

# OLRFC



Saturday, February 22nd 2020 | Old Leamingtonians Vs Rugby St Andrews RFC 2:15pm KO



Photography courtesy of Tim Nunan

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# WELCOME

A warm welcome to Bericote Road and to the management, players and supporters of Rugby St Andrews RFC.

Due to the weather conditions over the last few weekends, the 1st team have had two rest weeks. 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 another big storm last weekend we managed to have a home game with the 2nds playing against Barker Butts with a deserved win of 5-0.

The big news is a double concerning the Colts. Firstly their great win in the National cup over Hinckley two weeks ago, taking them forward to the final eight of the Cup, 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 huge congratulations to four of our colts, Sam Bayliss (Prop), Ed Righton (Flanker), James Crabtree (Scrum Half) and Archie Semple (Full Back) for their Midlands selection. A final drill down to a 23 man match day squad will see the 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](http://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 promoting the new development.

**Phil Eales**  
Chairman



#	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	DB	LB	Pts
1	Old Leamingtonians	19	19	0	0	960	194	766	14	0	99
2	Rugby St Andrews	19	18	0	1	420	160	260	10	2	94
3	Berkswell & Barwell	19	11	0	8	370	195	175	9	3	66
4	Coventry Welsh	19	9	0	10	280	260	20	8	0	44
5	Ladbury	19	8	1	10	308	308	0	9	0	40
6	Woodrush	19	8	0	11	314	340	-26	0	1	38
7	Old Leamingtonians	19	7	0	12	313	380	-67	0	1	35
8	Stoke Old Boys	19	6	0	13	347	354	-7	7	4	30
9	Alcester	19	5	1	13	300	366	-66	0	0	31
10	Minor Park	19	4	1	14	264	374	-110	0	0	29
11	Burleigh	19	4	0	15	218	409	-191	0	0	20
12	Bedsford	19	2	1	16	148	321	-173	0	0	10

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# Guinness Six Nations 2020 being screened at OLRFC



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 for what we all hope is a return to first team league action after an extended winter break.

The situation with last week's postponed game was a shambles in my opinion. We had a perfectly playable pitch as demonstrated by our 2nd XV fixture and, although the conditions weren't pleasant, there was no reason for the game to be called off. There were netball fixtures being played down the road at Moorefields yet we couldn't get a game of rugby on because it was a bit too windy for Woodrush to drive down the M40. The RFU giving all travelling teams the option to postpone games was not the only stupid idea coming out of HQ this week either after their announcement about Championship funding!

We have had a really good few weeks of training since the OC's game and are in really good shape going into what will be another massive test today. We have had some long, physical sessions in the build up to this game and the commitment has been outstanding. Tom, Ben and I were buzzing walking off the training pitch on Tuesday night but want to have that same buzz at 4pm on a Saturday when it all comes together against a top team.



The 'video nasty' of the OC's game was a very useful session to show the lads not just what we can improve on, and of that there was plenty, but also all of the good play that we put together in patches and how effective we can be when we stick to the plan! Sticking to the plan for 80 minutes when you've got a strong side like St. Andrews coming at you is a massive challenge but one that I really believe the lads can execute if the mentality is right.

I hope you enjoy your day at The Crofts and that we can put some smiles on OLRFC faces.

# 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 OLS, 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. OLS were up

quick in response resulting in the ball being knocked on. Persistence by OLS 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 OLS. 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 OLS half before being tackled in to touch by new player Grace Standbridge. Five Ways come back hard at OLS 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 Paul Adderley

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



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# OLRFC Home Fixtures 2019/20

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## 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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# SECTION NEWS

## News from the M&J Section:

Unfortunately, the weather got the better of us again last weekend and all matches home and away were cancelled.

This weekend the minis are hosting Stratford RFC where we are expecting around 120 players. We are looking forward to some great matches. All the junior teams are training at home so it will be a busy Sunday at The Crofts. After two weekends of cancelled matches everyone is raring to go.

In the afternoon we are hosting the U15 county trials. Good luck to all the boys trying out. Meanwhile here are the match reports from previous games for those of you that didn't see them last week.

### 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.

## 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

Liz Wilding  
Vice Chair, Minis 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

On behalf of the Club I extend a warm welcome to everybody attending The Crofts today. A particularly warm welcome goes to the players, management and supporters of our old adversaries from Rugby St Andrews for today's league match and also to our match officials.

Last weekend a full club of Patrons and their guests were denied First team rugby as the RFU had issued a statement regarding the postponement of matches for safety reasons given the unpredictable weather conditions likely to be created by storm Dennis. Clubs were further advised that if travelling conditions were deemed unsafe they did not have to fulfil the fixture which would have to be replayed. Our opponents on the day, Woodrush, availed themselves of this clause and opted not to travel to The Crofts the game now being rescheduled for Saturday 7th March.

Despite the poor weather two games in Midlands West 2 South were played last weekend. The first was between Coventry Welsh and Bedworth with Welsh winning at home by 15pts-0pts to catapult them into 4th spot in the league on 44pts and three places ahead of us. The other game was a top of the table clash between Old Coventrians and Rugby St Andrews at Tile Hill Lane. OC's secured a bonus point win by 22pts-0pts to leapfrog their opponents as the new league leaders. They hold this lead by virtue of a better accumulation of bonus points from the same number of games.

In the earlier fixture between our respective clubs at Hillmorton, back in November last year, we returned home on the end of a 40pts-3pts thumping at the hands of our hosts. At times we became a very ragged outfit and did not compete sufficiently well to stay in the game. With this in the back of our minds and in the knowledge that Andrews were beaten last weekend our lads should go into today's game



in a positive frame of mind. We all look to a much improved performance.

With the first team game called off last weekend it gave an opportunity for the Seconds to show their paces at The Crofts in their game against Barker Butts Tanners. They were thoroughly committed to the cause throughout and were rewarded with a narrow 5pts-0pts win having had to hold out for over an hour against determined opposition, and the weather, having scored the only score of the match early in the first half. A great performance from the lads.

Our Colts are also due to play Rugby St Andrews Colts in a "friendly" match here today and then they have a scheduled Warwickshire Cup round next weekend.

That's it for this time, so please lend your support to your chosen team but at the same time respect the players and match officials. Whatever the outcome overall I hope you enjoy the game and your time here with us this afternoon.

Mike Hemming  
President Old Leamingtonians RFC



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