



# LICHFIELD

## v BRIDGNORTH

SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER | 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**

# FIX 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

## **SPONSORS' DAY**

Lichfield rugby club welcomes a number of our sponsors today - to lunch and to also enjoy all the other activities that occur on most Saturdays of the rugby season - especially when the men's 1st XV have a home league game. The club would like to register our sincere gratitude to all our sponsors for their ongoing support. It is your backing that is crucial in helping the club function as successfully as it does. Likewise, it is a pleasure to also see Bridgnorth RFC back at Cooke Fields for the first time since the 18/19 season, when our two matches ended with one victory apiece.

Bridgnorth come here with five victories from their seven games, which gives them fourth place with 24 points. Last week, they overcame Kenilworth by 31-28, coming back from being fourteen points in arrears in the second half - once again showing how reasonable leads can be easily whittled away with possession and pressure.

Our last two men's 1st XV games have been disappointing, for different reasons, apart the results. Against Oundle, we had led 28-24 at half time against the breeze, which then dropped after a short storm, and failed to convert the chances we created second half to be scoreless until very late on. Oundle kept working hard and they started to smell that maybe it was going to be their day and were rewarded with a slightly lucky try, followed by another immediately after.

Although Stoke were winless until last week, they played with confidence from the first minute, whilst our efforts were disjointed for large parts of the game. Our second try on the half hour mark brought us back to 17-15 down without us ever being anywhere near our "brilliant best". However, we didn't kick on from this position. A basic error gifted them, eventually, a penalty try right on half time and they put the game to bed with two soft tries soon after. Our potential is undoubtedly still there, but injuries are hurting us and hence confidence has not been high. Let's hope things change today, even if it's the football equivalent of a 1-0 win with the ball going in off a player's backside!

The mini/junior section continues to provide mascots for our first team matches and this week they are Arla Collins and Rory Beale, both from the U8s.

Next week, AWAY to Broad Street (KO 2:15), then 12th November at HOME to Bromsgrove (2:15).

The 2s won their latest league game a fortnight ago, right at the death against



Walsall 29-24. Aled John's boys scored four first half tries and then lost their way as they rotated the match squad but fought back positively from a red card to pinch their second victory out of four matches. Last week the 3rd XV were comfortable victors at Walsall (in their Staffordshire league), the score line of 52-29 might suggest that defensive duties were not top priority – most importantly, they enjoyed themselves. Today, the 2s are away at Birmingham Medics in their latest league fixture.

The women's first team (the Reds) lost their unbeaten record to a talented Buckingham Swans side last Sunday and now sit in second spot. They should have been at home to Cannock in a cup match tomorrow, but unfortunately their opposition have cried off. The Green team won convincingly at Stourbridge 66-0, which places them in fifth place in a congested top of the table. They are away at Winnington Park tomorrow – also in a cup match.

The colts have been inactive for a couple of weekends, but have another long journey tomorrow, visiting Hereford for the day. Let's see how the younger ones amongst them perform – 'fresh' from a tiring but challenging (& eventually successful) U17s tour in Spain this last week. In the morning, both the 16s and 14s are at home to Burton at 11:00. Support to all our many teams is most welcome.

It's now the time of the year when we like to promote our upcoming (and vital) social events. Importantly, let's start with the annual Bonfire Party on Friday 4 November, gates open at 6pm with two displays at 7:30 and 8:30pm. This year the Christmas lunch takes place on Saturday 3 December, starting at 12:00 with a three-course lunch, followed by what is our only home league game that month, against Dudley K. The mini/junior Christmas party is on Sunday 18 December. Full details of these events are also available on our website and our various social media platforms.

Thank you all for your support.

#	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1	Dudley Kingswinford	7	6	0	1	240	116	124	5	1	30
2	Syston	7	6	0	1	206	107	99	3	0	27
3	Burton	7	5	0	2	205	177	28	6	1	27
4	Bridgnorth	7	5	0	2	168	178	-10	3	1	24
5	Derby	7	5	0	2	207	184	23	2	1	23
6	Kenilworth	7	4	0	3	163	155	8	4	2	22
7	Bromsgrove	7	3	0	4	217	170	47	4	4	20
8	Lichfield	7	2	0	5	191	263	-72	4	2	14
9	Broadstreet	7	2	0	5	179	230	-51	3	2	13
10	Oundle	7	2	0	5	132	202	-70	3	2	13
11	Stoke on Trent	7	1	0	6	190	255	-65	5	1	10
12	Nuneaton	7	1	0	6	165	226	-61	2	3	9



# COACH'S CORNER

## DAN HEMINGWAY



**DAN  
HEMINGWAY**



**JON  
PERKS**



**HUW  
MARSDEN**

A tough start to the season has seen the squad stretched with a number of injuries and inconsistent performances. From the highs of the last couple of seasons the group faces a new challenge, one of being resilient and tough to beat.

Last week saw us fall short of the mark in spectacular fashion and a performance that the group were extremely disappointed in. This week has been about restoring order, and we hope we come out today and show the pride we hold for the badge.

Hemo



# REGIONAL 1 MIDLANDS

## SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER | 3PM

LICHFIELD	V	BRIDGNORTH
Jack Dace	1	Jonah Boyce
Kieran Reynolds	2	Luis Evitt
Rory Davis	3	George Newman
Cal Turner	4	Ben Rochelle
Matt Cowley	5	Morgan French
Jack Hurst	6	Ioti Molitika
Freddie Wilson	7	Adam Ellis
Rich Burton	8	Connor Nicholls
Ollie Green	9	Gareth Bladen
Adam Spinner	10	Elliot Murphy
Ben Meads	11	James Barham
Charlie Milner	12	Will Bishop
Ben Ashmore	13	Dan Spencer Tonks
David Mott	14	Jordan Burgess
Chad Southam	15	Will Biddell
Sam Craddock	16	Russ Gauden
Tom Gibbs	17	Manasa Volaikisuva
Kai Lucas-Dumolo	18	George Bvuma

The referee today is Michael Hurdley, from the Staffordshire Refereeing Society.  
We wish him an enjoyable time at Lichfield RUFC.

Mascots for today's match are Arla Collins and Rory Beale (U8s).

# TRY THE PLOUGH

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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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