

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD RFC V AMPTHILL & DISTRICT RFC £12 30 September 2017

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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME PERRY OLIVER



WELCOME EVERYONE TO OUR 5TH GAME IN NATIONAL ONE AND OUR 3RD AT HOME.

I'd like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all the Players, Officials and Supporters of Ampthill & District RFC. We haven't played them for a couple of seasons but Silver Leys will be familiar territory to them!

I think if you had offered us at the outset 3 wins from our first 4 games at this level we'd have bitten your hand off. We knew Plymouth Albion would be tough. As Longy said immediately after the game they will be up there in the top three or four come the end of the season. We lost, but I felt the score slightly flattered them and I know our team & supporters took a lot of heart from our performance.

That said we still travelled to Roehampton last Saturday as underdogs to take Nat 1 stalwarts Rosslyn Park. Last season 'Park' finished 6th in this league but as we all know whilst our guvs are respectful towards opponents who ever they are, they are seldom overawed. And so it proved as just before 5pm we emerged with an unexpected but thoroughly well-deserved 31-24 victory and another 5 league points in the bank! It really isn't an overstatement to call the achievement 'historic' and it was so pleasing to see so many Blazers there to witness it. Even better that the normally reverentially quiet Stortford supporters actually out sung the locals. Russ Abbott would have loved it. Long may that continue!

Today's opponents Ampthill & District are familiar rugby friends. They of course beat us in a promotion play-off to get up to this level in May 2015. In truth they deserved their victory that day and have since gone from strength to strength. Like us they are a community focused

club not just a team and their example of not only how to survive but thrive at this level should give us cause for optimism.

Another 'historic' event took place a couple of Sundays ago when our Ladies XV won their first ever league match 20-5 at St Neots. Their next game is at home on Sunday week (8th) when they entertain Royston. The game kicks off at 2pm and it would be fantastic to see lots of 'Blazers' on the touch line lending their support. Put it in your diary.

At the time of writing, todays other senior men's fixtures find our Blues also at home to Ampthill, Whilst our Mitres, Chindits & Abbotts are all supposed to be away in league action against CS Rugby, Enfield Ignitions & Epping Upper Clapton respectively. Go well guys & finally like a Phoenix from the ashes, our new pitch side bar or 'Banksy's Bar' is now ready for action. It has three times the capacity of 'the wagon' meaning that you should be able to drink even more in the 80 minutes or so that you're pitch side!! Many thanks to Andy Banks for his sponsorship of this vital facility and Tubby, our very own 'Pub landlord' Pete Douglas & John Allanson for swinging speedily into action when the unexpected need arose, to ensure that the faithful haven't had to wait too long for a replacement.

Please christen it & whilst you're at it drink a toast to our much missed friend and 'landlady' - Joolie 'Cookie' Hanger.

Have a lovely day with us here at Silver Leys.

Perry Oliver President

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DIRECTOR OF RUGBYANDY LONG



THE ELATION OF LAST WEEK'S VICTORY OVER ROSSLYN PARK HAS DIED DOWN NOW, AS WE LOOK AHEAD TO OUR NEXT CHALLENGE IN NATIONAL ONE.

Taking nothing away from the win, we could see how much it meant to our supporters, so thank you to all who came out and helped us over the line.

For us as a team, they are just another side that we had to go and play against.

We try to stay quite grounded, and it didn't surprise me that we went there and won. We know that if we get our game right in the places we identify as vulnerable, we can beat sides like that.

In saying that, it sure was a funny old game, especially considering we were 14-nil down in the first quarter and had actually played some quite good rugby.

We knew that we could expose Rosslyn Park, but we were just a little bit careless with some of our attack, which put us under pressure. I think the turning point was just before half time,

when we scored.

That was an emotion shift there.
They were keen to get off the field and we managed to get a penalty kick into the corner with time up on the clock, and were brave enough to take a lineout and go for it.
It would have been easy to kick the ball off and go into the change room, but the fact that we weren't scared to try to put a nail in their coffin was a statement for us.

Then we really stepped up our physicality in the second half, playing really direct with our forwards to create some holes, and we were clever with what we did. We put a lot of pressure on them.
We controlled a lot of possession, and towards the end that was really crucial.

Success over such a renowned side got me thinking about the progression of the club over the years, and how much we have developed to form today's strong foundations.

One of the newest editions to our club is the Ladies team, who were really the missing part of the jigsaw for us as a whole club.

Full credit to Carly for all the effort she has put in to generate the ambition of the ladies squad - if we can harness that and encourage more women to get into the sport then brilliant.

It's great to see them up there on Tuesday training, and I look forward to helping them out and working with them.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the Ampthill playing group, as well as their supporters. Historically, they are a team pretty similar to Plymouth - they have a big forward pack, are pretty direct and have some dangerous runners out wide.

They have picked up a few new players this

season, and they will be dangerous.
Like any side, they are going to be a step up from some of the teams we have played.
They have been competitive in this league for a few years now. But we will go out there and as long as we get right what we have planned, I think we have a good chance of causing them a few problems.

Enjoy the game

Longy

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CHAIRMAN'S VIEWS

COLIN TILLEY

FIRSTLY, A WARM WELCOME TO SILVER LEYS TO TODAY'S OPPONENTS AND OLD RIVALS FROM OUR NATIONAL 2 DAYS

Ampthill, who will most likely provide us with another stern test!

Four games into the season and three wins that see us sitting fourth in the League table currently is a situation that we should all be quite happy with, although it is still early days. The away win against Rosslyn Park last week was immense if only for the fact that, by the boys' own admission, they did not play as well as they would have liked! The resilience and determination they showed to come back from an early 14 point deficit said much for the character of the side and demonstrate that we are capable of competing in this League.

A warm welcome also to our many sponsors. The Club places great value on its sponsors and their relationship with us, and is, as ever, extremely grateful for all the support that you give to us and have given over the years. Your support is even more important this year as we move into somewhat unknown territory of playing in National 1. It is going to be a stern challenge but one that we are determined to approach in a very positive way. Just as you are all trying to grow your businesses, we also are trying to grow into tackling the biggest test in the Club's history.

You will all notice that we are able to resume normal service with the completion

of the installation of our replacement pitch side bar, which is in the same location as the original that was destroyed by fire. Once again, I would like to thank Mullucks Wells for their generous donation towards the purchase of the replacement, as well as to Andy Banks, who is sponsoring it under the banner of Banksy's Bar, and Greene King, who helped with the fitting out and supplied all the bar fittings.

Returning to the playing front, congratulations are due to our recently formed Ladies section, who won their first ever League match away to St Neots by 20-5. Their next fixture is at home to Royston on Sunday the 8th October, with a kick off at 2pm and I would encourage as many of you as possible to get up to the Club and give them your support.

Finally, our best wishes go to Paul Maxfield, who has been hospitalised for the past few days, for a speedy recovery and I look forward to seeing him back at the Club imbibing his usual glass of red wine as soon as possible.

Yours in rugby

Colin Tilley Chairman

THE PLAYERS

BSRFC 1'S XV 2017/18



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PETE AINSWORTH INTERVIEW

BACK IN 2005 WHEN HIS SON WAS JUST FIVE YEARS OLD, PETER AINSWORTH TOOK HIM ALONG TO THE RUGBY CLUB AT THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER WITH A VIEW TO JOINING THE MINIS SECTION.

He was watching from the sidelines when he soon became more involved than he had expected. "Someone approached me and said you look like a coach. That was the start of it and I've been involved ever since," said Peter.

In fact, Peter hadn't coached before, but he rose to the challenge. No stranger to the game, he had played at school and university, and before long committed himself to coaching the minis on a weekly basis and also enrolled on several coaching courses with the club's backing. In 2010 he was asked to become chairman of the minis section when the previous incumbent stepped down.

He held that position for two years and then, when his son moved up into the youth section, he was also asked to move up to chairman of the section, a post he has held ever since.

Peter is a keen advocate of coaching and under his chairmanship has launched the club's first Young Rugby Ambassadors Prog ramme. "There has been lots of talk about the retention of players in the game. At around the age of 15/16 lots of the young lads stop coming. Encourag e "It might be because of girls, social life etc but it can also be because of injury, which holds them back for a while and then they might not come back at all. Whatever the reason we want

to try and encourage them to stay and to that end have piloted a new scheme to try and keep them i nvo I ve d . "

The Young Rugby Ambassadors Programme is part of an initiative with the RFU and encourages under-16s to volunteer at the club. They can take courses and continue their involvement with rugby even if they aren't playing. Ironically, shortly after launching the programme, Peter saw the scheme have a positive impact on his own family. "My son had a bad injury and ruptured his anterior cruciate ligament which has meant he can't play for at least 12 months. This programme has given him the opportunity to keep involved so he is still regularly at the club, he sees his mates and is very much a part of it." Some members have also gone on to do refereeing courses. Today the youth section is thriving and standards are high. It's open to new players of all age groups and youth registration takes place on the first two Sundays in September with a team of volunteers on hand to help you through the registration process from 9.30am to 11.30am. There is also a "try before you bu y" option, which allows children to experience mini rugby before parents commit the funds.

By Tracey Waples sportsdesk@hertsessexnews.co.uk

THE MINI'S BIG DAY APPROACHES......

REGISTRATION IS BEHIND US, PARENTS ARE VISITING BOB'S SHOP TO PURCHASE NEW KIT FOR KIDS WHO HAVE GROWN A FOOT OVER THE SUMMER AND THE FIRST FIXTURE TAKES PLACE TOMORROW.



So begins a new season of Mini Rugby at Bishop's Stortford RFC.

Word of mouth regarding our minis is as strong as ever and the number of kids we have on a Sunday is once again at record levels. The additional pitch space provided by the College assists us with our perennial issue of a lack of real estate and our long line of mini players will be swelling the ranks of our youth and then our senior teams for many years.

One of the many highlights of the Mini's season is the annual BSRFC Mini Rugby Festival hosted here at Silver Leys and taking place this year on 15th October. Commencing in 2011 we have hosted clubs from across Hertfordshire, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire. Our festival has a reputation of being very well organised and has always been enjoyable for all involved, both within BSRFC and for our quests.

Primarily run by the club's Under 9 age group, the festival relies on a small army of volunteers to put in place a day of rugby for up to 750 youngsters with 1000 spectators expected to visit us on the day.

The BBQ has, on more than one occasion, been

maned by our very own club president, Perry and the inimitable Paula Amos with our army of "blazers" turning out bright and early to assist with running the car parking. In addition to these volunteers from the senior club helping on the day – that's "One Club" for you – the parents of every child participating from Bishop's Stortford will also help on the day. Without everyone working together like this, the festival could not take place and we are grateful to all who volunteer.

If you have not previously had to pleasure of attending the festival we would encourage you to come to the club on 15th October to witness the sheer joy on the faces of the new Under 7s scoring their first tries for the club or the determination of the Under 12s playing in their final season of mini rugby and running out for their first time – and hopefully not the last – on to our 1st XV pitch and all the kids in between.

The festival committee are still searching for sponsors for the day and if anybody would like to get involved with sponsorship or is available to assist on the day, please get in touch with festival chair Neil Clark,

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TODAY'S OPPOSITION

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THE PLAYING OF THE GAME OF RUGBY IN AMPTHILL CAN BE TRACED BACK AS FAR AS 1881. THE CURRENT CLUB WAS REFORMED AFTER WWILIN 1950.

They have played at their Dillingham Park ground since 1960.

They were elevated to National One at the end of the 2014-15 season when of course the defeated us in a promotion play-off, 19-10

One of the biggest clubs in Bedfordshire they boast no fewer than six senior men's teams, a Ladies team and a massive Mini & Youth section covering all age groups from U6 to Colts

This is then their 3rd consecutive season at level 3 and indeed they have and very quickly established themselves as one of the 'teams to beat' at this level. In their first season quite incredibly they finished fourth, winning no fewer than 20 of the 30 games.

Last season they went one better by finishing 3rd (elevated to Runners up after Plymouth Albion's points deduction) and in doing so improving their win record to 22 out of the 30.

So far this season they have won two, drawn one and lost one of the four games played but in fairness they have played two of the teams who will be fighting them for promotion this year away, Blackheath & Birmingham Moseley.

Last Saturday they ran in seven tries to demolish Esher at Dillingham Park.

Team Colours





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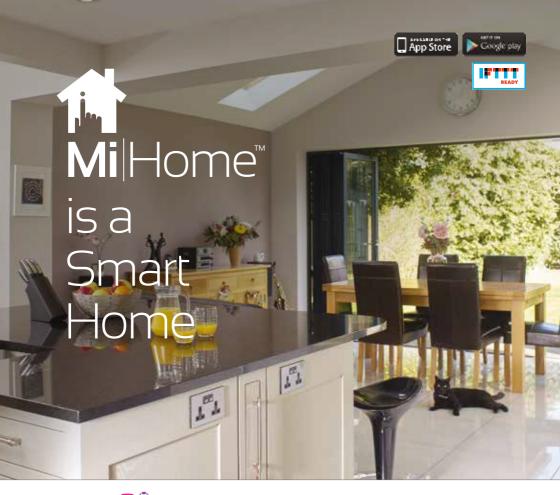
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Ampt&D		28/4	20/1	6/1	17/2	21/10	14/4	7/4	45-5	7/10	16/12	3/2	28-24	4/11	10/3	25/11
B'ham	21-21		21/10	7/10	25/11	10/3	23/12	17-31	3/2	12/2	38-24	4/11	20/1	2/4	0/12	21/4
BSRFC	30/9	10/2		3/2	49-26	21/4	27/1	25/11	11/11	7/4	14/10	9/12	28/10	23/12	17-36	13/1
B'heath	16-15	27/1	4/11		25/11	2/4	23/12	21/10	12/2	10/3	30/9	24/11	14/10	31/4	32-31	23/12
Caldy	29/10	25/3	28/4	14/4		16-20	3/3	20/1	16/12	37-19	11/11	6/1	2/12	27/1	14/10	10/2
Camb	10/2	11/11	16/12	2/12	13/1		28/10	6/1	14/4	28/4	3/3	9-14	24/3	30/9	27/1	14/10
Coventry	9/12	50-11	7/10	37-10	4/11	17/2		21/4	20/1	3/2	28/4	21/10	6/1	10/3	25/11	7/4
DarlMPk	2/12	15/1	24/3	10/2	30/9	35-18	16/12		3/2	14/4	23/12	33-23	27/1	14/10	28/10	11/11
Esher	13/1	14/10	10/3	28/19	21/4	9/12	30/9	4/11		25/11	27/1	2/4	10/2	39-14	23/12	32-17
Fylde	27/1	28/10	2/12	11/11	23/12	12-25	14/10	9/12	24/3		10/2	21/4	3/3	7-43	13/1	30/9
Hull Ion	21/4	6/1	3/2	20/1	10/3	4/11	20-63	15-27	7/10	21/10		17/2	26-36	25/11	7/4	0/12
L'boro S	14/10	3/3	14/4	24/3	26-31	23/12	10/2	28/4	3/12	16/12	28/10		11/11	13/1	30/9	27/1
O.Alb'n	23/12	11/11	12/2	3/2	2/4	25/11	19-21	7/10	21/10	4/11	13/1	10/3		9/12	21/4	0-58
O.Eltham	3/3	2/12	13-19	16/12	7/10	20/1	11/11	3/2	28/4	6/1	24/3	36-20	14/4		10/2	28/10
Plym'th	11/11	14/4	6/1	28/4	3/2	7/10	24/3	12/2	43-10	68-15	2/12	20/1	16/12	21/10		3/3
RossPk	24/3	16/12	24-31	6-25	21/10	3/2	2/12	10/3	6/1	20/1	14/4	2/10	28/4	17/2	4/11	

Round 16-30

Round 1-15

Season 2017-2018 NATIONAL 1

23rd September Results

Home Team			Away Team
Ampthill & District	45	5	Esher
Birmingham Moseley	17	31	Darlington Mowden Park
Caldy	16	20	Cambridge
Coventry	37	10	Blackheath
Hull Ionians	26	36	Old Albanian
Old Elthamians	36	20	Loughborough Students
Plymouth Albion	68	15	Fylde
Rosslyn Park	24	31	Bishop`s Stortford

Season 2017-2018 NATIONAL 1

30th September Fixtures

Home Team		Away Team
Darlington Mowden Park	Vs	Caldy
Bishop`s Stortford	Vs	Ampthill & District
Blackheath	Vs	Hull Ionians
Cambridge	Vs	Old Elthamians
Esher	Vs	Coventry
Fylde	Vs	Rosslyn Park
Loughborough Students	Vs	Plymouth Albion
Old Albanian	Vs	Birmingham Moseley

National League 1											
Club	Pld	W	D	L	F	Α	PD	TBP	LBP	Ded	Pts
1) Darlington Mowden Park	4	4	0	0	126	73	53	4	0	0	20
2) Coventry	4	4	0	0	171	60	111	3	0	0	19
3) Plymouth Albion	4	3	0	1	178	74	104	4	1	0	17
4) Bishop`s Stortford	4	3	0	1	116	99	17	2	0	0	14
5) Blackheath	4	3	0	1	83	89	-6	1	0	0	13
6) Ampthill & District	4	2	1	1	109	66	43	2	1	0	13
7) Caldy	4	2	0	2	110	114	-4	3	1	0	12
8) Old Elthamians	4	2	0	2	106	85	21	2	1	0	11
9) Cambridge	4	2	0	2	72	77	-5	1	1	0	10
10) Esher	4	2	0	2	86	119	-33	2	0	0	10
11) Rosslyn Park	4	1	0	3	105	88	17	2	1	0	7
12) Birmingham Moseley	4	1	1	2	87	126	-39	1	0	0	7
13) Old Albanian	4	1	0	3	79	133	-54	1	2	0	7
14) Loughborough Students	4	1	0	3	83	109	-26	0	1	0	5
15) Hull Ionians	4	0	0	4	85	164	-79	1	0	0	1
16) Fylde	4	0	0	4	53	173	-120	0	0	0	0

THE TEAMS



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BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1ST XV

BLUE AND WHITE

1	Will Roberts	
2	Declan Caulfield	
3	Sean Edwards	
4	Dave Aldam	
5	Matt Tomlinson	
6	Dan Leo	
7	James Apperley	
8	Steve Ball	
9	James Lennon	
10	George Cullen	
11	Jimmy Rea	
12	Johnny Neville	
13	Sam Winter ©	
14	Chris Smith	
15	Nick Hankin	<u> </u>
	REPLACEMENTS	Man of the Match Sponsor
16	Sam James	
17	Tom McCrone	(-1)
18	Oli Jones	UV
19	Matt Riddington	WEALTH
20	Sam Coleman	MANAGEMENT

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MAROON AND GOLD

	Toby Trinder	1
	Aleki Lutui	2
	Karl Garside	3
	Paino Hehea	4
	Ben Gulliver	5
	Syd Blackmore	6
	Joe Bercis	7
	Maama Molitika	8
	Stef Liebenberg	9
	Elliot Reeder	10
	Sam Baker	11
	Will Goodge	12
	Sam Hanks	13
	James Pritchard	14
	Karim Lynch	15
with thanks to	REPLACEMENTS	
	Josh Taylor	16
	Jack Culverhouse	17
FORWARD,	Simon Pitfield	18
Corporate Finance	Ben Calder	19
	Josh Sharp	20



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ROSSLYN PARK 24 BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1ST XV 31

By John Allanson

It's no overstatement to term this an historic win for Stortford, enjoyed by a huge crowd of traveling supporters, including main sponsor, Tees Law.

This is the first time that Stortford have played a league game against the institution that is Rosslyn Park and to go there and gain a well-deserved win, represents a massive achievement for players, coaches and, indeed, the whole Club - much of which seemed to be in highly vocal attendance!

Having started brightly, Stortford suffered a few early lapses in concentration with one or two crucial errors and a handful of penalties conceded, particularly at breakdowns. The home side needed no second invitation and scored two converted tries on 6 and 17 minutes, the first from a powerful driving maul from a 5 metre lineout and the second through some quick handling to create and exploit a mismatch in midfield. Stortford, though remained undaunted and soon narrowed the deficit to 7 points, when Nick Hankin ran back a Park box kick to set up possession well inside home territory, from where guick hands along the backs created a two on one, which Jack Scantlebury exploited clinically to draw the last man and set Ryan Hutler free to the line. George Cullen confidently added the extra 2 points. Better was yet to come as, with halftime approaching. Alex Patton took a quick penalty and sent Johnny Neville running at the opposition, making some 30 metres before the powerful centre was stopped. The strength of the home defence was such, though that it took several phases, before it was fully stretched and it took a tremendous long pass by Cullen to find winger, Jimmy Rea in space for a try. The fly half's conversion levelled the score, but there was time enough for further drama, as the home side sought to get back into the changing room all square. Forgetting the new Law on penalties to touch after time has expired, Park's fly half stabbed a penalty direct into touch close to halfway, which, in contrast to last year's Laws resulted in a lineout. Possibly confused by the need to play on, the home side were unable to retain the ball from their own throw and, having won a turnover, Stortford managed to gain a breakdown penalty. Going for broke, Cullen found touch some 7 metres out from the opposition line and it was almost inevitable, given the sudden and - to Rosslyn Park, unexpected - turn of events, it was no surprise that the visitors were able to score a last-ditch unconverted try, as Will Roberts broke from the back of a driving maul. Stortford thus went into the break 5 points ahead.

The visitors, though didn't start the second period well, with the lineout suddenly wobbling and one misdirected pass was enough to put the home side onto the attack, forcing Cullen to carry the ball over his own try line, as he fielded a kick ahead under severe pressure. Stortford managed to repel a series of drives at their line but, following a long delay for a back or neck injury to Park's captain, Adam Frampton, the restart took the form of an attacking scrum, though it had appeared from the touchline that Park had knocked the ball on. The home side did not waste the opportunity and levelled the scores with an unconverted try after a couple of phases and now seemed to have their tails up. They were straight back onto the attack and registered another 5 points some 5 minutes later, after guick hands and some elusive running gave their outside centre room to wriggle his way over in the corner. Once again, the young Stortford side proved to be unphased by going behind and launched themselves into a series of attacks involving the whole side, putting Rosslyn Park under tremendous pressure. The result was two more scores to the battling visitors. First Roberts forced his way over for his second and his team's bonus point try after 28 minutes and Cullen's conversion established a 2 point lead. This was extended to 7 some 5 minutes later, when replacement winger, Chris Smith crashed over for a try out wide after his side had run through many more phases of 15 man rugby. The game was still not over, though and Stortford's defensive mettle was again put to a stern test, as the home team pounded on their line for some 3 or 4 minutes. With the visiting supporters in full voice, though, there seemed no way that the team would allow such a momentous victory to be snatched from them and a crucial final turnover was duly won and the ball despatched safely into touch to end the game.

For those many Stortford supporters present, this win will live long in their memories and for those not present - dare you miss next week's big home game against Ampthill? COYB!!

Our best wishes in the meantime go to Adam Frampton for a full and speedy recovery from his injury.

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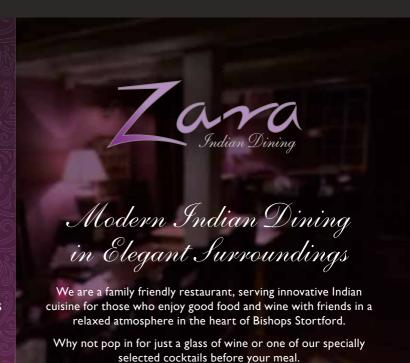
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IN THE SPOTLIGHT: GEORGE CULLEN

WE MOVED AS A FAMILY OUT OF LONDON TO STORTFORD WHEN I WAS 7 YEARS OLD HAVING ONLY PLAYED FOOTBALL UP UNTIL THAT POINT.

I still vividly remember my first Sunday morning up at the club, passing a ball around in a circle with all my new team mates

I got into rugby mainly through my Dad, JC, who played a lot back in the day! He has certainly had the biggest impact on my rugby career of anyone, particularly in the early years at BSRFC.

We had a very strong age group coming up through the ranks at the club and it's great to see so many of the team now playing 1st XV rugby at the club, including Banksy, Rory Young, Will Roberts, Scants and Cronie.

We won a handful of national competitions including the Belfast tournament at U12s when we beat our old rivals Bridgend from Wales. It's great to see a core group from that team have come up through the club and are pushing the 1st team to new heights, and to be part of that group is pretty special.

I highly doubt there is another club in the country, certainly not anywhere near this level, who are able to field 6 players who have played together at that club since aged 7.

We were initially coached by Nigel Smith and JC, but from U14s onwards we were taken over by Jim Taylor and, as well as a great tour to Toulon, a great memory is winning the National U17s plate at Franklins Gardens. Finishing off our youth rugby at the club on such a high definitely prompted a lot of us to carry on playing into colts and senior rugby thereafter.

As is the case with a lot of boys, uni commitments took over for the majority, which restricted playing for the club to holiday periods only. I think it's awesome how despite going off to different corners of the country, most guys at the club are still drawn to coming back and keep playing when they can.

For me, while my two years after my undergrad studies were, for the initial few months of the season focused on playing at Oxford in the varsity campaign, I was always looking forward to coming back and joining back up here for the second half of the season (may be I should have stayed away because as soon as I stopped doing that we got promoted!)

Last year I was presented with the opportunity to play for London Scottish in the championship which was something I had always wanted to do; to be able to test myself in a professional environment and play alongside and against top level, sometimes international players.

I feel the experience greatly improved me as a player and hopefully it's allowed me to be able to bring a bit of extra experience to the team this year. In the end it was an easy decision to come back and play at Stortford as we embark on the club's journey in the third tier.

While I have no doubt there will be some tough outings this year, I have every confidence that we have the ability to beat any team we play.



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Working in conjunction with the 1stXV coaching team, CS provides funding for various expenditure beyond the financial resources of the main club. These are specific to the first team/Blues squad, and include items such as strength and conditioning, video analysis of matches, equipment, additional medical support, travel and overnight stays for long distance away fixtures.

Director of Rugby, Andy Long, has reiterated on a number of occasions the importance he attaches to the financial support given by Club Stortford. Quite simply, without it's support, the team would not be able to perform at such currently high levels. Two third place finishes, a second place play off and now promotion to National 1 in the last four seasons is an outstanding achievement.

Club Stortford currently has 30+ likeminded members, all willing to provide the necessary funds to allow the club to play at National league level. These are either individual, corporate or syndicate members, enjoying various benefits associated with their membership.

We continue to look for new members, to allow us to broaden and deepen the extent of our support. We would urge you to consider joining Club Stortford.

If you are interested and would like further information, please contact our secretary, Russell Cattell 07778 101988, Charlie Dunsford 07710 120011, Brian Moore 07768 356746 or our chairman Neil Parker 07860 300080.

THE OVAL CLUB



THE OVAL CLUB WAS FOUNDED IN 1998 BY A GROUP
OF MEMBERS WHO GOT TOGETHER TO FIND A WAY
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FACILITIES AND PROJECTS WHICH WOULD ENHANCE THE PLAYING SIDE
OF THE CLUB. WITH THAT IN MIND THE STATED MISSION STATEMENT OF
THE OVAL CLUB IS:

'TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS PROMOTING THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE STANDARD OF RUGBY THROUGHOUT BISHOPS STORTFORD RUGBY CLUB'

The Oval Club operates as an autonomous body and is entirely independent of the Rugby Club's financial and administrative operations. No member of the Oval Club Committee can be a member of the official Rugby Club management. The Oval Club does not seek to influence decisions of the Rugby Club.

Of the contributions received into The Oval Club's Fund two thirds of each contribution is set aside for the Rugby Club and one third is allocated to the Members to fund social occasions.

Since its establishment the Oval Club has raised over £225,000 and to date £138,000 has been allocated in support of funding requests from the Rugby Club for many projects including:

- Floodlighting the back field pitches,
- Improvement of the playing surfaces, including the purchase of a Verti-drainer,
- Supporting Youthand Minithrough, tours, kit and additional playing facilities,
- Replacement of goal posts,
- Playing equipment and travel costs for all teams,
- Purchase of physiotherapy equipment,
- Refurbishingthechangingrooms'showers,
- The drainage of the floodlit pitch.
- Junior coaching courses, and
- Pitch repair and maintenance.

At present on the Member's side social functions held each year include:

- A Home Match Lunch and Drinks
- An away match Coach Trip and Lunch and Drinks
- An Annual Forum Dinner and Drinks incorporating a partially financed Golf day

The current membership is 74 which is deemed by the Committee as an appropriate and manageable number however this is not set in stone and new members are always welcome. If anyone would like to join please contact one of the Committee Members listed below.

The Oval Club has played an important part in providing much needed funds for the Rugby Club to enable playing facilities and standards to be improved and it will continue to do so with the help of its members.

Members of the present Oval Club Committee are:

Robbie Kerr Chairman John Robinson Secretary John Power Treasurer

Mark Caulfield

Mike Howatson



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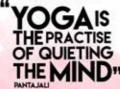
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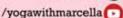


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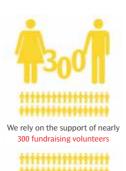
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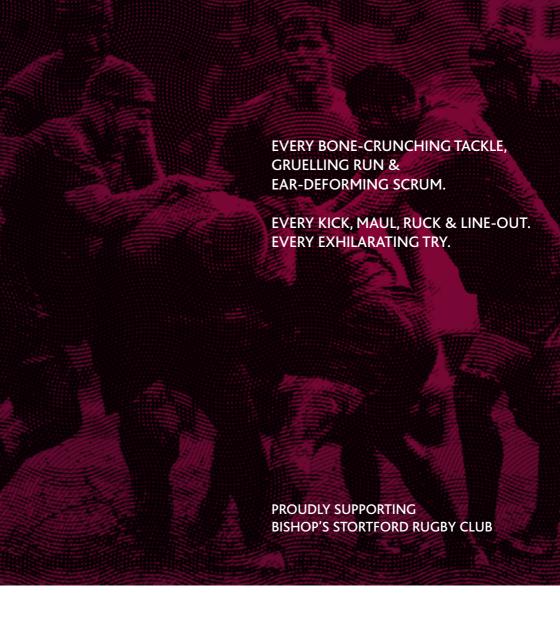


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BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE 1ST XV





As part of the Clubs ethos 'to be a strong and successful rugby club united from Senior to Mini's, trusted and valued by our community' the BSRFC Director of Rugby, Andy Long, Club Captain Sam Winter, & the rest of the 1st XV Squad provide an insight for our "Mini & Junior" Members into what goes on behind the scenes as the Players prepare for a National League

1 Match. The day kicks off with a Q&A in the 1st XV Changing Room, followed by Training, Games & Warm up Sessions with the Coaches and Players. They then form the "Players Tunnel" alongside the "Blazers" to welcome both the opposition and the 1st XV onto the pitch before the game. Their experience culminates with Post Match Photos alongside the Players.



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Why not join Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club?

As an Associate member:

- You receive notices and newsletters
- Will be entitled to a reduced entrance fee on 1st XV Match Days
- 10% Bar Discount
- Become a part of a thriving and vibrant community of like minded people

MEMBERSHIP	Amount	
Associate Membership	£ 75.00	
CONTACT DETAILS		
Name:	D.O.B.:	
Contact address :		
	Postcode:	
Telephone :	Mobile :	
Email:		

Hand this form with your payment to a member of the bar staff or contact the Membership Secretary – contact information on the website.

For Playing, Non Playing and Family Memberships please check the website for details:

www.pitchero.com/clubs/bishopsstortfordrfc/signup

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