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THIS WEEKS FEATURES:
WELCOME HOME FORMER PLAYERS

A STRONG START FOR THE LADIES

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:
DECLAN CAULFIELD

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD RFC V HULL IONIANS RFC

14 October 2017

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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

PERRY OLIVER



WELCOME BACK TO SILVER LEYS FOR TODAY'S NATIONAL ONE ENCOUNTER WITH HULL IONIANS RFC.

This will be the first time we will have played each other so I'd like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all their Players, Officials and any Supporters who have made the long trip south from the Humber.

Last time out here we came up against a proficient and battle hardened Amptill side and came off second best. We were far from disgraced in losing 22-41 but if truth be told they thoroughly deserved their victory.

Last Saturday we travelled to the West Midlands to take on the side that most are tipping to be this seasons National One Champions - Coventry RFC. I think the majority of the 100 or so Stortford supporters who made the trip would have done so more in hope than expectation. However it's quite clear that the aspirations of our players were much higher.

The match that ensued was a real hum-dinger with the teams trading scores almost at will throughout the 80 minutes. Unfortunately we found ourselves on the wrong end of a few contentious decisions, especially in the last 10 minutes and eventually had to settle for just a losing bonus point. But the performance in pushing the potential champions all the way must give us all, players & supporters much confidence for the battles that lie ahead. If we can go to Coventry and do that we need fear no one.

Many thanks to all who travelled to the Butts Park Arena. Our hosts were suitably impressed with the turn out both in terms of numbers and our sartorial elegance.

Today's opponents Hull Ionians are another new challenge for us. They have had a difficult start to this season, losing their first five games. However rather ominously they hit form last weekend at home, when they scored no fewer than six tries to defeat Esher 43-28.

Last weekend for the first time this season we managed to field all of our five senior men's teams. Aside from the 1's, our Blues drew 12 all with a Coventry Development XV, our Mitres or 3rd XV beat Hammersmith & Fulham 39-7, our Chindits lost out on the road to their counterparts at Amptill but our Abbots beat Southgate 15-10

Then on Sunday our Ladies XV came back from being 0-19 down at half time to defeat Royston Ladies 26-24 in an exciting and full on, first ever league match here at Stortford. They have now won both their matches this season and sit proudly at the top of their league.

Tomorrow sees us host our Russell Property Partnership sponsored Minis festival when we expect well over 500 youngsters and their families to descend upon us for a day filled with Fun, fuelled by fizzy drinks, bacon rolls & burgers. Thank you to the organising committee and all the volunteers without whom it just couldn't happen.

Fingers crossed it stays dry all weekend so we can all enjoy some great rugby & our time here at Silver Leys.

Perry Oliver
President

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DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

ANDY LONG



WHILE LAST WEEK'S RESULT WAS OF COURSE BITTERSWEET, I CAN'T HELP BUT BE INCREDIBLY PROUD OF HOW THE TEAM PLAYED AGAINST COVENTRY.

To go there and put the performance in that we did - it was a mature performance. We showed resilience to stick to the plan and keep the game close, on another day we would have come away victors.

Sometimes we don't realise how good a team we are. But the key thing is we are a team. We are at our best when we play like a team and Saturday was a perfect example of that.

Ultimately we didn't get the result that we wanted, but now we have played three of the top five teams, and we know that we shouldn't be fearful of them. We have the game plan to rattle these sides.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the Hull Ionians playing group, as well as their supporters.

Coming off the back of a great win against Esher, they are no doubt going to bring a lot of confidence with them to today's match.

Where they are on the ladder doesn't really reflect where they are as a team. They have been in this league for a number of years now, and they will be experienced.

All the sides in this league, you expect them to have a good set piece, be well drilled, and have a good group of players that have been together for some time.

They are a rugged team and play with some good structure.

This should be an interesting clash.

Enjoy the game
Longy



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CHAIRMAN'S VIEWS

COLIN TILLEY

A VERY WARM WELCOME TO HULL IONIANS ON THEIR FIRST EVER VISIT TO SILVER LEYS, WHO COME TO US IN NEED OF SOME POINTS

after what must be, from their perspective, a disappointing start to the season. So, we will need to be on our metal this afternoon if we want to come away with the win.

I was not able to get to the game against Coventry last week and, on seeing the close result, which gave us a losing bonus point, thought we had done very well. On talking to those who did go, we could just as easily have come away with four points if the rub of the green had gone our way!

It is becoming increasingly apparent that we can more than hold our own in this League and the players have certainly risen to the challenge in a big way. We currently sit in seventh place in the League, with fifteen points and a won three, lost three record, which any of us would have taken at the beginning of the season, especially as we have already played three of the sides sides in the top five, including Coventry and Plymouth in first and second places currently, and given a good account of ourselves. Other sides in the League are certainly beginning to find out where Bishop's Stortford is!

I had the pleasure of spending much of last Sunday at the Club watching a full programme of activity that really reflected the range of activity we have going on across all age groups.
In the morning, Mini training was followed by

a number of Youth matches, which we won playing a good standard of rugby that bodes well for the future. In the afternoon, we hosted the first Ladies league home game of the season on Pitch 3, while on Pitch 4 we hosted a Touch Rugby Festival in support of the President's charity, the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance. Very well done to the Touch group, who raised a magnificent £553 from the event.

A special mention also to the Ladies, who were extremely nervous about playing their first League fixture at home in front of a good crowd of supporters, both from Stortford and their opponents, Royston. This showed in the first quarter when Royston scored two tries and then were awarded a penalty try just before half time, which gave them a 19-0 lead. A superb turnaround by Stortford in the second half based upon a determined team spirit, some good back play and superior fitness resulted in a close 26-24 victory, which leaves them unbeaten in their first two games.

Finally, a warm welcome back to Paul Maxfield following his release from hospital and who has already retaken his chair at the bar, and resumed his association with his favourite red wine!
Yours in rugby

Colin Tilley
Chairman

THE PLAYERS

BSRFC 1'S XV 2017/18



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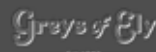
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AN ODE TO FORMER RUGBY PLAYERS



When the battle scars have faded
And the truth becomes a lie
And the weekend smell of liniment
Could almost make you cry.

When the last rucks well behind you
And the man that ran now walks
It doesn't matter who you are the mirror
sometimes talks

Have a good hard look old son!
The melons not that great
The snoz that takes a sharp turn sideways
Used to be dead straight

You're an advert for arthritis
You're a thoroughbred gone lame
Then you ask yourself the question
Why the hell you played the game?

Was there logic in the head knocks?
In the corks and in the cuts?
Did common sense get pushed aside?
By manliness and guts?

Do you sometimes sit and wonder
Why your time would often pass
In a tangled mess of bodies
With your head up someone's.....?

With a thumb hooked up your nostril
Scratching gently on your brain
And an overgrown Neanderthal
Rejoicing in your pain!

Mate – you must recall the jersey
That was shredded into rags
Then the soothing sting of Dettol
On a back engraved with tags!

It's almost worth admitting
Though with some degree of shame
That your wife was right in asking
Why the hell you played the game?

Why you'd always rock home legless
Like a cow on roller skates
After drinking at the clubhouse
With your low down drunken mates

Then you'd wake up – check your wallet
Not a solitary coin
Drink Berocca by the bucket
Throw an ice pack on your groin

Copping Sunday morning sermons
About boozers being losers
While you limped like Quasimodo
With a half a thousand bruises!



Yes – an urge to hug the porcelain
And curse Sambuca's name
Would always pose the question
Why the hell you played the game!

And yet with every wound re-opened
As you grimly reminisce it
Comes the most compelling feeling yet
God, you bloody miss it!

From the first time that you laced a boot
And tightened every stud
That virus known as rugby
Has been living in your blood

When you dreamt it when you played it
All the rest took second fiddle
Now you're standing on the side-line
But your hearts still in the middle

And no matter where you travel
You can take it as expected
There will always be a breed of people
Hopelessly infected

If there's a teammate, then you'll find him
Like a gravitating force
With a common understanding
And a beer or three, of course

And as you stand there telling lies
Like it was yesterday old friend
You'll know that if you had the chance
You'd do it all again

You see – that's the thing with rugby
It will always be the same
And that, I guarantee
Is why the hell you played the game!





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TODAY'S OPPOSITION

HULL IONIAN'S RFC



HULL IONIAN'S WERE FORMED IN 1989 WHEN HULL AND EAST RIDING MERGED WITH IONIAN'S.

At the time Hull and East Riding only had a small 1st XV squad & were without ownership of their own ground or clubhouse. Conversely Ionians owned their ground and clubhouse had a thriving mini/junior section that was developing many excellent young players, but a first team that required more experience in order to retain them. The merger was therefore a perfect arrangement and proved to be just that immediately.

In 1994 they moved a short distance from the Ionians ground to their current location at Brantingham Park which is situated in the village of Brantingham, which is 12 miles to the west of the city of Hull.

In 2012/13 they won National 2 North and gained promotion to National 1. In doing so they became the first East Yorkshire club to play at Level 3.

Unfortunately National 1 proved a big step for the club and they only managed to secure 3 victories in the 2013/14 season meaning an immediate return to Level but in 2014/15 the club once again won National 2 North to regain their

place in National 1.

In 2015 /16 they finished 12th winning 9 but losing 21 of their games. Last season they finished 13th winning 10 games, drawing one & losing 19.

They lost their first five games of this season but won last weekend at home to Esher 43-28

They have four senior men's teams and thriving Mini & Youth sections

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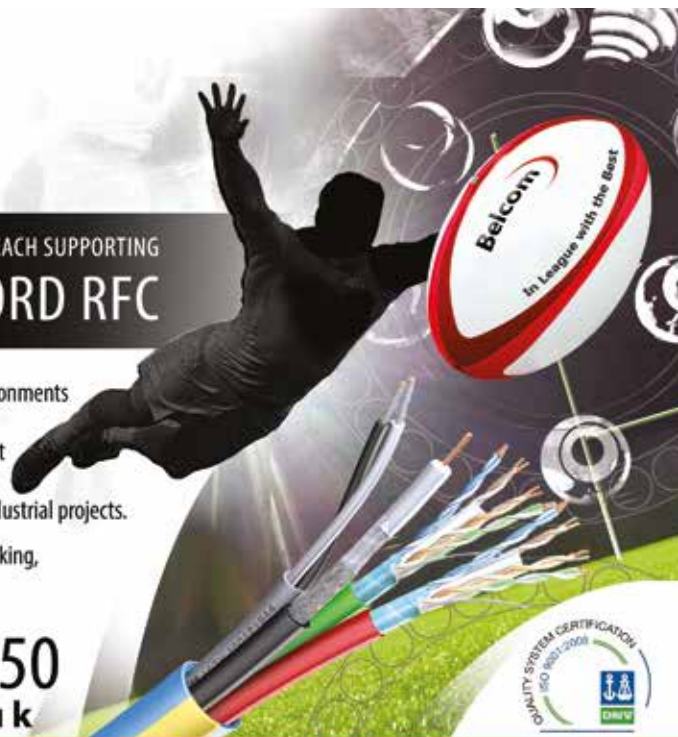
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RESULTS GRID, TABLE & FIXTURES

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

National League 1 Results Grid																
	Ampt&D	B'ham	BSRFC	B'heath	Caldy	Camb	Coventry	DarlMPk	Esher	Fylde	Hull Ion	L'boro S	O.Alb'n	O.Eltham	Plym'th	RossPk
Ampt&D		28/4	20/1	6/1	17/2	21/10	14/4	7/4	45-5	35-12	16/12	3/2	28-24	4/11	10/3	25/11
B'ham	21-21		21/10	14-55	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	22-41	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	46-13	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	28-29	27/1	14/10
Coventry	9/12	50-11	30-27	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	32-26	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	26-61	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	29-20
Hull Ion	21/4	6/1	3/2	20/1	10/3	4/11	20-63	15-27	43-28	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	28-49	27/1
O.Alb'n	23/12	19-38	12/2	3/2	2/4	25/11	19-21	33-31	21/10	4/11	13/1	10/3		9/12	21/4	0-58
O.Eltham	3/3	2/12	13-19	16/12	23-21	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	17-10	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	49-14	28/4	17/2	4/11	
															Round 16-30	
															Round 1-15	

Season 2017-2018 NATIONAL 1

7th October Results

Home Team			Away Team
Old Elthamians	23	21	Caldy
Amphill & District	35	12	Fylde
Birmingham Moseley	14	55	Blackheath
Coventry	30	27	Bishop`s Stortford
Hull Ionians	43	28	Esher
Old Albanian	33	31	Darlington Mowden Park
Plymouth Albion	17	10	Cambridge
Rosslyn Park	49	14	Loughborough Students

Season 2017-2018 NATIONAL 1

14th October Fixtures

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

National League 1

Club	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	PD	TBP	LBP	Ded	Pts
1) Coventry	6	6	0	0	262	113	149	5	0	0	29
2) Plymouth Albion	6	5	0	1	244	112	132	5	1	0	26
3) Darlington Mowden Park	6	5	0	1	189	132	57	5	1	0	26
4) Blackheath	6	5	0	1	184	116	68	3	0	0	23
5) Amphill & District	6	4	1	1	185	100	85	4	1	0	23
6) Old Elthamians	6	4	0	2	158	134	24	4	1	0	21
7) Bishop`s Stortford	6	3	0	3	165	170	-5	2	1	0	15
8) Caldyc	6	2	0	4	157	169	-12	4	3	0	15
9) Cambridge	6	2	0	4	110	123	-13	2	3	0	13
10) Rosslyn Park	6	2	0	4	174	131	43	3	1	0	12
11) Birmingham Moseley	6	2	1	3	139	200	-61	2	0	0	12
12) Esher	6	2	0	4	140	223	-83	4	0	0	12
13) Old Albanian	6	2	0	4	131	202	-71	1	2	0	11
14) Loughborough Students	6	1	0	5	125	207	-82	1	1	0	6
15) Hull Ionians	6	1	0	5	141	238	-97	2	0	0	6
16) Fylde	6	1	0	5	94	228	-134	1	0	0	5

THE TEAMS



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BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1ST XV

BLUE AND WHITE

1	Will Roberts
2	Declan Caulfield
3	Sean Edwards
4	Jon George
5	Matt Tomlinson
6	James Apperley
7	Rory Banks
8	Dan Leo
9	James Lennon
10	George Cullen
11	Johnny Neville
12	Matt Riddington
13	Sam Winter ©
14	Chris Smith
15	Nick Hankin

REPLACEMENTS

16	Rory Young
17	Tom McCrone
18	Oli Jones
19	Jimmy Rea
20	Alex Patton

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Director of Rugby Andy Long | **Team Manager** Ed Merivale | **Physio** Paul Sharma
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Assistant Referee 1 Mark Rose
Assistant Referee 2 Matthew Todd

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RED, WHITE, BLUE & GREEN

Greg Lound	15
Sam Wilson	14
James Tincknell	13
Joe Allott	12
Andy Humberstone	11
Chris Bell	10
Isaac Green	9
Dave Laverick	1
Ali Thomson	2
Will Dennis	3
Joe Makin ©	4
Ed Falkingham	5
Tom O'Donnell	6
James Sanderson	7
Stone Priestley-Nangle	8

with thanks to



REPLACEMENTS

Ben Bell	16
Ben Stevenson	17
James Newman	18
Sam Wolstenholme	19
Steve Slingsby	20



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COVENTRY 30 BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1ST XV 27

A fantastic, battling performance by Bishop's Stortford produces a well-deserved losing bonus point and, but for a couple of frustrating late penalty calls might even have brought a remarkable win. As it was, the mighty Coventry team were pleased to hear the final whistle. The win being sufficient to take them to the top of the table.

The visitors opened the scoring when a clever short lineout between Dec Caulfield and Dan Leo, saw the hooker in space. Quick support came from George Cullen who in turn offloaded out of the back door to set winger, Chris Smith clear to the line after three minutes. Cullen converted from the touchline. Coventry were straight onto the front foot from the restart and a missed tackle on ex All Black, Tuitupou was coolly closed out with an unconverted try out wide to the right wing on 6 minutes. Play now swung back Stortford's way and Cullen stretched the lead 6 minutes later to 5 with a penalty from in front of the posts after a breakdown infringement. Four minutes later, Coventry were awarded their own penalty in front of the opposition posts. This time, though, they opted to go for touch and the wisdom of this decision was borne out with a try shortly after to Tuitupou, after the initial driving maul from the lineout had been stopped. It was Coventry fly half, Maisey's turn to convert from the touchline to take his side into a 2 point lead. Within 3 minutes, though, the visitors had their noses in front from another Cullen penalty. The match continued to seesaw and a badly missed tackle by Stortford in midfield saw the home side onto the attack, with the opening being exploited to the full through a converted try to Coventry's left wing after 23 minutes. The deficit was narrowed to 3 points some 10 minutes later with another Cullen penalty, which, almost inevitably, prefaced a period of Coventry attacking play. This culminated in a series of scrums and driving mauls in Stortford's 5 metre area and it took some fantastic defence by Stortford to see out the half with the score at 19-16.

The first score of the second period came after a poor defensive kick by Coventry gave the visitors another attacking platform and this time no mistake was made. Some great handling by forwards and backs, switching left then right, created an opportunity for James Lennon to spin out a pinpoint long pass and create a huge gap for Rory Banks to stride through for a try. Cullen's conversion attempt went just wide, leaving his side 2 points ahead after 52 minutes. There followed an extensive period of Coventry pressure, which met with some more tremendous Stortford defence, albeit at the cost of a yellow card to Dec Caulfield for an offence at a driving maul in his own 22. The pressure being felt by the home side was clearly demonstrated, though a couple of minutes later, when they settled for another 3 points from Maisey's boot, following a further penalty in front of the posts after 22 minutes. Yet, within 3 minutes, another Cullen penalty had turned the one point deficit into a 2 point lead. As the game continued to swing to and fro, a potentially decisive score came after 5 minutes, when powerful Coventry fullback, James Stokes crashed through Stortford's defensive line and dummied his way past two covering defenders for an unconverted try.

Undaunted, Stortford were straight back on the attack, forcing another penalty, which Cullen converted to level the scores with some 7 minutes to play. With the Coventry crowd now baying their support, the home side threw themselves back onto the attack, but more dogged defence from Stortford kept their line intact, despite wave after wave of forward pressure. Eventually, though a penalty was awarded to Coventry at a scrum under the posts and Maisey made no mistake. Stortford again threatened to take the lead, with some impressive running and handling, but were thwarted as a couple of penalty decisions went against them at breakdowns and the home side was able to hold on for a narrow win – a huge compliment to Stortford, that such illustrious opponents were ready to settle for such a narrow home win.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT: DECLAN CAULFIELD

BSRFC HAS ALWAYS BEEN HOME FOR ME, I REMEMBER MY FIRST EXPERIENCE AT THE CLUB,

being brought up to the club with two of my brothers Ben (GK), who has made some outings for the mighty fifth team, and Liam the tall honey monster lookalike who has played all the way through to 1st XV. I recall turning up thinking all these U7's look a lot bigger than me only to realise that my Dad (Mark) had got Liam and me muddled up at registration so I was in the U9's and Liam, the older of the two, in the U7's. It only took a month to realise but once in the correct age group I soon fell in love with rugby at BSRFC.

Although hard to believe now, but I started my career in the backs modeling myself on what was then the current 1st XV centre Dom Haysom. Throughout minis and youth rugby I slowly worked my way infield from fullback, where my Dad described me as "great with the ball but very slow at getting to it", to inside centre where I was branded as a bit of a one trick pony.....crash ball!

With players like Ashley Boyle, Rory Banks and the mercurial Neil 'Spermy' Spalding I blossomed into the best dummy runner in the game...while players like Adam Eagle just made me look better!!

I soon realised my true home was right in the thick of it...in the front row. I was fortunate enough to get my first taste of Colts rugby whilst I was in the U17's. This was very special for me as this was the first chance I'd had to play alongside Liam. It was also my first real taste of what post match rugby was all about 'The social'.

Turning 18 and the club 1st XV in London 1, times must have been desperate because Rob Faiers was still being selected at hooker. I knew this had to be the fastest way to get in the team, so I became a hooker!

I had my debut at Silver Leys in a victory against Tring, from that point on I never looked back. Under the watchful guidance of Mark 'The Warrior' McCraith and Tom 'Big Nose' Coleman I became

more of a regular in the team and have gone on to play over 100 games across three leagues for the blue and white's.

With Jimmy Rea and the Warrior still playing now, at my tender age of 25 I appear to have 10 more years left in me, if I can stay fit!!! Yes I know, many would argue I've never been fit!!!! I'm looking forward to the days where I can join the blazers and tell everyone how much better I was when I was playing!



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NOW IN ITS FIFTH SEASON, CLUB STORTFORD WAS SET UP BY A SMALL WORKING PARTY, TO SUPPORT THE 1STXV SQUAD AFTER PROMOTION TO NATIONAL LEAGUE RUGBY IN 2013/14. OUR AIM IS “TO ENSURE BISHOP’S STORTFORD RFC HAS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE IN NATIONAL LEAGUE RUGBY AND CONTINUES TO NURTURE HOME GROWN TALENT.”

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+ like-minded 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 OF RAISING FUNDS FOR THE CLUB WHICH COULD BE USED TO FUND 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 Youth and Minis through, tours, kit and additional playing facilities,
- Replacement of goal posts,
- Playing equipment and travel costs for all teams,
- Purchase of physiotherapy equipment,
- Refurbishing the changing rooms' 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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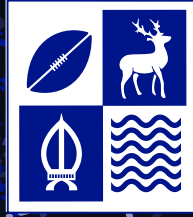
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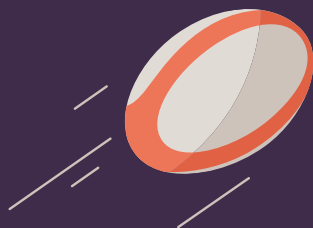
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A STRONG START FOR THE LADIES IN THE LEAGUE.



By Jane Wallace

2017 saw the BSRFC Ladies enter into their first league, National Challenge South East 3. Twelve months after team manager, Carly Poyser had a grand idea to start up a ladies rugby team from scratch.

Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club is like no other, there's a huge sense of community and respect. Consisting of mini's teams, youth teams as well as 5 senior teams and a touch rugby group, it would make the club complete to add a Ladies team to the mix. "A ladies team is essential to any forward moving rugby club" - Seniors Chairman, Ben Millard mentioned. With some doubt thrown around about a ladies team not taking off, it only made the women more determined to make it a successful year to be added to the history books at BSRFC.

Sympathy was no longer something the ladies would receive when Paul Richardson, Darren Gleed and Dave Walker together took on the role for coaching staff for the 2017/18 season. Since then, the Ladies have formed a close knit 'rugby family' feeling within the club. "The ladies have had to learn in 12 months what some men have been learning for the past decade" Carly Poyser - BSRFC Ladies Manager.

We now have enough players to field a strong team including rotation and front-row replacements, which isn't always an option for other women's rugby teams at our level. Now

with 26 ladies signed up to play, consisting of all ages, sizes, nationalities and sporting backgrounds, it's evident of how Women's Rugby in England and in particular Hertfordshire, is continuing to grow. "It's great to see so many turn up to training on a Tuesday night" - Colin Tilley, BSRFC chairman.

BSRFC Ladies are now 2 games into their season and sitting at the top of the League table. A win away against St. Neots in our first match gave the Ladies a much needed confidence boost. They returned home last Sunday to play at Silver Leys after a 3 week rest and with the support of a large home crowd, the team set the bar high to secure their second win against Royston, which could prove to be our hardest opponent this season. The women are looking forward to impressing coaches and supporters alike throughout the season.



BISHOP'S STORTFORD RFC MATCH DAY EXPERIENCE

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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