

LICHFIELD

vs TAMWORTH

3PM | 16.09.2023



@LichfieldRugby



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WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

A warm welcome to all officials, players and supporters from the teams playing at Cooke Fields today. Enjoy the competition and camaraderie which is special to Rugby Football, both on and off the field. This season we play some teams whom we haven't played against for a while or might even be new opponents – it's always good to renew or extend friendships in the 'Rugby Family'.

Probably the most important person in a game of Rugby is the referee, so whether you/we/I think they may be wrong on occasions – they aren't. They are always right and you cannot change the decision. Please encourage the players, but do not abuse the referee in any 'shape or form'!

In a World Cup season in particular I hope more people get their boots on and enjoy a game or two. We really need more adult men participating. However, the Ladies partnership with Leicester Tigers has to date been pretty successful in boosting their playing numbers – long may this continue. And, if only 'rugby for all' in schools could become a development strategy to ensure others, who don't access our brilliant Mini-Junior section, try the skills and game of Rugby Football (which is now 200 years old)!

Thank you to those who will travel around the Midlands to support any of our teams, and to those who frequent the pre-match meals and create a real 'buzz' in the clubhouse. Thank you to all members of our Executive Committee and volunteers for the hours and hours spent on Lichfield Rugby Club matters/issues – without you a club cannot function successfully.

And finally, we proudly head towards commemorating our 150th year in 2024. On the field we hope for success in a big season. Off the field, I hope locals and those who have played or volunteered for the club at any time in our past will attend (with other friends), either the Sporting Luncheon on June 15th and/or The Summer Ball on June 29th in 2024. We have much to celebrate over the years with so many great times to share/cherish.

C'mon Lich.

See you in the Bar.

Barry Broad – President @ LRUFC 2023/24

KEY CONTACTS

President – Barry Broad: president@lichfieldrugby.co.uk, 07866 482 539

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Women's Rugby – Molly Sanghera: womenandgirlsrugby@lichfieldrugby.co.uk, 07709 411 455

Hon. Treasurer – Iain Eadie: treasurer@lichfieldrugby.co.uk, 07916 139 803

Catering: Nineteen: nineteen@lichfieldrugby.co.uk

A FEW WORDS FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Welcome to Cooke Fields – the home of Lichfield Rugby. I really hope you enjoy the game and get to see some exciting and entertaining rugby.

As we start another season, with all the different excitement and expectations about what's in store across our many and various playing sections, I'd also like to share a few thoughts about what makes the club tick off the pitch too.

On the playing side the Men's First XV find themselves in a league containing many different teams as compared to the past few years. So even more difficult than usual to confidently predict outcomes, but either way, lots of new experiences to enjoy. Mens 2s and 3s will really be hoping for more regular and consistent rugby – although the problem with dwindling playing numbers seems to be everywhere. The Ladies will be hoping to bounce back from the disappointment of both sides missing out on promotion so narrowly (and even unfairly) and to further build on the partnership with Leicester Tigers to get us moving upwards again. Our MJ sections continue to go from strength to strength and provide a brilliant pipeline of talent for the senior teams.

Off the field, a very brief summary is that the Club is in a pretty good place. There's been a lot happening during the summer and I really hope that you can see the fruits of the many and various labours that our volunteers have put in – to make the clubhouse and grounds even more enjoyable places to be. Whilst we obviously strive to provide the best experience for our players – through our coaching resources and playing facilities, we also continuously strive to improve the social environment for players, members and visitors alike. The role for myself and the others involved in the management of the club is to provide these facilities and an environment to both attract and support the players and coaches, but also provide an asset to the local community that many other people can enjoy. We are fiercely proud to be an amateur club that is here for the whole community, so differentiating ourselves purely by the playing and social facilities we can offer is the only way to go.

Whilst much of the work to maintain and enhance the place is planned and executed by volunteers, we do still have to pay skilled contractors for the time and materials required to carry out a lot of the improvement work. The costs for this together with the general upkeep and running of the club are all growing significantly. So, how do we fund all this?

Our revenue comes from three distinct (but roughly equal) sources – membership fees, sponsorship and bar takings. The membership fees cover only about one third of the money we need to operate and flourish, and whilst we're forever thankful to our sponsors who support us so generously, anything you, our members, can also do to support social events, spend money at the bar or in the café (or help to find new sponsors), is not only very gratefully received, but essential for us to survive, let alone flourish.

So, in conclusion, many thanks to those of you who already help us to do all this, but there's always room for more. See you at the bar!

Paul Massey – Club Chairman 2023-24

REGIONAL 2

SEPTEMBER | 23

- Saturday 2 | Matlock v Lichfield (A)
- Saturday 9 | Sutton Coldfield v Lichfield (A)
- Saturday 16 | Lichfield v Tamworth (H)
- Saturday 23 | Mellish v Lichfield (A)
- Saturday 30 | Lichfield v Walsall (H)

OCTOBER | 23

- Saturday 14 | Wolverhampton v Lichfield (A)
- Saturday 21 | Lichfield v Newark (H)

NOVEMBER | 23

- Saturday 4 | Long Eaton v Lichfield (A)
- Saturday 11 | Lichfield v Melbourne (H)
- Saturday 18 | Paviers v Lichfield (A)

DECEMBER | 23

- Saturday 2 | Lichfield v West Bridgford (H)
- Saturday 9 | Lichfield v Sutton Coldfield (H)
- Saturday 16 | Tamworth v Lichfield (A)

MIDLANDS (NORTH)

JANUARY | 24

Saturday 6	Lichfield v Mellish (H)
Saturday 13	Walsall v Lichfield (A)
Saturday 27	Lichfield v Wolverhampton (H)

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FEBRUARY | 24

Saturday 3	Newark v Lichfield (A)
Saturday 17	Lichfield v Long Eaton (H)

MARCH | 24

Saturday 2	Melbourne v Lichfield (A)
Saturday 16	Lichfield v Paviers (H)
Saturday 23	West Bridgford v Lichfield (A)

APRIL | 24

Saturday 6	Lichfield v Matlock (H)
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Correct as of 10th September 2023



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OUR RUGBY
OUR CLUB
OUR WAY



Cooke Fields, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 9JE



MATCH PREVIEW

It's a warm welcome back to Cooke Fields for a massive double header – the return of men's 1st XV league action, against Tamworth (second v third) and our wonderful Ladies' Day event, which just seems to grow in quality and hence its ability to attract ladies willing to "party". Whatever you're here for, enjoy your day with us.

There has previously been talk of rugby union becoming a summer sport, surely, the last two weeks of league action played in uncomfortably hot weather must put that debate to bed. Both Tamworth and Lichfield have registered two victories to date, in the former's case both at home against West Bridgford and Matlock, whilst we have had two away days. Tamworth were promoted to this level of rugby last season (level 6) and seem to have adapted remarkably well, whereas we have come here from the opposite direction after our brief foray at level 5. We have been shunted from the west side of the Midlands to a more centrally based array of clubs, which will include four separate visits to Nottingham, plus Newark and Melbourne (near East Midlands airport). This is as well as local "derbies" against Sutton, Tamworth, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Both of our victories were achieved with a fair amount of sweat (actual and proverbial), as in neither case were we at, or near, our best; however, two victories are definitely deemed to be progress after the 22/23 campaign. There was a try bonus point as well against Sutton with captain, Charlie Milner, contributing 18 points, whilst Ditch Burton scored two of the tries at Matlock. Full match reports are always on our website and social media. Next week, we visit Mellish for the first time in the league era, their ground is on Plains Road, Nottingham NG3 5RX, kick offs are 3pm until the end of October.

No Ladies' Day is complete without the post match shirt raffle. After our sterling effort last year to raise £7.5k for MNDA, this year we will be trying to support one of the men's charities, Prostate Cancer UK – please give as generously as you can. The men's side are now usually playing in a specially designed shirt to commemorate the club's 150th anniversary in the calendar year of 2024. There will be two specially arranged functions next year as part of the celebrations, supported by a number of other events.

The men's 2s are in the Midlands Reserve 1 again this season, there are only 5 sides in it, but you play each club 4 times. Unfortunately, it didn't start well for us last week, as Nuneaton cried off, so today the boys are off to Syston with just

the friendly victory against Stafford under their belts. The 3s' league starts in a fortnight. The colts opened their campaign last Sunday at Newport and lost 31-19 and are off to Stourbridge tomorrow (2pm).

The women's league season commences tomorrow with the Red team going to Bury Foxes and the Green team to Rugby Lionesses. The Green team are at home the following week (2:30pm), whilst the Red team have to wait until 1 October for a game at Cooke Fields, visiting Long Eaton next week.

The mini/juniors are underway already with a mixture of cup games and friendlies tomorrow, including matches for the 12, 14 and 16 groups for the girls. Touch rugby is also a regular feature of Monday evenings at the club. Lots of information on the website on all these various sides.

The Exec Committee continue to recognize the need for ongoing investment in the infrastructure of the club's building and facilities. So, since last season, the number 1 changing room has been redesigned with individual booths for each player; a much improved restaurant area has been created with a new entrance to the rear of the clubhouse, in addition to a refurbished kitchen, to make the food created by our new contractors (NINETEEN) taste all the better. Pre match meals before all 1st XV matches are back on the agenda – please liaise with Barry Broad to book your places – meeting at 1pm with food at 1:30pm. Finally, our first attempt at showing the World Cup on a giant screen in the car park was very well attended and created a unique atmosphere – will we or can we repeat it, the weather was perfect last Saturday evening.

#	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1	Long Eaton	2	2	0	0	105	43	62	2	0	10
2	Lichfield	2	2	0	0	58	42	16	1	0	9
3	Tamworth	2	2	0	0	61	49	12	1	0	9
4	Newark	2	1	0	1	93	48	45	2	1	7
5	West Bridgford	2	1	0	1	88	72	16	2	1	7
6	Walsall	2	1	0	1	60	50	10	2	1	7
7	Melbourne	1	1	0	0	31	26	5	1	0	5
8	Paviors	2	1	0	1	43	55	-12	1	0	5
9	Mellish	2	0	0	2	59	83	-24	1	1	2
10	Sutton Coldfield	2	0	0	2	36	95	-59	1	1	2
11	Matlock	2	0	0	2	36	52	-16	0	1	1
12	Wolverhampton	1	0	0	1	12	67	-55	0	0	0



COACH'S CORNER

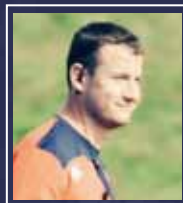
DAN HEMINGWAY



**DAN
HEMINGWAY**



**HUW
MARSDEN**



**DAVE
LOTE**

After what feels like a long time, we have league rugby back at Cooke Fields!! On the first home match of the season, I'd like to take the opportunity say thank you (in advance) to all the supporters who show up every week to cheer the boys on, the committee for all the work they continue to do around the club (I think you will all agree that it has never looked better!), to the sponsors, and to the players who have worked incredibly hard through pre-season.

It has been an odd start to the year in some ways, starting with two games on the road, both in 30 degree heat, and some up and down performances despite coming away with two wins. For a variety of reasons, we take to the field today in our third shirt design of the season as well! Having debuted the 150th Anniversary kit last week at Sutton Coldfield, we are in our annual Ladies Day design that somehow keeps managing to get whackier and whackier! It is of course for a great cause, and we hope they raise lots of money to support Prostate Cancer following today's game.

That bring us nicely to today: Ladies Day!! To all of the ladies joining us, welcome and thank you once again for supporting such amazing causes, by drinking wine and dancing all night! You excel yourselves every year, and I am sure today will be no different.

On the field, the 1st XV have played two and won two on the road to start the season. Not only did the heat make both games a real challenge, but both opposition were defiant, dogged and showed that this league is going to be a difficult one to navigate. With lots of teams from the NLD region, it is great to be coming up against some new sides like Matlock, and they are proud rugby folk who will make every game a contest. For us, it is about making sure that we are true to our style and the way we want to see the game played, with high energy and purpose.

Today, we welcome Tamworth to Cooke Fields who have enjoyed a great start to life at this level with two impressive wins. It promises to be a great game and we wish you, and your travelling support, an enjoyable afternoon at Lichfield RUFC.

Here's to a successful 2023/24 season.

Hemo

REGIONAL 2 MIDLANDS NORTH

SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER | 3PM

LICHFIELD	V	TAMWORTH
Jack Hurst	1	Jason Norton
Danny Griffin	2	Josh Roe (C)
Rory Davis	3	Tom Scott
Harvey Wootton	4	Liam McGreevy
Matt Cowley	5	Joe Mason
Cal Turner	6	Roman Mustchin
Charlie Milner	7	Macauley Green
Rich Burton	8	Kit Smith
Sam Benson	9	Paddy Cole
Adam Spinner	10	Matt Williams
Kai Lucas-Dumolo	11	Jack Dalton
Cal Shields	12	Leighton Norton
Kieran Higgins	13	Liam Saayman
Tom Day	14	Will Kilby-Jenkins
Ollie Green	15	Jay Rosenbach
Jack Dace	16	Callum Bayliss
Kieran Reynolds	17	Martin Dearne
Ben Ashmore	18	Danny Norton

The referee today is Thomas Yaxley, from the North Midlands Refereeing Society.
We wish him an enjoyable time at Lichfield RUFC.

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DISCIPLINE IN RUGBY

On and off the pitch

TEAMWORK
RESPECT
ENJOYMENT
DISCIPLINE
SPORTSMANSHIP

POLITE NOTICE

One of the greatest things about our wonderful game, is the respect given by Players throughout a match to the Referees and Touch Judges. These core values, engrained in us as a player from a young age are what separates us widely from many other Team Sports.

However, the responsibility for that discipline and respect does not lie solely with the players. Everyone on the touchline – including All supporters, parents, coaching staff and replacements, are equally responsible for maintaining these core values in the modern game.

Lichfield Rugby Union Football Club has always had a great reputation and an exemplary disciplinary record within the local (and wider) Rugby community. We should be (and are) enormously proud of that, but standards can slip so easily.

Verbal abuse and disrespect aimed towards officials and/or the visiting team and their supporters will never be deemed acceptable behaviour at our Club and there will be a zero tolerance approach adopted for the 2023–24 season – with formal measures implemented against persons found not to observe and respect these principles.

This equally applies when we as a Club, travel to other clubs. We must apply the same respect both Home and Away – wherever and whenever we represent Lichfield Rugby Club.

We trust all players, coaching staff and supporters who visit our club will also agree, adopt, and abide by these core principles.

RESPECT THE REFEREE

The Executive Committee of Lichfield Rugby Union Football Club respectfully remind all players, club officials, parents and supporters to please show their respect to the Referee and Officials at all times.

Respect for the Rugby Referee is the uppermost traditional value, embodying the spirit of our wonderful game. It is all the more important, that it is this proud tradition, that separates us from many other team sports, is adhered to at Senior and Junior grass roots level both on and off the pitch.

Since our Referees have to make all their decisions on the spot without the aid of TMO replays or other technology, we politely ask for your patience.

In particular for this season, we expect that the new law changes around the tackle height, will be very likely to cause a certain amount of confusion, ambiguity and ultimately frustration both on the pitch and on the sidelines. Any abuse aimed at the match officials is totally unacceptable.

Rule 1. The Referee is always right.

Rule 2. The Referee's decision is final.

Rule 3. The Referee is a volunteer.

Rule 4. The Referee is human.

Rule 5. This is not Twickenham (or Soccer).

Rule 6. If you believe the Referee's decision to be wrong refer to Rule 1 and or 2.

We trust you will join us in embracing the highly valued principles of respect and fairplay. We rely on unconditionally on Referees who, like players, turn up week in week out and without them we don't play - please don't be the reason why a Referee doesn't show.

Thank you and enjoy the Game
LRUFC Exec Committee

TEAMWORK, RESPECT, ENJOYMENT, DISCIPLINE, SPORTSMANSHIP



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WHAT'S ON

SEPTEMBER | 2023

16 | LICHFIELD V TAMWORTH (H) LADIES DAY

17 | BURY FOXES V LICHFIELD LADIES

29 | 80's CHARITY FRIDAY NIGHT BINGO

30 | LICHFIELD V WALSALL (H) VP DAY LUNCHEON



LICHFIELD RUGBY CLUB

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES 23-24

Lichfield Rugby Union Football Club – providing the facilities and opportunities for competitive and entertaining rugby to the local community since 1874.

Lichfield Rugby Club would like to give local businesses and individuals the opportunity to share in the experience and exposure of a thriving local club, which currently fields the following teams:

Men's:

- 1st Team – Regional 2 Midlands
- 2nd Team – Midlands Reserve League 1
- 3rd Team – Staffordshire Merit League 1

Ladies:

- 1st Team (Red Team) – Ladies Championship Div 2
- 2nd Team (Green Team) – NC2 Midlands West

Mini – Juniors:

- Under 18's (Colts)
- All Boys and Girls age groups from Under 7's to Under 16's
- We also have an Under 6's section called 'Rugger Rats'

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE SCAN THE QR
CODE TO THE RIGHT,
OR CONTACT:**

Dorian Tranter

commercial@
lichfieldrugby.co.uk

Across these different sections we have up to 20 teams taking to the field to represent Lichfield Rugby Club each weekend throughout the season.

We are a 'Community Amateur Sports Club' which means that all revenue raised via memberships, donations and sponsorship is invested back into the club to fund the playing costs of all teams and our facilities. None of the players are paid to play at Lichfield, and our playing costs are covered by membership fees – so all sponsorship received helps directly to maintain and improve our facilities.

We believe Lichfield Rugby Club presents a number of very good opportunities for you to promote and expand your business via our players, our members and the spectators who attend our games and/or read our numerous forms of regular communication.

Please scan the QR code to see the sponsorship packages that are available for the 2023-24 season.

We really hope that you can find something to match your needs.

Paul Massey (Chairman)

Dorian Tranter (Commercial Director)



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ROGER SMOLDON GROUND
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TEL: 01213515323

TAMWORTH RFC

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WIGGINTON PARK
TAMWORTH
STAFFORDSHIRE
B79 8ED
TEL: 0182768794

WALSALL RFC

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ENGLAND
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WEST BRIDGFORD RFC

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LICHFIELD

U7s – U12s

FIXTURES: 2023–2024



SEP 03 TRAINING RESUMES

OCT 01 BURTON – A

OCT 22 SUTTON COLDFIELD – TRI FIXTURE – A

NOV 5 BROMSGROVE (7s/9s/11s – A, 8s/10s/12s – H)

DEC 10 BERKSWELL & BALSALL (7s/9s/11s – A, 8s/10s/12s – H)

DEC 17 CHRISTMAS PARTY

JAN 21 CAMP HILL (7s/9s/11s – A, 8s/10s/12s – H)

FEB 11 BOURNVILLE – A

MAR 03 MINIÕS FESTIVAL(7s–9s)

MAR 17 BARKERS BUTTS – A

APR 07 MINIÕS FESTIVAL(10s–12s)

APR 21 OLD LEAMS – A

**APR 28 SUTTON
COLDFIELD
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Ian Turner is a Health and Fitness Professional with over 25 years experience as an Army Physical Training Corps Instructor and Rehabilitation Specialist. A Sports Therapist with Lichfield RUFC and the England Women's Rugby team. Ian has also worked with other sports men and women in Athletics, Running, Cycling, Hockey, Football, Cricket, Water Skiing and the Britains Strongest Man Circuit

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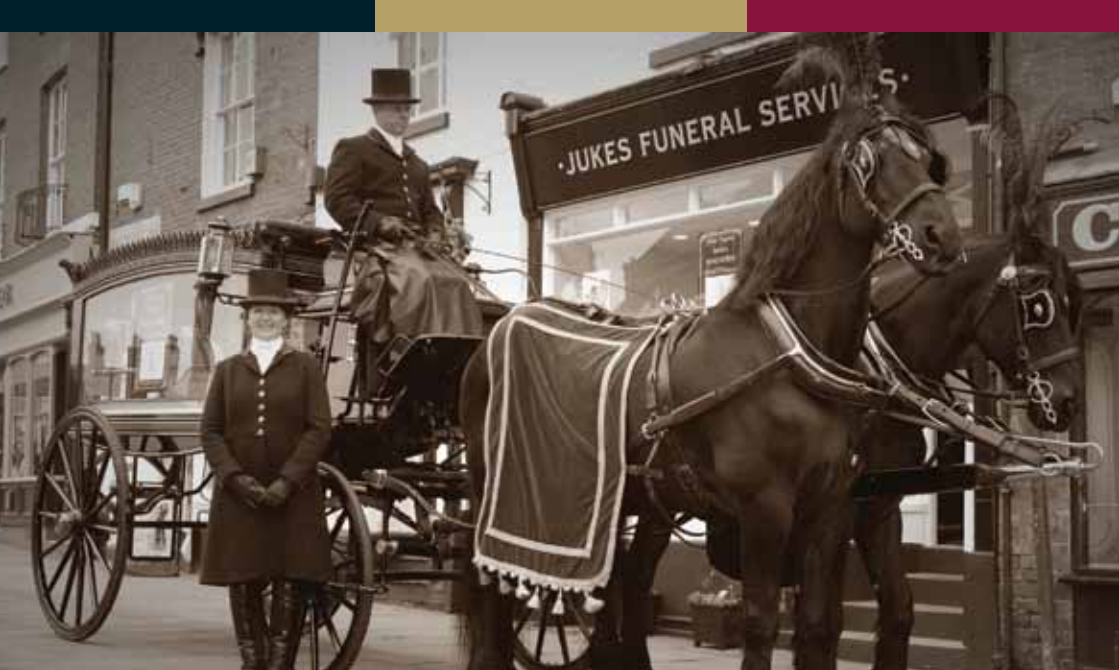
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ESTATE AGENCY



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