

OFFICIAL LEINSTER SUPPORTERS CLUB GUIDE TO NORTHAMPTON

NORTHAMPTON V LEINSTER DECEMBER 7, 2013



Bank of Ireland

Official sponsor Leinster Rugby

**Your vote can
push one lucky
business over
the try line**



It's been the most hotly contested rugby competition so far this year. Bank of Ireland's search continues for a business to takeover the sacred jersey sponsorship of Leinster Rugby for the key Heineken Cup January clash against the Ospreys in the RDS. The judges have shortlisted 5 businesses and the try line is in sight.

To find out more about the shortlisted businesses
and to vote for your favourite visit,
independent.ie/sponsorforaday
Closing Date 13th December

Official Partners:

THE Herald
Official Newspaper to Leinster Rugby

Irish Independent
Official Newspaper to Munster Rugby

Bank of Ireland 

For small steps, for big steps, for life

INTRODUCTION

NORTHAMPTON is well known as a rugby mad town located in the East Midlands region of England. With a population of circa 212,000 it has a number of libraries, museums, galleries and churches of note. The town is home to the only Carlsberg brewery in the world outside Denmark (unfortunately for visitors this weekend they do not run tours). The region is also known for footwear manufacturing; at one time there were over 240 shoe-making facilities in the county.

Today, Northampton is still regarded as the place to go for prestige shoes. For fact fans, James Bond's footwear in the last five movies were all sourced the region. One of the largest remaining shoe makers is Church's English Shoes, based in the St James part of town it employs several hundred staff and is majority owned by fashion powerhouse Prada.

Saints are steeped in history having first played in 1880. The town is greatly attached to the team and is part of the East Midlands derby with arch rivals, Leicester. Franklin's Gardens is a 13,500 capacity stadium located near the centre, it has been home to the Saints since they were formed.

GETTING THERE

Supporters will most likely be using London Luton, East Midlands and Birmingham airports this weekend. If using Birmingham, the easiest way to get to Northampton is by using one of the regular trains that leave from the airport station – journey time is under one hour.

OLSC TRANSFERS BETWEEN LUTON, EAST MIDLANDS AIRPORT & NORTHAMPTON

At the time of writing the OLSC still had seats on its airport transfer buses. The flights being covered are:

- Saturday – FR332 into London Luton and FR534 into East Midlands (EMA)
- Sunday – FR535 and FR537 from EMA and FR337/8 and FR341 from Luton

To book a seat please send €25pp with your name, mobile number and flight details to: olsc@leinsterrugby.ie via Paypal. One way journeys are €15 per person.

The OLSC transfer buses will drop supporters off outside the Derngate Theatre – a 30-second walk from The Wig & Pen, our HQ for the weekend.



RETURN BUS INFORMATION

On Sunday, the buses will be leaving from the same location at the following times:

- FR535 back to East Midlands – 8.00am
- FR337/8 back to Luton - 11.00am
- FR341 back to Luton - 2.30pm
- FR537 back to East Midlands – 5.00pm

Please ensure you are outside the Derngate Theatre 10-15 minutes before the departure time above as we cannot wait for late comers.

Our contact number across the weekend should you need to reach us in relation to the buses is:
+ 353 86 893 9129

ACCOMMODATION

Most hotels are fully booked this weekend, if you are reading this and still need a bed try www.laterooms.com or www.bedandbreakfasts.co.uk

SUPPORTERS HQ

The Wig & Pen, 19 St Giles Street

Richard and his team are looking forward to welcoming supporters to Northampton this weekend. Home to 13 rotating guest ales and ciders, over 40 worldwide bottled beers and a range of taps on draught, The Wig & Pen also has an extensive food menu serving until late. There are plenty of screens for other European Cup games, free wifi and even a retractable roof!

TOP 5 THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN THE REGION

- Northampton Saints v Leinster Rugby, KO 6pm Saturday
- Visit the funfair in the town's market square (11am-6pm daily)
- Take in a Christmas Panto at the Dengate Theatre
- Virtual Aerospace – try out a 737 flight simulator!
- Northampton Museum & Art Gallery, see the largest collection of footwear in the world

FRANKLIN'S GARDENS



Home to the Saints, the stadium has been totally redeveloped since it was first built in 1880 (to coincide with when the team was formed). It is only a short stroll from the city centre, approximately 20 minutes from the train station but if you don't feel like the walk you could also take a taxi or the number 22 bus from St Gile's Park in the town centre.

Bars at the stadium perimeter will open at 1.30pm in time to show the first of the Heineken Cup action that day (Exeter v Toulon). The stadium will then fully open at 3.00pm to show the second match of the day (Clermont v Scarlets). Head in early to soak up the pre-match atmosphere.

Secure and controlled car parking is also available at the stadium (they have 2,000 spaces), the cost is £5.00 per car.

Another option for food and drink near the ground is the Thomas A Becket pub where food is served throughout the day.



Baggy the Leinster one

Choose a Leinster, Ulster, Munster or neutral blue backpack when you open an account for your child and set up a standing order.



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KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE OLSC

You can keep up to date with all the latest news and information from the OLSC on our website, by liking us on Facebook and following us on Twitter. You can also view all our video content on our YouTube channel. Just search for us or simply scan the QR codes below to find us.



Official Leinster Supporters Club



www.olsc.ie



Twitter:
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OLSCRugby



OLSC DISCOUNTS FOR SUPPORTERS – HOME AND AWAY

Leinster clothing: To stock up with all the Leinster gear you need ahead of the game this weekend – or at any time – visit any Lifestyle Sports store where your season ticket will get you 10% off. Quote 'OLSC2013' at www.lifestylesports.com/leinster to avail of the 10% season ticket discount

Dublin airport specials:

Car parking: Book any car parking for our away games this season and save 20% at DAA car parks by quoting 'OLSC13SEPT'

Terminal 1:

20% off all food/non alcoholic beverages when you show your away match ticket at

- Alcock & Brown Restaurant and Bar (Land side mess level over departures)
- Gate Clock Bar (Air side Pier B 300 gates)
- Refuel Cafe (Air side Pier B 300 gates)
- Cafe Refuel (Air side Pier A 200 gates)
- CU Bar (Air side Pier D 100 gates)

London Luton Airport specials on arrival:

Food Village: Two breakfasts for £10

Burger King: Free hash brown and a drink with breakfast

Bar Des Voyageurs: Bacon sandwich & a hot drink for £5, 4 bottle beers for £12

Starbucks: 50p off any regular hand crafted hot drink

London Luton Airport specials airside when departing:

Real Food Company: Two breakfasts for £12, quote 'Real Food' to redeem

Bear: Jamie Heaslip's restaurant on South William Street, Dublin 2 offers all season ticket holders a 10% discount on presentation of their plastic card on match days.

The Exchequer Gordon D'Arcy's restaurant on Exchequer Street, Dublin 2 offers all season ticket holders a three course meal for the price of two. Pints of Guinness and Heineken are also just €4

More: Season ticket holders can avail of a wide range of discounts, to see the full list visit the 'Blues Benefits' page at www.olsc.ie



MESSAGE FROM THE COACH

Dear Leinster Supporter,

As we embark on a huge Heineken Cup game in Franklin's Gardens this weekend I would like to thank all of you who have made the trip to Northampton.

With Christmas around the corner and so many of you set to attend the return fixture in the Aviva Stadium next weekend, your commitment to the team never ceases to amaze. Your support has inspired the team to victories away to the Ospreys and at home to Castres Olympique in the last Round and I know that it will play a crucial role again on Saturday night.



After a busy Guinness Series for a large portion of our squad we know that a lot of the lads will have to hit the ground running, but there has been a real intent by the players all season and they know the quality of opposition they are up against.

There's great history and respect between both sides and many people will look back at the famous 2011 Heineken Cup final when a superb second half performance propelled Leinster to what was then their second European success. A lot has changed in both camps since that day in the Millennium Stadium; players have either retired or moved on, coaches have passed the baton and this weekend we go into the bear-pit that is Franklin's Gardens. Jim Mallinder and his coaching team have done a terrific job in building the club in recent years and the recruitment of the likes of Wales and Lions star George North last summer was a real signal of their intent; not just in the Premiership but also in Europe. They are backboned by some outstanding international quality players such as Dylan Hartley and Courtney Lawes and they defend their fortress with great pride.

I know from personal experience how hard you have to fight to win in Franklin's Gardens and to do that we will need to be accurate, disciplined in defence and ruthless in attack. It's a great boost to know that we can count on your support every step of the way.

Enjoy the game and safe travels.

Best wishes,

MATT O'CONNOR
Head Coach
Leinster Rugby

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MESSAGE FROM THE OLSC COMMITTEE

So the Heineken Cup returns, after a break that saw Leinster top Pool 1 following the opening rounds. The next fortnight sees two huge fixtures back-to-back versus English powerhouse Northampton Saints.

Our last encounter with the Saints was that memorable day Cardiff back in May 2011. Those fortunate enough to be in the Millennium Stadium will remember the momentous turnaround at half time that led us to our second Heineken Cup trophy.

While Leinster begins the back-to-back fixtures with two wins under their belt, Saints will be keen to make up for lost ground after losing to Castres away – a very tough fixture we still face. Make no mistake; these two fixtures could make all the difference as to whether we progress to the quarter finals or not.

Northampton is well known as a traditional 'old school' club with very loud and passionate supporters, the team is very much part of the town and surrounding region. To those making the trip this weekend your singing boots are once again required. Teams often talk about the '16th man' and what impact it can have when the going gets tough, we are all expecting a bruising encounter on Saturday so give it your all for the full 80 minutes.

We hope you enjoy your weekend in Northampton, be sure to visit The Wig & Pen which is our supporter HQ in the centre for pre and post-match drinks with Saints supporters as well as other members of the blue army. Look out for volunteers from the OLSC at the stadium before the game handing out a very limited number of flags and shiny blue Santa hats. If you get a hat this weekend please do your best to bring it to the return fixture at Aviva Stadium next weekend as well as Ulster in the RDS on 28 December.

On behalf of the OLSC committee we would like to wish all Leinster supporters a Merry Christmas and what will hopefully be, a silver new year.

C'MON LEINSTER !
OLSC Committee



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