



# LICHFIELD

## v STOKE-ON-TRENT

SATURDAY 21ST JANUARY | 2.15PM



@LichfieldRugby



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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**

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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.

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](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 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

Let's start with a few welcomes for what should be another busy day. Firstly to everyone connected to Stoke, here for the 1st XV league match (Round 17) and then all those here for the Friary School rugby players annual reunion. This is always well attended and it's great to see so many former players (\*) here at Cooke Fields. Without much fear of contradiction, all them will have played for this club at some stage of their rugby 'careers'. Well done on getting here, all of you. There will also be the usual array of VPs joining us for the pre-match lunch. Hopefully we will see even more of you at the Presidents Lunch, which will precede our next home game on 11 February (against Broad Street, KO 14:15 hrs).

It is then entirely appropriate, with team Friary here, to spare a thought for Josh Machin (who attended both Friary & KE). After a couple of weeks in hospital the extreme seriousness of Josh's illness is now known and everyone at the club send him and his family our very best wishes in his recovery efforts. Any support you can give him/them will be very much appreciated by them all.

Two weeks ago, we finally managed to host three home games on a Saturday! And last Sunday was even busier with five games taking place in the afternoon - after all the usual mini/juniors sessions/matches in the morning. All positive news and great to see the place so busy. Just what we need. We hope today will be another lively afternoon and evening.

On the pitch the news is a definite mixture. The men's 1st XV, by their very position in the league, continues to find life hard and certainly not straightforward. Captain, Charlie Milner, has now joined the walking wounded and is probably out for the season. Paul Maxwell-Keys and Sam Benson have returned to action after long periods of inactivity, as did Tom Gibbs last Saturday at Oundle, although he did incur a bang to the area of his previous injury and retired at half time. The squad fights on and there was certainly no lack of effort last weekend - just a lack of a cutting edge to the decent level of possession we earned, as both sides struggled to get any zip into their recycling. Maxwell-Keys scored our try with Kai Lucas-Dumolo adding five points via his boot.

The 2s have won both their last two games at home to Nuneaton and top of the table side, Bournville, and visit Walsall today in the league. The 3s were soundly beaten in the very local derby against Whittington two weeks ago and were hoping for a chance to rectify that today, but unfortunately have been unable to put out a full team.

The colts, despite a sterling team effort last Sunday, were (just) beaten 3-10 in the last 16 of the national colts cup - by a very well coached Old Laurentians

side, with four particularly talented individuals. The colts have had a number of their squad in the county team and four of them (Noah Fripp, Ben Crawford, Jack Bates and Max Cotton) have now progressed to the Midlands one. They face another tough ask tomorrow against Luctonians in the league – 14:00 (H).

The women's results continue to be very positive. Leicester Tigers, with ten ex-Lichfield players in their starting line-up, came here last Sunday and with a very competent display overpowered Worcester 54-5 (level 2). Earlier in the afternoon, the Red team overcame a stubborn Shelford outfit 22-7 and remain 2nd in the league. Tomorrow they visit Buckingham Swans, the only team to beat them so far in their level 3 league. The Green team also won last Sunday at Handsworth (17-15) and are at home to Stourbridge tomorrow (14:15). They will have the opportunity to go top when they catch up on postponed fixtures. The girls 12 and 14 groups also had matches to test out their impressive recent development.

Next Saturday, we visit Bridgnorth (who were under water last Saturday). Their ground car parking is WV15 5HA (Swancote Energy Park). The following week, we visit Kenilworth for the rearranged fixture (ground is at CV8 2AJ). Both at 14:15 hrs.

Today's mascots are George Hibberd and Theo Thompson who come from the U13 age group (who are also manning the gate too).

(\*) – the 'Past Players Day' is on 4 March (home to Burton). If you are interested in attending this popular event, or you know someone who would be, please contact Barry Broad – who is assembling the attendees list.

As you might have seen on our social media pages, we have changed the opening hours of the club shop. It is now open on Wednesday evenings from 18:00 to 20:30 hrs and then on Sundays from 09:00 through to 17:00 hrs. There is plenty of stock currently, so please go and browse.

#	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1	Dudley Kingswinford	13	10	0	3	409	208	201	9	3	52
2	Bromsgrove	14	9	0	5	414	286	128	9	5	50
3	Bridgnorth	13	9	0	4	336	282	54	7	3	46
4	Syston	14	9	0	5	366	255	111	7	1	44
5	Kenilworth	14	9	0	5	346	307	39	5	3	44
6	Burton	14	8	0	6	368	348	20	9	3	44
7	Derby	15	9	0	6	394	449	-55	5	1	42
8	Broadstreet	14	6	0	8	358	397	-39	8	5	37
9	Oundle	15	6	0	9	317	389	-72	8	5	37
10	Stoke on Trent	14	3	0	11	387	448	-61	8	5	25
11	Nuneaton	14	3	0	11	309	449	-140	5	4	21
12	Lichfield	14	3	0	11	327	513	-186	5	2	19





**All at Lichfield Rugby Club are keeping 1st XV player Josh Machin and his family in our thoughts. We're all with you Mach.**



# REGIONAL 1 MIDLANDS

SATURDAY 21ST JANUARY | 2.15PM

## LICHFIELD

V

## STOKE

Jack Dace	1	Carl Williams
Kieran Reynolds	2	Sam Yorke
Sam Craddock	3	Tom Dodd
Tom Gibbs	4	Jordy Binns
Cal Turner	5	Josh Bailey
Jack Hurst	6	Jordan Grimshaw
Freddie Wilson	7	Rhodri Campbell
Rich Burton (C)	8	Zac Chadwick
Sam Benson	9	Jamie Murray
Adam Spinner	10	Andy Marsh
Joe Bourne	11	Nick Oxley
Joe Edwards	12	Will Sant
Paul Maxwell-Keys	13	Jamie Loska
Kai Lucas-Dumolo	14	Sam Clarke
Ollie Green	15	Ciaran Shone
Cal Hagyard	16	Tom Gibson
Jake Turley	17	Joe Maskrey
Ben Ashmore	18	Chris Rowley

The referee today is Rory Fisher, from the Warwickshire Refereeing Society.  
We wish him an enjoyable time at Lichfield RUFC.

Mascots: George Hibberd and Theo Thompson (U13s)

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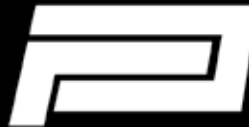
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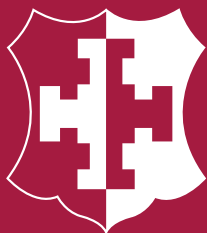
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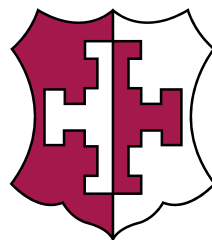
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Ian Turner is a Health and Fitness Professional with over 25 years experience as an Army Physical Training Corps Instructor and Rehabilitation Specialist. A Sports Therapist with Lichfield RUFC and the England Women's Rugby team. Ian has also worked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