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OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME



THIS WEEKS FEATURES:

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**ON TOUR WITH THE
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SEAN EDWARDS**

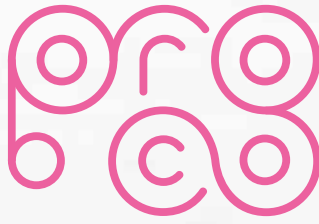
NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD RFC V OLD ELTHAMIANS RFC

23 December 2017

£12

Members £5



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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

PERRY OLIVER



SEASON'S GREETINGS EVERYONE. AMAZINGLY TODAY'S GAME MARKS THE START OF THE 2ND HALF OF THE SEASON.

Time flies when you're having fun!

So it is of course the first of this seasons return fixtures and it gives me great pleasure to welcome back to Silver Leys the Players, Officials and Supporters of Old Elthamians RFC. Greetings also to our Match Day sponsors Mantle Business Centres and their guests.

Last Saturday seemed to have all the ingredients we needed for an early Xmas party. Sadly for us the Cambridge players had other ideas. I know it's probably our nearest and easiest away journey but it was fantastic to see that so many Stortford members and supporters had foregone the pleasures of Christmas shopping to make the trip. I genuinely think that there were more of us than them. We certainly made more noise!

The game was certainly exciting and although the final result wasn't what we'd hoped for in truth I think our hosts just about deserved it. It's always disappointing to lose especially to 'neighbours' but we need to see it in context with the rest of our performances to date this season. 46 league points at half way is more than we could realistically have hoped for when the season started and it gives us a great platform from which to consolidate our place in National One.

The same can of course be said of our opponents today. Their return at halfway of 43 points is equally impressive and means they are only one league place below us before kick off today. Their demolition of 3rd placed Blackheath at home last Saturday and a 17 all draw at the fortress that is Plymouth Albion's Brickfields stadium, are testament to the qualities they possess as a side.

Our guys will of course be keen to put last Saturdays disappointment behind them & go into

the holiday break with a win but OE's undeniably represent a significant obstacle and we'll have to be at our very best this afternoon in order to secure victory.

On the adjoining pitch our Blues also entertain Elthamians and will be keen to redress the balance, after suffering an agonisingly close defeat at their hands back in September. They had a great morale boosting victory at Cambridge last Saturday, so go into the game full of confidence. Good Luck guys.

Thank you once again to everyone who has attended our pre-match Lunch. Today's as you would expect has a festive feel, helped by the annual appearance of some outrageously 'ugly' Christmas jumpers. Your support of these bi-weekly events has been magnificent. Every lunch from now until the end of the season is sold out. Admittedly that's partly due to the fact that the marquee has to come down after today for a couple of months for maintenance (and to comply with our planning permission) but it still means that this season they will have all been attended by at least 120 guests and that level of support off the pitch impacts directly on our ability to compete on it.

That just leaves me to, on behalf of everyone at BSRFC, wish you & yours a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Have a great time (& hopefully a party) with us here at Silver Leys today and we'll see you in 2018.

COYB!

Perry Oliver
President

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DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

ANDY LONG



A WEEK IS A LONG TIME IN RUGBY GOING FROM THE ELATION OF A CONVINCING VICTORY OVER AN ON FORM LOUGHBOROUGH STUDENTS TO THE DEJECTION OF A ONE-POINT LOSS AGAINST OUR FIERCE LOCAL RIVALS CAMBRIDGE.

That's sport though and individuals and teams have to learn from these experiences and come back stronger and that's certainly what we hope to do today.

Our desire and attitude was first class last week, we need to marry that up with clarity of decision making in the heat of the battle, that's not an easy thing to do and what most sides strive towards. Last weeks atmosphere was enhanced by the fantastic travelling support please keep up your efforts today!

We welcome another old foe to Silver Leys today, recent matches against Old Elthamians have certainly tested the nerves, with visiting teams generally coming out on top, today we are hoping to buck that trend.

Gavin and Sam have assembled a team full of quality players and have had a consistent team selection over the last few weeks which has seen them victorious in their last three games. We know that this will be a great challenge and hopefully a great spectacle for all of you.

It just leaves me to thank you all for your support over the past 12 months, 12 months that have been incredibly special for everyone, have a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Enjoy the game

Longy



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NEWS FROM THE BLUES

A PERFORMANCE TO TURN THE SEASON.

IN SPORT SOMETIMES THE START IS EVERYTHING. LET'S JUST SAY WE ARE LUCKY THAT RUGBY IS AN 80 MINUTE GAME!!

From the start of the game Cambridge were quickly deep inside the Blues half after kicking to the corner from an early penalty. A good line out drill and a strong maul resulted in the number 8 powering of the back and diving over to score in the corner. 5-0 down in as many minutes. Stortford hadn't learnt from early defensive errors and after a poor kick and chase at the restart Cambridge had broken into the Blues 22. It was their number 8 again who barrelled his way through 2 or 3 tackles to dot down for a five pointer. Conversion missed.

10-0 down without having touched the ball, we were again under the posts looking for a reaction from the players around us. The Stortford account was opened when Luke Webber managed to scoop up a loose ball and after working his way around a number of Cambridge defenders, he just had enough gas to get to the line. His conversion attempt was that of a 10 year old girl so the score was left at 10-5.

The Blues were suddenly finding some great ambition in attack. Zac Jeffery and Max Hammond kept defenders on their toes all game as they darted around the fringes. However it would be the backs that again unlocked the Cambridge defence. Tom McCrone provided the neat wrap around pass to let Jack Scantlebury ghost through the line and offload out to South African debutant Blake Mingay. Luckily 10 year old girls can kick conversions from in front of the posts, so Webber snuck it over. 10-12. The Blues were definitely now on the front foot in the game. The Cambridge player's lungs were drained and number of bruising hits were leaving their mark. The Cambridge full back, who's body type was more suited to arm wrestling Adam Eagle, definitely got on the wrong end of one of these hits.

The start of the second half saw the Blues continue to exert pressure on the Cambs defence. Scrum half Alex Patton distributed the ball with good pace and linked up well with tight runners to keep the Cambridge defence honest. The Stortford pack executed well at a scrum inside Cambs half to

leave the door open for Blake Mingay to go over for a brace straight from the set piece. Not much imagination was involved, just a good line and strong running to break the defence. The conversion was successful, 10-19. The Blues continued to create opportunities across the whole pitch and it was a long time coming when the back 3 all linked up to put Connor Austin over in the corner. Extras were again added after the try, 10-26.

With the game nearly over and the full time whistle threatening, the Blues won a scrum 5 meters from the Cambridge line. Big Brad Etherington who was powerful all game was rubbing his hands at the opportunity to pick up from the base of a forward moving scrum. Unfortunately a shortage of front row for the home-side forced the referee to move to uncontested scrums. Webber duly decided that the backs should have the ball. It only took a flat pass on the outside shoulder of the disinterested Cambridge defence to put Scantlebury over for a final score.

Full time. Cambridge 10 - Blues 33

Thanks to all the travelling support, having you noisy few on the touchline always makes a difference to the lads. Also thanks to Danny and Andre for keeping the coaching team full in Franks absence.

I can report more good news. A fantastic Xmas social was enjoyed by the 1st and 2nd XV's last weekend. The Christmas jumpers were out in full force, JG was dressed up as Jesus, Baxter pulled a sheep, Sam Coleman was really annoying and new boys Rob Duff and Matt Riddington enjoyed their beers very much.

Many thanks to the old boys who generously sponsored a Xmas drink for us!! It was greatly appreciated by all the lads!!! A simply lovely time was had by all. Plenty in the tank sir!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Scants xx

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BSRFC 1'S XV 2017/18



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MANTLE BUSINESS CENTRES IS DELIGHTED TO
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BY SPONSORING THE 1ST XV.

Their involvement with the club is both personal and professional, with both directors either playing or coaching various age groups in the past.

Jamie Baker played for the club consistently from 1983-1987 as a colt. A boarder at Bishop's Stortford College, he had to sneak out every Sunday to play. Before leaving the UK in 1993 to work and play in Japan he played a few times for the 3rds and 4ths.

When Jamie returned to Bishop's Stortford from Japan in June 1996, he decided that sponsorship rather than playing was the way forward for him and has been doing just that ever since in both a personal and corporate capacity. He has been a member of the Oval Club for over 15 years, and of Club Stortford since it began.

Guy Baker was lead coach for an age group from 2003 until 2012 starting at Under 7s and passing the age group over to Colts after Under 16s.



Mantle Business Centres has proudly sponsored players, including fly half George Cullen and Sam Coleman, the club's 1st XV scrum half.



BSRFC MINIS

ON TOUR

EVERY YEAR BISHOP'S STORTFORD RUGBY CLUB MINI SECTION TOUR, EN MASSE, FROM THE UNDER 6'S TO THE UNDER 12'S.



For the last few years it's been held at various different PGL sites around the South and East of England and this year we are returning to Osmington Bay, near Weymouth from 6th – 8th April 2018 (PGL standing for Peter Gordon Lawrence, the founder of the company, not Parents Get Lost, as the kids seem to think!)

The tour is a fantastic way for the children to get to know each other better through the various activities laid on by PGL and those we put together. Friday night will see the return of the Kangaroo Court where one unlucky, but thoroughly deserving coach from each age group will be held accountable for some heinous crime committed during the season. Needless to say justice will be swift and merciless.

This year it is the "Disco Tour" and on Saturday night each age group will be entertaining the tour in turn with their interpretation of a disco classic. The males in the U12's historically borrow a frock and their mum's/wife's lipstick for the Saturday night and appropriately enough they'll be performing to "It's Raining Men". The entertainment will be followed by full on disco and possibly a shandy or two for the parents.

On Sunday morning we head back to Stortford but not before a fixture with a local club, played in specially designed tour shirts.

The tour truly encapsulates the BSRFC #oneclub ethos. It brings together players from all age groups, their non playing siblings and their parents for a weekend away where the whole emphasis is on friendship and having a great time. If you do have a child in the Minis but haven't signed up yet then you haven't got long – the closing date is 23/12/2017. If you don't have a child in the Minis, but would still like to get involved, we still have sponsorship opportunities available, either on the shirts or on tour merchandise which is given to all the kids going.

If you have any questions about how to sign up or about sponsorship then please email at bsrfc.ministour2018@gmail.com or call Jez Dargan on 07970002776.

We look forward to seeing you on tour

BSRFC Minis Tour Committee 2018



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The school had moved from Blackheath to its present site in Mottingham, where it provided a pitch for the Old boys to use. In 1951 Foxbury Field, in Chislehurst, was purchased by the Old Boys Association and this stayed the club's home until for the 2014-15 season they moved to the Queen Mary Sports Ground in Chislehurst, they stayed there for just two seasons before moving to their current home of College Meadow adjacent to the college itself for the start of the 2016-17 season.

In 1972 falling player numbers forced them to admit non-school players for the first time and just two years later they were the second club in Kent to start a mini rugby section.

They currently run four senior men's teams, a Women's team and the full range of Mini & Youth age groups from U6 to U18. They finished second to us last season in National Two South, and won promotion by travelling to and beating Sale RFC 19-14 in a tense play-off.

Like us this is the highest level they have played at and last weekend they entertained & beat Blackheath 32-7 in the first ever league meeting between the two sides in 106 years despite only being separated by a couple of miles. A magnificent new club record crowd of 1,653 were there to witness it.

Recent meetings between our two clubs include;

2017/18 Season -National 1

- 9/09/2017 OE's 13 BSRFC 19

2016/17 Season - National 2S

- 14/01/2017 OE's 14 BSRFC 16
- 24/09/2016 BSRFC 19-22 OE's

2015/16 Season National 2S

- 19/03/2016 OE's 5-43 BSRFC
- 21/11/2015 BSRFC 26-20 OE's

2014/15 Season National 2S

- 10/01/2015 OE's 14 -26 BSRFC
- 27/09/2014 BSRFC 41-43 OE's

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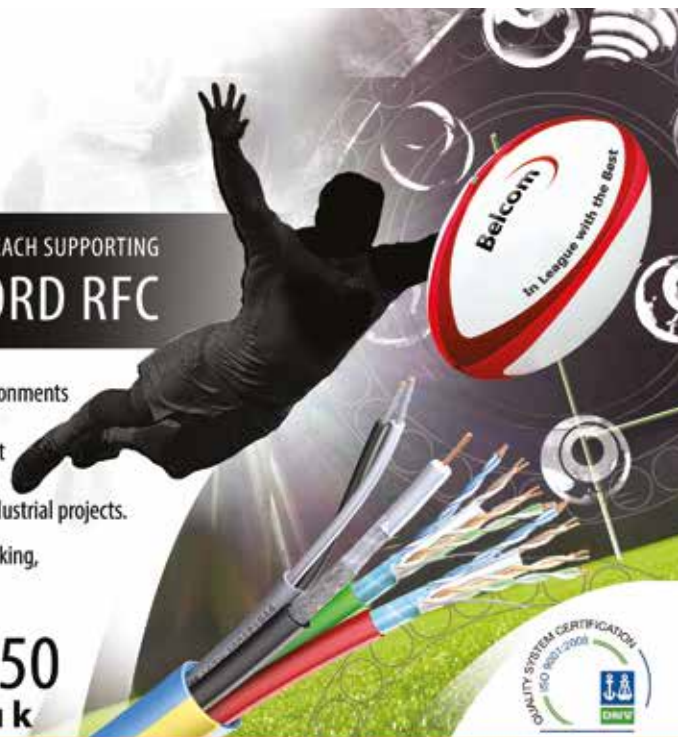
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NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

| 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 | 45-17 | 3/2 | 28-24 | 33-7 | 10/3 | 29-23 |
| B'ham | 21-21 | | 25-27 | 14-55 | 13-11 | 10/3 | 23/12 | 17-31 | 3/2 | 17/2 | 38-24 | 36-10 | 20/1 | 7/4 | 24/2 | 21/4 |
| BSRFC | 22-41 | 10/2 | | 3/2 | 49-26 | 21/4 | 27/1 | 22-22 | 24-17 | 7/4 | 35-31 | 43-12 | 18-14 | 23/12 | 17-36 | 13/1 |
| B'heath | 16-15 | 27/1 | 19-21 | | 29-17 | 2/4 | 23/12 | 39-24 | 17/2 | 10/3 | 46-13 | 21-22 | 31-3 | 21/4 | 32-31 | 23/12 |
| Caldy | 22-39 | 24/3 | 28/4 | 14/4 | | 16-20 | 3/3 | 20/1 | 15-7 | 37-19 | 27-26 | 6/1 | 21-0 | 27/1 | 17-34 | 10/2 |
| Camb | 10/2 | 15-22 | 22-21 | 16-27 | 13/1 | | 7-40 | 6/1 | 14/4 | 28/4 | 3/3 | 9-14 | 24/3 | 28-29 | 27/1 | 50-23 |
| Coventry | 63-14 | 50-11 | 30-27 | 37-10 | 38-14 | 17/2 | | 21/4 | 20/1 | 3/2 | 28/4 | 36-0 | 6/1 | 10/3 | 29-14 | 7/4 |
| DarlMPk | 21-15 | 13/1 | 24/3 | 10/2 | 32-26 | 35-18 | 24/2 | | 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 | 10-13 | 26-61 | 33-26 | | 50-12 | 27/1 | 2/4 | 10/2 | 39-14 | 23/12 | 32-17 |
| Fylde | 27/1 | 22-26 | 29-22 | 19-26 | 23/12 | 12-25 | 0-64 | 10-13 | 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 | 27-11 | 7/4 | 24/2 |
| L'boro S | 14-36 | 3/3 | 14/4 | 24/3 | 26-31 | 23/12 | 10/2 | 28/4 | 49-38 | 21-0 | 58-29 | | 37-18 | 13/1 | 28-49 | 27/1 |
| O.Alb'n | 23/12 | 19-38 | 12/2 | 3/2 | 2/4 | 7-54 | 19-21 | 33-31 | 29-15 | 15-16 | 13/1 | 10/3 | | 15-24 | 21/4 | 0-58 |
| O.Eltham | 3/3 | 47-17 | 13-19 | 32-7 | 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 | 29-3 | 20/1 | 26-8 | 17-17 | | 3/3 |
| RossPk | 24/3 | 30-26 | 24-31 | 6-25 | 36-32 | 3/2 | 13-43 | 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

16th December Results

| Home Team | | | Away Team |
|------------------------|----|----|--------------------|
| Amphill & District | 45 | 17 | Hull Ionians |
| Caldy | 15 | 7 | Esher |
| Cambridge | 22 | 21 | Bishop`s Stortford |
| Darlington Mowden Park | P | P | Coventry |
| Old Elthamians | 32 | 7 | Blackheath |
| Loughborough Students | 21 | 0 | Fylde |
| Plymouth Albion | 26 | 8 | Old Albanian |
| Rosslyn Park | 30 | 26 | Birmingham Moseley |

Season 2017-2018 NATIONAL 1

23rd December Fixtures

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

National League 1

| Club | Pld | W | D | L | F | A | PD | TBP | LBP | Ded | Pts |
|---------------------------|-----|----|---|----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1) Coventry | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 595 | 191 | 404 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 68 |
| 2) Darlington Mowden Park | 14 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 400 | 310 | 90 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 55 |
| 3) Plymouth Albion | 14 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 437 | 254 | 183 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 52 |
| 4) Amphill and District | 15 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 412 | 291 | 121 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 51 |
| 5) Blackheath | 15 | 10 | 0 | 5 | 402 | 298 | 104 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 49 |
| 6) Bishop`s Stortford | 15 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 398 | 361 | 37 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 46 |
| 7) Old Elthamians | 15 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 367 | 333 | 34 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 43 |
| 8) Birmingham Moseley | 14 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 336 | 389 | -53 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 38 |
| 9) Cambridge | 15 | 7 | 0 | 8 | 316 | 307 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 37 |
| 10) Esher | 15 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 365 | 442 | -77 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 31 |
| 11) Caldby | 15 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 333 | 391 | -58 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 31 |
| 12) Loughborough Students | 15 | 6 | 0 | 9 | 348 | 464 | -116 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 30 |
| 13) Rosslyn Park | 14 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 359 | 407 | -48 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 27 |
| 14) Hull Ionians | 14 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 334 | 478 | -144 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 26 |
| 15) Old Albanian | 15 | 3 | 0 | 12 | 240 | 444 | -204 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 18 |
| 16) Fylde | 15 | 3 | 0 | 12 | 216 | 498 | -282 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 17 |

THE TEAMS



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BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1ST XV

BLUE AND WHITE

| | |
|----|----------------|
| 1 | Seb Brownhill |
| 2 | Sam James |
| 3 | Tom McCrone |
| 4 | James Apperley |
| 5 | Matt Tomlinson |
| 6 | Steve Ball |
| 7 | Rory Banks |
| 8 | Dan Leo |
| 9 | Tom Banks |
| 10 | George Cullen |
| 11 | Jimmy Rea |
| 12 | Johnny Neville |
| 13 | Sam Winter © |
| 14 | Chris Smith |
| 15 | Nick Hankin |

REPLACEMENTS

| | |
|----|-----------------|
| 16 | Beck Cutting |
| 17 | Sean Edwards |
| 18 | Ben Kelland |
| 19 | Matt Riddington |
| 20 | Sam Coleman |

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BUSINESS CENTRES

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

Referee Daniel Collins
Assistant Referee 1 Mark Rose
Assistant Referee 2 Leo Burton

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OLD ELTHAMIANS RFC

WHITE, NAVY BLUE AND GOLD

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Lewis Brown | 1 |
| Nathan Morris | 2 |
| Alex Rogers | 3 |
| Adam Preocanin | 4 |
| Ian Kench | 5 |
| George Messum | 6 |
| Hamish Barton | 7 |
| Ben King | 8 |
| Ollie Claxton | 9 |
| Tom White | 10 |
| Alex Brown | 11 |
| Max Wilkins | 12 |
| Kieran Moffat | 13 |
| Dom Lespierre | 14 |
| Chris Surman | 15 |

Man of the Match Sponsors



REPLACEMENTS

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Jon Fordham | 16 |
| Jay Rudland-Thomas | 17 |
| Harry Ledger | 18 |
| Tom Parker | 19 |
| Joe Carlsile | 20 |

Director of Rugby Gavin Lach | **Head Coach** Sam Howard | **1st xv Manager** Ally Vanner
Coaches Aaron Liffcheck, Ian Kench | **Physios** Trevor Keys, Grace Sheppard



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CAMBRIDGE RUFC 22

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1ST XV 21

AFTER LAST WEEK'S STRUCTURED AND MULTI-PRONGED ATTACKING PERFORMANCE, STORTFORD TODAY SLIPPED BACK INTO THE ONE-DIMENSIONAL APPROACH, WHICH SAW THEIR DOWNFALL THE PREVIOUS WEEK AT FYLDE.

On this occasion, they couldn't be faulted for lack of commitment against a Cambridge side battling to end a poor run of form at home, but there was a marked lack of variety and ambition with ball in hand, which played into the hands of a home side that barely missed a tackle all day.

The first half was nip and tuck, with Stortford having the better of possession and territory, but Cambridge looking far more threatening on the occasions they could lay their hands on the ball. Both sides were guilty of early indiscipline, resulting in an exchange of penalty goals after 4 and 8 minutes, with Cambridge pegging back the early Stortford lead. The visitors then mounted another sustained attack, but without ever looking likely to break through the Cambridge defensive line and, when the ball was turned over, the home side immediately posed a threat, bursting up the middle from their own 22 and sweeping almost instantly into the Stortford red zone. Some stout back-foot defending by the visitors managed to repel the attack and they were able to grind their way through many phases and another penalty or two back close to the Cambridge line.

Another penalty after 25 minutes produced a yellow card for the home team and George Cullen drove home the advantage, by converting the kick at goal to restore his side's 3 point lead. Despite being down to 14 men, Cambridge launched another strong attack from the restart and, after several phases of powerful running, with penalty advantage being played in their favour, a clever grubber kick from some 5 metres out by their flyhalf was dived on by a supporting player for a try under the posts on 32 minutes. The easy conversion established a four point lead, but this was overturned, as time was running out in the first half, when Matt Tomlinson managed to stretch out his long arms over his head to touch down, rounding off a good period of more aggressive running from his fellow forwards. Cullen's kick took Stortford into the break with a 3 point lead.

This situation changed quite quickly after the restart, though, as Cambridge put the pressure on, kicking two more penalty goals after 5 and 8 minutes. The latter came after the home side had butchered a clear try-scoring chance out wide, as their powerful centre went for glory with a clear overlap outside, but at least they went away with points on the board. Stortford continued to battle gamely, but without the ingenuity to break down Cambridge's solid defence, forcing Cullen to go for an ambitious long penalty shot at goal, which fell well short. More concerted pressure from Stortford, though, going through many more phases of attritional rugby, eventually got them towards the Cambridge 22, where another penalty was won after 60 minutes and Cullen this time made no mistake. The home side were soon in the lead again, though after a period of attack, where, once again, they looked more threatening than their opponents, ultimately forcing a penalty for offside, duly converted by their flyhalf.

With time running out a potentially crucial score went Stortford's way when, after an excellent territorial kick by Cullen, another penalty was won at a breakdown and the kick set up a 5 metre lineout. What was either a serious overthrow of Stortford's middle jumper, or a brilliant decoy jump and throw over his head into the waiting arms of Seb Brownhill, saw the replacement prop plunge over for a try. Cullen's conversion attempt flew narrowly wide but, with only 2 or 3 minutes to play, the visitors were in the driving seat. Unfortunately, though their steering developed a wobble as, first they kicked away good ball from the base of a solid scrum, compounded shortly after by conceding a penalty at a subsequent scrum, as for the first time in the match, the home side put on a powerful shove. The penalty was pretty much on the halfway line, but the Cambridge flyhalf opted immediately to go for goal and justified his confidence by banging the ball a yard or two over the crossbar for a dramatic finale.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT: SEAN EDWARDS



GROWING UP IN A RUGBY HOUSEHOLD WITH A WELSH FATHER FROM CARDIFF AND SCOTTISH MOTHER FROM HAWICK, I WAS ALWAYS DESTINED TO PLAY RUGBY

Unfortunately genetics, but mainly food and beer have always limited me to the glamorous life of a tighthead prop.

My early childhood memories consist of mainly being at my local rugby club Wimborne watching my father Tony 'run out' (less run more walk by that point). I started there at the tender age of six and played all the way up to the colts achieving an appearance at Twickenham in the national cup final at U14 level and representing Dorset and Wilts through the age groups. My main education in rugby came in the form of fourth team rugby at Wimborne. I learnt a lot playing with the 'old boys' but will always revere the time I spent playing in same team as my dad. The prematch rituals of port, no warm up and the smell of deep heat will always stay with me but the after match beers and rugby traditions sculptured me into the player and lover of rugby that I am.

I left Dorset in 2007 for the University in Hertfordshire to study Physiotherapy. I played in the 1st XV under Stortford coach Pete Engledow. I captained an eclectic 1st XV in my second year that could feature Saracens academy boys like Alex Goode one week and then 13 drunken students the next. I graduated in 2010 with 1st class honours (who said props were thick!) and decided to settle up in Hertfordshire after meeting Lily my long suffering girlfriend at university.

While working at my first job in St Albans I joined St Albans RFC playing in London north west 2 and spent two year improving my post-match social skills and bulking!

A combination of moving to Furneux Pelham and my father insistence that I was wasting my talent at St Albans RFC I joined BSRFC in 2012. I attended two preseason training sessions splitting my eyebrow open twice and generally giving the impression I'd never played rugby before. I think that most of the boys at the time thought I would be like a fart in the wind and vanish without a

trace. Luckily for me but mainly them I stuck it out and eventually played 21 games in our promotion winning session from Nat 3 South.

I have now amassed over 150 caps for the 1st VX and two national league titles. I have also been lucky enough to play for Hertfordshire and toured Georgia with England counties in 2014. I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity play at such a great club and with some outstanding players.

In the true spirit of the game that I was brought up on my main memories of Stortford will always be the beers with the boys. From the changing room at Exmouth when we won the Nat 2 title to the booze buses back from every Redruth loss we've never failed to enjoy a night out. I've never known how I ended up with the nickname social hand grenade!

So I look forward to seeing you in bar after the game for a Christmas drink, I'll have a Guinness.





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Working in conjunction with the 1stXV coaching team, CS provides funding for various expenditure beyond the financial resources of the main club.

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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PANTAJALI





What is Vinyasa Flow Yoga?


The word "**vinyasa**" can be translated as "arranging something in a special way," like yoga poses for example. Vinyasa Yoga is a style of **yoga** that focuses on **flow**. Vinyasa Yoga movements are very **smooth** and each pose **connects to the next** with either an inhale or an exhale.


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BSRFC LADIES'

BY JANE WALLACE

BSRFC HAS SHOWN SUCCESS ALL ACROSS THE BOARD IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE SEASON AND THE LADIES' TEAM ARE PROVING THEIR POWER WITH FOUR WINS FROM FIVE IN THEIR FIRST LEAGUE.

Injuries have riddled the team with Carly, Victoria, Kate, Hannah, Jennie, Amber and Jasmin carrying some niggles going into the festive season. On a positive note, none of the injuries seem to be long-term so they don't need to take on the role of team journalist



Some highlights from the season so far... utility player Hannah Boyle has learnt that getting a nose piercing in the rugby season wasn't a great idea. She would have a roll of tape across her nose and face at matches to avoid it getting ripped out. Some of the coaches had more simple solutions that would lead to taking the piercing out for 80 minutes. But that's none of my business.

If I've learnt anything over the season it is that a club blazer doesn't give you the power to argue with a referee, as demonstrated by Club President which resulted in a yellow card... unlucky Perry.

Some forwards should stay as forwards, when former player Dave Walker was sacked by the referee from his very simple role of flag holder on the touch line. At least this wasn't a four week ban (just ask him).

Second row Carly wasn't to happy after told she would have to do another carry when she yelled out 'Oh for f@&\$ sake' after catching the ball in the 78th minute, a festive word that rarely comes from Mrs Poyser.

One player that sometimes needed a guide dog herself was fly-half, Amber King. I'm not sure whether a ball with a bell in it or velcro ball and gloves would help with handling but we're all open to ideas.

The Ladies' Team has been thriving from the support from the club, coaches and other players. We're so flattered we get the leftover bread (no butter) from the 1st XV on a Tuesday night which shows support like no other #OneClub.

On the top of Carly's Santa list is for more sponsors to help with the encouragement of Women and Girls' Rugby going into 2018. From all of us involved with the Ladies Team we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we hope to see you on the sidelines or in the bar next year.



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SIAN WILDE. BSRFCBOOKINGS1@GMAIL.COM
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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
or contact **Bob Winnington** on
07988 646 384.





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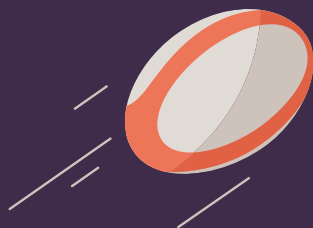
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Let's play... **Name that member!**

**OOH ERR
MRS!!**



Cartoon by **Ben Hewer** of

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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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www.pitchero.com/clubs/bishopsstortfordrfc/signup



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