

# B\$RFC

OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME



REPORT ROUND UP

MINI'S COACH CHRIS LONGHAM

**MATCH REPORT** 

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1ST XV
VS ROSSLYN PARK

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD RFC V BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY RFC
15th September 2018





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### **PRESIDENT'S WELCOME**

#### MICK COLEMAN

I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to the players, coaches, officials and supporters of Birmingham Moseley RFC, for today's 1st XV match. Also most welcome, are the players and officials of Jersey Athletic, who take on our Blues with a kick off time of 1.30pm, so if you read this in time, please get yourselves pitch side and give the boys some support.

Westbury Garden Rooms are todays Man of the Match sponsors, and as always, Johnny Hey and his guests are always very welcome.

It's certainly a very different start to this year's campaign for us, compared to last season's strong start, when we won both our opening encounters. However, both of our games so far have been close fought against strong opposition, and there were definite positives to be taken from them both. I'm sure Longy and his coaches will have found plenty to work on in training this week and the squad will no doubt be buoyed by the return of some injured players, who have yet to feature so far this term.

Birmingham Mosely find themselves in a very similar position to ourselves, having also lost both their opening encounters closely, albeit scoring one more bonus point than us. With both matches last season being close fought affairs, this afternoon's game promises to be another nail biter.

Next week, we make the long trip north to take on newly promoted Sale FC. As our happy band of supporters love a new venue, I'm sure we'll see many of you up there, for what promises to be yet another tough game, But then, I think we all know there ain't gonna be any easy ones!

I hope you all have a great afternoon, with ours being just that little bit better than Birmingham Moseley's!

Mick Coleman



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### **DIRECTOR OF RUGBY**

#### **ANDY LONG**

So we are two weeks in to the season and a bit of a mixed bag of performances if we are honest with ourselves.

We played really well in our opening game against Darlington and on another day and with a little more composure would have come out victors but our performance was of a high standard.

Our first half against Rosslyn Park last week was not good enough by our standards and left us with too much to do in the second half, our fight back showed character and spirit but we ultimately lost the game in the first half.

I've seen enough quality in the past two games to know we are moving in the right direction the next step is to bring a greater consistency, which would allow us to build extended pressure.

We welcome Richard and his Birmingham Moseley side to Silver Leys today in a similar position to ourselves striving for their first win of the campaign. We know from our contests last season that we can expect a physical encounter and with our finishing league positions a tight match.

It's great to see so many mini and junior players supporting the team on match days, we are really proud of the number of players who come through our homegrown pathway and into senior rugby. Against DMP 14 of the 20 man squad were former Colts players. This is something that shouldn't be forgotten when we look around us in the league.

I hope you enjoy the game

Longy







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### **MINI'S REPORT ROUND-UP**

As we start another season in the Mini's it's been great to see the enthusiasm that the kids have come back with and also more kids wanting to start playing rugby. Numbers that have registered is amazing and now the fun begins in providing quality training and giving them all the opportunity to play in matches and tournaments.

In the under 8's myself and Stuart Haslam are enjoying coaching the kids and great to have a number of parents helping out, without their involvement would be an impossible task.

I took the decision to become a qualified Level 2 coach last year as I quickly realised there is a vast difference between playing and coaching, so 3 freezing cold days in December at Herts and Essex School in the company of our Ladies section I qualified. I would recommend this to any coach starting out.

As the Mini's continue to grow it creates opportunities for sponsorship and having Hanbury Wealth sponsoring the Mini section along with Proco it shows their desire to get involved in the local community. I was offered the opportunity to join Hanbury Wealth as a Financial Adviser recently and now enjoying working in the local area. Have a great season.

Chris Longman



# THE PLAYERS BSRFC 1'S XV 2017/18



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### **BLUES**

#### Hertford 2nd XV vs BSRFC Blues Saturday 8th September 2018

With new season now in full swing, both teams made the best of the second week fixture gap and went head to head in another passionate derby day at Hertford's Home ground, and with the pre-season defeat still a fresh wound, the Stortford Blues went with only a win in mind.

Another strong Blues team saw the return of Jack Scantlebury after a week off, as well the return of powerful winger Simon Wazza Wasley. Again, though an impressive turnout from last season's Colts team stood the Blues in a fancied position with pace and power across the pitch.

In a well contested match, it was the small touches of finesse and athleticism that separated the teams. The first try coming after 15 minutes, with Stortford stealing the ball Just inside their own half before moving the Ball through the hands to winger Simon Wasley, who showed his power and pace to dot down in the corner, scoring an unconverted try and putting the visitors ahead 0-5.

Despite a physical comeback from the Hertford team, another turnover saw a swift counter attack, that despite heroic scramble defence from the Hertford team resulted in James Thacker powering over from short range to score by the posts. Try converted 0-12. With the Blues now growing in confidence and finding great success out wide another try was always being threatened. A well-timed pass by Wasley to young Flier Martin, and a smart touchdown saw the half time lead extended to 0-17.

The second half saw a determined comeback from Hertford, who were the first to touch down after the break. A break out wide on the right saw the winger almost make the try line but for the covering tackle of the impressive Jack Nichols, and although Stortford got back into position to defend, it wasn't enough to stop a powerful forward runner crashing over. Score now 5-17.

Where teams of old wearing the Stortford blues colours might have given over the control of the game after conceding a try in the early exchanges of a half, this certainly was not the case. Man of the match Mark McCraith and his second row partner started making huge physical in roads into the Hertford midfield, with the enigmatic Scantlebury and back row player Elsom finding short offloads and driving deep into the Hertford 22, with two drives being rewarded with tries. First Connor Austin opened his season account in the right-hand corner, before Martin scores his second in the left. With the score now 5-27 and Time running out both teams played for the last say in the match, which eventually fell to impressive Fly half Connor Mak, who after stealing the ball on his own 10-meter line, ran the rest of the way to put the Ball down. Final score 5-32

All in the Blues camp are delighted with the start to the 2018 season, and whilst confidence in the team's potential is still growing, a recognition of the hard work ahead still underlined the brilliant attitude of the group.

Next week sees the arrival of Jersey 2nd XV at Silver Leys for a 1.30 kickoff. Support has been incredible, and will certainly needed against another formidable opponent.





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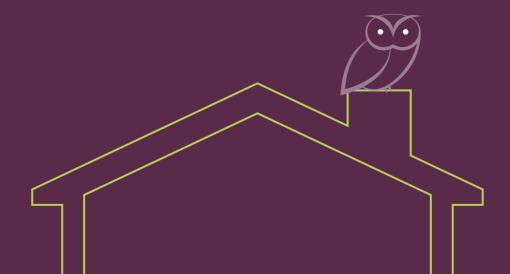
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The Clubs so called 'Golden years' were in the 60's & 70's when their fixture list routinely included the top sides in England and Wales, and Moseley players were regularly included in international teams.

When league rugby commenced in 1987, Moseley were placed in the Courage National Division 1, the top division at the time and in 1988 they ended Bath's astonishing run of 22 unbeaten cup matches winning 4–3!

They were though relegated at the end of the 1990–1991 season. The club entered administration in 1998 and 4 years of financial turmoil followed before a new Moseley Rugby Club emerged in 2002. The rescue came too late though to save them on the field and that season they once again endured relegation this time to National Two (Level 3)

They regained their spot in the second tier by finishing as champions in 2006 & there they remained until they were relegated to this league at the end of the 2015/16 season.

Prior to the 2016-17 season, the club changed its name to Birmingham Moseley Rugby Club.

Last season we were victorious at their Billesley Common ground 25-27 on the day storm Brian hit the UK with Alex Patton scoring the winning try but lost to them here 10-15 on another wet & windy day in February.





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# RESULTS GRID, TABLE & FIXTURES NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

Ampt Bckhth 19.01	Richth										į				
19.01	Children	Bir M	BSRFC	Caldy	Camb	Chin	Cind	DMP	Esher	L'boro	OE's	Plym ARoss Pk	Ross Pk	Roth	Sale
	29.09	8.12	16.02	2.02	6.10	22.12	20.10	24.11	15.09	43-34	9.03	12.01	30.03	3.11	13.04
		20.10	30.03	16.02	2.02	8.12	9.03	22.09	27.04	24.11	10-21	5.01	6.10	13.04	3.11
Bir M 6.04	9.02		5.01	27.04	15.12	17.11	23-24	6.10	23.03	2.03	19.01	1.12	2.02	22.09	27.10
BSRFC 27.10	1.12	15.09		17.11	2.03	26.01	23.03	23-26	13.10	29.09	13.04	9.02	22.12	8.12	12.01
Caldy 13.10	27.10	30-27	9.03		9.02	12.01	3.11	8.12	29.09	15.09	30.03	26.01	13.04	24.11	22.12
Camb 26.01	13.10	13.04	3.11.	20.10		15.09	16.02	30.03	12.01	22.12	24.11	29.09	8.12	9.03	36-36
Chin 38-33	6.04	9.03	6.10	22.09	5.01		19.01	16.02	15.12	30.03	20.10	27.04	3.11	2.02	24.11.
Cind 9.02	17.11	22.12	24.11	2.03	27.10	29.09		13.04	26.01	12.01	8.12	13.10	29-36	30.03	15.09
DMP 23.03	12.01	26.01	27.04	6.04	1.12	27.10	15.12		2.03	9.02	5.01	17.11	29.09	42-19	13.10
Esher 5.01	7-36	24.11	2.02	19.01	22.09	13.04	6.10	3.11		8.12	16.02	21-24	9.03	20.10	30.03
L'boro 27.04	23.03	3.11	19.01	5.01	14-20	1.12	22.09	20.10	6.04		2.02	15.12	16.02	6.10	9.03
OE's 17.11	22.12	29.09	15.12	1.12	23.03	9.02	6.04	15.09	27.10	13.10		2.03	12.01	27.04	26.01
Plym A 22.09	15.09	30.03	20.10	6.10	19.01	11-26	2.02	9.03	22.12	13.04	3.11		24.11	16.02	8.12
Ross Pk 1.12	26.01	13.10	25-17	15.12	6.04		27.04	19.01	17.11	27.10	22.09	23.03		5.01	9.02
Roth 2.03	15.12	12.01	6.04	23.03	17.11	13.10	1.12	22.12	9.02	26.01	33-34	27.10	15.09		29.09
Sale 15.12	2.03	16.02	22.09	26-24	27.04	23.03	5.01	2.02	1.12	17.11	6.10	6.04	20.10	19.01	
		ROU	ROUNDS 1 to 15	215						ROL	ROUNDS 16-30	-30			

FIXTURE SCHEDULE & RESULTS GRID 2018-19

#### Season 2018/2019 NATIONAL 1

#### **Results From 8th September**

Home Team		Away Team
Esher	21-24	Plymouth Albion
Darlington Mowden Park	42-19	Rotherham
Rosslyn Park	25-17	Bishop's Stortford
Birmingham Moseley	23-24	Cinderford
Sale FC	26-24	Caldy
Loughborough Students	14-20	Cambridge
Blackheath	10-21	Old Elthamians
Chinnor	38-33	Ampthill

#### Season 2018/2019 NATIONAL 1

#### **Fixtures for 15th September**

Home Team		Away Team
Plymouth Albion	Vs	Blackheath
Ampthill	Vs	Esher
Cambridge	Vs	Chinnor
Cinderford	Vs	Sale FC
Bishop's Stortford	Vs	Birmingham Moseley
Rotherham	Vs	Rosslyn Park
Old Elthamians	Vs	Darlington Mowden Park
Caldy	Vs	Loughborough Students

<b>National League</b>	National League 1 - 2018/19													
Team	PI	HW	HD	HL	AW	AD	AL	W	D	L	F	Α	Diff	Pts
Darlington Mowden Park	2	2	0	0	68	42	26	2	0	10	1213	495	718	134
Chinnor	2	2	0	0	64	44	20	1	0	9	838	637	201	115
Rosslyn Park	2	2	0	0	61	46	15	1	0	9	844	549	295	108
Old Elthamians	2	2	0	0	55	43	12	1	0	9	797	540	257	106
Cambridge	2	1	1	0	56	50	6	1	0	7	764	636	128	88
Ampthill & District	2	1	0	1	76	72	4	2	1	7	714	709	5	81
Sale FC	2	1	1	0	62	60	2	1	0	7	680	770	-90	79
Cinderford	2	1	0	1	53	59	-6	1	1	6	750	713	37	78
Blackheath	2	1	0	1	46	28	18	1	0	5	774	827	-53	74
Caldy	2	1	0	1	54	53	1	0	1	5	613	600	13	72
Plymouth Albion	2	1	0	1	35	47	-12	1	0	5	726	743	-17	68
Birmingham Moseley	2	0	0	2	50	54	-4	0	2	2	766	863	-97	66
Loughborough Students	2	0	0	2	48	63	-15	1	1	2	756	894	-138	62
Rotherham	2	0	0	2	52	76	-24	1	1	2	685	941	-256	59
Bishop's Stortford	2	0	0	2	40	51	-11	0	1	1	620	941	-321	54
Esher	2	0	0	2	28	60	-32	0	1	1	405	1087	-682	20

### **THE TEAMS**



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

**BLUE AND WHITE** 

1	Seb Brownhill	
2	Sam James	
3	Tom McCrone	
4	Jon George	
5	Matt Tomlinson	
6	James Apperley	
7	Dan Elsom	
8	Charlie Kingham	
9	Connor Mak	
10	Tom Coleman	
11	Nick Hankin	
12	George Keen	
13	Sam Winter - C	
14	Rob Duff	
15	George Cullen	
	REPLACEMENTS	Man of the Match
16	Dec Caulfield	
17	Louis Castiglione	
18	Andy Christie	WESTBURY
19	Connor Austin	GARDEN ROOMS
20	Ben Creasey	

Director of Rugby Andy Long | Team Manager Darren Orbart |

Lead Physio Kathy Hills | Assistant Physio Adam Mufti | Assistant Physio Tom Phillips

Defence Coach Marcus Cattell | Attack and Backs Coach Tom Coleman | Blues Head Coach Danny Johnston

Backs Transition Coach Ash Boyle | Forwards Transition Coach Rob Faiers

Head of Strength and Conditioning Ben Sheath | Assistant strength and conditioning coach - Adam Vine

### Referee Dr. Jonathan Cook Assistant Referee 1 Robert Carnell Assistant Referee 2 Simon Bourne Assessor Michael Jones

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	Joe Roe	2
	Jay Tyack	3
	Aaron Crofts	4
	Lewis Bean	5
	Buster Lawrence	6
	Josh Poole	7
	Chris Brightwell	8
	Rob Lewis	9
	James Williams	10
	Taraisai Wara	11
	Ollie Allsopp	12
	Sam Hayward	13
	Sam Pointon	14
	Sam Hollingsworth	15
President's Charity	REPLACEMENTS	
	Tom Fidler	25
	Jamie White	17
accüro	Jacques Le Roux	18
supporting people with a disability	Sam Smith	19
	Sam Atkins	20



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### **MATCH REPORT**



#### Rosslyn Park 25 Bishop's Stortford 17

Error-prone first half leaves Stortford too much ground to make up in the second period. Having repelled some early pressure, Stortford launched an excellent counter-attack, with Jimmy Rea making a great outside break to take his side into the opposition 22, but a clumsy knock-on a couple of phases later was seized upon by the home sides' 7. Arthur Ellis, who stepped through some sloppy Stortford cover to dash upfield and some quick and cohesive support running saw his side in for the opening try out wide after 5 minutes. The conversion attempt went wide, but Rosslyn Park were spared the need to even kick a conversion, when they were awarded a penalty try 15 minutes later, after Stortford were penalised for entering a maul from the side, as it drove at their line, following some more impressive attacking play from the home side. Worse was to come for the visitors 5 minutes later, as Rob Duff's effort to regather his own kick ahead failed and his team mates signally failed to provide for that possibility, leaving a clear run to their line for a supporting Park player. The conversion was made and a penalty goal another 5 minutes into the game, saw the home team to a 22-point lead. Stortford did battle back, though and, finally taking advantage of their edge at the scrum, they ran through many phases against the determined home defence, before finally making room for fullback. Tom Walker to score an unconverted try out wide.

Despite Park's continued edge in aggression both in possession and defence, Stortford had far the better of the second half, with the scrum and

lineout continuing to go well and the resulting possession being used much better than in the first period, A second try for the visitors resulted after 5 minutes, with Jimmy Rea, capping an outstanding performance by winning the tussle with his opposite number to touch down from a chip kick from Sam Winter. George Cullen made an excellent conversion from the touchline, but the home side countered very quickly with a penalty goal from a breakdown penalty to stretch their lead to 13 points. Stortford continued to press, but found it very hard to make headway up the middle through Park's quick and aggressive defence.

Eventually, though their persistence paid off and a strong driving maul was halted illegally only a couple of feet short of the home line. The referee clearly didn't think, that a try would certainly have resulted, since he failed to award the penalty try, but a yellow card was shown to Park's No 6 and, from the resultant scrum, a quick pass from scrumhalf, Ben Creasey to Cullen, looping round on the blindside saw the flyhalf in for a try after 19 minutes. Unfortunately, his conversion effort from out wide missed the target, leaving his side two scores behind and, crucially 1 point outside a losing bonus point. Despite valiant efforts in the rest of the game, in which a couple of Stortford scoring opportunities went frustratingly begging there were no further scores. To be fair to Rosslyn Park, over the piece, they deserved their win and, indeed it took a couple of pieces of brave, scrambling defence from Stortford to prevent another breakaway score for the home side.



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### IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

### CHARLIE KINGHAM

When I started to play rugby seriously at school at the age of 13, I wanted to keep playing more and more, so looked to a club to start playing for. Stortford seemed like the only place I wanted to be at, with a class outfit of a squad and the dream team of coaches, John Cullen, Mark Purdy, Sean Lowbridge and Paul Kavanagh. With this group we were able to go and be incredibly successful, winning multiple county championships and memories along the way. It was champagne ending to our age groups with winning the national title against Worcester, something that will always go down as a highlight of my time at Stortford.

After finishing up with the age groups, I was lucky enough to be given my chance by Longy to make my way into the 1st XV playing in National 2 at the time. My first senior men's game of rugby was at home in pre-season against Dorking, a game which truly taught me that I needed to put some size on and guick if I was ever to last in that league! Unfortunately around 5 games into my debut season of men's rugby. I dislocated my hip away at Clifton and my season was instantly over. But I could not have felt any more support from the club (and a surprise visit from former President of the RFU. Bob Reeves). Without this support from the club and its sponsors. the transition from being injured to being able to play again wouldn't have been so smooth. With this in mind, I want to say a massive thank you to my player sponsor RecruitAbility for all the help this season.

From that injury-ridden season, I went to embark on the rollercoaster journey of being a student at Loughborough University, where I ended up playing Stortford in my first pre-season and being steamrolled by around 30-40 points, not the fairy tale way of playing your home team. However, I recovered and had the best 4 years up at Loughborough, giving me the opportunity to go and play for England 7s and other representative sides.

However, when I was coming to the end of university, it was time to make the choice of where to play next. It seemed the only choice in my mind was to come home and get back in the blue and white to try and redeem myself for playing in another side in the same league!

After a great pre-season, we showed a huge amount of promise and excitement heading into the season. It was a shame to lose out against Darlington Mowden Park after the boys showed a great amount of heart in that game and in patches how devastating could be against the top teams. As for last week against Rosslyn Park. we know that we were not up to our

best, but that's what makes this week's fixture so exciting for the boys. Back at home against another good side in Birmingham Moseley provides us with a great opportunity to get our season underway and get the ball rolling!

Huge thank you to the faithful support we get at each home game. Can't wait to hear the chants on the side-line and show why the reason the club has done so well is because of the difference you guys make!





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### **CLUB STORTFORD**

NOW IN ITS FIFTH SEASON, CLUB STORTFORD WAS SET UP BY A SMALL WORKING PARTY, TO SUPPORT THE ISTXV 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 TAI FNT."

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 established in 1998 with the mission statement "To contribute towards promoting the highest possible standard of rugby throughout Bishop's Stortford Rugby Football Club"

The Oval Club is autonomous and entirely independent of BSRFC's financial and administrative functions. Members of the Oval Club contribute each month by standing order to raise funds to support one off projects within the Rugby Club which should be of benefit to the whole club and to provide social events for Oval Club members.

Since its inception The Oval Club has contributed more than £150,000 towards the cost of BSRFC projects such as:

Drainage and floodlighting of the No 1 and back pitches Improvement and maintenance of all playing surfaces Protective fencing around back pitches Funding the cost of the use of additional playing surfaces Supporting Minis and Youth sections Refurbishment of changing rooms and showers

Regular social events are organised for and enjoyed by Oval Club members each year.

The Oval Club has played a considerable part in donating much needed funds to enable BSRFC to provide facilities and to enhance its reputation in the local and rugby communities.

Membership of the Oval Club is currently 76 and any member of BSRFC who is interested in joining the Oval Club should contact the Secretary, John Robinson, via jbr@talktalk.net



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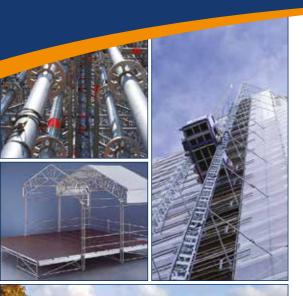


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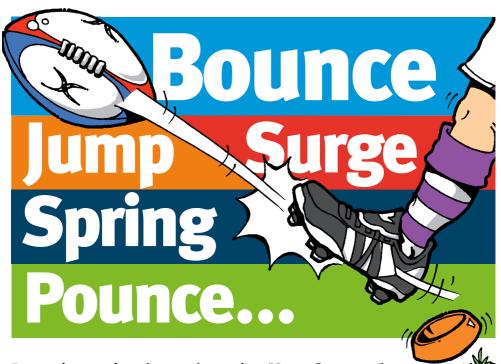


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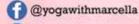
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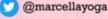


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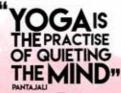


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#### **BSRFC Ladies XV**

This week, both our Girls and Ladies Teams were lucky enough to have a coaching session with former England rugby player, Rocky Clarke. Rocky achieved the distinction of being England's most capped rugby player when overtaking Jason Leonard's total with her 115th cap in the 12-10 win over Ireland at University College, Dublin on 13th November 2016.

All teams were incredibly excited, and both training sessions well attended. Rocky delivered two fantastic sessions, everyone was keen to learn and gain some invaluable knowledge from a real legend in womens rugby. She provided the ladies team with some key tips to take into their game against St. Neots on Sunday 9th September. It was fantastic to welcome St. Neots back to Silver Levs. After winning against them twice last season, the ladies were prepared for a tough match - and St. Neots definitely delivered. The BSRFC Ladies were forced to launch a strong defensive play, luckily they were prepared and really got into their stride from the get go. In her first game for BSRFC, number 8, Georgia Read, scored the first try of the season with an impressive run. Much to BSRFC Ladies' delight, the first half was played firmly in the opposition's half, giving them a real boost for the beginning of the season.

St. Neots kicked off the second half and certainly came back stronger. Raquel Obama came on as a sub with her usual speed and determination and

with injuries and subs, the second half saw St. Neots #22 make a nice break to score, prompting the Stortford Ladies to work even harder.

Carleigh LaLonge sealed the win for BSRFC by ploughing through the opposition in the only manner she knows, scoring a third try for the team. Kicker, Jemma Goddard, was under a lot of pressure to convert all three tries, however the windy conditions meant that she was unable to. The game ended on a 15-5 win for BSRFC Ladies. Forward and back of the match went to Georgia Read and Kate Hawkins.

Now that the first game is out the way, the Team is ready to learn from the previous game in preparation for their next match. The Team faces Harpenden (A) on Saturday 15th September, KO at 2pm.

BSRFC Girls and Ladies train every Tuesday. Girls (U13-U18) from 6.15pm to 7.15pm, and Ladies (17+) from 7.15pm to 9pm.

Each of our Teams welcome girls and women of every shape, size and fitness level. If you, or anyone you know, would like to join, contact them on one of their social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) or email bsrfcladies@gmail.com.



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### Has the RFU got its priorities right?

Having read the article in the Rugby Paper 2 weeks ago, in which Ben, Ward, DOR of Championship club. Ealing Trailfinders was bemoaning the difficulties facing them in achieving their ambition of promotion to the Premiership and implying that the funding received from the RFU by each championship club of up to £650,000 per annum should be increased, my alter ego, Mr Angry of Bishop's Stortford, once again came to the surface. I wrote a letter to the paper but, unfortunately, it wasn't published and I do feel that the sentiments and some of the facts contained in the letter might be of interest to a wider audience around the Club, so here goes!

At a time, when, Championship Clubs are amongst the most guilty of pouring huge amounts of money out of our game in an often fruitless search for sustainable success on the field and when, according to a recent Daniel Schofield article in the Telegraph, a lot of Championship clubs cannot (or choose not to) even afford to provide cardiac screening and medical insurance for their professional players, to seek to claim a bigger slice of the RFU pie is surely hard to justify.

A one-off grant of the order of the maximum annual subvention to the Championship clubs would allow a large community club, such as ours to build desperately needed facilities and associated services to sustain us for another 30 years. To put this into context, Stortford is dependent on a large subvention from Section 106 monies, due

from the builders behind the huge housing development going on around our Club, to even have a chance of raising the possibly £700,000 we would need to bring our thirty year old backroom facilities up to scratch and the bulk of the funds will still almost certainly have to come from a sustained fundraising effort and contributions from our members - precluding implementation in less than 2 years. Our changing facilities are barely adequate to host 3 home games at a time, with room in most changing rooms for no more than 15 players and, with 5 senior men's teams, the ladies and more than a dozen Youth squads, both girls and boys to accommodate, the need for improvement is clear and urgent. Based on past experience and current RFU guidelines, the best we can hope for from Twickenham is probably an interest-free loan of up to £100,000 plus. possibly a grant of up to half this amount, subject to a competitive and lengthy application process - valuable help but small beer compared with the funds being routinely lavished on the clubs only one league above us.

With a club membership of more than 125% of Ealing's average attendance last season of 815, clubs like ours that are providing the raw playing material for the elite game are surely worthy of greater assistance for a project that would keep 100% of the funds within the game.

John Allanson BSRFC Facilities Director

Bishop's Stortford RFC

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### 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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