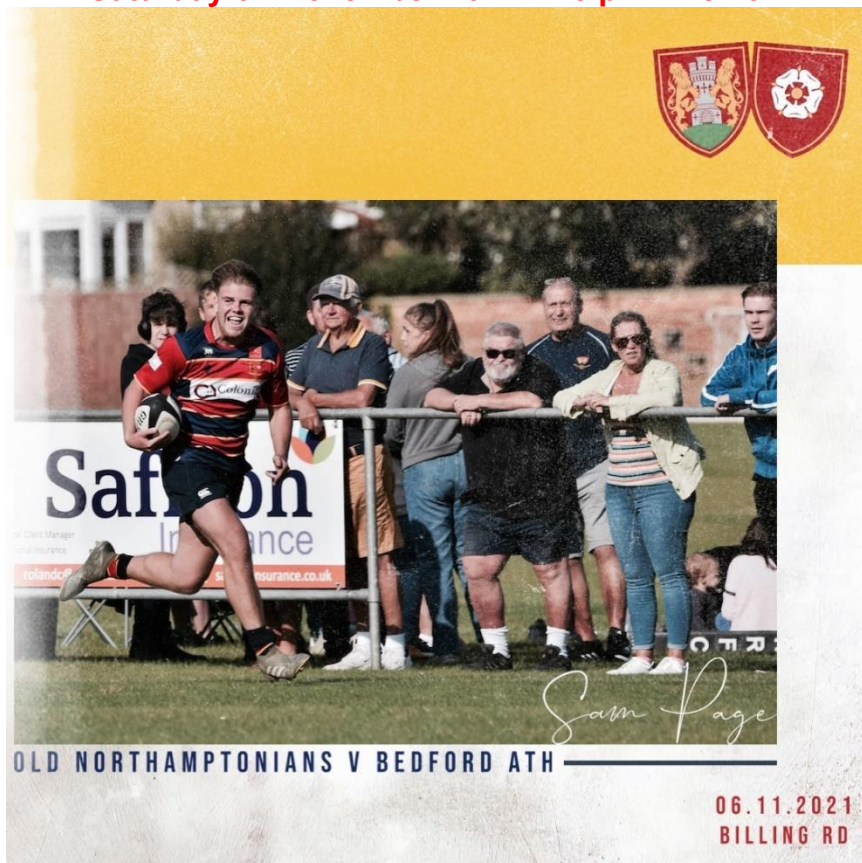


OLD NORTHAMPTONIANS RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1923

Old Northamptonians R.F.C. vs Bedford Athletic R.F.C.
Saturday 6th November 2021 2.15 p.m. kick off



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Welcome to O.N.R.F.C. from Jack Doughty, Club President

A warm welcome to Billing Road to the players, officials & spectators of both Bedford Athletic who face our 1st XV & Corby who are scheduled to play our 3rd XV. 'The Ath' are currently running away with the league, so they will provide extremely hard opposition to the home side. The ONs have demonstrated a resilient defence, so hopefully that, coupled with a grass pitch & the Billing Road slope may prove a bit of a leveller. Last Friday ONs got back to winning ways in a close game which was attritional to both sides. Have we turned a corner after a run of recent defeats, albeit by narrow margins, today will show how close we are to this goal? Have a good afternoon everyone, whatever the result, it's what we are all here for after all.

Programme notes from our Guest Columnist

Today our 1sts take on The Ath who have had a fantastic start to the season, but one that doesn't surprise me too much to be honest. They are an exceptionally well organised side who have spent the majority of the last decade in Level 5 divisions. Back in May we took a young squad for a friendly game on the AGP at Putnoe Woods & showed that we could compete, but we are going to have to be on top of our game today to stand a chance of getting anything out of it. Last week's win in the local derby at Tows ended a run of 4 straight defeats, the lads looked pumped & relieved to get over the line. Under our new coaching team we have improved in all areas of our game this year but just haven't always showed it within the same 80 minutes. As our experience & durability improves, I'm very confident we will see a promising 2nd half of the season.

Elsewhere in the club, the 2nds have had an unbeaten start to the season & head over to Bedford. Availability has not been kind to us this weekend but the resilient spirit instilled by Nez means that they will give it a good go come what may. A special mention for Nez at this point; after a career ending injury in that Bedford friendly he has transitioned into coaching amazingly well, very quickly showing his huge value both to the young 2nd team & the club overall.

Across the playing side there is plenty to be cheerful about: I am very proud that we are one of the few Clubs in the region to have managed to field 4 senior male sides on a number of weekends this year already. The Ladies are 1 from 2 in the league so far & have put out a development side out for the first time this year. Alongside this, both Mens & Ladies Under 18s Academies are through to the next round of their National Cups! A lot of this development comes as a result of the brilliant Minis & Juniors set up on Sunday mornings/afternoons, the conveyor belt continues!

Lastly, a welcome to our 1st team referee Alex Ebbage, of Eastern Counties. Please show him your due respect & courtesy, referees are a vital component to this great game. Enjoy your day.

Blanky, O.N.R.F.C. Head of Playing

P.S. Apologies to both teams' replacements, unfortunately our 'dug outs' blew away last Sunday in the "tornado" and we want to ensure they are properly anchored before re-erection!

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<i>Tyler Mills</i>	<i>Old Northamptonians Galacticos</i>
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<i>Harry Sanderson</i>	<i>L4 Civil Engineering & Groundworks</i>
<i>Rory Seymour</i>	<i>Members of Alcovians Cricket Club</i>
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Old Northamptonians R.F.C.



Bedford Athletic R.F.C.



Rory Seymour * 15

Sam Page * 14

Kieran O'Connor * (Co-Captain) 13

Ben Rivans * 12

Mikey Bellamy 11

Tyler Mills * 10

Joe Heslop * 9

Ethan Wright 8

Owen Postlethwaite 7

Luke Bond * 6

Dennis Franklin 5

Zach Draper * (Co-Captain) 4

James De La Cruz 3

Jake Diggin * 2

Ben Ibrahim * 1

Stephen Woodhead

Luke Denham

Harry Sawford-Smith

Steve Smith

Josh Cassell

Leo Mortimer

Michael Trigg

James Wallace (Captain)

Jake Foster

Josh Walker

Lewis Sharp

Ben Middleton

Ryan Taylor

Richie Ellingham

Ben Thompson

Replacements:

Craig Stewart 16

Brandon Tacticos 17

Ollie Freeman 18

Erran Singh-Soomal

Tom Allwright

Regan Marshall

Head of Playing: Richard Blank *

Head Coach: Phil Powell *

Asst. Coach: Alex Regan *

Team Manager: Richard Bosworth

Match Physio: Sophie Slope *

Head Coach: Andy Philips

Coach: Edd Rhodes

* *Indicates ONs M&J/Academy Graduate*

Today's Match Referee:

Alex Ebbage, Eastern Counties Referees Society

***MANY THANKS TO THE CORDWAINER – SPONSOR OF THE
MAN OF THE MATCH FOR ALL O.N.R.F.C. HOME MATCHES***

MIDLANDS 1 EAST 2021 / 22 SEASON

Results & League Table after Saturday 30th October 2021

Bedford Athletic	68 - 10	Oadby Wyggestonian
Belgrave	22 - 13	Market Harborough
Derby	Covid postponement	Lutterworth
Dronfield	13 - 26	Kettering
Towcestrians	13 - 19	Old Northamptonians
West Bridgford	24 - 16	Peterborough Lions

Note: due to Rugby Lions withdrawal from the league we now only have a 13 team league.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1 Bedford Athletic	8	8	0	0	346	172	174	6	0	38
2 Peterborough	7	5	0	2	202	137	65	3	2	25
3 Kettering	7	5	0	2	183	141	42	4	0	24
4 West Bridgford	7	5	0	2	213	175	38	4	0	24
5 Lutterworth	6	4	0	2	144	131	13	5	0	21
6 Dronfield	6	4	0	2	152	124	28	3	1	20
7 Derby	6	3	0	3	177	97	80	3	3	18
8 Old Northamptonians	7	3	0	4	144	125	19	2	2	16
9 Oadby Wyggestonian	7	2	1	4	197	268	-71	5	1	16
10 Peterborough Lions	8	3	0	5	148	232	-84	2	1	15
11 Belgrave	8	2	0	6	149	230	-81	3	1	12
12 Market Harborough	7	1	0	6	132	197	-65	3	2	9
13 Towcestrians	8	0	0	8	113	271	-158	1	2	5

With only 4 sides having played 8 games due to Rugby Lions withdrawal & Covid postponements this remains a difficult league to read - apart from it appears unbeaten Ath are walking the league & that Tows will be struggling to get off the bottom! However, from what I've seen, read & heard I firmly believe that this is a league where anybody on their day could beat anyone else! Tows, like ON's are a young side & beset by injuries to senior players, so could still yet push themselves up the table. While today ONs will be striving to rip up the form book & give the leaders a shock, they are a very talented side who have "yet to click for the full 80"

Some intriguing fixtures today might make the picture clearer as 3rd play 4th & 5th play 6th. Belgrave visit Wyggs to vie for Leicester bragging rights while the bottom 2 both have tough tasks, Tows traveling to inform Peterborough & Harborough host a wounded Derby side away from their plastic pitch (note Peterborough Lions can rest their foreign legion today as they were due to play Rugby Lions).

Fixtures Saturday 6th November 2021

Kettering	v	West Bridgford
Lutterworth	v	Dronfield
Market Harborough	v	Derby
Oadby Wyggestonian	v	Belgrave
Old Northamptonians	v	Bedford Athletic
Peterborough	v	Towcestrians

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O.N.R.F.C 1st XV Fixtures 2021/22

Saturday Kick offs: 3.00 pm Sept/Oct/Mar/Apr, 2.15 pm Nov/Dec/Jan/Feb

Date	1st XV League & Cup Fixtures	Venue	Result	Score	
				F	A
Sep-04	Lutterworth	A	Postponed due to Covid		
Sep-11	Market Harborough	H	W	36	10
Sep-18	Oadby Wyggestonian	A	W	32	18
Sep-25	West Bridgford (1.30 pm KO)	A	L	16	24
Oct-02	Peterborough	H	L	6	9
Oct-09	Peterborough Lions	A	L	20	29
Oct-16	Lutterworth (re-scheduled)	A	L	15	22
Oct-23	Rugby Lions	H	Withdrawn from league		
Fri Oct-29	Towcestrians (19:30 Kick Off)	A	W	19	13
Nov-06	Bedford Athletic	H			
Nov-13	Towcestrians (Lewis Shield 1 st Round)	H	Free League Week		
Nov-20	Belgrave	A			
Nov-27	Derby	H			
Dec-04	Dronfield	A			
Dec-11	Kettering (Vice Presidents Lunch)	H			
Dec-18	Market Harborough	H			
	Daventry (Alliance Cup 1 st Round tbc)	H			
Dec-25/Jan-01	XMAS / NEW YEAR		Free League Weeks		
Jan-08	Oadby Wyggestonian	H			
Jan-15	West Bridgford	H			
Jan-22	Peterborough	A			
Jan-29	Peterborough Lions	H			
Feb-05			Free League Week		
Feb-12	Rugby Lions	A	Withdrawn from league		
Feb-19	Towcestrians	H			
Feb-26			Free League Week		
Mar-05	Bedford Athletic	A			
Mar-12	Belgrave	H			
Mar-19			Free League Week		
Mar-26	Derby	A			
Apr-02	Dronfield	H			
Apr-09	EASTER		Free League Week		
Apr-16	Kettering	A			
Apr-23	Lutterworth	H			

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