



LICHFIELD

v BURTON

SATURDAY 4TH MARCH | 3PM



@LichfieldRugby



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WELCOME **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Welcome to all officials, players and supporters from all teams at Cooke Fields today – enjoy the competition and the camaraderie which is special to the sport of Rugby Football. Welcome also to my guests from Whittington Heath Golf Club, all the VP's plus, Steve Allen and friends.

Interesting times in Rugby at present, and who knows what the future will bring!! Head knocks and tackle height issues are the dominant discussions at present, but who knows what the RFU will throw at us next?

As we head towards the end of a very disjointed season, I hope we can gain a few more wins to reward all those who have trained and played hard for their teammates and our great club. Just like England against Scotland we need to win two halves of rugby, as too often this year we have only been ahead over one half of a rugby match. Elsewhere on the field, the Ladies set up with Leicester Tigers has proven very successful so far – long may this continue. If only 'rugby for all' in schools could become a development strategy to ensure others who don't access our brilliant Mini Junior section, can try the skills and game of Rugby Football – 200 years old celebrations began last Sunday at Rugby School!

Off the field the support has been tremendous. Thank you to those who have travelled around the Midlands [or even abroad!] to support any of our teams. Thank you to those of you who frequent the pre-match meals and always create such a 'buzz' in the clubhouse. Thank you to all members of our Executive Committee for the hours and hours spent on Lichfield Rugby Club matters/issues and without whom a club cannot function successfully. I will remain involved for one last season next year as we head towards commemorating our 150th year in 2024.

When the season will finish is still unsure – as we still await news from the RFU about the Papa John Cup competition, but we do now know the Kenilworth game has been rescheduled for April 1st [no joke!!]

Barry Broad – Club President

KEY CONTACTS

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Hon. Treasurer – Iain Eadie: iaineadie@outlook.com, 07916 139 803

A FEW WORDS FROM THE CHAIRMAN



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

As we turn the year and enter the second half of the season, it's an appropriate time to take stock of where the club is at.

A very brief summary is that we're in a good place in pretty much all aspects of our activity – except possibly the adults men's rugby – where playing numbers and to some extent results are not where we would like them to be.

Moving back up to Level 5 for the Men's 1s was always going to be a tough step, and indeed that has proven to be the case – although not so much in being able to match the necessary standard in terms of fitness and skill levels, but to be able to field teams strong enough to do so consistently. Here's hoping that post-Christmas we can get a lot of the 'walking wounded' back in action and put together a string of positive performances.

But what's more worrying than current playing results though is the ever reducing numbers of fixtures and players for the Men's second and third teams. Generally there seems to be less and less people wanting to play adult men's rugby. This is not a new problem and certainly not unique to us, but the worrying trends from previous seasons have certainly continued into this one. We are always on the look-out for creative ways to address this issue (and the RFU are supposed to be helping too) but if you know anyone who may be looking to 'dust off' their boots (however infrequently), please point them in our direction.

Much more encouragingly, across both the Mini-Junior and the Ladies sections, playing numbers this season are generally on the increase, and results too continue to be very positive.

In our first season after 'losing' a significant number of our more senior female players to the newly founded Leicester Tigers Women's team, results for both of our teams have been very good. The coaching support and the development pathway that the partnership with Tigers was intended to provide certainly seems to be delivering the goods. Long may this continue.

There are of course always different challenges to be faced – on and off the field – but our primary focus will always remain on attracting and enabling as many players as possible to participate and enjoy the game. We are immensely proud of all our playing successes, but our real pride comes from seeing the numbers and the skills of the players and the fact that the vast majority of them have developed those skills through the junior sections of our club. And then very importantly that we proudly remain a community amateur club, and that players are playing here because they enjoy the challenge, the camaraderie and the resources and experiences that we can provide. And not because of any financial incentives they have been offered or could enjoy elsewhere. If you like what you see and would like to get involved in playing here (at whatever standard), please visit our club website (www.lichfieldrugby.co.uk), or pop into the clubhouse and ask for more details.

The role for myself and the others involved in the management of the club is 'simply' to provide the facilities and the environment to attract and support the players and coaches and in doing so, also provide an asset to the local community that many other people can enjoy. I'm also glad to report that after a very challenging few years for us all, and ever increasing external pressure from the wider economy, the club is still in a good place and aiming to continue our development – both on and off the field.

So, in conclusion, many thanks to those of you who help us do this. In particular to our generous sponsors who support us in providing and developing these facilities, and our members and volunteers who all contribute to make our club such a success.

Paul Massey – Club Chairman 2022-23

REGION

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, 3 September

Saturday, 10 September

Saturday, 17 September

Saturday, 24 September

Lichfield v Derby

Dudley Kingswinford v Lichfield

Lichfield v Kenilworth

Lichfield v Syston

OCTOBER

Saturday, 1 October

Saturday, 15 October

Saturday, 22 October

Saturday, 29 October

Nuneaton v Lichfield

Lichfield v Oundle

Stoke on Trent v Lichfield

Lichfield v Bridgnorth

NOVEMBER

Saturday, 5 November

Saturday, 12 November

Saturday, 26 November

Broadstreet v Lichfield

Lichfield v Bromsgrove

Burton v Lichfield

NAL 1 MIDLANDS

DECEMBER

Saturday, 3 December
Saturday, 10 December
Saturday, 17 December

Lichfield v Dudley Kingswinford
Kenilworth v Lichfield
Syston v Lichfield

JANUARY

Saturday, 7 January
Saturday, 14 January
Saturday, 21 January
Saturday, 28 January

Lichfield v Nuneaton
Oundle v Lichfield
Lichfield v Stoke on Trent
Bridgnorth v Lichfield

FEBRUARY

Saturday, 11 February
Saturday, 18 February

Lichfield v Broadstreet
Bromsgrove v Lichfield

MARCH

Saturday, 4 March
Saturday, 11 March

Lichfield v Burton
Derby v Lichfield





MATCH PREVIEW

If everything goes to plan, this afternoon promises to be another busy one at Cooke Fields. The men's 1st and 3rd XV teams are due to be at home against Burton and Uttoxeter 2s respectively, whilst our 2s are at Stafford (all in their respective leagues). The visit of Burton will mean a decent, partisan crowd for this round 21 game and we are also delighted to host our annual Past Players' Day ("PPD"), for a lunch which has again attracted a full house of players and ex-captains from many eras in our history. So, welcome to all, whichever camp you fit into today.

The men's 1s have had contrasting fortunes in the past fortnight, on both occasions playing the sides in second place that day, away. We dug deep and showed some improved skills and defence to win at Bromsgrove and, last week with ten changes to the 18 man squad, Syston showed us how to play at this level of the league structure, especially for the first 30 minutes. We slowly got our act together and did well to earn ourselves a four try bonus point – with a little more composure it could have been at least a couple more. Well done to Seb Smith on making his debut and not seeming phased at all. As seems to be the norm too often (here and elsewhere), the 2s and 3s have played little rugby in last few weeks, a lack of continuity which only adds to the problems of commitment in the lower teams.

A year ago on PPD, the 1s were having a fabulous season, but in the last 12 months a lot has happened – with a string of retirements, injuries and other disrupting influences affecting the men's game. So, we are now in the process of building a new squad and there are definite signs of progress, especially in recent weeks. There have also been some painful lessons along the way. At the same time the women's section continues to blossom (see below), as do the Mini/Juniors, the Touch Rugby groups and the social/business brand. As a club we are doing well overall.

Tomorrow, the women's Red and Green teams (both of whom are in second place in their leagues) have important cup matches. The Red team are at home at 14:00 hrs to Cheltenham, placed second in the league above (the same as Leicester Tigers, a team evolved from here) in the national Intermediate Cup quarter final. The Green team are off to Workington for their national Junior Plate semi-final. They deserve success not least for all the travelling they have done to get to this stage. It's been a real test of their desire to play rugby, and win for this club. Good luck ladies.

The President of Leicestershire informed us at Syston last week that (despite protest from all angles) he is sure that the RFU will push through the proposed move to tackles below waist level (or something very similar) next season - for all players in community rugby teams. The French have adapted to it, so maybe it won't be as painful as everyone currently thinks. There is still no news from Twickenham on the new Papa Johns Community cup competitions, They obviously hadn't bargained for the league season getting stretched out (in our case) into April. More fine examples of the RFU's understanding of the community game!

Next week, the men's 1st XV are at Derby (Haslam's Lane, DE22 1EB) and our final home league game is on 18 March against Stoke. There is then a vacant Saturday before we go to Kenilworth on 1 April - for a third attempt to play what will then be the final match of the league campaign. All with 15:00 kick-offs.

Our thanks to today's mascots and ball girls who are all from the Under 14 Girls section, and to their coaches and parents for 'manning' the gate today. Another great example of everyone at the club pulling together.

#	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1	Dudley Kingswinford	18	15	0	3	575	304	271	12	3	75
2	Syston	19	14	0	5	684	362	322	12	1	69
3	Bridgnorth	18	13	0	5	503	390	113	10	4	66
4	Bromsgrove	20	11	1	8	562	449	113	12	7	65
5	Kenilworth	18	12	0	6	477	414	63	8	3	59
6	Burton	19	9	0	10	483	479	4	11	6	53
7	Derby	20	10	1	9	531	626	-95	9	1	52
8	Broadstreet	19	8	0	11	468	598	-130	9	5	46
9	Oundle	19	7	0	12	424	520	-96	10	6	44
10	Stoke on Trent	19	5	0	14	507	630	-123	11	6	37
11	Nuneaton	19	4	0	15	434	616	-182	7	6	29
12	Lichfield	18	4	0	14	424	684	-260	8	3	27



THANK YOU
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REGIONAL 1 MIDLANDS

SATURDAY 4TH MARCH | 3PM

LICHFIELD

V

BURTON

Jack Dace	1	Ben Smith
Jack Fielding	2	James Davies
Cal Hagyard	3	Matt Tivey
Jake Turley	4	Llyr Griffith
Cal Turner	5	Joe Shacklock
Freddie Wilson	6	Ed Henry
Kieran Reynolds	7	Jack Neal
Richard Burton	8	Joe Gazzard
Seb Smith	9	Jack Ingram
Adam Spinner	10	Harry Titley
Joe Bourne	11	Will Derry
Cal Shields	12	Jamie Dutton
Paul Maxwell-Keys	13	Alex Nesbitt
David Mott	14	Tristan De Jagger
Kai Lucas-Dumolo	15	Charlie Bunting
Sam Craddock	16	Tommie Collingwood
Jack Hurst	17	Josh Cartwright
Joel Finnemore	18	Adam McLean

The referee today is Sam Yates, from the Notts, Lincs and Derbyshire Refereeing Society. We wish him an enjoyable time at Lichfield RUFC.

Mascots: Maddison Pugh, Hannah Norton, Hannah Grimshaw, Jessica Cunningham & Martha Grummet (U14s)

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—AT SHENSTONE—

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JAMES LAD ART



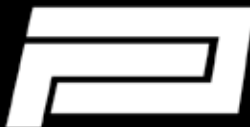
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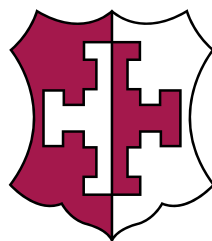
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Ian Turner is a Health and Fitness Professional with over 25 years experience as an Army Physical Training Corps Instructor and Rehabilitation Specialist. A Sports Therapist with Lichfield RUFC and the England Women's Rugby team. Ian has also worked 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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LICHFIELD

U7s – U12s

FIXTURES: 2022-2023



OCT 02 BURTON – H

OCT 16 BROMSGROVE – A

NOV 13 SUTTON COLDFIELD – H

DEC 04 BARKERS BUTTS – A

JAN 08 OLD LEAMINGTONIANS – A

FEB 05 NUNEATON – A

MAR 05 LICHFIELD MJ FESTIVAL: U7s – U9s

MAR 26 TRENTHAM – A

APR 16 LICHFIELD MJ FESTIVAL: U10s – U12s

APR 30 NEWPORT SALOP – H



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