



Action from 2017

WELCOME TO SHIPSTON ON STOUR RFC

Today we welcome Shipston on Stour RFC to Kenilworth for this Regional 2 Mids West league game. Shipston are a 'young' rugby club, having been formed in 1963 by a group of Masters and Old Boys from Shipston High School. After a nomadic existence they moved to their existing ground in Mayo Rd in 1973 with a big clubhouse extension in 1987. Shipston have regularly gone between the Midlands and SW Divisions and returned to the Midlands Division in the 23/24 season having been level transferred from Regional 2 Tribute South Central. They had gained promotion to level 6 at the end of the 21/22 season. In their first season back in the Midlands they finished in 9th spot. Last season they finished in 4th, winning 12 of their games. This season they are lying in 7th spot with six wins, 1 draw and 8 defeats. Last time out they lost at Silhillians, 41-31.

Prior to this season we last played league games back in the 12/13 season, Kenilworth winning both encounters 66-5 and 26-19. Matt Holton (with 2), Simon Tyler (with 2), Jack Gibson (with 2), Bobby Thompson, Nyle Beckett and Tom Lane were our scorers in the first game with Jake Dodd (with 2), Bobby Thompson and Gaz Renowden in the return. A more recent game was a Warwickshire Shield game in Sept 2017 which ended in a 39-3 win for Kenilworth. Try scorers that day were Ollie Burnam, Tommy Jones, Bobby Thompson, Gaz Renowden (2), Ed Hannam and Dan Minks.

Our earlier league game in October ended in an exciting 26 all draw with Shipston scoring late to secure the draw. Our try scorers that day were Bobby Thompson, Ted Bronwich, Max Brain and Robbie Holden.

The Shipston coach/DoR is Henno Ventner who has had playing and coaching experience with Natal Sharks, Jersey Reds, Coventry and the Batch and Wasps Academies. He joined them at the start of this season.

PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE - IN PRAISE OF RUGBY UNION

Being around our rugby club and wholly involved within Rugby Union for a long time, I have met some outstanding people. Every Saturday and some Sundays I mingle and chat with coaches, referees, parents /carers and players. I am extremely impressed by the enthusiasm of everyone involved and witness this happening in our great club. Rugby Union has the power to change lives, people and communities. We must all work to keep it healthy and powerful. It acts as a vehicle for personal development, social cohesion and health improvements. Research has shown that participation in Rugby Union contributes better to physical and mental health, with studies finding it reduces obesity in children and improves life satisfaction. This includes initiatives like the Hitz Programme, and Prison2Pitch to engage disengaged youth and young offenders. The game is increasingly focused on becoming more inclusive and diverse, wheelchair rugby is thriving, and recent enterprises like T1 rugby and walking rugby are developing, so it becomes a sport for all. We have many youngsters in our club who on the player development pathways, in talent development groups and academies. I believe in pathways to the professional game and driving young people onto excellence and a possible athletic income. I do hope that the powers that be at the RFU don't forget how important clubs like ours are at grassroots level in the community game. The significance of the rugby club as a hub for the community and its importance to everyone cannot be underestimated. Here in Kenilworth, we are reaching out more and more to the people of the town and beyond.

It is essential for the sport that state schools and community clubs similar to ours go on playing rugby in its many different forms. After all, how do you explain the great feeling of playing rugby and scoring a try to someone who has never played? We need to give everyone the opportunity to enjoy playing and thrive in whatever form of Rugby Union they choose. Amen to that.

Rich (R.B.) Bennett - President, Kenilworth R.F.C.



WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

Good afternoon and a very chilly welcome to everyone joining us at Glasshouse Lane today, especially our visitors from Shipston on Stour RFC.

Shipston on Stour RFC currently sit in 7th place with 6 wins out of their 15 games so far in Regional 2 Mids West. We had a right ding dong battle at their place earlier in the season resulting in a 26-26 draw back in October. Their last win coming against Stratford at home on 13th Dec. They will be no doubt they will be looking to get their first win of 2026 today.

Our final game of 2025 saw us away at Stratford Upon Avon. We started very well, almost too well with the final pass or decision just not going to hand or the right way. We found ourselves 12-0 down at the break having played 'all the footy' as Jimmy would say. The second half as a 15 we really kicked into gear. Our lineout started to function well, scoring off it again and then our backs started to carve up. I've always said on the field its important to know when the opposition are struggling and hanging on and specifically what area. It happened to be in the backs this time and we ran in a few more lovely tries, winning in the end 15-29. This gave us 5 points and them 0. A very good Christmas present!

We then came 'unstuck' in the mud of Hereford on 17th Jan. In the toughest of conditions, they managed to squeeze over in the corner after we had led for large parts of the game. We had our Warwickshire Cup semi-final last weekend against Sutton Coldfield who sit 5th in the adjacent level league North. A win for us sees us into the final against either Broadstreet or Nuneaton later on which is something to look forward to. All focus today though is back in the league and getting the win today.

Enjoy it,

All the best, **Matt.**

WHERE ARE THEY NOW - FINN NICHOL

Finn, son of Bruce, is now in his 15th year of playing rugby having joined Kenilworth RFC in 2011, moving through the M&J's developing his skill set to become an accomplished fly half. Finn has represented Kenilworth at every age grade, making his debut for the 1st XV in the 24/25 season shortly after his 18th Birthday. He has also represented South Warwickshire U17s and was selected for Warwickshire U18s,.

At 15 he was selected for the Worcester Warriors Academy and continued with them through until U17s. During this time he was contacted by the SRU and was selected for the Scottish Qualified Programme representing them at U16s level. During the 24/25 season, following the closure of Midlands West Academy, Finn moved to Northampton Saints U18s and then onto Coventry U18s where he was the starting 10 for the Coventry U18s side. During the 24/25 season Finn was selected for the Scotland U18s pathway and made it

through to the final phase of selection. During the summer of 2025 and following his Scotland U18 pathway Journey, Scottish Rugby Premiership side Watsonians invited Finn to Edinburgh to attend some pre-season training sessions and playing for them in a friendly. Following conversations with the coaching staff Finn deferred University for a year in order to move to Edinburgh and play for Watsonians in the 25/26 season. He moved to Edinburgh in October and started training with them straight away and has played stand off and fullback in the Arnold Clarke Inter City Reserve League. He is now training with the 1st XV Squad and hoping to make his Scottish Rugby Premiership debut in early 2026. He is KRFC through and through and is looking forward to pulling on the Kenilworth shirt again in Feb when his commitment (for the season) to Watsonians ends



TODAYS LUNCH

It is with great pleasure we welcome members of our Pirates to the club for a pre match lunch. This is a very popular lunch and many come from afar to attend and we hope you enjoy Nigel's food and the beer and wine on offer. The Pirates Foundation have supported many a young player through from colts rugby to our senior teams and have supported a number of our former colts you will see today. At Hereford two weeks ago there were eleven and this is now the future of the club. The Pirates have an Easter tour and this year they are in Bournemouth from the 20th-22nd March.

WARWICKSHIRE CUP

Last week we went away to Sutton Coldfield in the semi-final of the Warwickshire Cup and came away with a superb 33-24 win. In a ding dong game we did our usual and went behind 0-12 early on but responded well to take the lead early in the second half and, despite Sutton Coldfield responding, we were never behind. Our try scorers were Ted Bromwich, Bobby Thompson, Joe Wilson, Finn Barnacle and Finn Nicholas. This will be our ninth appearance in the final and as most of our Pirates will know, we have never won it. Maybe this year!

LAST FEW WEEKS

Two weeks ago we travelled to Hereford in good spirits after our pre-Christmas win at Stratford. We played well but unfortunately came away with only a losing bonus point in a 14-20 defeat. Our try scorers were Chris Valentini (on his debut) and Ted Bromwich. Another debutant was fly half Finnean Barnacle who has reinstated our Antipodean connection by signing from the Racing Rugby Club in Melbourne. Two further signings who will bring a wealth of experience and add depth to our squad are Joe Wilson (a full back/fly half, ex Hinckley & Nuneaton) and Sam Southall (wing or scrum half ex Hinckley, Market Bosworth & Nuneaton Old Eds).

NEXT FEW WEEKS

Next week (7th Feb), weather willing, we play our postponed game with Edwardians, 2.15 kick off. The following week (14th) we are off to Silhillians and they continue to pay at Silhillians Sports Club, Warwick Rd, Copt Heath, B93 9LW. We then have a further blank Saturday before we travel to Old Halesonians on the 28th Feb. Old Halesonians play at Wassel Gr Lane, Hagley, DY9 9JP. Our next home game is the 7th March v Ludlow.

REGIONAL 2 MIDLANDS WEST

It is still Mosely Oak well out in front with 13 wins out of 15. They are 14 points ahead of Stow with Luctonians II's a further 2 points back. Our visitors today are in 7th spot. Unfortunately we have not capitalised on our win at Stratford pre-Christmas having suffered a defeat at Hereford. On the same day Stratford defeated Ludlow and Silhillians defeated Shipston. Last week was no better for us with wins for Silhillians (taking them well up the league) and Stratford. We have now slipped to 11th, below Stratford on points difference (but with a game in hand) and 8 points adrift of Hereford.

The promotion and relegation issues have now been clarified by the RFU. The bottom team in our league is automatically relegated and the teams that finish 10th and 11th will be involved in a play-off. If the season finished now Old Halesonians would go down and we would play Stratford, away in a relegation play off, the current date of which is 25th April. The situation at the top is a bit more complicated – the top team automatically go up with the next four involved in a series of football style play offs.

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.

UP AND COMING EVENTS AT KRFC

7th Feb	1st XV v Edwardians, 2.15pm
8th Feb	Women II v Coventry Welsh, 2pm
14th Feb	2nd XV v Sutton Coldfield, 2.15pm
15th Feb	Women II v Oadby Wyggs, 2pm
22nd Feb	Women I v Lichfield, 2pm
28th Feb	Ladies Day
7th Mar	1st XV v Ludlow, 2.15pm
8th Mar	Women II v Old Northamptonians, 2pm
20-22nd Mar	Pirates Tour to Bournemouth
21st Mar	2nd XV v Daventry, 2.15pm
21st Mar	Women I v Buckingham Swans, 2pm
28th Mar	1st XV v Malvern, 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 Sevens – see web site

TONIGHT'S LOTTERY NOS

- 3** Recent quality signings with bags of experience who will add strength to our squad.
- 9** Our 9th Warwickshire Cup Final at the end of season – fingers crossed for a win!
- 11** Ticket applications for the 3 Nations Championship games in November are now open.
- 14** Well done to our U14's – big win in their cup game last week at Old Wheatleyans
- 20** Our Pirates are off to Bournemouth on tour in March – over 35's only!
- 33** Number of points at Sutton Coldfield to take us to the Warwickshire Cup final

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)		
7/02/26	Edwardians (h)		
14/02/26	Silhillians (a)		
21/02/26			
28/02/26	Old Halesonians (a)		
7/03/26	Ludlow (h)		
14/03/26			
21/03/26	MoseleyOak (a)		
28/03/26	Malvern (h)		
4/04/26			
11/04/26	Luctonians II's (a)		

P15, W4, L10, D1, 342 pts for, 410 pts agst

KENILWORTH V SHIPSTON

SAT 31ST JANUARY 2026

KENILWORTH: WLLLLL

SHIPSTON: LLLWLW

KENILWORTH TEAM

1	Charlie Morris
2	Finn Nicholas
3	Ted Bromwich (C)
4	Chris Valentini
5	Tom Davenport
6	Morgan Fox
7	Max Brain
8	Bobby Thompson
9	Sam Southall
10	Finn Barnacle
11	Harry Kaufman
12	Ed Hannam
13	Sam Peppitt
14	Tommy Hunter
15	Joe Wilson
16	
17	
18	

REFEREE Roy Shallcross, Warwickshire Society



Sam Peppitt