old Coventrians last weekend, but having previously beaten Woodrush, always a tricky opposition as we



know. We will be anxious to make less unforced errors than was made in our loss at Ledbury last weekend which spoilt a good run of form. After the recent snow the pitch is sure to be somewhat wetter underfoot than normal and I hope that these 'modern' players realise the importance of long studs!

Whatever the outcome I hope everybody enjoys their day at The Crofts today.

Mike Hemming
Old Leamingtonians President

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TODAY'S SQUADS

Today's referee is: Mr Jonathan Royals

Club colours: Gold and Royal hoops

OLD LEAMINGTONIANS 1ST XV

1 Kai Cott

2 Reece Jones (Captain)

3 Bill Johnson

4 Rhys Cory

5 Ollie Wright

6 Joe Talamini

7 Tom Smith

8 Felix Heath

9 Toby Lord (Vice Captain)

10 Brad James

11 Ciaran O'Connor

12 Simon Hemming

13 David Canning

14 Liam Wellings

15 Tom Eales

REPLACEMENTS

16 Craig Ellis

17 Peter Nancarrow

18 Mark Foley

Chairman of Rugby: Craig Ellis

First Team Manager: Currently vacant

Coaches: Scott Conduit, Adam Canning and Craig Ellis

MANOR PARK 1ST XV

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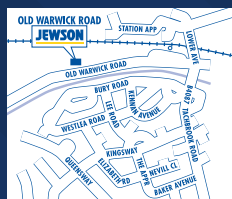


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MATCH REPORTS

League: Midlands 3 West (South) Saturday 9th December 2017

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

Venue: Ledbury

Result: Ledbury RFC 1st XV 21 - 15 Old Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV



Old Leamingtonians had to settle for a losing bonus point from a game that saw them squander numerous scoring chances through poor ball handling and tactical advantage far too often wasted.

From the start of the game when OLs kicked off, the match official penalised them for having a man in front of the ball and from the ensuing scrum on the half way line Ledbury quickly fed the ball out to the right wing for a home player to run almost unchallenged to score under the posts. With less than a minute on the clock OLs found themselves seven points down.

OLs playing down a slight slope then took charge of the game and the Ledbury defence was put under constant pressure, hardly being able to venture out of their own half of the field, but too frequently space and opportunity created by good forward pressure was wasted with poor passing and dropped ball.

Eventually, the forward pressure paid off when following good mauling, the ball was forced to the Ledbury goal line for Scrum Half Toby Lord to pick up and touch down. The conversion was missed. The game continued in the same mould and OLs appeared to have scored a further try when an inch perfect cross kick from Centre David Canning to Winger Liam Wellings was well taken. Wellings crossed the goal line only for the match official to determine to every-one's surprise that he had been fractionally in front of the kicker when the ball was played.

From the penalty Ledbury kicked into the OLs half and from a resulting maul the home side were awarded a penalty that was converted. OLs then continued to take the game to Ledbury but again created their own problems with poor handling and passing, allowing Ledbury to relieve the pressure time and time again.

Almost on half time with OLs still in command of the game a long kick into space from OLs was collected by a Ledbury player who was allowed to outrun the attacking OL forwards to score the second Ledbury try. This was unconverted but gave Ledbury a half time lead of 15 points to 5 having spent 80% of the first half inside their own half of the field.

The second half followed the same pattern as the first with OLs doing most of the attacking but indiscipline and poor handling again cost them dear. Ledbury converted two penalties to move 16 points clear before OLs began to play a more forward dominated game that created difficulties for Ledbury.

So often good possession won inside the Ledbury 22 metre area was followed by penalty decisions given against the visitors but the OLs pressure did pay off eventually with two forward driven tries, both touched down by captain and front row forward Reece Jones. Neither was converted but it pulled OLs back into a "one goal to win" situation. However, despite repeated pressure on the Ledbury defence no further score was made and OLs had to settle for a losing bonus point from a game that could have been won out of sight had some of the numerous scoring opportunities been converted into points. Final score was 21 -15 to Ledbury which saw OLs slip to 5th place in the League table.

Report provided by Den Fisher

Photo by Nick Crighton

1.OL forwards camped on Ledbury line

SECTION NEWS

News from the Colts Section:

Old Leams Colts go into the last game before Christmas at Stratford [on Saturday 16 December] on top of the Warwickshire RFU Under 18 League!

The eagerly awaited top-of-the-table clash against Old Coventrians on 2 December was postponed at the last minute as the appointed referee was switched to a Men's League fixture and no Society replacement could be found. Despite the best efforts of both Clubs to find a referee, this was to no avail, and the match was consequently postponed, with a new date pencilled in for 3 February 2018.

The weather relented sufficiently to allow last Saturday's home fixture with Rugby St Andrews to take place. In cold conditions, a hardy crowd was treated to a feast of rugby as OLs coasted to a win by 72 - 5. The returning Ben Hawkes was the star of the show running in four tries, closely followed by a Jake Pettifer hat-trick. The news that a surprise defeat for OCs at Newbold filtered through and OLs now top the league by two points.

Rich Pettifer
Colts

SPONSORSHIP NEWS

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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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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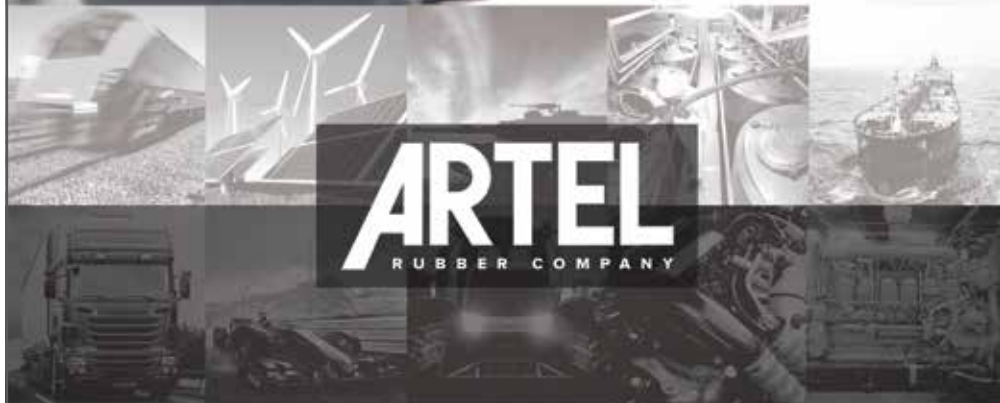
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