



# LICHFIELD

## v DUDLEY KINGSWINFORD

SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER | 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.

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

Today's match (Round 12) is our final home league game for 2022, as we will be visiting Kenilworth and Syston over the next two weekends. So we may be a little early but still very pleased to welcome a full house, as well as the four representatives from Dudley Kingswinford, into the club for the Christmas luncheon. We trust everyone has an another enjoyable and memory provoking day at Cooke Fields.

Dudley remain top of the table despite somewhat surprisingly (having only lost three times before) losing at Syston last weekend. The results continue to throw up surprises, for example Syston, who had been deserved leaders after six rounds and then lost four consecutive matches?! Our visitors also have the best record for points scored and fewest conceded and have earned seven try bonus points; all very consistent, and (from what we saw at our first meeting in September) all based on a relatively simple, yet very effective game plan. Their key players tend to make a significant statement week in, week out.

We continue to find life difficult as we reach the half-way stage of the season. Hemo and Perksy didn't expect to be regenerating the side at the same time as preparing the players to compete in a higher league. But that's where we are at and great efforts are being made to achieve progress and consistency. In both of our last two games, we have given Bromsgrove and Burton too much of a start before we mounted a meaningful challenge. All part of the steep learning curve for the group.

Support of the team is therefore vital, and we're glad to say remains very high. This is much appreciated by the players, so please try to get to Kenilworth next week (CV8 2AJ) and then Syston (LE7 3GD) on the 17th. Ball boys/mascots for today's game are from the Under 10s age group: Seb Dale, Edward Blythway, Thom Bird & Thomas Woodall. And as it's a busy day, they're also being assisted by some from the Under 14s too!

Our next HOME game will be against Nuneaton on 7th January. The RFU decided to shorten the league programme this season. Hence it finishes in March and will then be followed by a cup competition. Clubs don't have to participate, but we have entered this new contest, called the Papa Johns Community Cup.

The 2s won a free scoring game at Wolverhampton last week (38-36), to go second in their league and Dudley K's 2s are here today in the first of their reverse fixtures (we won at their club 47-22). The colts continue to do well in both the league and national cup competitions. In the former, they have won 4 from 6 and have amassed 34 points, which according to the RFU website

places them 4th but with more points than the two sides above them?! Their next home game is Sunday 11th at 2pm. After a recent win over Stourbridge (28-17), they qualified for a home fixture in the next round (last 16) of the national cup – in January, against Market Harborough or Old Laurentians. The 3s are also due to be in action today at Handsworth.

Our women's rugby association with Leicester Tigers continues to flourish. The new Tigers side, with a significant number of Lichfield recruits, remains unbeaten in the second tier league and both of our revamped Lichfield branded sides are second in their respective leagues. The Red team are in action tomorrow at Aston Old Edwardians and the Green team are at home to Wolverhampton (2pm).

The junior sides are getting plenty of game time on Sunday mornings, with most age groups enjoying a series of positive results. A particular mention should be made of the 16 group, whose recent development is very encouraging.

Our thanks for all the efforts in making today an undoubted success must go to Barry Broad for the organisation, and to Barry Gwilt and team for the catering side. Thanks too to the bar staff for their continued valiant efforts. The mini/junior Christmas party is on the 18th December, when we look forward to another grand day for the hundreds of boys and girls with their parents/guardians.

Finally, an early "Happy Christmas and New Year" to you all. See you soon.

Dates for the new 2023 Diaries:

- January 21st – Friary Old Boys Reunion
- January 27th – Burns Night at LRUFC
- March 4th – Past Players Luncheon

#	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1	Dudley Kingswinford	11	8	0	3	341	173	168	7	3	42
2	Bromsgrove	11	7	0	4	337	241	96	7	4	39
3	Bridgnorth	11	7	0	4	274	253	21	5	3	36
4	Syston	11	7	0	4	303	217	86	6	1	35
5	Burton	11	6	0	5	304	274	30	8	3	35
6	Derby	11	7	0	4	304	334	-30	3	1	32
7	Kenilworth	11	6	0	5	274	256	18	5	3	32
8	Broadstreet	11	5	0	6	286	330	-44	6	3	29
9	Oundle	11	5	0	6	229	288	-59	6	3	29
10	Stoke on Trent	11	3	0	8	323	366	-43	7	3	22
11	Lichfield	11	3	0	8	274	413	-139	5	2	19
12	Nuneaton	11	2	0	9	255	359	-104	4	4	16





# COACH'S CORNER

## DAN HEMINGWAY



**DAN  
HEMINGWAY**



**JON  
PERKS**



**HUW  
MARSDEN**

Welcome all to Cooke Fields for today's game against league leaders, Dudley Kingswinford.

It's been a tough run of games for the Myrtle Greens with flashes of what we know we are capable of, in amongst too much mediocrity. Injuries and unavailability is part of the story, but not imprinting our DNA on games and inconsistent intensity have played a much bigger part. Heading into the second round of fixtures it is going to be crucial for the group to get their mojo back and start to play rugby the Lichfield way, and with a smile on our faces.

An inexperienced group went over to Dudley early in the year, and competed in elements of the game. Today's group will need to get into the game and make life difficult for a DK group who are going well at the opposite end of the table to us.

Welcome to all, and hope you have a fantastic day at Cooke Fields.

Hemo



# REGIONAL 1 MIDLANDS

SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER | 2.15PM

## LICHFIELD

V

## DUDLEY K

Jack Dace	1	Kieron Williams
Kieran Reynolds	2	Ben Rhodes
Rory Davis	3	James Ryan
Cal Turner	4	Dan Marsh
Will Orme	5	Jess Smith
Jack Hurst	6	Pete Griffiths
Freddie Wilson	7	Will Hancox
Rich Burton	8	Callum Nichols
Ollie Green	9	Joe Dunn
Adam Spinner	10	Freddie Morgan
Ben Meads	11	Tom Walker
Charlie Milner (c)	12	Joe Heatley
Ben Ashmore	13	Stef Shillingford
Tom Day	14	Mark Harrison
Kai Lucas-Dumolo	15	Sam Vaughan
Fraser Goatcher	16	Jake Thompson
Joe Edwards	17	Ryan Smitheman
Joe Bourne	18	Mike Protheroe

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

Mascots for today's match are Seb Dale, Edward Blytheway, Thom Bird & Thomas Woodall (U10s).

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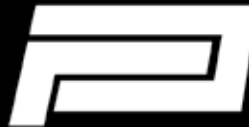
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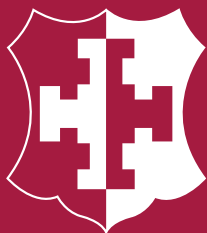
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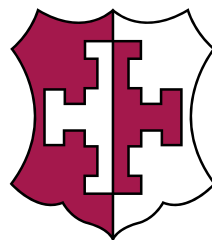
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Ian Turner is a Health and Fitness Professional with over 25 years experience as an Army Physical Training Corps Instructor and Rehabilitation Specialist. A Sports Therapist with Lichfield RUFC and the England Women's Rugby team. Ian has also worked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