

Lea Roberts



After Dinner Speaker & Comedian

When Lea was elected by the viewers of TV series "Stand Up Britain as outright winner, comedy had a new star. Lea had however been working as a stand up for many years but finally got his big break when he scooped the title, trophy and a 1st prize of £7000 on the live final screened by ITV1 in October 2002. Lea was up against 6 other comedians from the 144 who started in the competition, and winning the final with 75% of the total vote, including first place in London, North West, and Yorkshire regions. This was no fluke however, as only two years previously, Lea had finished runner up in the Bachelors' Cup A Soup Comedy challenge in 2000, the final taking place at Comedy Store in London. At this point Lea had only performed a handful of shows, making it quite a result!

With a sporting background, Lea suffered serious injury in an amateur rugby match, pretty much ending any hopes of a professional career, however with hard work, and above determination, he was not only able to regain his place in the team, but years later broke into the Halifax RLFC first team, and immediately turned professional. Following retirement, Lea continued to amuse teammates and friends in a social environment, and took up a "regular" as welder. Only after much persuasion from family was he convinced that a career could be had in comedy, and the rest as they say is history!

A well known face on the after dinner circuit in and around the North of England, Lea has worked with numerous sporting celebrities, and following his success on Stand Up Britain is now beginning to carve out a career further across the country.

Lea's comedy is traditional Northern humour, but with a more modern approach, where the heats were held in various Yates's Lodges across the country, before finally playing at the Comedy Club in London, proving his adaptability.

One of the few comedians able to work in both "mainstream" and "alternative" environments. Offering a traditional stand up act, Lea appeals to audiences young and old, with an adult, yet inoffensive and clean speech.



"Many thanks for arranging the booking with Lea. He was excellent - went down very well with the whole audience. What a nice young man!" Alison Banks, British Marine Federation

Stand Up Comedian

As a stand up comedian, Lea retains his clean traditional style, allowing his personality to shine through, and appeals to all types of audience. Whether working spotlessly clean in theatre and on cruise ships, or to "alternative" audiences in comedy clubs, Lea always hits the mark. He is also the number one choice for dinner dance functions, having worked for numerous hotel groups and casinos. One thing always remains constant however - Lea will never work "blue"

*Leeds City Varieties
NSPCC
McDonald Hotel Group
Ocean Village Cruises
Grosvenor Casinos*

One thing that is immediately apparent when you meet Lea is his friendliness. A pleasure to converse with on the top table, it is this warmth that from the moment he stands up is conveyed to the audience. Few entertainers have such "instant likeability"

Sporting Functions

Lea hails from a family steeped in sporting tradition, and Lea himself was a former professional rugby player.

Injury, well some would say a lack of talent cut his professional career short after just one season with Halifax RLFC, yet he is still involved with the game at local level, as part time coach of an amateur side.

Ironically, it is now, 10 years on that Lea is once again teaming up with many of the great sporting names he both admired as child, and played against as an adult - this time in the slightly safer environment of the Top Table!

Aside from his popularity to speak at rugby functions, his passion for all sports including football and golf make him a first choice for any type of sporting occasion. Like many after dinner comedians, it is often surreal to speak alongside such legends as Jack Charlton, Bryan Robson, Dave Bassett, Nobby Stiles, Graham Gooch, Bill Beaumont and Phil Bennett to name a few.

Lea is happy to work as either a speaker relating to his days as a player, or as comedian, providing the laughs to finish the evening off.

<i>Sheffield Wednesday FC</i>	<i>Bolton Wanderers FC</i>
<i>Headingley Pavillion</i>	<i>York Racecourse</i>
<i>The Belfry</i>	<i>Preston Grasshoppers</i>
<i>Derby County FC</i>	<i>Huddersfield Giants RLFC</i>



*"Just a quick note to say Thank you to yourself and Lea with regards to our booking on the 10th of June for the LABC Built In Quality Award Ceremony. Lea was a pleasure to work with and his act had everyone in stitches with his clean (but close to the border!) humour, it was perfectly suited to the event and the audience. If you could please pass on our thanks and congratulations to Lea."
Sara Williams, Marketing & Operations Executive, Evensis Ltd*

Corporate / Business Functions

Lea's real strength lies in his ability to entertain a "corporate" audience. A regular on the conference and company circuit, Lea can provide either a light hearted speech based around his native Yorkshire roots, or, given his sporting background will add given message to the speech based on teamwork and his motivation to get back to peak fitness following an injury that should have put him out of sport completely.

Whilst his speech is a general look at his own life and the things that make him (and us) laugh, its pitch of risqué, but never crude humour is ideal for a business audience. Lea is politically correct - not racist, sexist, or ageist, and is ideally suited to audiences of all types – young, old, male and female.

Lea also spends much time speaking to Rotary, Lions and Round Table organisations, and has spoken to various Institutes from across the country.

In cabaret, Lea retains his clean traditional style, and with his personable approach, appeals to all types of audience. Whether working spotlessly clean in theatre and cruise ships, or to "alternative" audiences in comedy clubs, Lea always hits the mark. He is also the number one choice for dinner dance functions, having worked for numerous hotel groups and casinos. One thing always remains constant however – Lea will never work "blue"

An amateur performer from his early teens, Lea relishes the opportunity to drop in a few uncanny impressions and doesn't just tell jokes, but actually sets the scene for them.



*"Just a short note to thank you for arranging Lea Roberts as our guest speaker, and just to say how well Lea went down with the audience - his act and delivery were extremely well judged, and I have lost count of the number of people who came up to me and tell me it was the best Annual Dinner ever!"
Stuart Robertshaw ACII, AIIRSM, IRIB, Old Batelians Grammar School*

McVities Biscuits

Balfour Beatty

Orange

Healthshield

Jacuzzi UK

Cadbury Trebor Bassett

Carlsberg Tetley

British Marine Federation

House Builders Federation

Institute of Weights & Measures

Round Table / Rotary / Lions

Insurance Institute

Institute of Clay Technology





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