

OLD NORTHAMPTONIANS RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1923



NORTHAMPTON & DISTRICT RUGBY ALLIANCE SENIOR CUP & LEWIS SHIELD CHAMPIONS 2021-22

Saturday 3rd September 2022 3.00 p.m. kick off

REGIONAL 2 EAST MIDLANDS LEAGUE

Old Northamptonians R.F.C.

vs Newbold on Avon R.F.C.

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Welcome to O.N.R.F.C. from Dave Howland, Club Chairman

It only seems like yesterday when back in May we were putting Towcestrians to the sword at the Gardens in the Alliance Cup Final and here we are back at the start of what will hopefully be an exciting season of East Midlands league rugby.

Today we welcome Newbold on Avon RFC to Billing Road on what will be a rather hard & fast pitch to start off our campaign in the "new" Regional 2 East Midlands league. We are looking forward to a number of local derbies but this afternoon we play Newbold once more after a few seasons where we were split by the "old" Midlands East and West leagues. Both teams finished mid table in their respective comparable leagues last season so this could prove to be a close game as previous encounters have proved to be, Newbold have always provided tough opposition on the pitch & convivial support & company off it.

The Old Northamptonians continue to produce a ready supply of Academy graduates. The side is still young compared to other teams we meet but a few older heads have now strengthened the ranks to steady the ship. I am also keen to see how the team performs under new captain Joe Heslop, a deceptively wise head on young shoulders. With new defence coach Heath Stevens (another M&J 'old boy') already making an impact judging from recent practise games I anticipate a fortress mentality moving forward at Billing Road.

Away from the 1st team, the club is continuing where it left off last season by putting out three other senior men's sides plus an Academy team. Our commitment to bucking the national trend of reduced playing numbers was recognised at the recent East Midlands AGM. They asked how we managed to do this and were told, it's top secret!! No, really, it involves a lot of effort by a lot of people and we try to make the club a place where players want to be. It seems to be working.

We also welcome to Billing Road today's referees Andrew Beckett in charge of the 1st team & Alistair Kirk for the 2nds,. Please respect their decisions regardless of your view on the game. I am sure they, & the dry firm pitches, will allow all the teams to let loose their running games.

It just leaves me to say to all, have a good afternoon at the club and enjoy an after-match drink in the recently weather-proofed club house.

Cheers Dave ONRFC Chairman

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Old Northamptonians R.F.C.

Joe Heslop (Captain) *	15
Sam Page *	14
Ben Rivans *	13
Mikey Bellamy	12
James Greensmith *	11
Jed Jenkins *	10
Will Smears *	9
Luke Bond *	8
Lochie Brown *	7
Ted Bunn	6
James Crowson	5
Guy Holt	4
James de la Cruz	3
Sam Donald *	2
Jake Diggin *	1

Replacements:

Owen Postlethwaite	16
Toby Wallace *	17
Diogo Pina *	18

Newbold on Avon R.F.C.

Carter Murphy	15
Lee Lightowler	14
Ethan Wookey	13
Oisin McKenna	12
Manny Sindu	11
Dan O'Brien	10
Declan George	9
Kyle Furlong	8
Charlie Reed	7
Tom Dixon	6
Micky Palis	5
Ben Thompson	4
Ben Dawes (Captain)	3
Stu Houghton	2
Demetrius Gonsalves	1

Head of Playing: Richard Blank *

Head Coach: Phil Powell *

Asst. Coach: Alex Regan *

Defence Coach: Heath Stevans

Team Manager: Richard Bosworth

Match Physio: Georgia Reed

Head Coach: Huw Thomas

Team Manager: Niall Murphy

* Indicates ONs M&J/Academy Graduate

Today's Match Referee: Andrew Beckett, East Midlands Referees Society

**O.N.R.F.C. MATCH BALLS
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REGIONAL 2 EAST MIDLANDS 2022 / 23 SEASON

A new season, a new league! Following the protracted discussions, the RFU finally landed on the new 12 team league for Level 6 which means that the ONs for the new season are now in the catchily known REGIONAL 2 EAST MIDLANDS LEAGUE.

We have “lost” 6 sides from last season: Champions Bedford Ath are rewarded with a move to Regional 1 South East, of the other promoted sides Derby are in Regional 1 Midlands, while West Bridgford are moving to Regional 1 North East. Oadby Wyggs & Belgrave are both still at Level 6 in Regional 2 North Midlands, while Dronfield are in Regional 2 North East.

Staying with us are Towcestrians, Kettering, Lutterworth, Market Harborough, Olney & both Peterborough clubs. While joining us are Leighton Buzzard, returning to the Midlands after a sabbatical in the London Leagues, while near neighbours Northampton Old Scouts are promoted from Level 7. Finally to make up the 12 are two Warwickshire clubs “level transferred” from West Midlands to the East: Old Laurentians & today’s visitors Newbold on Avon.

So the RFU have achieved their objective of less travelling, we’ve encountered all these clubs in the league in the past with the exception of Old Laurentians from Rugby. The League looks to be very strong & highly competitive, I’m sure we’ll see some great promotion & relegation battles.

Fixtures Saturday 3rd September 2022

Old Laurentians	v	Northampton Old Scouts
Old Northamptonians	v	Newbold on Avon
Olney	v	Market Harborough
Peterborough	v	Lutterworth
Peterborough Lions	v	Leighton Buzzard
Towcestrians	v	Kettering

Fixtures Friday 9th September 2022 (7.30 kick off)

Northampton Old Scouts	v	Old Northamptonians
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Fixtures Saturday 10th September 2022

Leighton Buzzard	v	Kettering
Lutterworth	v	Peterborough Lions
Market Harborough	v	Peterborough
Newbold on Avon	v	Olney
Old Laurentians	v	Towcestrians

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O.N.R.F.C 1st XV Fixtures 2022/23

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-03	Newbold on Avon	H			
Fri Sep-9	Northampton Old Scouts (19:30 Kick Off)	A			
Sep-17	Old Laurentians (ONs Beer Festival)	H			
Sep-24	Towcestrians	H			
Oct-01	Olney	A			
Oct-08			Free League Week		
Oct-15	Peterborough	H			
Oct-22	Peterborough Lions	A			
Oct-29	Kettering	H			
By Oct-31	Northampton B.B.O.B.	A	(Alliance Cup 1 st Round)		
By Oct-31	Buckingham	A	(Lewis Shield 1 st Round)		
Nov-5	Leighton Buzzard	A			
Nov-12	Lutterworth	A			
Nov-19			Free League Week		
Nov-26	Market Harborough	A			
Dec-03	Northampton Old Scouts	H			
Dec-10	Old Laurentians	A			
Dec-17	Towcestrians	A			
XMAS BREAK			Free League Week		
Mon Dec-26	Northampton & District Alliance XV	H	Centenary Celebrations		
NEW YEAR BREAK			Free League Week		
Jan-07	Olney	H			
Jan-14	Peterborough	A			
Jan-21	Peterborough Lions	H			
Jan-28	Kettering	A			
Feb-04			Free League Week		
Feb-11	Leighton Buzzard	H			
Feb-18	Lutterworth	A			
Feb-25			Free League Week		
Mar-04	Market Harborough	H			
Mar-11	Newbold on Avon	A			
From March-26 to April-29 National Cup Fixtures TBC					
Apr-08	EASTER	A	Free League/Cup Week		

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