



# LICHFIELD

## v KENILWORTH

SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER | 3PM



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# **WELCOME** **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

WELCOME to the players, officials and supporters of both sides today. I hope we witness a game played in the true spirit of Rugby Football. We welcome back to Cooke Fields to the sides we played at Level 5 a couple of years ago and we look forward to renewing old rugby friendships as well as meeting new opponents Oundle. It is important that we all, from both sides, respect the referee please – without them we do not get a game!!

We also welcome any new players and hope they enjoy being part of the Lichfield 'family'. Those who have moved from the Colts to Senior Rugby for this season have helped boost numbers in a very competitive squad. Good luck to all our teams and I hope the great progress made by the 1st XV last season is continued.

There are games on a Sunday for the Ladies this season and it is always a day full of action, along with Didi rugby, Rugger Rats, minis, juniors and colts all either training or playing fixtures/tournaments. Come down and watch if able and watch the future players/stars of the club. As a club we put on many really good social events and when Autumn Internationals or Six Nations matches take place we show them on our big screen. So please support any or all of these with friends and family – to enjoy the atmosphere in the Lichfield Rugby Club.

Thank you to all who have supported me as President of the club which has been a great honour over the years. Particularly to those, past and present, who give up so much of their spare time to ensure Lichfield Rugby functions and develops so well – THANK YOU.

Enjoy your time at Cooke Fields and safe journey to you all. See you in the bar to review the game and share memories for the future

**Barry Broad – Club President.**

## **KEY CONTACTS**

President – Barry Broad: [barryj.broad@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:barryj.broad@hotmail.co.uk), 07866 482 539

Chairman – Paul Massey: [paul.massey58@outlook.com](mailto:paul.massey58@outlook.com), 07764 157 889

Director of Rugby – Dan Hemingway: [hemingwaydph@msn.com](mailto:hemingwaydph@msn.com), 07894 866 548

Commercial & Sponsorship – Dorian Tranter: [commercial@lichfieldrugby.co.uk](mailto:commercial@lichfieldrugby.co.uk), 07701 308 661

Facilities – Dan Bourne: [daniel@masonrysolutions.co.uk](mailto:daniel@masonrysolutions.co.uk), 07967 076 797

Mini Rugby Chairman – Luke Trueman: [luke.trueman@hotmail.com](mailto:luke.trueman@hotmail.com), 07841 126 834

Junior Rugby Chairman – Dave Clark: [lrufc2009.10@gmail.com](mailto:lrufc2009.10@gmail.com), 07810 206 207

Head of Ladies Rugby – Molly Sanghera: [manjit\\_88@hotmail.com](mailto:manjit_88@hotmail.com), 07709 411 455

Hon. Treasurer – Iain Eadie: [iaineadie@outlook.com](mailto: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.

We started last season, after a long period of inactivity, not really knowing what to expect, and it's fair to say that we were very pleasantly surprised by how all of our teams resumed playing with a great deal of style and a lot of success. A great credit to all of the coaching teams and the commitment of the players who kept the fitness and skill levels going throughout all of the lockdowns.

This time around things are a bit more 'normal' and we certainly know a bit more about what to expect for the Men's First team – as we step up to resume competition with many of the teams we battled with a few years ago. A much bigger challenge for sure, but one which the squad are eagerly anticipating.

Across our other senior Men's teams, the new season is harder to predict. One of the very few disappointments from last season was the much lower number of games that the 2s and the 3s had. This was largely through no fault of their own as we had fixtures agreed, and teams ready and very keen to play. But opposition cry-offs (and at times referee shortages), meant far too many games didn't happen, and as a result, very disjointed seasons for both teams. This underlying shortage of adult men now playing rugby regularly is a problem everywhere and is creating a major challenge for all clubs – both in maintaining playing standards and remaining financially viable. Let's hope the new season sees an improvement for everyone.

On the Ladies side, whilst playing numbers generally are on the increase, we now face our first season after 'losing' a significant number of our more senior players to the newly founded Leicester Tigers Women's team. This was always factored into our plans as part of the partnership with Tigers, and we now have a new second team entered into NC2 Midlands (West), but nevertheless (and for different reasons to the men) early season playing numbers may still be challenge.

There are always different challenges, but our focus remains on enabling as many players as possible to participate and enjoy the game. Obviously, we are immensely proud of our playing successes, but our pride really comes from seeing the numbers and the skills of the players on view and the fact that most 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](http://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 glad to report that after a very challenging few years for us all, the club is still extremely buoyant, and well-placed 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 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

## LADIES' DAY

It is one of our 'special' Saturdays today, when we welcome all our lady members and their guests to Cooke Fields for what is always a memorable occasion (even if it is at times raucous, yet exciting!) But why not! As also happened last year, we are taking this ideal opportunity to raise funds for charity, and this time we have opted for Motor Neurone Disease Association (MND). Recently this disease seems to be afflicting more and more rugby players (Doddie Weir, Rob Burrow and, most recently, Ed Slater, to name but three high profile examples). Even though there is no medical evidence to verify any such connection, it is a truly horrible disease afflicting people in our sport, and we ask everyone to try and contribute in some way across the day. Specifically, we are again auctioning the specially designed 1st XV shirts after the game in the marquee. Please join us and enter a bid.

There is also some rugby taking place - with the visit of Kenilworth (who are most welcome) for the third round of league games. It is also hoped that the 3s can make a start to their season with Tamworth 2s making the short journey here; our 2s are scrambling to find a friendly somewhere. Tomorrow, the Colts are at home to Ledbury at 14:00 hrs, there is a full programme of junior games, and the minis are back into training. The opening round of women's league matches commence next Sunday and based on their friendlies to date, there are positive signs for our two sides. In a rearrangement, both of our ladies' teams are now playing at home on Sunday 2 October in a 'double header' in their respective leagues against Birmingham Moseley.

As ever, support to all our teams is much appreciated by the players. However, there are already worrying signs of playing numbers dropping off further around most clubs. In one of the main Midlands leagues last Saturday, four of the six games were awarded by walk overs. On the other side of the coin, Worcester RFC, who suffered at the hands of both Kenilworth and us in 21/22, have started in a very positive and healthy fashion with two wins from two - one good news rugby story in the city of Worcester.

Life back at level 5 is not proving to be easy. No excuses, we need to deal with the issues that we are confronted with and battle our way through - a real contrast to the relative comforts we enjoyed last season. We played well enough against Derby for an hour, but our lack of pre-season game time caught up with us and we finally went down 26-32 (earning 2 bonus points). Last week at Dudley K, we had to cope with six changes in the starting pack and inevitably our systems and processes were south of the necessary levels. Dudley, with a strong back line, took their chances well to beat us 38-14 (no

bonus points). Full match reports are on the website and on our social media outlets. David Mott and Sam Benson lead the way with 2 tries each.

Along with Stoke, Kenilworth were promoted with us to this newly formed league and have so far registered a narrow victory over Dudley K and last week lost by one point at home to Syston (15-16). Syston are possible favourites to win this league and they used their know how and nous to squeeze through an obviously tight match. After two rounds, Burton, Derby & Syston have perfect records, whilst like us, Nuneaton and Stoke are yet to win.

Next week, we are at home again against Syston. The 2s also play at home against the same opposition.

The 2s travelled to Dudley last week with the senior side and, after a dominant opening 40 minutes, eventually won 47-22. Sutton C, after crying off on week 1, have now withdrawn "their labour" from the 2s league - not good news. The colts, with two promising friendly victories in the pocket, travelled to Luctonians last Sunday and came close to an opening league success, just losing 13-5. In the juniors, the 14s through to 16s age groups all beat Wolverhampton, but the 13s lost in a one-sided affair.

So, everyone please enjoy our special day with us and if you can 'survive' today, we hope to see you next weekend - for a more traditional Saturday afternoon.

#	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1	Burton	2	2	0	0	59	37	22	2	0	10
2	Derby	2	2	0	0	52	43	9	1	0	9
3	Syston	2	2	0	0	36	29	7	0	0	8
4	Dudley Kingswinford	2	1	0	1	59	41	18	1	1	6
5	Bromsgrove	2	1	0	1	67	50	17	1	1	6
6	Kenilworth	2	1	0	1	42	37	5	1	1	6
7	Bridgnorth	2	1	0	1	39	34	5	0	1	5
8	Broadstreet	2	1	0	1	52	50	2	1	0	5
9	Oundle	2	1	0	1	34	49	-15	1	0	5
10	Nuneaton	2	0	0	2	44	52	-8	0	2	2
11	Lichfield	2	0	0	2	40	70	-30	1	1	2
12	Stoke on Trent	2	0	0	2	51	83	-32	2	0	2



# COACH'S CORNER

## JON PERKS



**DAN  
HEMINGWAY**



**JON  
PERKS**



**HUW  
MARSDEN**

I'd like to welcome both the sets of supporters and the Kenilworth players to Cooke Fields today.

The start of the season has seen the second team pick up a convincing opening game win over DK's second team last weekend with the first team registering two bonus points from their first two games. There has been a lot of learning taken from these two games regarding what is required to compete at this new level and a large number of players being exposed to level 5 rugby for the first time. As a group we will continue to work hard and develop as the season kicks on.

Kenilworth are a familiar opposition with both clubs having regular fixtures against each other over the last few seasons. It's fair to say that both games last season were very different but both were high in quality, excitement and drama.

Perksy



# REGIONAL 1 MIDLANDS

## SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER | 3PM

LICHFIELD	V	KENILWORTH
Josh Machin	1	Payne
Kieran Reynolds	2	Smith
Rory Davis	3	Boulton
Cal Turner	4	Randall
Matt Cowley	5	Kavanagh
Jack Hurst	6	M Ryan
Freddie Wilson	7	Line
Rich Burton (c)	8	Thompson (c)
Sam Benson	9	Renowden
Adam Spinner	10	Jowett
Ben Meads	11	Morgan
Dave Lote	12	Hannam
Chey Robertson	13	Alexander
David Mott	14	Young
Tom Day	15	Peppitt
Fraser Goatcher	16	J Ryan
Jake Turkey	17	Grace
Kai Lucas-Dumolo	18	Price

The referee today is Jamie Hanson. We wish him an enjoyable time at Lichfield RUFC.

Mascots for today's match are Tyler Winstanley and Ellis Green (U13s).

# TRY THE PLOUGH

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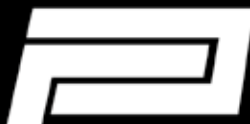
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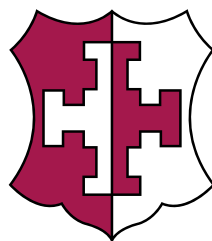
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Ian Turner is a Health and Fitness Professional with over 25 years experience as an Army Physical Training Corps Instructor and Rehabilitation Specialist. A Sports Therapist with Lichfield RUFC and the England Women's Rugby team. Ian has also worked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