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THIS WEEKS FEATURES:

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**TOUCH RUGBY
GOING FROM STRENGTH TO
STRENGTH**

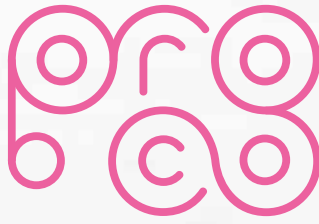
**IN THE SPOTLIGHT:
DAN LEO**

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD RFC V DARLINGTON MOWDEN PARK RFC
25 November 2017

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Members £5



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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

PERRY OLIVER



WELCOME TO SILVER LEYS FOR TODAY'S NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE GAME & A PARTICULARLY WARM WELCOME TO THE PLAYERS, COACHES, OFFICIALS AND SUPPORTERS OF OUR OPPONENTS -DARLINGTON MOWDEN PARK RFC.

They are flying high in the table at present and will obviously be keen not to lose ground today to leaders Coventry. We have similar records in terms of games won & lost but they've managed to garner 12 bonus points (including 10 for try scoring) compared to our 5. So it appears our defence, which was so impressive last time out against Esher, are in for another severe examination this afternoon.

Last Saturday was of course the first of four (five if you count Christmas) 'free' or 'reserve' weeks built into the fixture list as a contingency against losing games due to inclement weather. Whilst our supporters might not appreciate having to find something else to occupy our Saturday afternoon I'm sure the players will have welcomed the opportunity for a bit of R&R.

We might have just been lucky last season or perhaps games at this level are that little bit more physical but whatever the reason and it may be a bit of both, we have racked up quite a few injuries already this season & of course could do without anymore!

The return of some of our medium term casualties such as Sam James, Sam Coleman, Johnny Neville & Jon George may be within weeks. Longer term absentees Mark McCraith & Baxter Wilson are still on course to return at some point in the New Year. Sadly we will probably have to wait until next season before seeing either Rory Young or James Lennon take the field again.

Another significant absentee for us today is Dan

Leo who is taking the opportunity presented by the Samoan team being in the UK to promote his work with the Pacific Rugby Player Welfare organisation. Whilst I'm on the topic we're going to put a collection bucket on the bar today in support of the work Dan & the PRPW do. Any contribution particularly from those hanging around to watch the England vs Samoa game on TV afterwards would be much appreciated.

Talking of charity giving I'm pleased to be able to give you a positive report regarding our whole club efforts to raise money for the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance. Thanks to recent donations from the Touch rugby group, those attending the fireworks display & what we raised at the last lunch with the auction of the international tickets our total now stands at just over Four thousand pounds! Fantastic of course but we're not finished yet!

& finally our Colts (U18's) have their first National Colts Cup game of the season here tomorrow against Bedford Blues Kick off 1pm. It's likely to be another high quality game, so if you're at a loose end and want another rugby fix, then I'm sure the players would appreciate your support.

All our 1st XV games now until March will Kick Off at 2pm. So fingers crossed it won't get too gloomy and you enjoy the game & your time here with us today.

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Perry Oliver
President

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DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

ANDY LONG



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This week I visited one of our club sponsors -

M J Warner Volkswagen to get my VW Passat serviced.

M J Warner are situated in Hare Street,

near Buntingford, local to Bishop's Stortford, Hertford, Ware and Royston, but tucked away in a lovely rural setting.

I asked owner **Steve Phillips** why he chose to support BSRFC. He replied "I get frequent requests to sponsor local events, summer fairs, music festivals - even our local wheelbarrow race! I've even been asked to sponsor Hertford Rugby Club on several occasions!

So, if you ask me why we chose to sponsor Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club, (a package that includes a VW Passat Estate for DOR Andy Long and shirt sponsorship for the Mitres) it was quite an easy question to answer.



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To paraphrase the BS Rugby Club ethos which is 'to be a successful rugby club, trusted and valued by our community' - well, here at M J Warner Volkswagen, it's the same ethos but in the motor trade, and hopefully we can all have some enjoyment along the way, adapting to the ever-changing motoring world.

I also get a real buzz every time I come up to watch the teams at Silver Leys, there's a genuine 'one club' feel. This ideology is reflected in our VW philosophy of giving great customer interaction whether it's in our car sales, service department or bodyshop."

It was great to meet Steve and his colleagues at Hare Street, I loved their refreshing approach to business, and

I really appreciate their dedication to Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club. Steve and his team are often at games, so if you see them say 'Hello' and find out what M J Warner Volkswagen can do for you!

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NEWS FROM THE BLUES

LUKE WEBBER - THE INTERVIEW

AFTER 3 STRAIGHT WINS AND THE TEAM PERFORMING STRONGLY, WHY DO YOU THINK WE COULDN'T QUITE GET OVER THE LINE AGAINST RICHMOND LAST WEEKEND?

After a slow start to the season we've managed to regain a lot of confidence with good wins against Jersey, Blackheath and Esher. But Richmond Vikings are a different animal. The game itself showed that we are capable of competing with the top sides, but we just lacked that composure in the key attacking areas of the field and were let down by our discipline in defensive areas. A team like Richmond won't let you get away with that.

The Blues have now given two colts their first taste of senior rugby this year. Out of the younger members in the squad who have been some key contributors so far?

Young lads like Ollie Jones & James Apperley are just two examples of colts players who have earned their stripes in the Blues before establishing themselves as important components of the 1st XV. But the Blues can still boast the likes of Ben Harrison, Zac Jeffery and Joe Tracy who have become essential members of the squad having graduated from the Colts in recent years. More recently we've introduced Austin Pope to senior rugby and he's been excellent for us so far. The future's bright.

You are now in your 6th season as a Blues player, how have you seen the 2nd XV develop over this period?

I was first brought into the 2nd team setup when Steve Hearn was tasked with the job of rejuvenating the Blues. At the time, I was playing social rugby in the 5th team against 50-year-old vets! Our first season we won the league in a playoff final away at Thurrock and it felt we were setting an example as a second team. Then came the Zoo League setup, and the Blues began growing in quality and reputation. Over the past 3 or 4 seasons not only have we become a brilliant platform for players to realise their 1st XV aspirations, but the Blues is a team that everyone wants to be a part of in its own right. It can't be underestimated the impact this has on the success of the 1st team.

With us nearly at the Christmas break, what is the target for the Blues at the break and come the end of the season?

Having found our rhythm with more consistent team selections and a good run of results, we are beginning to see where we fit in to this new look Zoo Division 1. With the likes of Richmond, London Scottish, Old Elthamians and Amphyll realising the benefit of second team rugby, we cannot realistically expect to reach the heights of 2nd spot as we did last term. However, we know we can compete with anyone on our day, so we are just looking to take each game as it comes, get better each time we take to the field and see where it leaves us come April. I fancy top 6 and third county cup on the bounce would be another season we could be very happy with.

On a slightly different note. Many of you will already be very aware of the testing times ahead for Samoan rugby players after their RFU announced bankruptcy recently. The Blues played their very small part in supporting Samoan rugby at training last week by holding up the #helpsamoa. Dan Leo has set up a justgiving page to help support the players and their families and it would be great if you could donate!!

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IT'S BEEN QUITE A RIDE SINCE LOCAL LAW FIRM TEES BECAME PRINCIPAL FIRST TEAM SHIRT SPONSORS AT THE BEGINNING OF LAST SEASON.

The previously elusive National League Two South title has been followed by 8 wins out of 11 matches in English rugby's third tier, including notable victories at Rosslyn Park, Moseley and Blackheath. BSRFC is at an all-time high, both on and off the beautifully manicured turf at Silver Leys.

Ashton Hunt, Managing Director of Tees, laughs off suggestions that he's been something of a lucky charm for the club.

"It's a nice idea but I think the players, coaches, committee members and volunteers have rather more to do with it! We knew when we got on board that everything was in great shape and it was a joy to share in last season's success, which had been many years in the making."

Ashton likens the spirit and ethos at the club to his experiences at Tees since accepting the role two years ago.

"Having come to the law from previous managerial positions in telecoms and manufacturing, it was refreshing to join a firm where everyone was pushing hard in the same direction, just like Stortford's forwards! There's a real sense of purpose and a common goal at Tees and that's to do the best possible job for our clients. When I go to the rugby, I know that the players are going to

give 100% and when I come to work each morning I know it'll be exactly the same."

Justin Robinson, a Partner at Tees and Head of the Bishop's Stortford office, is another familiar face on the touchline.

"I've just got back from my honeymoon in Argentina and was following the Old Albanians and Blackheath scores over there on Twitter. Fortunately, my wife Victoria loves her rugby too! ". Justin feels very positive about the town at the moment.

"I think there's a definite buzz about Bishop's Stortford these days and the rugby club is definitely at the heart of things. We met a couple at the Esher game who've just moved up to Stortford to start a family and enjoyed their afternoon so much that they're now fully paid up members. That speaks volumes."

"From a business perspective, we're delighted with the relationship that we have with the club. To get 400 people up for lunch on match day is incredible for a town of our size and the monthly networking events are also well worth attending. The likes of Julie North, Paul Maxfield and Bob Winnington couldn't have been more helpful and we value their friendship".

The retirement of skipper Tom Coleman meant that Tees were on the lookout for a new player to sponsor this season. Enter Dan Leo...

Says Ashton, "Tom was, and still is, an absolute credit to the club and we were proud to be associated with his talent, work ethic and sportsmanship. Andy managed to bring big Dan to Stortford and it's already proved to be a masterstroke. For someone with such a distinguished career in the professional game, he's a very humble guy and the work he's doing with Pacific Rugby Players Welfare is inspiring. We're all looking forward to the rest of the season".



COMPETITION TOUCH RUGBY

TOUCH RUGBY AS A SPORT CONTINUES TO GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

as more rugby clubs embrace it and dedicated clubs are set up purely to play Touch Rugby. It is also widely played in Universities around the country and in corporate leagues.

What many people do not realise is that there are national and regional leagues for all ages, open, senior and vets. These are highly competitive tournaments and the standard of play is exceptionally high. All the players have to have excellent game awareness, technical skills and fitness to play at these levels. This is an excellent way for players who stop playing Union to continue in another form of the game and still play competitively at a good standard.

Those that are good enough have the opportunity to represent their country in international tournaments. There is a Home Nations fixture every 4 years occurring between World Cup and European Championships involving England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Jersey and Guernsey.

The European Touch Championships is a biennial event that sees the best teams in Europe compete for the prestigious title in Opens, Seniors and Masters divisions. Our very own World Cup is played every

4 years where Northern and Southern Hemisphere teams compete for the Prestigious Title. The current holders are Australia who will defend their title in Malaysia in 2019.

We have been busy hosting our own tournaments at BSRFC and on the 8th October we held our inaugural charity tournament in aid of the Presidents Charity, Essex and Herts Air Ambulance. The BSRFC Touch Group welcomed 5 other teams to Silver Leys; Hitchin, Ipswich, Norwich, Upminster & Wixams.

The matches were very competitive and high paced, rolling subs and a large team helped BSRFC Touch group maintain an advantage we managed to battle through to the Plate final, losing to Norwich Rebels; a dedicated Touch group.

Upminster took the overall win, their great handling and quick youngsters saw them take the win in a close and exciting final.

We raised £550 and we are delighted to donate this to the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance.





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TODAY'S OPPOSITION

DARLINGTON MOWDEN PARK RFC



TODAY'S OPPONENTS BEGAN LIFE IN 1950 WHEN THEY WERE FOUNDED AS DARLINGTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL OLD BOYS.

With growing numbers of players and supporters, they decided to buy land and build their own clubhouse and pitches in Mowden. It therefore seemed appropriate, not least because the club was no longer an "Old Boys Club", to change its name to Mowden Park RFC.

In more recent years they were given permission to restore the 'Darlington'. They were promoted to National One at the end of the 2013-14 season when they beat Ampthill in the promotion playoff.

In December 2012 Darlington Mowden Park RFC purchased what was then known as the Darlington arena, a 25,000 seat stadium that had previously been the home of Darlington F.C. along with 17 acres of adjacent land and an option on a further 20 acres for a reported £2 million. They played their first game at what is now known as the Northern Echo Arena in February 2013.

In 2014-15 they finished 9th in National One. In 15-16 they finished 6th & last season 10th.

This season therefore they are on course for their best ever placing as they currently sit second having won 8 of the 13 games played to date.

Famous names to have worn the DMP shirt include Toby Flood, Alex Tait, Craig Newby, Phil Dowson & Tim Visser.

They have three Senior Men's XV's and Darlington Mowden Park Sharks play in the Tyrrells Premier 15's, the Women's Premiership. In addition they have two further senior women's teams & a successful Mini & Youth section including Girls rugby

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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	24-17	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	27-26	6/1	2/12	27/1	17-34	10/2
Camb	10/2	15-22	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	36-7
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	19-26	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		37-18	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	16-20	3/2	28/4	6/1	24/3	36-20	14/4		10/2	34-27
Plym'th	16-9	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

11th November Results

Home Team			Away Team
Caldy	27	26	Hull Ionians
Cambridge	15	22	Birmingham Moseley
Darlington Mowden Park	36	7	Rosslyn Park
Old Elthamians	16	20	Coventry
Bishop`s Stortford	24	17	Esher
Fylde	19	26	Blackheath
Loughborough Students	37	18	Old Albanian
Plymouth Albion	16	9	Amphill & District

Season 2017-2018 NATIONAL 1

25th November Fixtures

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

National League 1

Club	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	PD	TBP	LBP	Ded	Pts
1) Coventry	11	11	0	0	460	150	310	9	0	0	49
2) Darlington Mowden Park	11	8	0	3	344	263	81	10	2	0	39
3) Plymouth Albion	11	7	2	2	368	214	154	8	2	0	39
4) Amphill and District	11	7	1	3	309	167	142	7	3	0	38
5) Blackheath	11	8	0	3	318	211	107	6	1	0	34
6) Bishop`s Stortford	11	8	0	3	290	276	14	4	1	0	33
7) Birmingham Moseley	11	6	1	4	280	301	-21	5	1	0	28
8) Old Elthamians	11	5	1	5	253	267	-14	5	2	0	28
9) Cambridge	11	4	0	7	211	242	-31	3	5	0	23
10) Esher	11	4	0	7	260	353	-93	6	2	0	23
11) Rosslyn Park	11	3	1	7	293	309	-16	6	2	0	22
12) Caldý	11	3	0	8	269	342	-73	6	4	0	19
13) Hull Ionians	11	3	0	8	287	393	-106	7	2	0	18
14) Old Albanian	11	3	0	8	210	319	-109	2	4	0	17
15) Loughborough Students	11	3	0	8	244	362	-118	3	1	0	11
16) Fylde	11	2	0	9	165	392	-227	1	2	0	10

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	Rory Banks
7	Dan Elsom
8	Steve Ball
9	Tom Banks
10	George Cullen
11	Jimmy Rea
12	Matt Riddington
13	Sam Winter ©
14	Chris Smith
15	Rob Duff

REPLACEMENTS

16	Sam James
17	Seb Brownhil
18	Oli Jones
19	Johnny Neville
20	Nick Hankin

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Lunch Club

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

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Assistant Referee 1 Mark Rose
Assistant Referee 2 Leo Burton

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DARLINGTON MOWDEN PARK RFC

BLUE AND WHITE

	Alfie Barron	1
	Chris Wood	2
	Ralph Appleby	3
	Joe Craggs	4
	Jake Brady	5
	Dave Fisher	6
	Rory Duff	7
	Ollie Hodgson ©	8
	Jack Blakeney-Edwards	9
	Warren Seals	10
	Callum Mackenzie	11
	Garry Law	12
	Ben Frankland	13
	Shaun McCartney	14
	Grant Connon	15

Supporting



REPLACEMENTS

	Jack Payne	16
	Jordan Poole	17
	Tailiti Vaoleti	18
	Simon Uzokwe	19
	Brandon Asher-Wood	20

Director of Rugby Danny Brown | **Coaches** Mark Luffman & John Newton | **Physio** Rob Rudland



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BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1ST XV 24

ESHER RFC 17

Esher seemed to take time to adjust to the Hertfordshire climate and were slow out of the blocks, allowing Stortford to dominate the opening exchanges of this game, sponsored by active Club supporters, GQ Wealth Management. The resultant pressure culminated in a try to Matt Riddington, who dodged and powered his way over the line from some 25 yards out, after fellow centre, Sam Winter had made a telling break and good ground. George Cullen's confident conversion took his side out to a 7 point lead and it was the same player who added three points to the tally with a penalty goal some 20 minutes later.

In the meantime, an aggressive Esher side had steadily become more of a force, aided somewhat, it has to be said by some loose Stortford kicking. As a result, the visitors enjoyed much more possession, but were rebuffed repeatedly by a strong Stortford defence, which, with Sam Winter leading by example, never seemed to lose its shape, despite being stretched on occasions by some powerful running and some clever long passes. Despite the pressure, Stortford managed a rare sortie into Esher's 22 after some 25 minutes, forcing a penalty at a breakdown and Cullen kicked the goal to stretch the lead to 10. The home side then enjoyed a period of possession and were threatening on the Esher 22, when an ambitious chip kick under pressure was smothered and the visitors were quick to capitalise on the resultant turnover. They drove upfield and some impressive handling amongst their backs in the Stortford 22 produced an impressive try close to the posts giving flyhalf, Paul Roberts an easy conversion just before the break to take his side into the distant changing rooms only 3 points adrift.

With the game so evenly poised, both sides came out aggressively but, despite a few errors and, in particular a couple of soft penalty concessions, it was Stortford that enjoyed the better of the early exchanges. Thus it was that 15 minutes into the half, the home side won a penalty and kicked for touch around halfway, which they used as the platform to launch a tremendous attack, based on quick handling and repeated recycling. This took them to the within the shadow of the Esher posts and a strong ruck produced quick ball, which Tom Banks seized on to dive over the line, giving Cullen an easy conversion. Better was to come within 5 minutes, when another spell of running rugby and quick recycling allowed replacement winger, Ryan Hutler to run in under the posts from a well-timed, short pass. Cullen's conversion took the score to 24-7 and the home side now looked to be getting on top after the restart.

Two penalties in quick succession against Stortford, though - the first won by Esher's powerful pack at a scrum and the second at the resultant lineout - gave the visitors a lineout on Stortford's 5 metre line. An efficient catch and drive duly produced a try out wide, but Roberts' conversion attempt fell just short. Esher clearly took renewed confidence from this score and quickly exerted more pressure on Stortford's defence. Another penalty to the visitors with about 5 minutes to go again went to touch for a 5 metre lineout and, once again, Stortford were unable to hold out a powerful drive from the Esher pack. Roberts again, just missed the conversion, leaving his side 7 points behind. This was enough to secure a losing bonus point for the visitors, but neither side was content to settle for what they had, with both going hammer and tongs at the opposition in search of a fourth try. In the event, strong defences won the day and the game ended with the 24-17 scoreline.

There were many outstanding performances on both sides in this closely-contested match, but the Man of the Match sponsors, Copper 88 chose Stortford flyhalf, George Cullen for the award. Congratulations go to all 20 of Stortford's players for another battling display, which should allow them to enjoy their break next weekend that bit more - though the challenge thereafter posed by the visit of Darlington Mowden Park will certainly not be lost sight of!!

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT: DAN LEO

WHEN I TOLD MY FAMILY I WOULD BE JOINING BISHOPS STORTFORD RFC IN THE NATIONAL 1 THIS SEASON IT DID RAISE A FEW EYEBROWS,

not the least those of my wife who was openly relieved when I retired from the professional game two years ago.

As an older player who has been around the circuit for a while, it seems like a no-win situation returning to the field at age thirty five. If you play well, people think "so he should, he's an ex professional." Play badly and it's "he's disappointing for an ex-international". The Nat 1 can also be a dangerous place for us old boys with lots of fit, young and super keen up-and-comers who view an ex-pro as a prized scalp.

As the most senior in the side this season by a good few years, your perspective on the field changes a bit. I've managed to creek through games thus far but personal performances become secondary to what you can offer the team in terms of experience.

When Andy Long, who I played against many times in the Premiership, and I met last season, my wife and I were thinking of moving to Saffron Walden to be closer to her family in Norfolk. Andy's vision for the club and the fact that there are some really good up and coming back row and lock forwards at the club were what convinced me to return.

I owe a lot to the game and hopefully by supporting the progression path of some of the extremely talented players in our side, it's a small way of giving back.

Joining an underdog is also something I have enjoyed. When I retired 2 years ago, it was to start Pacific Rugby Players Welfare, a much needed players union for Pacific Islanders who like Stort, are small fish in a big pond.

When my friends at Ampthill (half of the Tongan international side!) asked me to join them there, I knew it wasn't the right fit.

In that respect, I'm really proud of how we have begun the season. To say the boys have

played above themselves would be doing them a disservice. We've won 8 from 11 but the scary thing is that there is still a lot more to come from this squad! But for a couple of games, we know we haven't played to our potential.

The way my family and I have been welcomed to the club has been amazing. A lot of clubs in the pro leagues pay lip service to being a "family club" but not many truly are. This club is special in that it really is a family and community oriented club. Money can't buy that and I think it has been reflected in the performances of the club over the past couple of years.

I'd like to thank everyone who has welcomed me here and for getting behind Pacific Rugby Players Welfare.

Faafetai lava

Dan Leo



A close-up, underwater photograph of a swimmer's face and arm. The swimmer is wearing blue-tinted goggles and has their arm extended forward. The water is clear blue, and there are many bubbles around the swimmer's head and arm.

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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.

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.

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



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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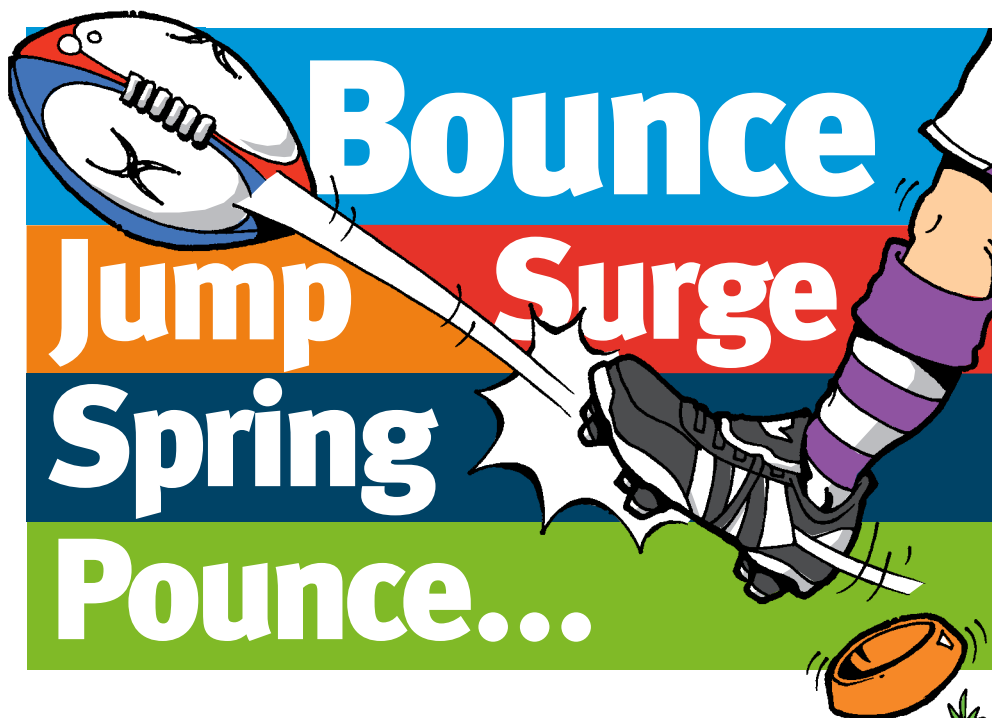
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UNDEFEATED BSRFC LADIES' TEAM MARCHES ON

Remembrance Sunday saw Bishop's Stortford Ladies' Team travel away to Basildon where they added another win to the tally with a score of 55-14 – making a total winning streak of four out of four matches.

In contrast to a couple of their previous matches, the ladies showed complete dominance right from the first five minutes of the match. Back-to-back tries under the posts from Victoria Richards and Carleigh Lalonge gave kicker, Jemma Goddard, a good position to nudge the ball over the posts in windy conditions.

A strong run through multiple defenders from number 8, Nikky Wilkins, gave another opportunity for support runner, Lalonge, to again take the ball over the try line under the upright.



The team was beaming with confidence throughout the match, which eventually allowed for some mistakes on the pitch, leading the opposition to score and convert two tries. A quick chat from the coaches changed the game plan, taking full advantage of the pace and agility from the backs – allowing outside centre, Raquel Obama, to score two tries giving the ladies a three try lead going into the second half.

The half time whistle gave the ladies a chance to regather their thoughts and energy, ensuring that they were able to take it up another gear in the second half. Another try from Obama 30 seconds into the second half dampened the opposition's confidence.

Another try off the back of the scrum from Nikky Wilkins gave Stortford a very comfortable



lead. Within the last 10 minutes there were two uncontested scrums within Stortford's 22; the ladies were unphased by this and defended their line well – not allowing a single break from Basildon.

The last minutes saw Lalonge strip the ball again to make a break, supported by Obama and Chapman. Stortford then used quick hands to get the ball to winger, Kate Hawkins, who made her final break through the defenders to score a final try.

The ladies are now enjoying a well-deserved rest before they face Towcester Ladies on Sunday 3rd December.

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 bsrfladies@gmail.com.



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SIAN WILDE. BSRFCBOOKINGS1@GMAIL.COM
OR MOBILE 07484520278.

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
or contact **Bob Winnington** on
07988 646 384.





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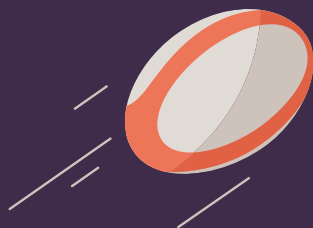
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As part of the Clubs ethos 'to be a strong and successful rugby club united from Senior to Mini's, trusted and valued by our community' the BSRFC Director of Rugby, Andy Long, Club Captain Sam Winter, & the rest of the 1st XV Squad provide an insight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