

OLRFC



Saturday October 21st 2017 | Old Leamingtonians Vs Shipston on Stour RFC | 3.00pm KO



Photography courtesy of Tim Nunan

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WELCOME

Welcome to the Crofts, home of Old Leamingtonians RFC. I would also like to welcome to the players, management, coaches and supporters of Shipston on Stour, our opponents today.

Today sees a new format and greatly expanded programme which I hope you will enjoy and become regular purchasers.

It is the culmination of a great deal of hard work by Mike Vallance and Jonny Shipton in encouraging local and national companies to become sponsors of the club and to provide a platform to acknowledge that support.

Thanks is also due to graphic designer and club sponsor Gaz Nash of Liquidblu, who has devised the layout and freely gives his time producing images and layout for home programmes. It is hoped that the content will help to inform you of developments in the club, news from other sections and the first team's standing in the local leagues.

Speaking of which the 1st XV yo-yo performance continues with a heavy loss to Rugby St Andrew's last weekend, having romped past Old Wheats a fortnight previously. The weather has been kind and should aid OL's running rugby style but indiscipline has been a factor and there needs to be better game management in recognising when to reign back and play a percentage game. Please see Den Fisher's full report and comments Mike Hemming's Presidential address later in the programme.

Whilst considering the weather I think you will all agree the Crofts is looking wonderful at present as the last leaves of Autumn turn. We are blessed with excellent facilities and a great club structure, which we must never take for granted.

In the near future we can look forward to the annual Firework Spectacular on Sunday 5th November, please remember volunteers are needed to help before and especially during the evening, please let me know if you can help. We are taking wood for the bonfire but, due to the inconsiderate dumping last year, double glazed windows, mattresses etc we have to monitor what is being left and therefore have arranged for access to the bonfire area every Friday afternoon 1:30 to 4pm. If this is not possible for you, please contact me, Phil Eales on 07540969826 to arrange another time

The following week sees the first of our very popular Patrons' Lunch on Saturday November 11th when there is a league game against Alcester. Please speak to Den Fisher to book your place. Not only is the food great, but it's a wonderful chance to catch up with old friends and I would like to take this opportunity to apologise for Nick Crightons jokes.

So, on with the game. Thank you for your support today for all players and please respect the officials in the true OL rugby spirit and follow me to the bar after for a drink.

Phil Eales Chairman

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MATCH REPORTS

League: Midlands 3 West (South)

Fixture: Rugby St Andrews RFC 1st XV v Old Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV

Venue: Ashlawn Road, Rugby

Result: Rugby St Andrews RFC 1st XV 44 - 22 Old Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV



Old Leamingtonians began this game by taking the play to the hosts and within five minutes, following a number of early incursions into the St Andrews half of the field, a three-quarters move ended with centre Ciaran O'Connor crossing the line for a well-constructed try that was converted by Full Back Bradley James. The next 10 minutes of play saw OLs continue to dominate territory and possession but without adding to the score line.

Play evened out at this point but the OL defence was equal to any attacking moves that the home side developed and on the half hour a yellow card infringement saw the home side reduced to 14 men. However OLs did not make the home side pay during the ten minute sinbin and St Andrews gained the advantage during the next ten minutes with two penalties awarded against OL forwards.

Half time was reached with OLs having a one point advantage at 7 - 6 and within minutes of the restart Second Row Joe Talamini again increased his growing try tally when he found himself on the end of a fine passing movement. He forced his way over to score and the lead was further increased with a Brad James conversion to bring the score up to 14 points to 6.

OLs continued to press with good rolling maul technique but time and time again when in good

attacking positions the OL forwards conceded penalties for infringements and verbal indiscipline that gave the home side far too many opportunities to relieve pressure. Prop Bill Johnson was yellow carded early in the second half and his absence plus many other penalties allowed St Andrews to gain good territorial advantage from which they took control and ran in six second half tries, four of which were converted.

OLs did manage to score a late second half consolation forwards pushover try from Back Row Tom Smith and also a further 3 points from a Bradley James penalty but by then it was too late.

Final score was a home bonus point win 44 points to 22. OLs left with nothing from a game they could have won.

This was another below par performance from OLs who were never out of the game, but indiscipline and the penalty count against, coupled with too many wrong options in attack, prevented any co-ordinated play in the second half. These issues need to be put right before next week's game at home to Shipston on Stour RFC, kick off 3.00pm.

Report provided by Den Fisher

Photo by Tim Nunan: OL rolling maul Rhys Cory carrying

MATCH REPORTS

League: Midlands 3 West (South)

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

Venue: The Crofts, Bericote Road

Result: Old Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV 41 - 0 Old Wheatleyans RFC 1st XV



From the kick off Old Leams took control of the game and produced a far better performance than that of last week putting the visitors under immediate pressure with committed forwards play and free flowing running from the backs.

Old Wheats were having trouble creating any forward movement and when they did they met with solid defensive tackles from the home side. After only five minutes play, mostly in the Old Wheats half of the field, the ball was quickly fed out to winger Liam Wellings who crossed for his first of his two tries in the match.

The conversion was missed but Old Leams again took control of play from the kick off and from good forward drives deep into the visitors' 22 metre area, back row Tom Smith picked up and drove through the disrupted defence to touch down for a try converted by Bradley James. Old Leams had moved into a 12 point lead after 10 minutes of play.

The game continued in the same vein as Old Leams dominated in both the forwards and three-quarters keeping Old Wheats under pressure and the pressure paid off with three more first half tries. The first from stand-off Bradley James, followed by Liam Wellings second try (7th try for him in his last 3 games) which he chased down from a well-judged kick ahead outpacing the retreating defence to touch down.

This try was converted by Brad James.

The fifth try of the half went to Tom Eales. Following good forward possession and quick ball from scrum half Toby Lord, the ball was moved to Eales in the Centre who drew his opposite number, kicked ahead and collected in space to cross the line. This try went unconverted to give Old Leams a 29 points to 0 half time advantage.

The second half followed the same pattern as the first with Old Leamingtonians dominating. Time and time again the Old Leams forwards out-rucked and out drove the opposition to gain control and it was only a combination of a slippery ball and some over anxious passing in the three-quarters that frustrated a number of good scoring chances.

As it was, Stand-off Bradley James scored his second and team try number 6 from good possession and a 30 metre run into the goal area. Following further strong pressure from the Old Leams forwards Club Captain and Hooker, Reece Jones, burst through the Old Wheats defences to score the final try close to the final whistle. This last try was converted by Brad James to give Old Leamingtonians a 41 points to nil victory securing a bonus point and moving the side up to third place in the Midlands 3 West (South) League.

Report provided by Den Fisher

Photo by Tim Nunan: 1st XV Captain Reece Jones en-route to the final try

SECTION NEWS



News from the Ladies Section:

After a great pre-season focusing on both fitness and skills, Old Leamingtonians Ladies have had a successful start to their season having been promoted to Championship 2 Midlands. After 3 games the Ladies are currently sitting 3rd in the league after 2 home wins, including an 84-5 home triumph over Shelford Ladies. Most recently the team have progressed into the 2nd round of the Intermediate Cup having overcome old foes Lutterworth Ladies 62-12.

Old Leamingtonians Ladies are always recruiting for new and experienced players to join our team. Never played before? Thinking about dusting off your boots? Moved to the area and want to get involved? Looking for a way to get fit? Watched the men play and think you can do better? Come on down and meet the Ladies!

We are an enthusiastic and friendly bunch, ranging from players with 10+ years of experience to those who picked up a rugby ball for the first time 10 days ago. We have an all-female coaching team who are passionate about player and team development. This season alone we have seen 11 players take to the pitch in OLs colours for the first time, as well as 2 players return after a few years away. We train on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm and games are on a Sunday afternoon. If you're interested in finding out more then find us on Facebook – search for Old Leamingtonians Ladies RFC, or email us at atolswrfc@googlemail.com

Jen Vermeulen
Captain, Old Leamingtonians Ladies



News from the Mini and Juniors Section:

Welcome to my first senior programme update from the mini and junior section.

Wow what a start to the season! We have welcomed over 30 new players to the section which brings the total number of mini and junior players to 300 with over 320 parent members, this is fantastic and demonstrates that our club section is still the best place to play M&J rugby in the area.

Our Juniors have had a fantastic start to the season with all teams progressing to the quarter finals of the Warwickshire cup, the Under 16s have gone from strength to strength continuing their 3 year unbeaten run with a 41-7 win away against Stratford last weekend.

Our minis section has also grown significantly with all teams welcoming new players and some great shows of rugby in away festivals. Our youngest squad the under 6s are regularly getting 20 players which is great and I'd like to thank the new coaching team for their excellent start and for bonding as a team so quickly.

We are now "full steam ahead" for our Mini's festival on 29th October 2017, this is going to be a fantastic day with over 50 teams in attendance from all over the county, we also welcome Worcester Warriors who are bringing 5 of their professional squad to meet our young players, please take time to come down and support the section, it's going to be a fantastic day.

Finally, I would like to say good luck to the senior team against Shipston today.

Lucas Wager
Mini and Junior Chairman



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TODAY'S SQUADS

Today's referee is: Howard Russell

Club colours: Gold and Royal hoops

OLD LEAMINGTONIANS 1ST XV

- 1 Craig Ellis
- 2 Andrew O'Toole
- 3 Richard Lenton
- 4 Ollie Sarginson
- 5 Ollie Wright
- 6 Felix Heath
- 7 Tom Heslop
- 8 Hugh Melhuish
- 9 Toby Lord (Captain)
- 10 Mark Foley
- 11 Peter Goodwin
- 12 David Canning
- 13 Simon Hemming
- 14 Adam Stannard
- 15 Tom Eales

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 Harris Priest
- 17 Rhys Cory
- 18 Andrew Morbey

Chairman of Rugby:	Damian Dixon
First Team Manager:	Craig Ellis
Coaches:	Scott Conduit, Adam Canning and Craig Ellis

SHIPSTON ON STOUR 1ST XV

- 1 James Pither
- 2 Matt Corby (Captain)
- 3 George Minogue
- 4 Harry Barnard
- 5 Charlie Hollies-Everett
- 6 Aaron Neal
- 7 Will Seys
- 8 Oli Ball
- 9 Will Hammond
- 10 Rob James
- 11 Sam Cooper
- 12 Tom Colby
- 13 Toby Faulkner
- 14 Chris Calcott
- 15 Josh Bird

Replacements

- 16 Ben Haines
- 17 George Wilcock
- 18 Will Cowper

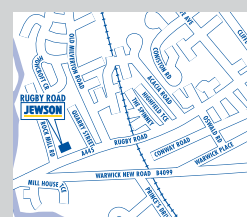
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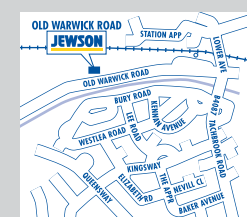


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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Firstly, may I add my own warm welcome to all players, committee members and supporters for this South Warwickshire derby against old adversaries Shipston on Stour.

They currently sit 3rd in the table on 13 points with 2 wins and a draw from 4 outings with OLs in 6th position with a 10 point tally. Shipston won well last week at home with a bonus point win against Old Coventrians, whereas we will want to forget last week's second half performance! Recent encounters between our respective clubs have been close fought affairs and I sense it will be no different today. Welcome also to today's match referee, Howard Russell, who may be required to keep a tight rein on events.

Although the season to date has been a mixed affair for the 1st team, we continue to strive towards an 80 minute game without the unforced errors of previous matches. We are pleased that several of the Warwick Medics team, who now use The Crofts as their base, have joined the senior teams as it boosts our playing strength.

The Extra 1st team under the captaincy of Ollie Scott have claimed a couple of good scalps of late and our Ladies team have made an encouraging start to both their league and cup campaigns. Our Colts claimed the bragging rights last week at neighbours Leamington and judging by their results so far would appear to have a squad capable of having a really good season.

The Mini & Junior section continues to thrive and we thank their management and coaches for providing such a great atmosphere which is enjoyed by so many youngsters on Sunday mornings. Indeed, next Sunday morning the 29th October, they will be hosting a big festival across the U8 to U12 age groups which promises to be a significant event in



their calendar. It's all hands to the pump to pull this off and so if you are able to help on the day in any way, please speak to Lucas Wager this week.

Off the field we are currently seeking our club re-accreditation under the RFU scheme and I thank everyone engaged in this process which continues to maintain our profile as a strong community rugby club. This is again highlighted in an excellent article by hardworking Club Secretary, Sally Hemming, in the Rugby Club magazine (issue 74) a copy of which is available in the clubhouse.

Don't forget that you can support the club financially through sponsorship or by joining the 200 Club so if you would like to consider either of these options please speak to Mike Vallance.

As Phil has already mentioned, forthcoming events include our annual Bonfire and Firework night this year being organised by club stalwart Bert Payne. This will be held on Sunday November 5th and on the following Saturday we host the first of our Patrons lunches of the season at the Crofts when we entertain Alcester RFC in what will be I believe our first encounter in the leagues. This also promises to be another South Warwickshire derby as they too have made an excellent start to their league campaign following promotion.

Whatever the outcome of today's game I hope that everyone enjoys their day at The Crofts.

Mike Hemming
Old Leamingtonians President

SPONSORSHIP NEWS

Mini and Juniors Section:

On the commercial side we are delighted that so many local, regional and national businesses support the development of our Mini and Junior teams. A big thank you and shout out to our 14 Mini and Junior sponsors: Brooks Macdonald, Thomas Flavell & Sons Solicitors, Artel Rubber, Lee Hardy Construction, Blackdown Developments, IPS Kitchens, Red Materials Limited, Equus Miller, Adkins, Moo Design, Farmers Fayre, Denso, Impetus Automotive and Jewson.

On our recent deal with Brooks Macdonald, this is what Mike Divers, Senior Investment Director and Head of Leamington Spa Office said about his relationship with the club: "We are very proud to support the Old Leamingtonians RFC U8's this season, along with our sponsorship of Rugby4Heroes. We at Brooks Macdonald have a long standing commitment to supporting sport, including sponsorship of schools' sports teams and other amateur and professional sports clubs. We strongly believe in giving back to our local community and our partnership with Old Leamingtonians RFC also provides us with a wonderful platform to raise awareness of our business in the Midlands."

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.

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:

Nick Crighton
Michael Vallance
Richard Selwyn
Charlie Sabin
Den Fisher
Bill Walker
Steve Davis
Mike Hemming
Christie McNally
Clive Grundy

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

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