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WINTER TOUCH RUGBY
NOT JUST A SUMMER SPORT

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:
JOHNNY NEVILLE

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD RFC V COVENTRY RFC

27 January 2018

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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

PERRY OLIVER



GOOD AFTERNOON EVERYONE & A SPECIAL WELCOME FOR THE FIRST TIME TO THE PLAYERS, OFFICIALS AND SUPPORTERS OF COVENTRY RFC.

I think it's fair to say that as we've moved into 2018 we've lost a bit of momentum and not just at 1st XV level!

I think we always anticipated that the second half of the season would be tougher than the first that only goes so far in explaining our hiccup in form. Others may disagree but I don't think we can have too many complaints about our losses to Rosslyn Park & Ampt Hill. In both games we were second best for long periods, struggling to secure & then retain possession of the ball for any sustained passage of time. On a positive note when we did we invariably scored but by then we were playing catch up.

So it is against that backdrop that this afternoon we're visited by the runaway leaders of the division. Our opponents today have only failed to win one game all season, an aberration a couple of weeks back against Blackheath, and despite that are still the red hot favourites to secure the one promotion place available into the Championship. You'd therefore have to be an eternal optimist to predict a home win this afternoon.

Or would you? Our guys often perform at their best when written off. You only have to look at the game at Coventry back in the first week of October to see that. We supporters travelled more in hope than expectation but that clearly wasn't the case for the players. That afternoon they produced a determined & resilient display against an excellent Coventry team and but for a couple of unfortunate 'bounces of the ball' may well have emerged with an unlikely but nonetheless deserved victory. If they can produce a similar display this afternoon anything could happen.

Results haven't been much better elsewhere in our senior rugby section. Injuries in the First XV have undoubtedly impacted on our Blues. They consistently show considerable spirit & great fight but are often outmuscled. They must be very frustrated because they seem to have lost so many games by just a single score. Our Mitres are struggling to get any game time. Far too many of their scheduled match ups fail to materialise and it's a worry.

Once again at the time of writing we have six senior games this weekend but if recent experience is anything to go by it'll be a miracle if they all get played; Our Blues and Chindits are here against Coventry Development & Ampt Hill respectively, whilst our Mitres and Abbots are on the road at Hammersmith & Fulham and Southgate. Our Ladies will also be looking to get back to winning ways when they entertain Welwyn tomorrow afternoon.

Finally I think with all the rain we've had of late I can safely predict that it's going to be a bit soft underfoot this afternoon and would recommend that unless you're wearing wellies you use the concrete path that runs behind the tree line to reach pitch side.

Here's hoping its better rugby watching weather this weekend than it was last. But as always I hope you enjoy your afternoon with us here at Stortford.

COYB!

Perry Oliver
President

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DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

ANDY LONG



IT'S FAIR TO SAY THE LAST TWO WEEKS HAVE BEEN FRUSTRATING FOR US WITH BACK-TO-BACK LOSSES SOMETHING WE'VE NOT BEEN ACCUSTOMED TO OVER RECENT SEASONS.

As a group we are determined to change that run of results.

Enjoy the game

Amphill is always a difficult place to go and conditions meant an attritional arm wrestle was always on the cards. If we're honest with ourselves we made too many errors in the opening 20 minutes, which allowed the hosts to gain an upper hand, and we were never able to close the gap.

Longy

This season was always going to be about learning and development, building capability across the wider squad and adding layers to our game technically, tactically and emotionally. As coaches our goal is to equip the team to be able to adapt quickly to situations on the field. Our progress has been good but as always can be better.

Today's opponents Coventry are riding high at the top of the table having only been defeated once this season. They are clearly a quality side but our performance earlier in the season was superb and perhaps on another day we would have walked away with the points. If we can repeat that sort of form today then anything is possible.



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Questions asked by
Jack Scantlebury

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BSRFC 1'S XV 2017/18



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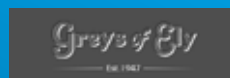
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WINTER TOUCH RUGBY AT BSRFC

BY IAIN LOCK

TOUCH RUGBY IS OFTEN SEEN AS A SPRING AND SUMMER SPORT, BUT ALTHOUGH THE WEATHER IS COLD AND WET OUR HARDY TOUCH RUGBY PLAYERS CONTINUE TO PLAY WHATEVER THE WEATHER.



For the winter we have decamped to the Astro pitch at Bishops Stortford College. This gives us the chance to continue to play on a clean flat surface and to save our 4th team pitch from becoming a mud bath!

Playing on an Astro surface has real benefits to our game as it allows us to play fast, action packed Touch Rugby. Our game has really speeded up, although this might have something to do with a certain Michael Roberts charging around with Dave Walker in pursuit. The speed of the game means there is little room for error as each dropped pass results in a turnover of possession. Suddenly a promising attack turns in to a frantic defence and you find yourself back peddling 30 metres or more with burning legs and busting lungs. Fortunately we have rolling subs to come to the rescue, but you don't get long to rest as there is always someone looking to take a break.

As we are a mixed group of varying abilities the surface has certainly helped all players improve their overall game. The wet grass pitches that

we were playing on up until Christmas resulted in many dropped balls and miss placed passes that slowed the game down and fewer tries were being scored.

Overall we are enjoying our time on the Astro pitch and especially the recovery drinks in the Harvest Moon afterwards. However there is no place like home and we look forward to returning to the familiar surroundings of the club in March.

We always welcome new players, so if you fancy giving Touch Rugby a try please feel free to come along on a Wednesday night 7.30 until 9 o'clock on the Astro pitches in the Collage Pre Prep entrance on Great Hadham Road. You can find directions and contact us on our Facebook page BSRFC Touch Rugby. I look forward to seeing you there.



BOB “THE SHOP”

10 YEARS ON



MY FIRST ASSOCIATION WITH THE CLUB BEGAN WHEN MY SON JOINED THE UNDER 7s IN 1999.

In common with many current and past Mini and Youth parents, my wife, Julie, and I spent many wet, windy and freezing Sunday mornings cheering on our kids with endless enthusiasm!

With high calibre coaches such as John Cullen and Jim Taylor at our disposal, I realised I was best deployed supporting the age group as a Team Manager and took up the role from the Under 13s to Colts. We had a talented and committed group realising their potential by winning the Colts National Plate at the “Mecca of English Rugby”, Franklins Gardens, in 2011. With a team including Tom Banks, George Cullen, Rory Young, Will Roberts, Tom McCrone, Jamie Campbell and Jack Scantlebury, the quality was there for all to see!

Ten years ago, I left my career in banking and was looking for new challenges. I found a new “day job” in Customer Service and an opportunity also arose to become involved at the Club on the commercial side and I took over the running of the club shop. My first action was to meet with the club’s long standing kit suppliers and their unwillingness to offer credit terms or amend product supply rules resulted in me terminating the contract with immediate effect. Great start; no experience in running a club shop and no supplier in week one! Things could only get better!

I also had the pleasure of operating from a converted container at the back of the clubhouse which was dark and cold throughout the year! With help from Kerry, Denise, Janet, Karen and Elaine in those early years, we gradually started to get things moving. I found a new supplier and we tripled the turnover and

doubled the profit in the first year. We then consolidated in the aftermath of the financial crisis and developed increasing sales which took a positive boost when we moved to the shop’s current location at the front of the clubhouse some four years ago.

Since this time, the shop has become far more integrated within the club. Saturday sales in particular have risen markedly on the back of the considerable success of the 1st XV over this period. So much so that the total sales at this point of the season have exceeded the annual takings of all previous seasons over the past nine years! A big thank you to all our members and customers who have supported the club over the years and during this season in particular. I am passionate about providing the best service I can and I am constantly looking at ways of improving what we do with plans underway to improve our online offering.

I know most of you are familiar with our extensive range of playing kit (shirts, shorts, socks etc), leisurewear (coats, hoodies, fleeces etc) and accessories (hats, scarves, ties etc) and my endless efforts to merchandise along the touchline. However, if you haven’t been to see us in the shop, please call in on 1st XV match days when I am helped by Lucy or on Sunday mornings when Emma will be with me to greet you.

For the 200+ Coventry supporters visiting us today, feel free to call in and maybe take away a Pin Badge as a souvenir of your visit – great value at £3!
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TODAY'S OPPOSITION

COVENTRY RFC



COVENTRY CAN TRACE THEIR ORIGINS BACK TO 1874 WHEN THE FIRST ORGANISED GAME OF RUGBY FOOTBALL -IT TOOK THE FORM OF ONE HALF PLAYED ACCORDING TO RUGBY RULES AND THE OTHER ACCORDING TO ASSOCIATION RULES- WAS PLAYED IN THE CITY.

Their first ever ground was known as 'The Butts' but in 1921 they relocated to Coundon Road where they stayed until 2004.

The club was successful from the outset and indeed William Judkins became their first British Lion in 1899 during the tour to Australia. In the early 1970s at one time thirteen players from the club were representing England & not unsurprisingly they won The John Player Cup in consecutive seasons 1972-73 and 1973-74.

When league rugby was first introduced in 1987 the club was positioned in what is now known as the Premiership although they only survived one year at that level. In 1997 they came within touching distance of promotion back to the top level but they were soon to hit financial difficulties with a rescue package put together just in time for them to compete in the 1999-2000 season.

After eighty-four years the decision was made to move away from Coundon Road and return to the site of their original ground which is now known as The Butts Park Arena. Financial insecurity still dogged them though and two further 'rescues' were required in 2008 & 2009. Not unsurprisingly relegation from the Championship soon followed.

After a couple of seasons of consolidation at level three they have since become ever

presents at the business end of the table and it is therefore no surprise that this season they are carrying all before them as long time league leaders, as they look to regain their place in the Championship.

They can claim no fewer than 10 B&I Lions in total and famous rugby names to have worn their colours include Fran Cotton, David Duckham, Richard Cockerill, Danny Grewcock and of course their current President Peter Rossborough.

At the beginning of October we visited the Butts Park Arena for the first time and performed admirably despite losing to a late penalty 30-27

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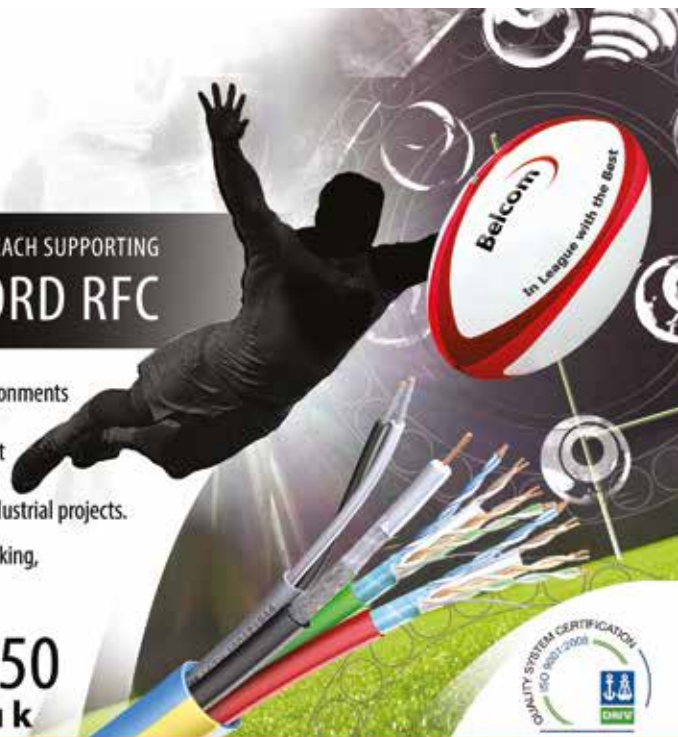
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RESULTS GRID, TABLE & FIXTURES

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	22-12	21-14	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	17-41	17-31	3/2	17/2	38-24	36-10	34-13	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	34-20	17-36	20-22
B'heath	16-15	27/1	19-21		29-17	2/4	61-29	39-24	17/2	10/3	46-13	21-22	31-3	21/4	32-31	17-17
Caldy	22-39	24/3	28/4	14/4		16-20	3/3	8-10	15-7	37-19	27-26	71-14	21-0	27/1	17-34	10/2
Camb	10/2	15-22	22-21	16-27	24/2		7-40	17/3	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	57-12	3/2	28/4	36-0	52-5	10/3	29-14	7/4
DarlMPK	21-15	42-7	24/3	10/2	32-26	35-18	24/2		3/2	14/4	26-0	33-23	27/1	36-21	33-31	36-7
Esher	29-29	27-32	10/3	28-19	21/4	10-13	26-61	33-26		50-12	27/1	2/4	10/2	39-14	29-33	32-17
Fylde	27/1	22-26	29-22	19-26	9-34	12-25	0-64	10-13	24/3		10/2	21/4	3/3	7-43	0-26	29-20
Hull Ion	21/4	13-29	3/2	32-21	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	21-28	10/2	28/4	49-38	21-0	58-29		37-18	21-25	28-49	27/1
O.Alb'n	35-35	19-38	17/2	3/2	2/4	7-54	19-21	33-31	29-15	15-16	50-28	10/3		15-24	21/4	0-58
O.Eltham		3/3		32-7	23-21	12-7	16-20	3/2	28/4	55-10	24/3	36-20	14/4		10/2	34-27
Plym'th																
Plym'th	16-9	14/4	17/3	28/4	3/2	17-10	24/3	17/2	43-10	68-15	29-3	31/3	26-8	17-17		3/3
RossPK	24/3	30-26	24-31	6-25	36-32	3/2	13-43	10/3	44-37	31-15	14/4	49-14	28/4	17/2	26-26	
Round 1-15																
Round 16-30																

Season 2017-2018 NATIONAL 1

20th January Results

Home Team			Away Team
Caldy	8	10	Darlington Mowden Park
Hull Ionians	32	21	Blackheath
Old Elthamians	12	7	Cambridge
Amphill & District	22	12	Bishop`s Stortford
Birmingham Moseley	34	13	Old Albanian
Coventry	57	12	Esher
Plymouth Albion	P	P	Loughborough Students
Rosslyn Park	31	15	Fylde

Season 2017-2018 NATIONAL 1

27th January Fixtures

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

National League 1

Club	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	PD	TBP	LBP	Ded	Pts
1) Coventry	18	17	0	1	774	286	488	16	0	0	84
2) Darlington Mowden Park	17	13	1	3	478	325	153	13	2	0	69
3) Amphill and District	19	11	3	5	519	381	138	11	4	0	65
4) Plymouth Albion	16	11	2	3	496	283	213	12	2	0	62
5) Blackheath	19	11	1	7	515	397	118	8	3	0	57
6) Old Elthamians	19	11	1	7	479	405	74	9	2	0	57
7) Bishop's Stortford	18	10	1	7	464	425	39	6	4	0	52
8) Birmingham Moseley	18	9	1	8	423	498	-75	8	2	0	48
9) Rosslyn Park	18	7	2	9	473	496	-23	9	3	0	44
10) Cambridge	17	8	0	9	351	340	11	4	6	0	42
11) Caldý	18	7	0	11	446	424	22	8	6	0	42
12) Esher	19	5	1	13	472	605	-133	11	5	0	38
13) Loughborough Students	18	6	0	12	404	588	-184	5	3	0	32
14) Hull Ionians	18	5	0	13	407	604	-197	10	2	0	32
15) Old Albanian	19	4	1	14	343	593	-250	4	4	0	26
16) Fylde	19	3	0	16	250	644	-394	2	3	0	17

THE TEAMS



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BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1ST XV

BLUE AND WHITE

1	Seb Brownhill
2	James Palmer
3	Sean Edwards
4	Ben Kelland
5	Matt Tomlinson
6	James Apperley
7	Rory Banks
8	Dan Leo
9	Tom Banks
10	George Cullen
11	Ryan Hutler
12	Matt Riddington
13	Sam Winter ©
14	Nick Hankin
15	Rob Duff

REPLACEMENTS

16	Tommy Cattell
17	Tom McCrone
18	Steve Ball
19	Chris Smith
20	Sam Coleman

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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 Neil Chivers
Assistant Referee 1 Simon Dodd
Assistant Referee 2 Matthew Todd

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COVENTRY RFC

RED, WHITE AND NAVY BLUE

Nathanael Titchard-Jones	1
Phil Nilsen	2
Phil Boulton	3
Nile Dacres	4
George Oram	5
Latu Makaafi	6
Jack Preece	7
Luke Narraway	8
Pete White	9
Will Maisey	10
Max Trimble	11
Anthony Matoto	12
Alex Grove	13
Rob Knox	14
James Stokes	15

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REPLACEMENTS

Scott Tolmie	16
Luc Jeannot	17
Brett Daynes	18
Dave Brazier	19
Tony Fenner	20

Director of Rugby Rowland Winter | **Coaches** Nick Walshe, Louis Deacon, Luke Narraway
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BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1ST XV 12 AMPTHILL AND DISTRICT 22

ERROR-PRONE STORTFORD WELL BEATEN BY A LIMITED BUT REMORSELESS AMPTHILL SIDE, REVELLING IN THE DANK CONDITIONS.

In a first half littered with errors, poor tactical kicking, soft penalty concessions and a faltering lineout, Stortford struggled to string any periods of possession together and did well to turn round only 10 points in arrears, thanks to some strong and determined defending.

The home side, by contrast were a model of control and consistency, being content to run through phase after phase before even thinking of going wide. It was just such a passage of play that led to the first try after 12 minutes, building from one of several 5 metre lineouts from penalties conceded far too readily by the visitors. Several thrusts from Ampthill's powerful forwards were rebuffed, but they showed good patience, sucking in Stortford's defence before finally and very clinically spinning the ball wide for their left wing to touch down out wide. James Pritchard kicked an excellent conversion from the touchline. Despite dominating possession and territory for the rest of the half, though, all the home side had to show for it was a penalty goal to Pritchard after 35 minutes for what appeared to be a harsh call of a high tackle.

Stortford finally found a bit of rhythm early in the second half, managing to string together a series of driving plays by the pack to give the backs some rare space. Matt Riddington was quick to seize on this, making a strong outside break and then finding Ryan Hutler cutting inside with a pinpoint offload, allowing the winger to plunge in for an unconverted try close to the touchline.

Ampthill then resumed control, but were held out again by some excellent Stortford defence, until an easy turnover, as Stortford broke from the back of a scrum in their own half caught them off balance and a testing crossfield kick from flyhalf, Lawrence Rayner was not dealt with at all, allowing the home left winger, to run in his second try. Another great conversion stretched the lead to 12 points after 25 minutes. Stortford again fought back, but two forays into the Ampthill 22 were frustrated by penalties for fringing at rucks right on the try line.

The home side took full advantage of these escapes to work their way downfield, where further penalties were conceded by the visitors, the second also bringing a red card for Dan Leo for what was deemed a dangerous tackle, even though it was at knee level. This was shortly followed by another Ampthill try, as time was running out, when a badly-missed tackle allowed the home side's replacement scrum half to break from the back of a ruck and dash over from 20 yards out without a hand being laid on him. The conversion was missed and there was just enough time for Stortford to win a penalty of their own, which went to touch for a 5 metre lineout, from which the pack was able to drive over for a try to James Apperley. This, unfortunately proved to have been too little, too late, as Tom Banks' successful conversion was the last act of the game.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT: JOHNNY NEVILLE



THIS IS NOW MY 5TH SEASON AT BISHOP'S STORTFORD. THAT TIME HAS ABSOLUTELY FLOWN.

We have seen and experienced so much as a group; some highs and lows along the way both individually and as a team. There are a few things that remain constant within our evolution; club ethos, commitment to the cause and a hunger to improve and develop.

As an 'outsider' (born and bred West Country boy) and relative journeyman in terms of number of other teams I have played for, BSRFC stands head and shoulders above the rest when it comes to ethos. The first thing I tell anyone about the team I play for is the pride I have when taking the field with 10 plus home grown lads every weekend. This is unique and in my mind one of our differentiators. We have a backbone built stronger than any other side we face. Resilience goes a long way on a rugby field. This has all been made possible by the support and community you have all created over 98 years, one I count myself fortunate to be part of.

This season has posed new challenges; new teams, new grounds, new faces, new patterns of play, the list goes on... To be able to cope with this scale of change we have all had to adapt, this has been a non-negotiable from day one of pre-season and the way the squad has gone about it has been fantastic. We are constantly being pushed and challenged in unfamiliar ways. The commitment to the cause has been unwavering throughout. We are at the 'semi' end of a 'semi-pro' league and our opponents today are more at the 'pro' end. This gives me great satisfaction. 95% of our team (few slackers) will have been up early, travelled an hour plus, worked hard and furthered their careers before travelling another hour plus to get to training. When you lose, when you have tough personal circumstances or when you are tired some clubs may start to falter. However the commitment shown by everyone in 1st and 2nd teams at BSRFC week in week out is exemplary and that breeds the right attitude for everyone to bounce off when they need to dig deep.

Playing in National 1 has forced us to raise

the bar continuously. This could have been a daunting task for some of us as time, energy and effort all need to increase in order to improve and develop. Huge credit must go to the coaches for giving us a framework in which we can do this, from strength and conditioning to 1-1 feedback sessions and more video reviews their approach has been professional and has delivered marginal gains. The part I have enjoyed most though is seeing the squad take responsibility for their own improvement and their own performances. Responsibility is a real buzz word in training at the moment and no one is shirking their role. You can feel the intensity at training has gone up a level and the standards we demand from one another are higher. It's exciting for the future as we are still a very young side (at 27 I feel like a senior citizen) and the potential of the group is enormous.

The future is bright with this group of players and we know on our day we can beat anyone in this league. Roll on the Championship for the Centenary year!





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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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INSPIRING A GENERATION –

BSRFC GIRLS' & LADIES' RUGBY TEAM

THIS YEAR BISHOP'S STORTFORD RUGBY CLUB IS REACHING OUT TO MORE PEOPLE BY INTRODUCING A NEW GIRLS' RUGBY TEAM.



Spearheaded by the Manager of BSRFC Ladies XV, Carly Posyer, the team will offer new opportunities to girls aged between 13-18. Following the success of the ladies' team, Posyer felt that it was important to get a girls' team set up to bridge the current gap between the age where girls are no longer allowed to play in mixed teams.

Many girls who are already playing rugby, or would like to try, are currently struggling to find a club to support them – a problem that BSRFC is proud to help solve.

To kickstart this, the club hosted an Inner Warrior Camp on Tuesday 23rd January. With support from the RFU, the club assisted 20 new girls and 3 new ladies in finding their own inner warrior.

The team is coached by eight members of the Ladies XV who recently passed their Level 2 Rugby Coaching Award and are ready to pass their knowledge to the next generation. However, it's not only girls the club was looking to inspire this week. The Inner Warrior Camp

was also open to ladies over 17. The women's session ran just after the girls' training and was attended by 25 women of all shapes, sizes and abilities.

The focus of these non-contact sessions was to give everyone the opportunity to give rugby a try and convince more girls and women that rugby is not just a 'man's sport'.

By encouraging more females to play rugby, the Team is hoping to expand its current senior side and allow the opportunity to allow the girls to move up through the ages.

Training for both the girls and ladies will run every Tuesday. The girls' sessions run from 6pm – 7.30pm. The women's sessions run from 7.15pm – 9pm.

For more information and to find out about joining the team, please contact us on one of our social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) or email bsrfcladies@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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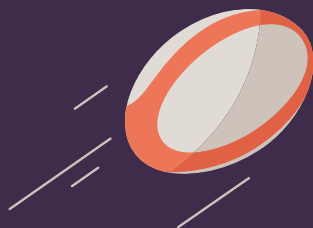
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BISHOP'S STORTFORD RFC MATCH DAY EXPERIENCE

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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