

# HISTORY

---



## **1873-74**

The club was founded in October as Havelock Football Club, an offshoot of Havelock Cricket Club. Members chose to play rugby (then a 20-a-side game). Home matches were at St. Paul's Road, Balsall Heath. The first captain was S.H. Deakin and the first president was Amos Roe. Early players like Thomas Bent and W.H. Chatwin were involved in the jewellery trade.

## **1874-75**

The club played at a ground on the corner of Highgate Road and Moseley Road, near Camp Hill station. A game was only won if a goal was scored, leading to unusual results. Moseley played fixtures under two codes vs King Edward's School and Wednesbury Old Athletic. The first recorded game with Coventry was on 26 February 1876. Player Matthew Wilcox died from injuries sustained during a match.

## **1876-77**

S.H. Deakin retired after his fourth season. The club accepted a tender for a pavilion, though it's unclear if it was built.

## **1877-78**

After Deakin's resignation, founder member Denston Gibson became captain.

## **1878-79**

Moseley moved to Oxford Road, Moseley, where an admission fee may have been charged. H.V. Hasluck became the third captain. The club may have been unbeaten this season. Accusations of illegal betting arose at the Fourth Annual Athletic Sports.

## **1879-80**

Albert Smith began his first of ten seasons as captain. The Midland Counties Football Union was founded. Although often reported as unbeaten, Moseley lost away to Manchester Rangers and at home to Gloucester.

## **1880-81**

Moseley visited Leicester for their first fixture there and played Cardiff for the first time. The club moved to a new ground on Alcester Road near Moseley Hall.

## **1881-82**

Moseley played home and away vs London Athletic Club. P. Lea, F. Fowler and A.J. Otter represented the Midland Counties vs Wales. Moseley won the inaugural Midland Counties Challenge Cup vs Leamington Rovers.

## **1882-83**

Moseley were runners-up to Burton in the Midland Counties Challenge Cup.

## **1883-84**

The club played its first match at The Reddings, beating Leicester. Moseley played Nottingham for the first time and won the Midland Counties Challenge Cup vs Coventry.

## **1884-85**

Moseley retained the Midland Counties Challenge Cup by beating South Warwickshire Rovers.

## **1885-86**

Moseley won the Midland Counties Challenge Cup again, beating Rugby. They defeated Cardiff at the Arms Park – Cardiff's only loss of the season.

## **1886-87**

Warwickshire cricketer J.E. Shilton and future England international J.F. Byrne played for Moseley. The club won the Midland Counties Challenge Cup for the fourth successive season.



### **1887-88**

Amos Roe was succeeded as president by Lister Lea. The team lost in the Midland Counties Challenge Cup to Rugby.

### **1888-89**

Moseley defeated the first international tourists to the British Isles, the New Zealand Natives (Maoris). J.F. Byrne debuted in the first XV. The Midland Counties Challenge Cup was regained vs Leicester.

### **1889-90**

J.H. Rogers became Moseley's first England international. The club lost to Stratford-on-Avon in the Midland Counties Challenge Cup second round.

### **1890-91 to 1899-00**

Moseley continued competing regionally and nationally. J.F. Byrne earned multiple England caps, and other players like Fred Byrne and R.H.B. Cattell also featured internationally. Moseley faced defeats and victories in cup competitions.

### **1900-10**

Moseley Wanderers represented Great Britain at the 1900 Paris Olympics. The club played Racing Club de France in Paris in 1909/10, winning 12-6, and secured a 21-year lease at The Reddings in June 1910.

### **1910-15**

Moseley lost in the Midland Counties Challenge Cup final to Coventry (1910/11). Play ceased during World War I (1914-15).

### **1918-22**

The club resumed after WWI with limited success, including a difficult 1919-20 season. The North Midlands Football Union was founded.

### **1920s**

The club had mixed results through the decade. Moseley's Golden Jubilee was celebrated in 1923-24. The Midland Counties Challenge Cup was won for the ninth and final time in 1924-25.

### **1930s**

Moseley experienced ups and downs on the field. Public school games were introduced in 1930/31 to find talent, and the club won its first North Midlands Sevens in 1932/33. Ernest Wright led multiple successful campaigns throughout the decade.

### **1939-46**

Play was suspended during World War II (1939-40). Moseley resumed post-war with mixed performance.

### **1950s-60s**

Notable developments included a new stand at The Reddings in 1957-58 and England international caps for players such as Brian Wightman.

### **1970-80s**

Nigel Horton won England caps. Moseley reached multiple finals in the RFU Knock-Out Cup, including the inaugural 1971-72 final and the 1981-82 final, drawing with Gloucester and sharing the trophy—the first draw in cup final history. The club featured numerous internationals and regional representative honours. Moseley's mini and junior section began in 1979-80.

### **1990s**

Moseley competed in the Courage Leagues, experiencing relegation from Division 1 in 1990-91 and stabilising in Division 2 throughout the mid-90s. The club explored professionalism and corporate structure changes, becoming a private limited company in 1996. In 1998, Moseley Ventures Ltd rescued the club from administration with member support.

### **125th Anniversary & Beyond (1998-00s)**

The 1998-99 season celebrated Moseley Rugby's 125th anniversary with tournaments, anniversary matches, and youth success cups. After selling The Reddings, the first 1st XV match at Bournbrook was a 34-17 win vs Worcester in 1999-00.



### **2000-2010s**

Moseley opened its new home at Bournbrook in 2000-01, defeating Exeter in the inaugural match. The club faced financial and planning challenges through the early 2000s, surviving a takeover bid and reorganising under a new consortium in 2002.

### **2012-13**

The club mourned the loss of former director and shareholder Alan Adam. On the field, Moseley achieved a rare double over Bristol and finished 10th in the Championship.

### **2013-14**

Moseley struggled early but improved to finish fifth in National League One with notable wins over Bedford and Fylde. Off the field, work began on a new 712-seat stand and clubhouse at Billesley Common.

### **2017-18**

The season saw varied results, including wins vs Hull Ionians and Fylde, and losses vs Coventry and Old Elthamians, with mixed league performance throughout the campaign.