



LICHFIELD

v NUNEATON

SATURDAY 7TH 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

President – Barry Broad: barryj.broad@hotmail.co.uk, 07866 482 539

Chairman – Paul Massey: paul.massey58@outlook.com, 07764 157 889

Director of Rugby – Dan Hemingway: hemingwaydph@msn.com, 07894 866 548

Commercial & Sponsorship – Dorian Tranter: commercial@lichfieldrugby.co.uk, 07701 308 661

Facilities – Dan Bourne: daniel@masonrysolutions.co.uk, 07967 076 797

Mini Rugby Chairman – Luke Trueman: luke.trueman@hotmail.com, 07841 126 834

Junior Rugby Chairman – Dave Clark: lrufc2009.10@gmail.com, 07810 206 207

Head of Ladies Rugby – Molly Sanghera: manjit_88@hotmail.com, 07709 411 455

Hon. Treasurer – Iain Eadie: 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), 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

After a five week break – not ideal for clubs or participation in the sport of rugby – we return to league action (Round 15) and we hope to have a very busy day at Cooke Fields. All three senior men's sides are due to be at home today in their varying leagues. As well as the 1st XV return fixture, the 2s are also facing Nuneaton, whilst the 3rd XV has a real local derby against Whittington. In addition, the colts have a friendly game at Stoke in preparation for next week's cup game (see below). There are no women's fixtures this weekend, however, the 15s have a home cup match against Telford at 11:00 tomorrow and the 14s are also at home at the same hour.

So, as we start 2023 let's have a brief catch up of where the various sides are. The 1s game (lead fixture) is a meeting of the bottom two sides, with both teams now needing to put together a run of wins (and gaining bonus points), whenever and wherever possible. The original game on a beautiful sunny day at the start of October was a try and point fest, from which we gained a valuable 50-39 victory. On the same day, at the same venue, the 2s lost to Nuns 2s, so Aled John's boys will be looking for "revenge". This probably also applies to the 3s, who previously lost 13-7 to Whittington. Both the 2s and 3s are mid-table in their respective leagues.

The women's Red team, who restart next Sunday at home (14:15) to Shelford, lie in 2nd place in their level 3 league and the Green team are also 2nd in a very tight top five covered by just three points. They go to Handsworth (who are the only side to defeat them so far) next Sunday. As was announced before Christmas, the Tigers women's side, with a nucleus of Lichfield players in their ranks, have had their application to join the Premiership next season accepted. This provides an even better target for our players to develop and, along with our proven coaching set up, will (we trust) help us to attract players of all ages, abilities and ambition.

The colts, who are proving to be competitive in their league and strangely are in 4th spot (with more points than two of the sides above them!?), are at home next Sunday against Old Laurentians in a last 16 National Colts Cup tie (14:00). We reached the same stage last season, before losing out to Kettering. Dave Butler and his coaching team are hoping for even better this time around. Worth noting that we have fielded five – three regularly – players in the 1st XV this season, who were playing in senior colts rugby a year ago, so this season's contingent need as much support as possible next weekend. They are our future!

Next Saturday the 1st XV league game is at Oundle, our first ever visit there, their

ground is in Occupation Road PE8 4RU (14:15) and the following week, we are HOME to Stoke. The Friary Past Players are having their annual reunion lunch that day and there are still a few places available – contact Barry Broad.

The two games postponed last month owing to the weather have been rearranged for: Kenilworth (A) on 4 February and Syston (A) on 25 February. The last league game is due to be played on 11 March, which will then be followed by the Papa Johns Community Cup. Our women's sides have already started playing in their respective competitions (sides are graded based on their league positions and abilities).

Ed Slater has unfortunately become the most recent rugby "MND Warrior" (Rob Burrow's words), joining the battle to raise awareness and funds for MNDA and in December at Welford Road it was the club's privilege to be able to present him with a cheque for £7,500 from our efforts, mainly on Ladies' Day and at the Sportsmen's dinner (see front page photo). We are continue to be committed to supporting this worthy cause and it is certainly worth listening to the inspiring words of Kevin Sinfield and Doddie Weir's eldest son at the BBC SPOTY awards.

Finally, a date for your diaries is the Past Players' Day on 4 March – home to Burton (KO 15:00). In the meantime, your support to all our many sides is much appreciated, especially on these colder winter days.

#	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1	Dudley Kingswinford	12	9	0	3	383	195	188	8	3	47
2	Bromsgrove	12	8	0	4	368	269	99	8	4	44
3	Derby	13	9	0	4	369	384	-15	5	1	42
4	Bridgnorth	12	8	0	4	300	272	28	6	3	41
5	Burton	12	7	0	5	335	286	49	9	3	40
6	Kenilworth	12	7	0	5	299	267	32	5	3	36
7	Syston	12	7	0	5	314	242	72	6	1	35
8	Oundle	13	5	0	8	276	357	-81	7	4	31
9	Broadstreet	12	5	0	7	305	356	-51	6	4	30
10	Stoke on Trent	12	3	0	9	351	397	-46	8	4	24
11	Lichfield	12	3	0	9	296	455	-159	5	2	19
12	Nuneaton	12	2	0	10	270	386	-116	4	4	16



COACH'S CORNER

DAN HEMINGWAY



**DAN
HEMINGWAY**



**JON
PERKS**



**HUW
MARSDEN**

Welcome back to Cooke Fields and a very Happy New Year to all.

The weather brought the season to an abrupt standstill in December, prolonging the mid season break to a long rugby-less 5 weeks. Whilst it may have led to some additional Xmas pounds being added, hopefully it will also refresh some bodies and minds heading into the second half of the season.

There is no doubt that we have shown flashes of the team we know we can be, in particular the first half against DK, but it's going to be crucial for that positivity to continue and be converted into league points. Hopefully we can start 2023 in the right vein, and build some momentum with a long run of games ahead.

Today sees three Lichfield teams at home together for the first time this season and we are looking forward to a great day of rugby.

Hemo

REGIONAL 1 MIDLANDS

SATURDAY 7TH JANUARY | 2.15PM

LICHFIELD

V

NUNEATON

Jack Dace	1	James Redman
Kieran Reynolds	2	Toby Dearden
Rory Davis	3	Ed Hopkins
Paul Finnemore	4	Tom Aherne (c)
Cal Turner	5	Devon Coulson
Charlie Milner (c)	6	Ben Haywood
Freddie Wilson	7	Todd Bullions
Rich Burton	8	Martin Wood
Ollie Green	9	Adam Collingwood
Adam Spinner	10	Rick Alley
Ben Meads	11	Rhys Astin
Paul Maxwell-Keys	12	Travis
Ben Ashmore	13	Ryan Preston
David Mott	14	Tom Smitham
Kai Lucas-Dumolo	15	Phil Reed
Fraser Goatcher	16	Ethan Shewring
Jack Hurst	17	Fin Aherne
Sam Benson	18	Jamie Coburn

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

TRY THE PLOUGH

—AT SHENSTONE—

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JAMES LAD ART



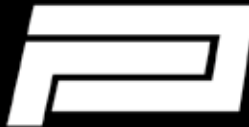
Designed the Tiger mandala for
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Proud to sponsor Charlotte Gauja
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X KAPPA**



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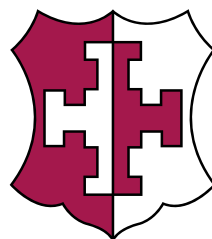
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Ian Turner is a Health and Fitness Professional with over 25 years experience as an Army Physical Training Corps Instructor and Rehabilitation Specialist. A Sports Therapist with Lichfield RUFC and the England Women's Rugby team. Ian has also worked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