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OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME

**THIS WEEKS FEATURES:
YET ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL
MINIS FESTIVAL**

**IN THE SPOTLIGHT:
DAN ELSOM**



NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD RFC V OLD ALBANIANS RFC

28 October 2017

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Members £5



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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

PERRY OLIVER



WELCOME TO SILVER LEYS ON WHAT IS A VERY SPECIAL OCCASION. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE WILL HAVE MET A HERTFORDSHIRE TEAM IN NATIONAL ONE!

So welcome to everyone, Players Coaches, officials and supporters of Old Albanians RFC. Greetings also to our Match day sponsors Radley's led by Mark Radley and of course his guests.

Many of you will have been here 2 weeks ago to witness us labour to a win over Hull Ionian's. Personally I didn't think it was great advert for National One Rugby but we won, we secured the all-important try bonus point and we all know that sometimes you just need to accept winning ugly.

Last Saturday though was a different story. Once again we travelled north to the West Midlands for our first ever match up against established Nat 1 club Birmingham Moseley. In a previous guise Moseley were one of the original teams in Courage League One (the forerunner of the Premiership). As you would expect, they therefore have a rich rugby heritage but as we know our guys are never cowered by such challenges. And so it proved again as they withstood everything their hosts and Storm Brian could throw at them to emerge victorious 27-25 and in doing so claim another famous bonus point win.

Today's opponents are a very familiar foe. Teams throughout our respective clubs from Minis to 2nds play each other on a regular basis each season. We haven't though locked horns at 1st XV level since January 2016 and as I noted earlier, today will be our first and probably THE first meeting of two Herts clubs at this level of the game. OA's won promotion via a play-off in 2016 to regain their place at Level 3, having lost it when they were harshly

deducted 5 points for fielding an ineligible player in 2015. They have won 3 of their 8 games so far this season including rather ominously a 29-15 win last week at home to Esher.

One thing is for sure - none of the 40 players involved today will need much motivation! Special mention also to our Blues who despite having to get up in the wee small hours to travel to Jersey still managed a morale boosting first victory (17-15) of the season in Zoo Shield One. Given their very early start, I'm not sure how long the celebration lasted afterwards but whilst it did, I bet it was sweet.

Since we were last together here, our Ladies XV have made it 3 wins from 3 in the RFU Women's NC South East East Division with a bruising victory at Welwyn RFC 26-22. Some tough challenges lie ahead for the girls but to say it's a promising start is a huge understatement. Keep it up ladies!

& finally well done and thank you to everyone associated with our Russell Property Partnership sponsored Minis festival on 15th October. Another magnificently well organised event & not a single complaint about undercooked burgers!

Rugby in Hertfordshire finds the spotlight here today at Silver Leys. let's hope it's a wonderful occasion & we enjoy some great rugby and our time together.

Perry Oliver
President

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DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

ANDY LONG



SATURDAY'S WIN OVER BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY WAS REALLY PLEASING

I was happy with our attitude and physicality, especially in defence. Just our general hustle was great to see - we put them under pressure and rushed them a lot. The boys were very courageous in managing to get the final try then defend strongly for the last five minutes on our line. Our general resolve and determination to win, and the fact that we didn't panic when the momentum shifted, was really pleasing.

challenge of a game, as these match ups always are. Gavin Hogg has really assembled a solid squad since taking over in the summer, and they will put in both quality individual performances, but also a strong performance as a squad.

Enjoy the game
Longy

The mini's festival was a great success last Sunday. It was great to be part of it with Harrison and Flynn, and it certainly brought back some memories from my mini playing days. The mini's and youth sections are really the heart beat of the club as the next generation of players, so it is great when those things are so successful. It was fantastic to see so many first team players down there in support, and uniting us under the banner of one club.

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

It's good to rekindle the local rivalry with OA's. It's set up to be a real



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CHAIRMAN'S VIEWS

COLIN TILLEY

FOLLOWING ANOTHER GREAT WIN ON THE ROAD LAST WEEK AT BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY, I WOULD ALBANIAN, WHO NEED NO INTRODUCTION TO SILVER LEYS.

They come to us in need of some points after what must be, from their perspective, a disappointing start to the season. So, that combined with the longstanding local rivalry, suggests we should be in for a cracking game this afternoon.

Well done also to the Blues who finally got themselves a win last week away to Jersey, which was a great result.

Our Ladies kept up their winning ways beating Welwyn away 26-20 two weeks ago and now sit unbeaten at the top of their league albeit there is a long way to go yet.

As many of you will know, we pride ourselves in our ability to home grow our talent, with a significant proportion of our current 1stXV/Blues squad having made the transition from Mini through Youth and on to senior rugby. It is fitting, therefore, that we focus this week on our Minis and the role they play on match days through our Match Day Experience programme sponsored by Russell Property, to whom we are

extremely grateful for their ongoing support.

Through this programme, each Mini age group gets the opportunity at least once during the season to attend a match day, meet the players, see what goes on and then act as ball boys and girls during the game.

It gives them an early taste of what senior rugby is all about that, hopefully, they will carry with them until they experience the real thing in later years.

Yours in rugby

Colin Tilley
Chairman



THE PLAYERS

BSRFC 1'S XV 2017/18



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2017-18
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YET ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MINIS FESTIVAL

BEFORE IT WAS LIGHT ON SUNDAY, OUT OF THE MIST LIKE A SCENE FROM THE THRILLER MOVIE, THE WIDE AWAKE AND READY TO GO BAND OF VOLUNTEERS STARTED ARRIVING.



With bacon roll and cuppa in hand they took up their spots to welcome our visitors and Stortford players into the valet parking areas around the grounds, whilst others finished off odd jobs needed before the kick offs. Teams from Letchworth, Colchester, Chelmsford, OA's, Southend, Hertford and Upminster all ascended within what felt like 5 minutes of each other, blocking the roads around the club and the A120 roundabout. Over 1000 people rocked up, and pitched tents creating a scene the organisers of Glastonbury would be proud of! "Can I get a burger" someone said on arrival to the control tent as others registered, clearly it was far too early to be awake for some people!

Matches kicked off on time, and in line with RFU no scoring from U7 - U11. Referring was managed within the age group pools, pitch marshals were on hand to time keep and ensure teams were ready to go at the given time. All went swimmingly. Some fantastic rugby was played from all teams and the core values of the game consistently demonstrated. It was a pleasure to host so many likeminded clubs and the kids enjoying themselves.

The U12s had a Plate and Cup play off with side-line support from some of our 1st XV and the winning presentations given



by Josh from our festival sponsor Russell Property, and our very own Tom Banks. Ending with a draw for the cup the win was given to Hertford whom gained more points collectively over the course of the mornings play.

Signs down, BBQ away, Tents away, pats on the backs, and pretty much tidy by 430pm. The silence of the pitches resumed. Loads and loads of people to thank but a specific mention to Perry & Paula along with the catering team who relentlessly cooked and served over 1000 burgers, sausages and bacon rolls. To Tubby and Nick for the ground work prep and toilet unblocking, to Janice and team for serving over 1500 hot drinks.

Special thanks to Dominic and Josh @ Russell Property for being our main sponsor and allowing us to provide each player not just with directions to the pitches via the brilliant for sale signs, but player medals, certificates and winner trophies. To Al Jones for getting us involved with this!! To A1 Bacon and Clarkes of Ware sausages for donating product as well as all the local business who supported with advertising in the program, to Colin for control tent duties, to the legends that are the Wrinkles, to Niall McCrae for tactically planning golf weekend away, and finally to the committee of Joni, Sam and Lindsay and anyone else I have forgotten.

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By Neil Clark





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For many years they have been the pre-eminent team in Hertfordshire a title we aspire this season to wrench from their grasp!

At 1st XV level our last match against them occurred here on 30th January 2016, a game in which tries for us by Mike Gallagher & in the last minute by Dom Morris answered by one for OA's by Harry Bate meant we emerged victorious 20-16.

It was OA's though who had the last laugh that season as they went on to secure the runners up spot in National Two South before easily beating Sedgley Park 24-0 in the play off for promotion to National One.

That allowed them to reclaim their position at Level 3 having been relegated on a technicality which almost everyone except the RFU felt was unduly harsh at the end of the 2014-15 season.

Their highest ever placing came in 2012-13 when they finished 5th in National One.

This season they have Won 3 (against Hull Ionians, DMP & Esher) & Lost 5 (Rosslyn Park, Ampthill, Coventry, Birmingham Moseley & Blackheath) of their 8 games to date and lie 12th in the table. Last week they enjoyed a 29-15 home win against Esher.

Away from the 1st XV they run four more senior teams & have a strong Ladies section called OA Saints. They also have one of if not the largest mini and youth section in the country about 900 at the last count. (& we thought our 650 was good!)

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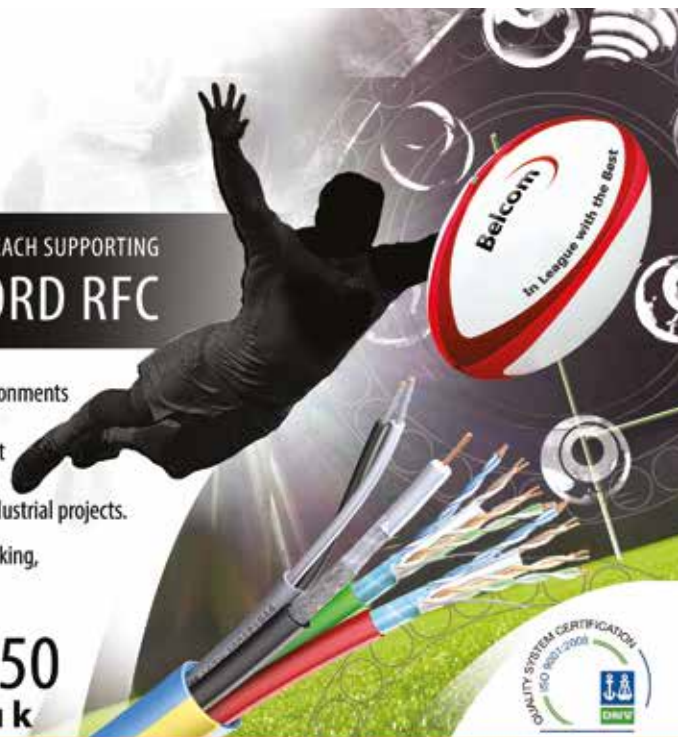
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RESULTS GRID, TABLE & FIXTURES

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	7-8	14/4	7/4	45-5	35-12	16/12	3/2	28-24	4/11	10/3	25/11
B'ham	21-21		25-27	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	35-31	9/12	28/10	23/12	17-36	13/1
B'heath	16-15	27/1	4/11		25/11	2/4	23/12	39-24	12/2	10/3	46-13	24/11	31-3	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	17-34	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	50-23
Coventry	9/12	50-11	30-27	37-10	4/11	17/2		21/4	20/1	3/2	28/4	36-0	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	36-21	28/10	11/11
Esher	13/1	27-32	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	0-64	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	33-14		17/2	26-36	25/11	7/4	0/12
L'boro S	14-36	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	29-15	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	17-17		3/3
RossPk	24/3	16/12	24-31	6-25	36-32	3/2	2/12	10/3	6/1	20/1	14/4	49-14	28/4	17/2	4/11	
Round 1-15																
Round 16-30																

Season 2017-2018 NATIONAL 1

21st October Results

Home Team			Away Team
Amphill & District	7	8	Cambridge
Birmingham Moseley	25	27	Bishop`s Stortford
Blackheath	39	24	Darlington Mowden Park
Coventry	36	0	Loughborough Students
Hull Ionians	33	14	Fylde
Old Albanian	29	15	Esher
Plymouth Albion	17	17	Old Elthamians
Rosslyn Park	36	32	Caldy

Season 2017-2018 NATIONAL 1

28th October Fixtures

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

National League 1

Club	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	PD	TBP	LBP	Ded	Pts
1) Coventry	8	8	0	0	362	113	249	7	0	0	39
2) Blackheath	8	7	0	1	254	143	111	5	0	0	33
3) Plymouth Albion	8	6	1	1	295	146	149	6	1	0	33
4) Darlington Mowden Park	8	6	0	2	249	192	57	7	1	0	32
5) Amphill & District	8	5	1	2	228	122	106	5	2	0	29
6) Bishop`s Stortford	8	5	0	2	227	226	1	4	1	0	25
7) Old Elthamians	8	4	1	2	196	187	9	4	1	0	23
8) Cambridge	8	4	0	4	168	153	15	3	3	0	22
9) Birmingham Moseley	8	3	1	4	196	254	-58	3	1	0	18
10) Rosslyn Park	8	3	0	5	233	213	20	4	1	0	17
11) Caldby	8	2	0	6	206	239	-33	5	4	0	17
12) Old Albanian	8	3	0	5	163	248	-85	2	2	0	16
13) Esher	8	2	0	6	182	284	-102	5	1	0	14
14) Hull Ionians	8	2	0	6	205	287	-82	4	1	0	13
15) Loughborough Students	8	1	0	7	139	279	-140	1	1	0	6
16) Fylde	8	1	0	7	108	325	-217	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	James Apperley
5	Matt Tomlinson
6	Oli Jones
7	Rory Banks
8	Dan Leo
9	Alex Patton
10	Matt Riddington
11	Jimmy Rea
12	Johnny Neville
13	Sam Winter ©
14	Chris Smith
15	Nick Hankin

REPLACEMENTS

16	Seb Brownhil
17	Tom McCrone
18	Dan Elsom
19	Conor Austin
20	Tom Banks

Man of the Match Sponsor



Director of Rugby Andy Long | **Team Manager** Ed Merivale | **Physio** Paul Sharma
Coaches Danny Johnson, Richard Gill, Tom Coleman, Marcus Cattell

Referee Alexander Thomas
Assistant Referee 1 Michael Tutty
Assistant Referee 2 Matthew Shepherd

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OLD ALBANIANS RFC

BLUE, RED & GOLD

Charlie Hughes	1
Olli Walliker	2
Taylor Reed	3
Tim Bond	4
Ross Hamilton	5
Danny Heartwell	6
Alex Post	7
Sam Lunn	8
Ross Parsons	9
Morgan Thompson	10
Jack Daly	11
Dan Watt	12
Craig Dowsett	13
Joe Bridger	14
Nick Foster	15

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REPLACEMENTS

Alex Boggis	16
Reuben Pritchard	17
Joe Hearle	18
ANO	19
ANO	20

Director of Rugby Bruce Millar | **Forwards Coach** Mark Langley | **Head Coach** Gavin Hogg



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BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY 25

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1ST XV 27

Playing with the gale at their backs, Stortford turned over early possession and Moseley's powerful forwards seized on the opportunity to drive at the Stortford line and force a penalty after 4 minutes, producing a three point lead for the home side.

This advantage was soon cancelled out, with Stortford pressurising the Moseley defence into conceding a penalty for a high tackle, which George Cullen coolly slotted over. Stortford took increasing control over possession and territory, spurning the opportunity to kick for territory and keeping the ball in hand. This confidence was rewarded after 14 minutes, when a tremendous break up the middle by James Apperley took his side into the home 22, where Sam Winter was at hand to take an inside pass, spin out of a tackle and crash over for a try near the posts, which Cullen duly converted.

It was now Moseley's turn to enjoy a period of dominance and with their strong forwards in the vanguard, led forcefully by captain, Buster Lawrence it took some tremendous Stortford defence to keep their line intact. Eventually, though the pressure told and a second penalty goal after 38 minutes narrowed Stortford's lead to 4 points. Back on the front foot from the restart, Stortford went through multiple phases, but the home defence looked solid, until Cullen drew a couple of defenders out of position with a show and go to make a half break and lightning support from his forwards saw prop, Will Roberts forcing his way over close to the posts for a converted try. This took his side into the break with a 17-6 lead, a far from comfortable margin, with the second half to play into the wind.

In fact, the second period could not have started better for the visitors, with Johnny Neville making a great clean take from Cullen's restart kick and four or five phases of quick handling later, winger, Chris Smith was able to crash through a despairing tackle in the corner for an unconverted try. Things quickly turned in Moseley's favour, however, as Stortford were penalised at an attacking scrum and Roberts was binned for questioning the decision. The home side smashed the penalty into Stortford's 22 and a further penalty at the maul from the resultant lineout was taken quickly and two passes saw the home side in for a converted try. With their tails now up, Moseley drove Stortford's 14 men back into their own 22 with a tremendous kick and, quickly forcing a turnover were able to power over for an unconverted try and a scoreline of 18-22.

Moseley now appeared to have the upper hand and another good positional kick put them back deep into Stortford territory. Eventually a knock-on under pressure gave Moseley a 5 metre scrum and two passes were all that was needed for them to touch down under the posts, the 7 points taking them into a 3 point lead, entering the 4th quarter. Undaunted by the battering they had been taking, Stortford fought their way back, enjoying a brief period of sustained pressure of their own, which ended with Alex Patton darting his way over down the blindside of a driving maul to touch down in the corner. This left Stortford 2 points ahead with some 5 minutes on the clock. With Moseley's powerful forwards once more to the fore, it took some outstanding backs-to-the wall defending from the visitors on their own line to hold out. A knock-on was eventually forced, at which point the referee blew the final whistle to signal another remarkable win for the National One new boys of Stortford.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT: DAN ELSOM



MY CHILDHOOD PLAYING RUGBY WAS QUITE TYPICAL FOR MOST KIDS IN THE SPORT.

I joined my local rugby club at the age of five, and had my dad coach my age group until I was 16. As a teenager, I was fortunate enough to play some representative rugby for my district, and was selected for a Sydney U16 side, which went on to win a National Championship. It was a great experience for me, getting my first taste of what competitive rugby was like and playing with and against a number of very talented guys. I even managed to get myself a yellow card in the final, right in front of then Wallaby coach, Robbie Deans, which at the time was more horrifying than funny. It wasn't until I left school that I realised I really wanted to focus all of my energy into trying to reach my own limit in the sport. I had been playing colts for West Harbour and had enjoyed a successful season but felt I wanted to push outside my comfort zone. So in 2012, midway through my first year of a physiotherapy degree, I dropped out of university to work full time and save enough money to move out of home. The following year, I headed across the city to Bondi Beach, where I joined Eastern Suburbs Rugby Club, and moved in with some teammates. I went back to university, this time to study Communications and Journalism, and started working towards some form of education.

The next four years I made some of the best memories of my life, living with some great mates and achieving a few small milestones with rugby. But I also went through some tough periods with injury, missing out on most of the 2015 season following three operations on a persistent calf problem. Fortunately, one of my sisters happens to be a doctor, so medical advice was always a text message away. Coming back to play properly in 2016, I think I had lost my confidence and in some way lost my love of the game, so I felt it was time for a change.

English rugby has always been an area of intrigue for me. The opportunities to play semi-professional and professional rugby are much more abundant than they are in Australia, and the passion people have for the game here makes it much more attractive. So when I was offered the chance to join Bishop's Stortford, it seemed perfect for me. I really liked what I had heard of the club and what they were about from Andy prior to making the

trip over. Bishop's Stortford seemed humble, yet ambitious and confident in the ability of its players. I got the feeling that it was building for big things, and instantly wanted to be a part of that journey. The confidence and encouragement the club affords its players is admirable to say the least. It is no coincidence that Bishop's Stortford has produced so many talented home-grown players that have made their way up to the first team. Some of the local guys among that group are the most genuinely gifted rugby players I've ever played with. Not only is it remarkable, it is a testament to the way the club looks after its members and encourages that talent to grow. It is something that is very hard to find in today's era of elite rugby. Equally, I can't express enough how grateful I am for the support this club has shown me over the last 12 months. To be so quickly welcomed into the group and be lucky enough to play so many games for the first team last year was certainly humbling for my first season.

It has been great being able to experience rugby in this part of the world, but most importantly for me, it has allowed me to become even closer with my English family. My sister, Jenny, watched me play for the first time in round two last season, and was at every home game after that. Considering we have spent our entire lives on opposite sides of the world, that was really special for me to be able to have her there. While my mum and both of my sisters have always been very supportive of me, moving to England for rugby is really something I have to thank my Dad for. A proud Englishman himself, he has always been my biggest motivator, and without his encouragement and support, I certainly would not have experienced what I have in the game so far.

Being able to give him my National Two medal after the Barnes game last year and see how happy he was, it really meant a lot to me to thank him in some way for everything he has done.

Last season was easily the most exciting and enjoyable of my career to date, and I'm looking forward to seeing what this year has to bring for us in National One. I have no doubt we will become a force to be reckoned with in this league, and that there is still plenty more this club will achieve before it reaches its full potential.

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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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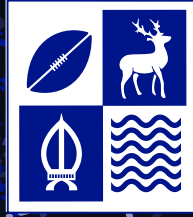
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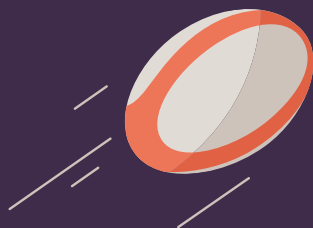
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As part of the Clubs ethos 'to be a strong and successful rugby club united from Senior to Mini's, trusted and valued by our community' the BSRFC Director of Rugby, Andy Long, Club Captain Sam Winter, & the rest of the 1st XV Squad provide an insight 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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