



Action from 2018

WELCOME TO MALVERN RFC

It is with pleasure that we welcome all those associated with Malvern RFC to Glasshouse Lane for this Regional 2 Mids West league fixture. Prior to this season, we last met in the 2022 campaign, where Kenilworth recorded an emphatic 38-0 victory away from home. Historically, encounters between the two sides have been closely contested, with Malvern holding a slight edge with 14 wins to Kenilworth's 10.

This season Malvern currently sit in 9th position on 44 points, having recorded 8 wins and 11 losses. They have scored 412 points and conceded 551, picking up 9 try bonus points and 3 losing bonus points along the way. Last weekend they secured a 24-8 victory over Shipston, and will arrive in confident mood.

The reverse fixture earlier this season saw Malvern run out 31-19 winners in what were extremely difficult conditions. Kenilworth will be hoping for improved weather this time around, as well as a stronger all-round performance to overturn that result on home soil.

Malvern are coached by Ieuan Mustow, who brings a wealth of playing experience from his time at Croesyceiliog, Pontypool United, Worcester University and Malvern. Alongside his rugby career, he serves as a Police Constable with West Mercia Police and was selected to represent the South of England Police side in 2023.

PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE - SHOUT OUT TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Another shout out to our fantastic volunteers,

Ian Bowden is the second recipient of the President's Volunteer Award, for this season. Ian has been a stalwart of this club for many years, I coached him as a player and he always gave his all, punched above his weight and had that fantastic individual trait of being coachable. Since that time, he is currently coaching the under 15's and the under 7's, where his sons are players, he referees, organises the fixtures for the mini's juniors, occasionally runs touch for the senior men and attempts to sort out/ record in the infamous Game Management System of the RFU for our men's fixtures. Ian is just a top man and is always up for a chat and a laugh, Ian will receive a gift of fifty pounds on his Kenilworth Rugby account to spend as he wishes.

I must give a special mention to another Ian. Ian Harrison, is another stalwart of our club, and unfortunately has had to step away from his role as head of grounds and the house keeping group due to ill health. He has been an organiser of a special group of our club members who meet on a Wednesday morning who call themselves the old farts group. They do all kinds of jobs and tasks to help with the ground and maintenance of the club. Ian has led this group with aplomb, liaised with contractors, outside clubs, Nigel our steward and Paul our operations guru. Ian has been doing this role since 2017, and is just a special and delightful person, he continues to do small jobs on a Wednesday morning and chats with the fellas. Thanks so much Ian.

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



WELCOME FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

Good afternoon and welcome to the final game of the season at Glasshouse Lane today. We welcome Malvern today it was is a crucial game for both sides. Malvern currently sit 9th in the league with ourselves in 8th. 2 points separating us but Malvern have a game in hand. A win for us today would see us safe in the league, a win for Malvern would see them possibly jump up to 7th if Edwardian lose. We can only focus on how we play and we know if we play the way we want to and are accurate with the ball and our decision making, we will be tough to beat. But that is the challenge isn't it?!

It's been a really enjoyable season with this group of lads. We have had players making their debuts at 46 years old and 18 years old, we have had new partnerships forming, we have seen players coming back out of retirement to help and we have seen a club stalwart in Bobby Thompson break the 150 tries scored in his Kenilworth career. Bobby has been excellent for us. His experience has helped us no end this season and I'd like to thank him for all his efforts this year and for the previous years in putting his body on the line for the club. I'm really happy he gets to walk out with his son today as they are special memories that last forever.

Special mention to the former players association at the club today. Enjoy your day and I heard it's last man standing so good luck!

I want to finish by thanking all the volunteers at the club for putting their time in to make this club a real community hub. Rugby clubs should be exactly that. A place where all can come to and enjoy and feel part of a family and without a lot of you supporting and helping, this wouldn't be possible.

Enjoy today...here we go. **Matt**

TODAY'S LUNCH

Today's lunch is the 'Former Players and President's Lunch'. The Former Players Association (FPA) has been running at the club for as long as anyone can remember and primarily is set up to simply bring former players together twice a year at a pre match lunch. These are well attended events and gives the opportunity for Former Players to meet up and reminisce about former glory days and discuss the dark arts of forward play and the free flowing rugby of the backs! Any money raised at the lunches (and with the nominal subscription monies) enable the FPA at times to fund items and support the club in areas that cannot be funded through normal means. If there are any Former Players out there that aren't on the FPA database and wish to be included then please contact Pete Lindsay - peter.lindsay@hotmail.co.uk. A small amount of communications go out throughout the year - namely invites to the lunches and anything Pete feels pertinent to the interest of the Former Players. Cheers, **Pete**

A TRIBUTE TO BOBBY THOMPSON

Today marks the final home appearance for Bobby Thompson, bringing to a close an outstanding career in a Kenilworth shirt.

A Kenilworth player through and through, Bobby has come up through the club's Minis and Juniors system, representing the club with pride and commitment from a young age before

progressing into senior rugby. He made his 1st XV debut in 2010 and has gone on to give 16 years of service at the top level for the club.

His record speaks for itself - 288 appearances and an incredible 154 tries - a remarkable return that places him firmly among the club's all-time greats. Whether from the base of the scrum, in open play, or simply through sheer determination, Bobby has had an uncanny ability to find the try line time and time again.

Across his career he has played a number of roles, but it is in the back row where he has made his name, combining power, intelligence and an eye for a score. His influence has also extended beyond his playing contributions, having captained the side for seven seasons and played a key role in some of the club's most memorable moments, including THAT day at Twickenham...

More than just the numbers, Bobby represents everything Kenilworth RFC stands for - loyalty, passion and commitment to the shirt. He will undoubtedly go down as a club legend and one of the finest players to have represented Kenilworth.

Everyone at the club thanks Bobby for his incredible contribution and wishes him all the very best for the future.



Bobby Thompson vs Sills

REGIONAL 2 MIDLANDS WEST

Moseley Oak's victory over us last weekend confirmed them as league champions, having led the table for much of the season. Stow currently sit in second place on 71 points, with Luctonians II close behind in third on 67.

At the other end of the table, Old Halesonians have been confirmed as relegated. The battle to avoid the remaining relegation and play-off places remains extremely tight. Stratford sit 11th on 37 points, with Shipston just above them on 43 and Malvern on 44. Kenilworth are currently on 46 points, narrowly ahead of both Shipston and Malvern, with Edwardians just above on 47, meaning every result is crucial in the fight for survival.

A five-point win this weekend would be hugely significant in creating some breathing space and could prove vital heading into the final round of fixtures. Following today's game, we have just one remaining league fixture away at Luctonians II to conclude the season.

LAST FEW WEEKS

The Men's 1st XV delivered a crucial and hard-fought 23-21 victory over Edwardians at Glasshouse Lane to strengthen their position in the battle for survival. Tries from Bobby Thompson, Tommy Hunter and Fin Barnacle proved decisive in a tightly contested encounter. In a nail-biting finish, captain Ted Bromwich produced a vital turnover in the final play, allowing Mark O'Connor to clear to touch and spark celebrations at the final whistle. It was a performance full of character, resilience and composure under pressure at a critical stage of the season.

Last weekend, we travelled to newly crowned champions Moseley Oak and, despite the 43-7 scoreline, the contest was far closer than the result suggests. We competed well for large periods and showed plenty of fight, but three late tries in the final five minutes gave the scoreline an unflattering look. Sandeep Dhaliwal crossed for our try in what was, for much of the game, a spirited and committed display against the league leaders.

With just one fixture remaining after today (if we avoid the relegation play offs), every point is vital, and the squad will know that another strong performance could make all the difference in securing our place in the division.

The Women's 1st XV brought their season to a close last weekend with a 39-26 defeat at home to Buckingham Swans. Despite the result, it has been a competitive and encouraging campaign, with the side finishing 7th in the league on 42 points, recording 7 wins from their 18 fixtures.

UP AND COMING EVENTS AT KRFC

28th March	1st XV v Malvern, 2.15pm
28th March	Former Players & President's Lunch
4th April	Colts v Barkers Butts, 2.15pm
11th April	2nd XV v Spartans, 2.15pm
18th April	2nd XV v Old Laurentian, 2.15pm
26th April	Women II v Rugby Lionesses, 2pm
24-26th April	Kenilworth (Castle) Sevens – see web site
1-3rd May	KENFEST

TONIGHT'S LOTTERY NOS

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 7 | Final league position for the Women's 1XV |
| 16 | Total number of years Bobby Thompson has played for the 1XV! |
| 24 | Average age of the Men's 1XV squad when we visited Malvern earlier in the season! |
| 28 | Date of our final Men's 1XV home game this season... Today! |
| 36 | Total number of tries Men's coach, Jimmy Gopperth, scored in his professional career! |
| 46 | Total points the Men's 1XV are on this season! |

NEXT FEW WEEKS

There is a week off next week for Easter, then the Men's 1XV will play their final league game of the season away at Luctonians II.

THE PIRATES TOUR TO BOURNEMOUTH, MARCH 2026

The Pirates' touring tradition remains in rude health following a successful trip to the South Coast last weekend.

With several first-time tourists taking on 'tour boy' duties, the journey included a stop at the delightful Bell Inn at Aldworth. Despite the absence of Guinness (to DK's dismay), fine local ales and excellent food ensured a lively and convivial start, with early discussions around selection and game time.

Friday evening blurred into the usual mix of stories and song, with the piano at the Goat and Tricycle hosting a memorable showdown between the resident player and our own Ho Ho - with a predictable outcome. Paddy maintained tradition with his annual solo curry.

Game day saw us travel to Ellingham and Ringwood RFC, where we were met by a genuine Veteran XV (bar the inevitable standout No.8). The match ebbed and flowed early on before the Pirates pulled clear to record a comfortable win, with strong contributions across the side.

Benno claimed a well-deserved Man of the Match to go alongside his pub selection honours, while Dashy *pipped RB* to the parrot after a late withdrawal from playing duties. Our hosts proved excellent company as the evening continued with songs, including the ever-reliable Sunshine Mountain and a welcome return of Delilah from PC Powell.

Sunday's stop at The Bear of North Moreton provided the perfect conclusion - a superb roast, plenty of storytelling and a typically sharp court session from Judge Dashy.

Thanks go to Dickie and Collett for their organisation, Benno for the pub stops, and to all Pirates for continuing this fine tradition. Here's to 2027!

DATE	OPPOSITION	RESULT	POS
6/09/25	Luctonians II's (h)	20-33	9 th
13/09/25	Stow on the Wold (a)	20-33	10 th
20/09/25	Stratford (h)	17-20	11 th
27/09/25	Old Coventrians (h)	HWO	WAR CUP
4/10/25	Edwardians (a)	22-26	11 th
11/10/25	Hereford (h)	26-24	10 th
18/10/25	Shipston (a)	26-26	11 th
25/10/25	Silhillians (h)	29-27	9 th
1/11/25			
8/11/25	Old Halesonians (h)	24-32	9 th
15/11/25			
22/11/25	Ludlow (a)	19-26	10 th
29/11/25	Moseley Oak (h)	29-54	10 th
6/12/25	Malvern (a)	19-31	10 th
13/12/25	Stow on the Wold (h)	15-19	10 th
20/12/25	Stratford (a)	29-15	10 th
27/12/25			
30/12/26			
10/01/26	Edwardians (h)	P	
17/01/26	Hereford (a)	14-20	10 th
24/01/26	Sutton Coldfield (a)	33-24	WAR CUP
31/01/26	Shipston (h)	26-22	10 th
7/02/26	Edwardians (h)	P	
14/02/26	Silhillians (a)	22-38	10 th
21/02/26			
28/02/26	Old Halesonians (a)	40-22	10 th
7/03/26	Ludlow (h)	35-19	9 th
14/03/26	Edwardians (h)	23-21	8 th
21/03/26	MoseleyOak (a)	7-43	8 th
28/03/26	Malvern (h)		
4/04/26			
11/04/26	Luctonians II's (a)		

P20, W7, L12, D1, 462 pts for, 551 pts agst

KENILWORTH V MALVERN

SAT 28TH MARCH 2026

KENILWORTH: WLWWWL
SHIPSTON: LLLLLLW

KENILWORTH TEAM

1	Ted Bromwich (C)
2	Finn Nicholas
3	Matt Gibson
4	Tom Davenport
5	Angelo Howarth
6	Chaz Hudson
7	Max Brain
8	Bobby Thompson
9	Finn Nichol
10	Finn Barnacle
11	Harry Kaufman
12	Sandeep Dhaliwal
13	Sam Peppitt
14	Tommy Hunter
15	Mark O'Connor
16	Charlie Morris
17	Joe Stockbridge
18	Jimmy Gopperth

REFEREE

Martin Nailor

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.