



Action from November 2025

WELCOME TO HEREFORD RFC

It is with pleasure that we welcome Hereford back to Glasshouse Lane for this Regional 2 Midlands west league fixture. We have regularly played at the same level, and league, and the RFU results site is showing 25 'recent' games between us with 16 wins for Hereford and 9 for us. Last season Kenilworth won this corresponding fixture 26-24 with a very late try from Bobby Thompson and fine conversion by Sam Fountaine whilst Hereford won the game at their home, 14-20. Hereford finished in 4th spot with 11 wins and 11 losses. They have not started this season too well losing their three opening games to Dudley K (14-22), Drybrook (10-17) and Worcester (24-43) and currently lie at the foot of the table.

The Hereford Head Coaches are Richard Preece and Ben Hillstead with Dean Powell their Director of Rugby. The captain is Mark Philo.

PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE - CULTURE, COMMUNITY AND KUDOS

The best community clubs understand that success is a large by-product of culture, not the other way around. When people feel like they belong, the club wins because the overall experience is what really matters. At Kenilworth Rugby Club we encourage everyone to get involved and choose community, belonging, fitness, the laughs, friends, stories, volunteering, and giving back to something bigger than yourself. This is the way we rock. We have had tough times at our club over recent years, and hopefully we have

swum through the rough waters and come out the other side. However, we cannot be complacent, as unfortunately, a lot of clubs are struggling to survive, mainly because playing members have dwindled and consequently their finances have dropped. Many clubs have been unable to fulfil friendly fixtures and league fixtures and have had to drop out of regularly playing. Some Warwickshire clubs that we know of, are really struggling and holding on by their fingernails. The big questions; Are there now too many clubs in a fairly small geographical area? What are the reasons there are fewer playing members in those clubs? How can the RFU and Warwickshire Constituent Body help those clubs?

The RFU are aware that this is happening and yet they seem largely oblivious to the needs of community clubs. Clubs cannot survive without help and assistance from the RFU in increasing their revenues. For example, travelling to away matches in a coach is now very expensive, and the RFU give little assistance in this aspect of rugby. At Kenilworth, to go on thriving, we hold our destiny in our own hands through our valued members. We need to choose the right path for the club and be financially solvent, welcoming and inclusive so our culture and our shared way continue into future generations. Kenilworth's population is growing and we need to reach out to these people even more to increase our membership base, volunteers and our kudos in the community.

Rich (RB) Bennett, President, Kenilworth R.F.C.



WELCOME FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome back to Glasshouse Lane!

It feels like a long time since we were last at home for the start of the season, so it's great to be back in front of our supporters for another important fixture in Regional 2 Midlands West.

Today, we welcome Hereford RFC, who will arrive determined to get their first win of the season on the board. They have had a challenging start, with two narrow defeats before a heavier loss to Worcester last weekend. They will be keen to turn things around quickly, and we know they are a dangerous side if given the time and space to play their rugby. I'm sure that will make for an entertaining contest this afternoon.

We come into today's game following a week off, having been due to face Edwardians RFC last weekend. It is a real shame to see them withdraw from the league following player departures and retirements, which left them feeling unable to compete safely this season. Ten years ago, I think many of us would have found that situation almost unthinkable, but unfortunately, it is becoming a sign of the challenges facing clubs across the game today.

It reinforces just how important it is that we continue to provide the best possible environment for our players to enjoy their rugby, develop and feel supported and looked after. Since my arrival at Kenilworth around 18 months ago, creating that environment has been a key priority for us.

Our partnership with Meridan Hospital is a great example of this in practice. Recently, one player from our women's first XV and one from our men's first XV were able to access scans completely free of charge, both within a week of making the request. Getting players the right support quickly is hugely important, helping them understand their injuries and access the treatment they need as soon as possible. A big thank you to Meridan Hospital for providing this fantastic support to our players.

Turning our attention back to this afternoon, I'm expecting a real battle up front. Accuracy will be crucial, both with the ball in hand and in the things we do away from it. Hereford showed last weekend that their driving maul can be a real threat, scoring two tries from that area against Worcester, so that is something we will need to be ready for. Equally, we have plenty of threats of our own, and I'm looking forward to seeing the boys take those opportunities and put in a strong performance in front of our home supporters.

As always, thank you for your continued support. It makes a real difference to the players and everyone involved at the club, and we hope you enjoy the rugby and the hospitality on offer at Glasshouse Lane today. Enjoy the game!

Matt Price, Director of Rugby, Kenilworth RFC

OUR 2026/27 PROGRAMME

This is our new programme and we trust you will enjoy it and find it informative. We thank Emmersons and Rapport for their support and our vast array of advertisers. As well as the usual advertisers we welcome Humanity Warwick, HarperCrewe, Gadd Marketing, Shock Doctor, Meriden Hospital, MB Distribution, Hanson Lee, RejectMyCar and Fitness Worx.

REGIONAL 2 MIDLANDS WEST

We started our free Saturday last weekend in top spot but tumbled to sixth after the results. Worcester are looking very strong and are now the only undefeated team with maximum points from their three games. Below them (on points difference and 15 points) are Luctonians II's, Dudley K and Shipston, all having played four games. We have 11 points from our three games to date, just below Malvern on 12. At the foot we find, rather surprisingly, our visitors of today, Hereford with two bonus points. All other teams have won at least one game.



NEXT FEW WEEKS

Next week (31stOct) we are away at high flying Worcester who play at Weston Fields, Offerton Lane, Hindlip, Worcester, WR3 8TR. They were promoted last season with 22 wins from 22 games and have now won their last 25 league games having won their first three games in level 6. Last time we visited Worcester was in Feb 22 and would you believe we won 123-0 with Mikey Ryan bagging five tries on his own. After a week off we hit the road again to the picturesque (and town of many fine restaurants) Ludlow on the 14th Nov. Ludlow play at The Linney, Ludlow, SY8 1EE. Our next home game is the 21st Nov against Luctonians II's.

DAVE ELLIS

Dave Ellis joined Fiji as their interim Defence Coach for the Pacific Nations Cup and impressed so much he has been retained for the Autumn International campaign when Fiji play France, Ireland and Italy. Dave has been involved in over 200 test matches and is recognised as one of the leading defence coaches in World Rugby. He has taken leave from his role as a member of Warwick School Rugby coaching team. He was, of course, our Head Coach for the highly successful 18/19 and 19/20 seasons, the highlight being our Intermediate Cup success at Twickenham in May 2019. We wish him well.

LAST FEW WEEKS

One (narrow) home loss and a decent away win to report and much to our surprise we ended up top of the league after round 3. We had no game last weekend due to the demise of Edwardians and have since lost the top spot, dropping to 6th.

We took both a losing bonus point and a try bonus point from the home game against Dudley K but perhaps it could have been better had we not shipped two 'easy' tries early in the second half to go 12-33 down. We fought back really well to 26-33 but could not cross the line again. Our try scorers on the day (in front of a very large crowd) were Lewis Hall (2), Robbie Holden and Finn Yallop. Dudley K will not be far off the top at the end of the season.

We then travelled to Silhillians and in a tough game we won 15-7 thanks to tries from Lewis Hall and Dan Wildey. Mark O'Connor had a crucial penalty in the second half to give us a bit of breathing space to close out the game.

Our 2nd XV have now played two Warwickshire 1 league games, winning them both, 46-19 at Broadstreet 3's and 41-14 at Earlsdon II's. Try scorers at Broadstreet were Gaz Renowden, Hector Smith (2), Rhys Jones, Ed Hannam (2), Sam Johnson and Sandeep Dhaliwal. Against Earlsdon the try scorers were Gaz Renowden (3), Hector Smith, Ollie Ebenezer, Lawrence Grant and Ed Hannam.

Our Colts have played two games, losing to Broadstreet and defeating Pinley 47-24 last week at home on the main pitch.

Our Women's 1st XV had a cracking 33-0 win away at Barnsley and last weekend they followed it up with a 26-24 win at home to Bury St Edmonds. They are now up to 3rd in their league. The 2nd XV also played at home last weekend against Silhillians, winning 34-20. They now sit 6th (of 8) in their league.

I must mention our U15's. They played a Warwickshire Cup game a few weeks back against Old Laurentian. At half time it did not look good – 0-19 down and looking distinctly second best. Quite what the coaches said to the boys at half-time is not known but they totally turned the game around and scored four tries in the second half to win 26-19.



Lewis Hall

TONIGHT'S LOTTERY NOS

2

Two seasons with Dave Ellis in charge and what a two seasons they were. Those good times are returning.

15

Our 2nd XV have scored 15 tries in their two big wins to date: Captain Gaz bagging four.

19

The day in December of our Christmas Lunch when we play the return against Stow.

25

Worcester have now won their last 25 league games - I do not think it will be 123-0 this time!

26

Number of unanswered second half points our U15's scored to defeat Old Laurentian in the cup

43

Women's Coach, Caity Mattinson, played for Scotland 43 times and has now been called up to coach them

UP AND COMING EVENTS AT KRFC

26-28th Oct	October ½ term Summer Camps
31st Oct	Men 2nd XV v Broadstreet 3's
5th Nov	An Evening with Karl Dickson, Almanack
7th Nov	Women 1st XV v Cheltenham Tigers, 2pm
8th Nov	Women 2nd XV v Old Leamingtonians
15th Nov	Women 2nd XV v Rugby Lionesses
21st Nov	Men 1st XV v Luctonians II
21st Nov	Services Pre-Match Lunch
28th Nov	Women 1st XV v West Park Leeds
29th Nov	Women 2nd XV v Handsworth
5th Dec	Men's 1st XV v Shipston
12th Dec	Men's 2nd XV v Old Laurentian II
12th Dec	Colts v Earlsdon
13th Dec	Women 2nd XV v Tamworth
19th Dec	Men's 1st XV v Stow
19th Dec	Christmas Pre-Match Lunch

DATE	OPPOSITION	RESULT	POS
26th Sep	Stow on Wold (a)	34-26	2 nd
3rd Oct	Dudley K (h)	26-33	4 th
10th Oct	Silhillians (a)	15-7	1 st
17th Oct			6 th
24th Oct	Hereford (h)		
31st Oct	Worcester (a)		
7th Nov	Ludlow (a)		
14th Nov			
21st Nov	Luctonians II (h)		
28th Nov	Malvern (a)		
5th Dec	Shipston (h)		
12th Dec	Drybrook (a)		
19th Dec	Stow on Wold (h)		
26th Dec			
2nd Jan			
9th Jan	Drybrook (h)		
16th Jan	Dudley K (a)		
23rd Jan			
30th Jan			
6th Feb	Hereford (a)		
13th Feb	Worcester (h)		
20th Feb	Ludlow (h)		
27th Feb			
6th Mar	Luctonians II (a)		
13th Mar	Malvern (h)		
20th Mar			
27th Mar			
3rd April	Shipston (a)		
10th April	Silhillians (h)		

P3, W2, L1, D0, 75 pts for, 66 pts agst

KENILWORTH V HEREFORD

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2026

KENILWORTH: WLW
HEREFORD: LLL

KENILWORTH TEAM

1	Ted Bromwich (C)
2	Finn Nicholas
3	Sam Wright
4	Joe Stockbridge
5	Dan Wildey
6	Matt Gibson
7	Max Brain
8	Lewis Hall
9	Danny Green
10	Sam Herniman
11	Finn Yallop
12	Finn Barnacle
13	Tommy Hunter
14	Tom Aldwinckle
15	Charlie Wollaston
16	Luke Bagnall
17	Conor Doyle
18	Mark O'Connor

REFEREE Joshua Blackburn, Eastern Counties

FOOD AT KENILWORTH RUGBY CLUB

Match Day food is available in the form of filled rolls, pies, soup & roll or a more substantial meal, as served to the players. Ask behind the bar.

During the week, it is Burger Wednesday or Thank Cod it's Friday.