

Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Potted Histories No 87

Leatherhead Rose Football Club



A meeting in November 1886 was held at the Rose Coffee Tavern for the purpose of forming a football club. The meeting was preceded over by Mr. Albert Warren who pointed out the benefits to be derived from this winter recreation. About 20 men gave their names in as members. A committee was formed and officers

elected. An entrance fee of 3d and that the annual subtraction is one shilling was agreed. After some consideration the name Leatherhead Rose was adopted, stemming from where the meeting had taken place. The establishment was run by one of the players Thomas Hersey. The Tavern served as the clubs headquarters and the Kingston Road Recreation Ground opposite was the obvious choice as their home ground. In 1892 after many successful seasons as Leatherhead Rose the name Rose was dropped to identify the team more closely with the town as a whole, also, that the team were now playing at Fetcham Grove, leaving the old Rose ground available.

In 1907 Mr. Roy Watson who lived in Kingston Road challenged Headley FC by saying that he could find a team from the Leatherhead Common (Now known as North Leatherhead) area to beat them. A team lead by Phil Peters who also lived in Kingston Road travelled to Headley on November 9th 1907 and won. After the game the players decided to form a club. A meeting was held at All Saints School and that the name Leatherhead Rose FC be resurrected, meaning that the old ground was once more be put to use. However, the club did play at Barnett Wood Lane from 1932 until the outbreak of WWII, when the ground was commandeered for Allotments. In 1946 this Leatherhead Rose and local rivals Leatherhead United went on to form the present Leatherhead FC.

For a more detailed history of football in the Leatherhead, I suggest you read 'How Green in Male Valley' The History of Leatherhead Football Club and Its Predecessors by David Johnston and Graham Mitchell.

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For Information regarding Membership, Lectures and Museum opening hours

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