

# OLRFC



Saturday, October 19th 2019 | Old Leamingtonians Vs Manor Park RFC 3:00 pm KO

Photography courtesy of Tim Nunan



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# WELCOME

Welcome back to Bericote Road on this our Patrons Day after a long break since our previous home fixture. We extend a very warm welcome to all players, supporters and dinner guests from Manor Park RFC today. Nice to see some "old" familiar faces.



The autumn weather looks set to be fine, providing excellent playing conditions and I'm sure you'll agree the setting could not be more beautiful. Let's hope we are also celebrating England's progress to the semi-finals. Attendance at our World Cup screenings and pre-match breakfasts has been great and I would like to thank all those who have hosted behind the bar or in the kitchen as well as those who have been loyal viewers. Remember all remaining matches will be shown at the club, so keep your diaries open as England aim for the final!

After good wins in their first two league matches, the journey to Ledbury proved too much and the First XV lost a game they might have held onto. See Den Fisher's excellent match report elsewhere in this programme along with reports on the Cov Welsh game and details of fine wins by the seconds and also the Vets. Lastly whilst we are acknowledging the club's playing successes let's not forget the Colts who are enjoying another great start to the season. They play away tomorrow at Dudley Kingswinford in the National Cup.

Congratulations to Mini and Juniors Chairman Lucas Wager and his team on the very successful Festival a fortnight ago. The weather gods were kind apart from some blustery wind, but attendance was excellent. The club once again provided a great showcase for the youngsters. We are currently gearing up for our annual November 5th Bonfire night extravaganza which I'm sure will also be a success. Watch out for news on how you can help with catering, car parking, stewarding etc. and details about drop off for wood. Please see poster if you are attending with your family.

Finally in my list of thanks, I acknowledge the work of the double Dens, Fisher and Quinlan and all those who have helped prepare for today's Patrons' Lunch. We are grateful to the bar staff, caterers and others that allow us to enjoy this traditional event. Please support the raffle and refrain from throwing things at Crighton when he does his stand-up routine.

So it only remains for me to wish you all an enjoyable afternoon at the Crofts and ask that you respect the officials and support the players in the true tradition of OL's. See you in the bar after if you can get near.

**Phil Eales**  
Chairman

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**Sat 19th Oct**

England vs Australia 08.15  
New Zealand vs Ireland 11.15

**Sun 20th Oct**

Wales vs France 08.15  
Japan vs South Africa 11.15



**Sat 26th Oct**

Semi-final One 09.00  
Eng or Aus vs NZ or Ireland

**Sun 27th Oct**

Semi-final Two 09.00  
Wales or France vs Japan  
or South Africa

**Sat 2nd Nov**

World Cup Final 09.00



## COACH'S CORNER

### Adam Canning gives us his views:

Good afternoon and welcome to The Crofts for what is a very important game for the 1st XV.

We started the season well with two fairly convincing wins (in the end!), against newly promoted Burbage and Coventry Welsh, but these wins came at a cost with a number of key players added to our already long list of injuries.

Injuries are a part of the game and all teams at all levels will suffer but I've never seen anything like the bad luck we're having over the last 12 months. It does make you wonder as a coach if there's anything we can and should be doing differently in training but when you're only together for a few hours a week you have to rely on the players to be working on their strength and conditioning away from the club.

Injuries, however, are definitely not an excuse for our reverse at Ledbury last time out as we should have gone onto win that game after taking the lead in the 60th minute. It wasn't our day and we agreed that fitness and tackling lower were our key areas for improvement so hopefully we should benefit from two weeks of really hard work since then against an always physical Manor Park.



We agreed that we wouldn't get carried away when we won, nor when we lost, this season so there was no overreaction after the Ledbury defeat.

We've got a competitive squad of skilled players who are developing all the time so fingers crossed we will bounce back to winning ways today.

Enjoy your lunch, some average jokes and a good game of rugby.

## SECTION NEWS

### News from the Ladies Section

Join Us For Training on Mondays and Wednesday at 19:30pm

Do you live in Leamington Spa, Coventry, Stratford Upon Avon, Nuneaton, Warwickshire or the West Midlands, play rugby for the oldest established ladies team. OLs Ladies are recruiting players for season 2019/2020

Why us?

Women's rugby isn't new at OLs, women and girls have been enjoying playing competitively for 31 years, its in our DNA. We welcome new players of any ability, don't worry if you have never played before. Our 3 dedicated RFU qualified coaches and

friendly atmosphere will guarantee a great place to play rugby as well as a great place to have fun.

We have close links with local university team and local business like JLR with ladies playing for us. Over the years we have seen players like Heather Fisher Olympian, England 15s & 7s who dare wins SOS, Tracey Balmer-Langstone Ex Scotland Captain, Rugby legends Therese Kennedy Ex Ireland international, Lois Thomas (Moulding) Ex England 15s & 7s the list goes on...

**Gemma Lewis**  
Ladies Chairperson

# SECTION NEWS

:

This Sunday we welcome Droitwich to Crofts to play our Under 13s, good luck to our lads who have started the season really well. Our mini's are training at home after a fantastic competitive encounter last weekend against Kenilworth.

Our Juniors are off to a flying start with our under 16s victorious against Lichfield and Nuneaton away and a closely contested cup draw against Sutton Coldfield under lights at the Crofts. The Under 15s beat Nuneaton at home last weekend in terrible weather conditions, they face Droitwich away this weekend, good luck to them.

On Sunday 6th October we welcomed 700 players to the Crofts for our annual Mini Rugby Festival with 68 teams from 9 different clubs supported by an army of volunteers, my thanks to everyone for their support of this fantastic day, it was a delight to see everyone going away with a smile on their face.

Next Sunday we welcome the "Land Rover Cup" to the Crofts for Under 11s and 12s, this is always an excellent day with over 600 players competing for a place in the final at Twickenham. There is always lots of great competitive rugby on display so please pop down to the Crofts and show your support, all the action kicks off at 10:30

We have a number of events coming up this season, it's always fantastic to celebrate together, please come along and show your support.

Bonfire & Fireworks Party – Tuesday 5th November 2019

Christmas Party & Santa's Grotto – Sunday 15th December 2019

Wasps vs Harlequins Xmas Takeover Day – Saturday 21st December 2019

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

**Lucas Wager**  
Chairman, Minis and Junior Section



ARRUNDALE  
FINANCIAL PLANNING



## News from the M&J Section:

We are proud to highlight Chris McCarthy's report on the Mini Festival a fortnight ago.

"OLRFC Mini Festival "Sunshine and Smiles

Fantastic OLRFC Mini Festival full of sunshine and smiles from everyone involved

On Sunday 6th October 2019 Old Leamingtonians Rugby Club hosted yet another (11th) bonanza Rugby Festival for local Mini age groups. 68 teams from 9 different clubs had a marvellous day of tournament rugby involving all age groups from under 7's to under 12's.

In all there were around 700 players supported by an army of 70+ volunteers who very successfully managed the Car Parking, Catering, Marshalling and Refereeing at the Crofts on Bericote Road.

The rugby was run under the RFU core values of teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline and sportsmanship and was incredibly well supported by local businesses as well as Premiership Club Wasps who sent along two of their players, Sam Wolstenholme and Ben Morris. The Wasps players visited every pitch, talked to players and gave them real encouragement to support the game into the future.

At least 8 players from the OLs 1st XV were also engaged in spreading the rugby gospel across the whole of the Crofts domain and their contribution was much appreciated by players and parents alike.

A raffle with gifts donated by local businesses such as a signed Lions shirt, a Wasps shirt signed by all the team and Wasps match day tickets plus many other entertainment prizes raised £1000 which will be used to invest in the development of mini and junior players to assist them in making the transition to senior rugby.

The catering operation run by the volunteers served breakfasts and after that bacon and sausage burgers and tea and coffee all day. The weather was gentle autumnal sunshine for the whole of the tournament and all of the logistics ran smoothly.

Thanks Chris, and well done to all involved.

# MATCH REPORTS

League: Midlands 3 West (South) Saturday 21st September 2019

Fixture: Old Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV v Coventry Welsh RFC 1st XV

Result: Old Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV 45 - 19 Coventry Welsh RFC 1st XV

Venue: The Crofts, Bericote Road

Another six try haul saw OLs continue their good start to the new season with a comfortable win over Coventry Welsh but it was not as easy as the score might suggest.

The match kicked off under a blazing September sun and the first half saw the home side taking advantage with high balls into the visiting defence that kept the game firmly camped inside the Coventry Welsh half of the field.

The Old Leams three-quarters were again in good form and the ball was constantly being played out wide committing Coventry Welsh to full time defence. On the eight minute mark a flowing move by the OLs backs was finished by winger Calum Semple who crossed for the first of OLs six tries. The conversion was successful. Two minutes later fly half Bradley James scored the best try of the game when he collected the ball 40 metres from the visitors' goal line and seeing a gap in the defence cut through for a searing run to touch down between the posts. He converted his own score to push OLs into a 14 point advantage. Five minutes later OLs added a third try, this time coming from another flowing three-quarter move that saw right wing Liam Wellings crash through three defending tackles to touch down. Again the conversion was successful.

The game was continued with Coventry Welsh using crash ball tactics that forced OLs onto the defence and saw the visitors come more into the game but an infringement by the visiting pack gave Brad James the opportunity to increase the home side lead with a well taken 40 metre penalty. With half time approaching OLs went off the boil and allowed Coventry Welsh to enjoy a period of dominance that resulted in the visiting forwards claiming a late first half try that was converted to bring



the half time whistle with OLs enjoying a lead of 24 points to 7.

The second half started with Coventry Welsh again dictating play through their forwards and crash ball tactics but it was OLs that claimed the next score when centre Henry Reynolds intercepted a pass and ran the ball in for try number four between the posts. The conversion followed.

The game continued with OLs playing whole team rugby and resisting the crash bang game of the visitors. The period of Coventry Welsh dominance came to an abrupt end when winger Liam Wellings collected the ball way out right inside his own half and then made a searing cross field run evading desperate tackles from the visiting defence to touch down for try number five. This was also converted by Bradley James. With 15 minutes of the match remaining it seemed that OLs thought they had done enough and they allowed Coventry Welsh back into the game. This was a costly period for OLs as Coventry Welsh responded with two tries in five minutes, one of which was converted to reduce the lead.

Coventry Welsh continued to dominate the final ten minutes but their commitment to attack left their defence short which allowed wing forward Andrew O'Toole to collect a spilled ball and run in try number six from 40 metres. This final try was converted to give fly half Bradley James a 19 point match haul.

This was another fine display from OLs playing total rugby with half backs Toby Lord and Bradley James having outstanding games.

Report by Den Fisher



# MATCH REPORTS

League: Midlands 3 West (South) Saturday October 5th 2019

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

Result: Ledbury RFC 29 - 17 Old Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV

Venue: Ross Road, Ledbury

After two excellent winning league matches OLs away trip tip to Ledbury in Gloucestershire was always going to be a test with a number of senior players out through injury. The referee on this occasion was the daughter of Warwickshire Ref Kindy Devlin, down in Gloucestershire at college.

Playing up hill in the first session OLs found it difficult to escape from their imprisonment in their own half and it wasn't more than five minutes before Ledbury put together a fine passing movement which outflanked the OL defence to allow them to cross the line wide out on the left. The conversion was slotted by Ledbury 10 Jamie Rayfield, making it an early 7 - 0 to the home side.

Even when Old Leamingtonians did break out into Ledbury territory, handling errors and poor decision making quickly put them back downfield. Nevertheless they doggedly got back into attacking mode and from a well won ruck in the Ledbury 22 the ball was shipped to centre Liam Wellings who powered his way over for a try out on the left side. The conversion was missed and the score moved to 7 - 5.

OLs lost the ball at the restart, regained it and then kicked away possession following which they conceded a penalty just outside their 22 which was converted by Rayfield to increase the home side lead to 5 points.

After 25minutes OLs 12, Ciaran O'Connor left the field with a head injury, his place taken by Simon Hemming. No further points were added in the half with the score at 10 - 5. OLs also lost second row, Joe Talamini to a head injury, replaced by Tom Smith.

OLs playing downhill now really got into the game with their set scrum completely overpowering their opposition.

They drove down to the Ledbury 5 metre line, recycled the ball from a maul and Wellings almost got over the line. Again the ball was recovered and fly half Henry Reynolds cut through to score under the posts. He converted his own try making the score 10 - 12.

Again OLs went on the attack from the restart and won a penalty which they used to get them a line-out inside Ledbury's 22. From subsequent forward drives Tom Smith got a one handed try right in the corner of the left field. The score was now 10 - 17.

The OL supporters believed that this was the turning point and were looking forward to further scores down the hill. Ledbury had other ideas and large holes in the OL defensive line-up allowed Ledbury right back up-field from where they handled well to arrive under the OL posts for another converted try which brought them level at 17 - 17.

After this OLs went back downfield and won a penalty outside the Ledbury 22. The kick was missed and from this point on Old Leamingtonians made a multitude of handling errors. Instead of using their superior forward power they tried to throw the ball wide with disastrous consequences.

Ledbury scored again out on the left (not converted) and shortly after completed another attack by scoring just right of the sticks giving them a bonus point and allowing Rayfield an easy conversion to bring the score to 29 - 17.

Having been in the lead around 15 minutes from time OLs will rue their poor defence, poor ball handling and poor decision making which caused them to lose a game they should have won.

Report by Den Fisher



# PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

**I do hope you are enjoying the Rugby World Cup and that by the time you read this England have thumped Australia and progressed to the semi-finals!**

I am pleased to welcome our Patrons who have gathered at the club once again and hope that they will offer fantastic support for our lads following another successful lunch here at The Crofts.

On behalf of the club I also welcome the management, players and supporters of our league opponents today Manor Park RFC.

Manor Park had a good away win at Daventry last weekend in the third round of the RFU Midlands Senior Vase competition by 17pts - 21pts and are the sole surviving Warwickshire club going into the next round which will be the quarter-finals scheduled for 30th November. In the RFU Junior Vase both Claverdon and Harbury lost their respective home ties in the third round and with Rugby Welsh also losing Warwickshire will have no representation in the last eight of this competition.

In the third round of the RFU Intermediate Cup, Stratford-upon-Avon lost at Leighton Buzzard and Leamington conceded their tie at Malvern being unable to field a front row. Barker Butts went down at Northampton Old Scouts and Silhillians lost at Stafford. Only Old Laurentians managed to win their match at home against Leicester Forest and thereby proceed to the quarter final stages. So, only two Warwickshire teams remaining in the quarter-final draws from the last 24 teams in the Midlands across three competitions. I can't remember a season when our county representation was as low as this approaching the final stages.

In the league Manor Park have played three, won two, lost one, having beaten Ledbury away, something we failed to do last time out. They have however lost away at Woodrush by 10pt - 26pt and most recently at home to a strong Old Coventrians outfit who currently sit at the top of the table with a full 15 points from their three games to date.

Having lost to Ledbury our lads will be seeking a return



to the rugby which saw us score forty points in each of our two opening league games. There is no doubt today's game will be a stern test for us and we need to perform well particularly as we have to travel to Old Coventrians ourselves the following weekend. This too promises to be an uncompromising match if previous clashes are anything to go by. Equally a win for Manor Park today would bolster their hopes for that weekend when they entertain currently unbeaten Rugby St Andrews at Heath End Road.

We also welcome Lewis Lacey from Durham, the match official for today's match and hope that he is able to oversee an open and incident free encounter. Whatever the outcome of the match I hope that you all enjoy your day at The Crofts today.

**Mike Hemming**  
**President Old Leamingtonians RFC**

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# TODAY'S SQUADS

Today's referee is Lewis Lacey

Club colours: Gold and Royal hoops

## OLD LEAMINGTONIANS 1ST XV

1. Mike Robertson
2. Craig Ellis
3. Kai Cott (c)
4. Ollie Sarginson
5. Tom Gover
6. Chris Beck
7. Harvey Broadbent
8. Tom Smith
9. Toby Lord
10. Bradley James
11. Charles Allan
12. Henry Reynolds
13. Ciaran O'Connor
14. Liam Wellings
15. Callum Semple

## REPLACEMENTS

16. Harris Priest
17. Adam Stannard
18. Tom Eales

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

## MANOR PARK 1ST XV

1. Dave Morrissey
2. Stephen Ballard
3. Jak Watson
4. Charlie Wilson
5. Adam Ross
6. Adam Moore
7. Clifford Willis
8. Aaron Willis
9. Will Woodward
10. Dan Joyce
11. Chris Kirby
12. Callum Bishop
13. Gaz Hammond
14. Lewis Turon
15. Cameron Forryan

## REPLACEMENTS

16. Lee Wheeler
17. Daniel Cooper
18. James Cole

THE 1ST XV WOULD LIKE TO SAY A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR 2018/19 SPONSORS

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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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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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