



LICHFIELD

v BROADSTREET

SATURDAY 11TH FEBRUARY | 2.15PM



@LichfieldRugby



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MAIN CLUB
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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

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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

Today's round 19 match brings Coventry side, Broad Street, to Cooke Fields. Originally, the 2s and 3s were also due to be at home in their respective leagues against Birmingham Medics and Shrewsbury 2s, but one of these has been postponed and the other one relocated. A sign of the recent times when it comes to men's rugby! But let's stay positive – it's still President's Day and we are expecting a really good turnout of VPs and other guests for this occasion. To all of you, as well as to Broad Street players and spectators, "welcome".

First team men's action has been a bit 'stop/start' this year and this trend certainly continued last Saturday at Kenilworth. The warm up for this (already once postponed) match was in progress when the referee – the only one on site – was called home for a family emergency. So the players shook hands at 1:45pm, and will now try again on 1st April. The league season was due to finish on 11 March – to allow time for the new Papa Johns Community Cup to then take place. But with two league games already rescheduled beyond that date we are now not sure what will happen?

Broad Street did not fare much better, conceding 90 points at home to Syston – no doubt affected by players having arranged other things, including going to Twickenham, on this "spare" Saturday, as indeed was the case with us. Both sides will be stronger today. Our first meeting ended with us scoring a last minute try to win 22-17, on a cold, dreary day in CV3.

Two weeks ago, we found ourselves up against a very committed Bridgnorth team, who were clinically good with the ball in their hands and were not afraid to put their bodies on the line to defend their end of the pitch. Our previous home game, the week before that, against Stoke was frozen off and will now be played on 18 March.

Since Christmas our 2nd XV have won their last three outings and now find themselves top of the table, admittedly having played more games than all the other sides. The 3s have also had two morale inducing wins in the last fortnight and we hope both of these outfits can keep up their form lines today.

Last Sunday, the women's Red and Green teams won through in their respective national cup ties, the former beating Sutton Coldfield 35-0 and the 2nd string Stamford 20-5. They are both in league action tomorrow, and are both situated in 2nd place in their respective leagues. The Red team are at home against Sutton (again) – KO at 2:00pm, and the Green team are visiting Bournville.

The colts are at home tomorrow afternoon as well, for a league match against Shrewsbury (2:00pm). Additionally, it is certainly worth mentioning that the 16

group are in their county final at Cannock RFC at 11:00am. They play Longton, who have been consistently strong in this age group throughout the years, but this year we have certainly been closing the gap! They would love your support if you have a free morning.

And let's give Joe Woodward a paragraph of his own. Having come through our mini/junior system, Joe is currently plying his trade at Leicester Tigers and, after being England 18 group captain, he made his debut last weekend for the national U20s side, which just beat Scotland. He certainly didn't let the side down.

Then finally whilst speaking of Mini-Juniors; today's mascots Theo and Jack are from the U7 age group and the gate attendants are all from the Under 14s. Thank you to everyone involved.

Next week, the men's 1st XV go to Bromsgrove, currently second, their ground is on Finstall Road (B60 3DH) and the following week we visit Syston, whose ground is on Barkby Road, Queniborough (LE7 3FE). Both start at 2:15pm.

The Past Players Day is on 4 March (when we will be at home to Burton - 3:00pm). 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. Meet time will be around 1:00pm.

Finally, both 6 Nations internationals will be shown on the various TVs in the clubhouse, but if possible please support all our teams today...and tomorrow.

#	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1	Dudley Kingswinford	15	12	0	3	489	240	249	11	3	62
2	Bromsgrove	17	10	1	6	490	358	132	11	6	59
3	Syston	16	11	0	5	510	277	233	9	1	54
4	Bridgnorth	15	10	0	5	396	319	77	8	4	52
5	Burton	16	9	0	7	435	410	25	11	4	51
6	Derby	17	10	1	6	453	506	-53	7	1	50
7	Kenilworth	15	10	0	5	383	329	54	6	3	49
8	Oundle	16	6	0	10	322	443	-121	8	5	37
9	Broadstreet	16	6	0	10	397	524	-127	8	5	37
10	Stoke on Trent	16	4	0	12	443	503	-60	10	6	32
11	Nuneaton	16	3	0	13	335	529	-194	5	4	21
12	Lichfield	15	3	0	12	339	554	-215	5	2	19



COACH'S CORNER

DAN HEMINGWAY



**DAN
HEMINGWAY**



**JON
PERKS**



**HUW
MARSDEN**

Welcome back to Cooke Fields after a disjointed month with two games cancelled.

The Stoke game fell victim to the frozen weather, although the Friary boys still had a great afternoon in the bar! Last week was a first for all of us with the game being cancelled in the middle of the warm up after the referee had a family emergency. Having spoken to him after the game, all is well, and he had our full backing. Some things are bigger than Rugby!

We come into this week finding ourselves in a strange position after the success of the last few season. We have been more accustomed to topping tables than propping them up, but here we are. The group are working hard to improve their skills, we have some guys returning from injury and extended absences and that missing piece of the jigsaw is some confidence. We appreciate all the continued support and will continue to give it all we have. Crucial to us is that we will always do it the Lichfield way. We will play our brand of rugby, and we will do it with Lichfield players. It's our mates, it's our team, it's our club.

REGIONAL 1 MIDLANDS

SATURDAY 11TH FEBRUARY | 2.15PM

LICHFIELD

V

BROADSTREET

Jack Dace	1	Ben Ritchie
Kieran Reynolds	2	Tim Murphy
Rory Davis	3	Ash Knight
Jake Turley	4	Nick Walton (cc)
Tom Gibbs	5	Chris Wood
Cal Turner	6	Matt Diederick
Jack Hurst	7	Sam Allen
Rich Burton (C)	8	Brett Daynes
Sam Benson	9	Jay West
Adam Spinner	10	Tom Holliday (cc)
Joe Bourne	11	Matt Dight
Joe Edwards	12	Josh Hickman
Paul Maxwell-Keys	13	Ryan O'Neill
David Mott	14	Ollie Cregg
Ollie Green	15	Joey Patrick
Fraser Goatcher	16	OT Edwards
Harvey Wootton	17	Callum Hopkin
Ben Ashmore	18	Sam Payne

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

Mascots: Theo Wright and Jack Turner (U7s)

TRY THE PLOUGH

—AT SHENSTONE—

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JAMES LAD ART



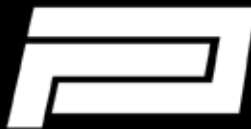
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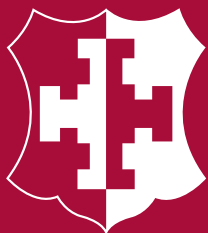
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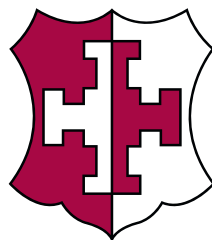
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Ian Turner is a Health and Fitness Professional with over 25 years experience as an Army Physical Training Corps Instructor and Rehabilitation Specialist. A Sports Therapist with Lichfield RUFC and the England Women's Rugby team. Ian has also worked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