



# BSRFC

OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME

BANKSY'S BAR



**THIS WEEKS FEATURES:**

**BANKSY'S BAR - THE PHOENIX  
HAS RISEN FROM THE ASHES**

**UNDEFEATED BSRFC  
LADIES FIRST ANNIVERSARY**

**IN THE SPOTLIGHT:  
RORY & TOM BANKS**

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD RFC V ESHER RFC**

11 November 2017



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# PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

## PERRY OLIVER



HELLO AGAIN & WELCOME EVERYONE TO SILVER LEYS. I'D LIKE TO EXTEND AN ESPECIALLY WARM WELCOME TO ALL OUR FIRST TIME VISITORS,

most notably the Players, Coaches, Officials and Supporters of Esher RFC. Greetings also to our Match day sponsors GQ Wealth Management & their guests.

In the last match programme I described our performance against Hull Ionians as laboured & that sometimes you just need to accept winning ugly. Well I could say exactly the same about our victory a fortnight ago against OA's. Before the game we'd hoped the first meeting of two Hertfordshire teams at Level 3 would something for the County to shout about, but sadly it wasn't! We haven't really hit the heights here yet at Silver Leys, especially when compared with our exploits on the road.

Last Saturday as I'm sure you all know the guys recorded another historic result against long established National league opposition on their own turf. Having won previously at both Rosslyn Park or 'Park' & Birmingham Moseley or 'Mose', we took the short hop across the river to Well Hall to take on Blackheath or 'Club', who are apparently the oldest 'Open' rugby club in the world, and ended up 'hopping back' with a win and 4 more league points. Sadly I couldn't be there to witness the performance or experience the unfettered joy described to me subsequently by so many of our members who were in attendance. Johns match report, reproduced elsewhere in this programme, paints the picture though of an epic comeback win from being 19-Nil down to snatching it at the death with a last kick conversion.

It would of course be fantastic for us supporters, if we could reproduce some

of that away form back here! Today would undoubtedly be a good time to start doing so because our opponents have of late re-discovered their own formula for success, recording successive home wins against the aforementioned 'Club' & last Saturday -Darlington Mowden Park.

So the scene is set. Two teams in good shape having recorded four and two successive wins respectively. It's bound to be a close fought affair but fingers crossed it's us who make it five in a row!

I forewent the pleasures of Blackheath to stay here last Saturday and oversee the arrangements for our Fireworks display. Thankfully the rain stopped in time so as not to put off the punters and as a result we had another 'highly satisfactory night' from a fundraising point of view. My thanks to our supporters most notably Intercounty estate agents and Connect Scaffolding but also the legions of club members, many of whom hot-footed it back from Blackheath, who volunteered their services to help make it happen. A true One Club effort. Well done to all concerned.

Sunshine & certainly daylight come at a premium this time of year but I hope it stays dry & bright for us all this afternoon so we can enjoy our rugby together today.

COYB!

Perry Oliver  
President

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# DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

## ANDY LONG



AFTER A FRUSTRATING START TO THE GAME ON SATURDAY AGAINST BLACKHEATH, I WAS REALLY PLEASED WITH THE WAY THAT WE APPROACHED THE SECOND HALF.

We built a lot of momentum in those early exchanges. We kept the ball, picked up a few penalties, won collisions and found space, which put them on the back foot. We had our tails up and we managed to keep that pressure on throughout the whole of the second half. We didn't panic when the time was running out despite being down on the scoreboard, and that has been one of our strengths this year. We have managed to use all of the time on the clock and we don't panic. It was really pleasing that we were able to shift the momentum and keep the pressure on, then not to concede points in the second half was quite an achievement.

You look at the supporters' faces afterwards and you can see how much it means to them. There were tears in the eyes of some of those guys, because we have come up against another iconic club, and suddenly we are in the same league as them and winning these fixtures. We just love going out there and doing it for those guys.

This week we announced plans to build new stands and erect floodlights on the first team pitch at Silver Leys in the hope that we can improve the spectator experience at home games. Being able to spread some of the noise and spectators around the pitch will have a positive impact on our atmosphere here. It's exciting to see where we have

come from to where we are now in the last five years, so hopefully the planning permission is successful and everyone sees the bigger picture.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the Esher playing group, coaching staff and supporters. Esher are a side with a solid set piece, they like to move the ball around a bit, and are a well-organised outfit. After an inconsistent start they have found some really good form of late and come to us off back-to-back wins against Blackheath and DMP. We expect them to bring plenty of confidence and a nothing-to-lose attitude today. The challenge for us is to play with our own confidence and belief in the knowledge we can go out there and get another win at home.

Enjoy the game,

Longy



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# NEWS FROM THE BLUES

## JACK SCANTLEBURY

FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT HAVEN'T KEPT UP TO DATE WITH THE BLUES' SEASON SO FAR IT HAS BEEN A SOMEWHAT SLOW START.

A couple of frustrating results and two draws mean that the blues have only won 2 from 7.

After finishing as runners up in last years league campaign it has been tricky to understand why we haven't got off to such a flying start. There is definitely a step up in the quality of the opposition this year as clubs seem to understand the importance of successful 2nd XV set ups. As a whole senior group the demands of rugby have risen and serious injuries to players throughout the squad have meant a constant rotation of players. We have had seven very different match day squads for the seven games we have played!

But not to dwell, the Blues have have won two games on the bounce. The first coming against Jersey 3 weekends ago. Something of a historic victory for the players, coaches and 4 travelling fans! (Mr and Mrs Scantlebury, Big Bird and Mr Radley) Not much gossip to report, but new front row forward Lewis Brunger wasn't afraid to splash the cash to net himself some female attention. Video evidence is available.

Last weekend's victory against Blackheath was less down to such true grit and determination as shown in Jersey but

actually down to us playing some outstanding rugby. A definite 20 man effort recorded a 22-5 victory against a strong Blackheath side. Rory Banks was easily the best person on the pitch, his power and offloading put the team on the front foot throughout the game. Special mention to colt Austin Pope who made his debut at scrum half, he never looked out of place and put in a performance that warranted his selection.

Thanks to all those who have supported the blues on match days and followed us on our rugby journey so far this year. I hope we can put on a good show for you today and keep up our winning ways.



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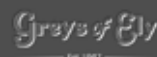
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2017-18  
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# BANKSY'S BAR - THE PHOENIX HAS RISEN FROM THE ASHES

“I AM A GREAT BELIEVER THAT OUT OF EVERYTHING BAD SOMETHING GOOD CAN COME – EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING!

I had been in discussion with the club about tarting up the pitch side bar, for some time a faithful servant of the club but looking a bit tired. I had started to plan some artwork for the outside when about 6 weeks before the start of the season some idiots decided it would be fun to set fire to it. Naturally this was very upsetting for everyone particularly groundsman, former President and club captain - Tubby who it belonged to and for whom it held a significant emotional value.



As an important and popular pitch side attraction something needed to be done – and fast. The club managed to organise a replacement in the form of a 20' container and it was duly delivered in time for the 3rd home game of the season – rising like a Phoenix from the ashes, if you will..

With a new canvas came a new brief and greater potential and I came up with the idea “Banksy's Bar” – catchy alliteration I thought which worked well and a testament to my 3 boys Oliver, Rory and Tom all known as Banksy by their contemporaries and rugby club mates. All have enjoyed many years playing in the mini, youth and now senior rugby teams. As a family we have made many friends through the age groups over nearly 20 years and I am pleased to put some money back into the club by helping with the cost of this new bar – although

I should stress that the rumour circulating that I am also supplying all drinks free of charge is not true...!

Naturally I also incorporated some discrete advertising in the design just to let people know, subliminally, about what this fine local timber firm amongst them does - primarily WOOD FLOORING and GARDEN FURNITURE - for those more focused on their drink requirements...! But please visit [www.andrewbanks.co.uk](http://www.andrewbanks.co.uk) when you have nothing better to do..!

It was also always the intention to incorporate a tribute to Julie Hangar a great friend of the club who died way too soon in 2015. Julie was one of “Tubby's angels” and during his Presidency often made up some funny graces before the pre match lunches to welcome our guests. My daughter, Polly, is a close friend of her son Ben and she knew the family still had copies of the graces so had the idea to get some of them reproduced on the side of the container, with a photo of her, to celebrate her humour. Julie was also a regular fixture at the pitch side helping to keep the beer flowing with a smile for everyone and the club found a great image of her flanked by Peter and Sian which provides a great back drop to the inside of the bar!

The bar helps improve the spectator experience, it is already able to serve more people, more quickly than before reducing the game time lost queuing, whilst also providing a warm welcome all our visitors, and therefore generates more money for the club - so everyone's a winner!! Don't forget Peter is always looking for volunteers to share the best view in the house whilst pulling the odd pint – don't be shy!

Stortford is an exceptional club something we must safe guard and I am pleased to celebrate ...regularly – cheers!!”

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT: RORY & TOM BANKS

## AS EARLY AS I CAN REMEMBER BSRFC HAS BEEN A MASSIVE PART OF MY LIFE AS WELL AS FOR THE REST OF MY FAMILY'S.

Being more vertically challenged than my 2 older brothers means I have always tried to prove myself physically, which is probably why I have grown into a scrum half who enjoys a ruck or two. Training for the physical aspect of rugby started with games of Trampoline Rugby between the 3 of us, which usually ended in some form of tears (for Ollie).

I have always been very self-critical of my performances and set myself a high standard which probably stems from the competitive environment we were coached under in the minis and youth teams. I have vivid memories of JC and Nigel Smith getting down to us at eye level during huddles before matches at several tournaments, with empowering and almost deranged stares, demanding us to 'get angry'. It worked as we went 5 years without losing and 3 years without conceding a try which culminated in winning a National U12's trophy at Twickenham.

I have played alongside a majority of this group through the club, at school and University. The majority with my brother Rory for which we have shared a lot of rugby successes. It was an honour to become National 2 South champions with such a close group of friends and being able to represent England Students and Counties alongside some of them has been a personal highlight for me.

Tom

My first experience of rugby might have put me off the sport altogether had it not been for the enthusiastic coaching from Andy Mumford and John Lewis whose sessions were always fun and enjoyable. I remember on a cold November morning in 1998 being dragged up to Hertford Rugby club for my very first minis tournament at 6 years old, rain hitting me like sharp pins, my extremities numb and my teeth chattering uncontrollably after playing only 2 minutes of the tournament, I don't think I enjoyed it much!

From this memory I learnt being in the pack might be the best place for me, amongst the warmth of the scrum.

I started my rugby life off as a hooker (with Declan Caulfield as full back, how things change!) However, England Women's International Hannah Gallagher's departure from the boys game at U13's necessitated a team reshuffle. I developed my passing technique and became the team's first male scrum half.

At the age of 15 I was picked to play for TBSHS 1st XV and the former BSRFC 1st XV coach, Ian Simpson, saw my bullish character, playing hooker, together with the skills I learnt playing trampoline rugby with my brothers and the link play I had developed from my short stint in the backs, I was moulded into an openside flanker. Despite having played nearly every position in my career the back row is always the one I've found the most enjoyable.

My career highlights would include; reaching the quarter final of the Daily Mail Cup where my hit on Elliot Daly lead to our only score of the game by Aran Martinson in a 58-5 loss to Whitgift School (Marland Yarde scored 5 tries!!). I was playing in the centre alongside BSRFC Matchday Experience Coach Ash Boyle. Also beating Hertford at Allianz Park with the Blues and of course getting my first taste of Nat 1 rugby this year.

Rory





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# TODAY'S OPPOSITION

## ESHER RFC



THE CLUB WAS FORMED IN 1923 WHEN FOUR RUGBY ENTHUSIASTS MET IN A PUB AND DECIDED TO FORM A RUGBY CLUB.

One of them, a Welshman insisted that the new club should adopt his native Welsh club's colours. Which is why Esher play in the same Black and Amber as Newport to this day.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Esher had moved to its present site in Molesey Rd and were fielding eight sides, but war disrupted activities and the pitches were ploughed up for food production. Post war amazingly they ran as many as fifteen sides each Saturday!

Esher were first promoted to National League 2 South in 1998. In 2007 they were promoted to National One and again just three years later to the Championship in a season that famously saw them set a new world record in beating Manchester 148 – 0.

They played in the Championship for two seasons before being relegated back into National League 1 for the 2012–13 season.

In 2013 they finished Runners up; in 2014 – 5th ; 2015– 10th; 2016 -7th & last Season 8th.

This is the first occasion upon which we have met at 1st Xv level.

Esher RFC have five senior men's teams, a Women's team and offer the full range of rugby for minis & Youth including Girls.

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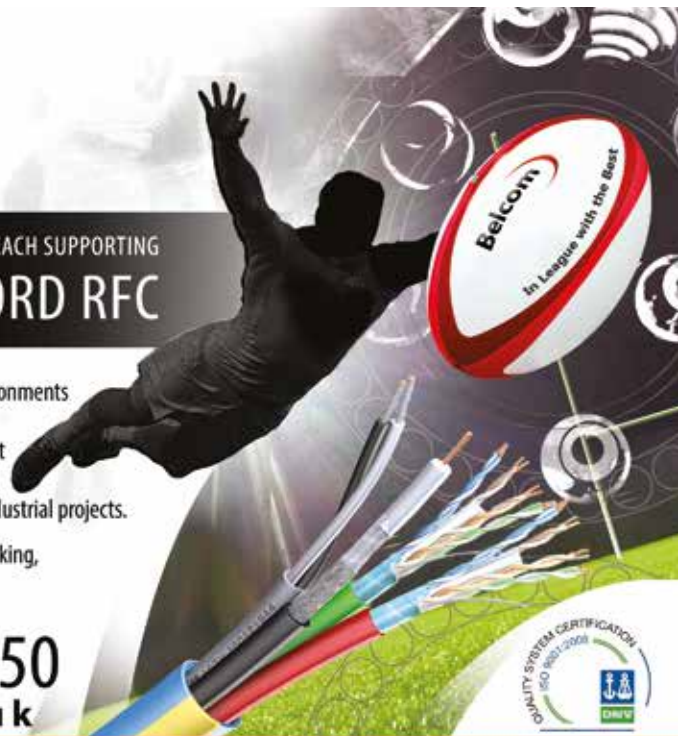
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# RESULTS GRID, TABLE & FIXTURES

## 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	33-7	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	36-10	20/1	2/4	9/12	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	18-14	23/12	17-36	13/1
B'heath	16-15	27/1	19-21		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	22-39	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		7-40	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	38-14	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	33-31	11/11
Esher	13/1	27-32	10/3	28-19	21/4	9/12	26-61	33-26		25/11	27/1	2/4	10/2	39-14	23/12	32-17
Fylde	27/1	22-26	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	27-21	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	58-29		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	15-16	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	34-27
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	26-26	
Round 1-15																
Round 16-30																

## Season 2017-2018 NATIONAL 1

## 4th November Results

Home Team			Away Team
Blackheath	19	21	Bishop`s Stortford
Hull Ionians	27	21	Cambridge
Amphill & District	33	7	Old Elthamians
Birmingham Moseley	36	10	Loughborough Students
Coventry	38	14	Caldy
Esher	33	26	Darlington Mowden Park
Old Albanian	15	16	Fylde
Rosslyn Park	26	26	Plymouth Albion

## Season 2017-2018 NATIONAL 1

## 11th November Fixtures

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

## National League 1

Club	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	PD	TBP	LBP	Ded	Pts
1) Coventry	10	10	0	0	440	134	306	9	0	0	49
2) Amphill & District	10	7	1	2	300	151	149	7	2	0	39
3) Darlington Mowden Park	10	7	0	3	308	256	52	9	2	0	39
4) Plymouth Albion	10	6	2	2	352	205	147	8	2	0	38
5) Blackheath	10	7	0	3	292	192	100	5	1	0	34
6) Bishop`s Stortford	10	7	0	3	266	259	7	4	1	0	33
7) Old Elthamians	10	5	1	4	237	247	-10	5	1	0	28
8) Birmingham Moseley	10	5	1	4	258	286	-28	5	1	0	28
9) Cambridge	10	4	0	6	196	220	-24	3	4	0	23
10) Esher	10	4	0	6	243	329	-86	6	1	0	23
11) Rosslyn Park	10	3	1	6	286	273	13	6	2	0	22
12) Hull Ionians	10	3	0	7	261	366	-105	6	1	0	19
13) Old Albanian	10	3	0	7	192	282	-90	2	4	0	18
14) Caldly	10	2	0	8	242	316	-74	5	4	0	17
15) Loughborough Students	10	2	0	8	207	344	-137	2	1	0	11
16) Fylde	10	2	0	8	146	366	-220	1	1	0	10



# THE TEAMS



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## BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1<sup>ST</sup> XV

BLUE AND WHITE

1	Seb Brownhill
2	Declan Caulfield
3	Sean Edwards
4	James Apperley
5	Matt Tomlinson
6	Steve Ball
7	Dan Elsom
8	Oli Jones
9	Tom Banks
10	George Cullen
11	Jimmy Rea
12	Matt Riddington
13	Sam Winter ©
14	Nick Hankin
15	Rob Duff

### REPLACEMENTS

16	Will Roberts
17	Tom McCrone
18	Rory Banks
19	Ryan Hutler
20	Alex Patton

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

**Referee** James Clarke  
**Assistant Referee 1** Glenn O'Hara  
**Assistant Referee 2** David Myers

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### BLACK & GOLD

Karl Furey	1
Billy Harding	2
Cameron Zeiss	3
Oliver Marriot	4
Cameron Leigh	5
Tom Whitehurst	6
Charlie Gossington	7
Hugo Seccombe	8
Andrew Garner	9
Paul Roberts	10
Daniel Rowland	11
Christopher Arnold	12
Joe Brown	13
Tom James	14
Lloyd Davies	15

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### REPLACEMENTS

Devlin Hope	16
Oliver Mines	17
Guiseppe Salustri	18
Tom Trotter	19
Stephen Boatman	20



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# **BLACKHEATH RFC 19**

## **BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1ST XV 21**

Playing with the breeze and slope, Blackheath dominated most of the first period with hard, aggressive rugby and some clinical finishing. Stortford defended well for 10 minutes, a couple of penalties then took them deep into Stortford's half. Good lineout ball was spun quickly wide and, unusually, the visitors' defence was found wanting. Blackheath's left wing ruthlessly exploited the resultant overlap and flyhalf, Joe Tarrant added an excellent touchline conversion.

Stortford were struggling to get a toehold in the game, with Blackheath's aggressive line speed and tackling forcing turnovers on the few occasions that the visitors managed to gain possession. After 18 minutes the home side added an unconverted try to their tally after some good tactical kicking. A rather lacklustre Stortford chase of a returned kick made the home side's job a little easier but they once again showed their ability to close out chances. When flanker, Harry Bate scored a third try with 37 minutes played and Tarrant's conversion took the lead out to 19 points, Stortford, who had yet to mount any sort of concerted attack looked almost out for the count. In typically gritty fashion, though they ended the half with a period of sustained possession, slowly working their way up the field and winning a penalty at a breakdown. George Cullen kicked to touch and the pack finished things off, driving the resultant maul over the Blackheath line for a try to Will Roberts. Cullen completed the half with a great conversion from out wide to send his side into the break only 12 points behind - a pretty satisfactory situation on the balance of play.

The second half was a mirror-image of the first, with Stortford dominating possession and territory and the home side this time being called upon to show determination in defence. Blackheath did manage to mount one powerful early attack and would have scored a probably decisive 4th try, had their outside backs not got in a muddle out wide, being penalised for crossing with the Stortford try line wide open.

That proved to be the last time that the home side was seen as an attacking force, as Stortford started to go through the gears, showing some typically remorseless 15-man rugby. This finally stretched the home defence to breaking point, with debutant fullback, Rob Duff combining with Chris Smith to put the winger clear for a try well scored round behind the posts after 50 minutes. Cullen's conversion narrowed the deficit to 5 points and his side spent much of the remaining half an hour hammering at the Blackheath line, but repeatedly foundering on some tremendously committed defending.

Stortford stuck to their guns, though and eventually, showing more patience than on a couple of earlier occasions, forced an overlap. This was thwarted only by a blatant deliberate knock-on and although the guilty fullback was sin-binned, a penalty try was not awarded, the officials spotting a covering player who in their view might have prevented a try. With only a couple of minutes to go, this might have been decisive but, undeterred, Stortford launched another series of sharp attacks from the resultant penalty to touch. Finally they moved the ball wide, where Duff took full advantage of the missing defender to outpace his opposite number with a diagonal dash to the line. This leveled the scores and, with time virtually up, Cullen showed great nerve to bang a tricky conversion between the posts for a remarkable Stortford win.

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# BSRFC COLTS

## CHRIS HANDLEY

## WITH JUST TWO WEEKS TO GO UNTIL THE FIRST ROUND OF THE COLTS NATIONAL CUP, PREPARATIONS CONTINUE TO GO WELL

Under the guidance of the new professional director of Colts Rugby Andre Beukes. Last weekend saw thrilling encounters against Braintree and Old Albanians at home, with Stortford coming out on top in both games at the final whistle. With over 80 players on the books, including many with representative honours at county, regional and national levels, the future looks bright. It also means that there is fierce competition for places in the match day squad on the 26th when Stortford will meet Bedford at home.

Training on Thursday evenings grows ever more challenging as the Colts now regularly run out against the 1st XV and Blues to practice their defensive and attacking shapes. The intention this season has been to align Colts ever more closely with the Seniors and throughout the first half of the season all players have been introduced to elements of the Senior play book, defensive systems, techniques and vocabulary. It has been a big ask, but the boys have met the challenge head on.

Andre is supported by a team of four Colt's coaches: Richard Bedford, Ash Boyle, Benj Wroblewski and Chris Hadley. As a former headmaster, Andre knows a thing or two about getting the best out of young people. He has coached Brentwood 1st XV and Colts and previously worked with Stortford Defensive coach Danny Johnston at Colchester. The senior coaching team are also working closely with the Academy coaches, and the boys continue to benefit from sessions with the likes of club Director of Rugby Andy Long and backs coach Tom Coleman.

At the beginning of the season, Andre promised players and parents that regardless of whether they aspire to an England cap or to play social rugby with their friends, they would receive a

year of rugby that they would never forget. It is a big promise, but a necessary one at a time when – more than ever before -- the club has to ensure that they continue to retain young players and provide them with first class coaching.

Energy levels, enthusiasm and ambitions remain sky high and the boys would welcome a sea of blue on the touchline on 26th of this month. make a date in your diary to come and see the club's stars of the future.







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# CLUB STORTFORD

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 FORMED IN 1998 BY A GROUP OF BSRFC MEMBERS WHO GOT TOGETHER TO TRY TO FIND A WAY OF RAISING FUNDS TO HELP THE PLAYING SIDE OF THE CLUB WITHOUT HAVING TO INCREASE DEBT OR UTILISE RESERVES. TO THIS END THE OVAL CLUB WAS FOUNDED WITH THE FOLLOWING MISSION STATEMENT:

**‘TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS PROMOTING THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE STANDARD OF RUGBY THROUGHOUT BISHOP’S STORTFORD RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB’**

The Oval Club is an autonomous body and entirely independent of the Rugby Club's operations. None of the Committee members hold a position or appointment in the Rugby Club's infrastructure. The Oval Club does not seek to influence decisions of the Rugby Club. It responds to requests for financial assistance for projects and purposes which have been approved by the Rugby Club's Executive Committee and which fall within its mission statement above.

Of the funds raised two thirds is set aside for the Rugby Club the other third is reserved to fund social events for Members.

To date the Oval Club has raised over £225,000 and the Rugby Club has received in excess of £138,000.

In line with its mission statement The Oval Club makes contributions for one off projects and purposes which are of long term value to the Rugby Club and not part of on-going budget requirements. Invariably contributions have been made to the Club to enable them to secure grants from the RFU and other sources.

So far, major contributions have been made towards the cost of :

- Pitch repair and maintenance,
- Improvement of the playing surfaces, including the purchase of a verti-drainer,
- Floodlighting the back field pitches,
- Drainage of the floodlit pitches,

- Replacement of goal posts,
- Playing equipment and travel costs for all teams,
- Purchase of physiotherapy equipment,
- Refurbishing the changing room showers,
- Supporting youth and mini through tours, kit and additional playing facilities,
- Junior coaching courses.

On the social side there are several Members' events which take place throughout each year for. Currently these are:

- A self-supporting golf day at one of the local golf clubs.
- An Annual Dinner and Forum
- A First Team Home lunch
- A First Team Away coach trip and lunch

Through its contributions The Oval Club plays a considerable part in helping the Rugby Club enhance its playing related facilities for the use and benefit of all members of the Club.

Anyone who is interested in joining The Oval Club should contact a member of the Committee below.

The Oval Club Committee:

Robbie Kerr - [Chairman](#)  
John Robinson - [Secretary](#)  
John Power- [Treasurer](#)  
Mark Caulfield  
Mike Howatson



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# UNDEFEATED BSRFC LADIES' TEAM CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY



This month, Bishop's Stortford Ladies' Team celebrated its first birthday, and since joining their first league the ladies have proved that they are a force to be reckoned with. The team was set up in November 2016 by the very determined Carly Poyser. Now the manager, Poyser and the ladies' three coaches, Paul Richardson, Dave Walker and Darren Gleed, are leading the team in an exciting direction.

This season the ladies are competing in Women's NC South East East 3, facing local teams such as Royston, St Neots and Welwyn. So far they have revelled in three wins in three matches.

Although the ladies have shown understandable nerves at the beginning of each match, their strong teamwork and dedication to the squad have shone through. In their first match against St Neots, the ladies played in the pouring rain. A wet ball made handling difficult for both teams, but BSRFC Ladies brought everything they had learned from training, beating them with an impressive score of 20-5.

The ladies made history in their second match – their first ever game at Silver Leys – against Royston, a team they had played against in a number of friendlies. Having so much history meant that both teams felt they had a lot to prove, and after a slow first half BSRFC Ladies were losing by 19 points. This, however, was completely turned around in the second half

when they fought back hard and eventually won 26-24.

A week later, the ladies travelled away to face Welwyn in their third match of the season. Still carrying some niggles and injuries from their last match, they turned up and proved just how tough they are. A few changes in the backs had players out of their comfort zones and in positions they had never played before. But the match intensity was high and despite a few injuries the ladies managed to come away with their third win of 26-22.

While they are currently top of the league table, the ladies still have nine matches left to play and are not taking anything for granted. Extra fitness and specialised sessions are helping them to keep their focus, raise and maintain fitness levels and develop a strong team bond.

Although still in early stages, the ladies have become a strong team with high aspirations, immersing themselves into the club's atmosphere and settling themselves nicely in BSRFC's rugby family. It's clear that the only way is up for these ladies – watch this space!

BSRFC Ladies train every Tuesday from 7pm – 9pm, fitness training is every Thursday from 7.30pm – 9pm. The team welcomes women (17 years+) of every shape, size and fitness level. If you, or anyone you know, would like to join, contact them on one of their social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) or email [bsrfcladies@gmail.co.uk](mailto:bsrfcladies@gmail.co.uk).



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# Bishop's Stortford RFC Club Shop



OPENING TIMES:

**Saturday: 12 noon - kick off time**  
(1st XV match days only)

**Sunday: 9am - 1pm**

For further information please see the club website: [www.bsrfc.co.uk](http://www.bsrfc.co.uk)  
or contact **Bob Winnington** on **07988 646 384**.







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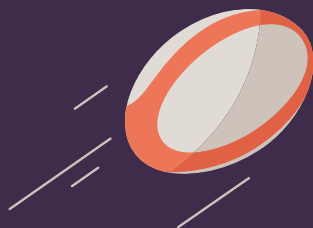
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# BISHOP'S STORTFORD RFC MATCH DAY EXPERIENCE

## 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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