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OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME



CLUB DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

FROM RICHARD NORDEN

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD RFC V CALDY RFC

17th November 2018





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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

MICK COLEMAN

I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to everyone visiting Silver Leys today, especially those who have made the long journey south from Caldy RFC, who provide the opposition for today's first team fixture. Many of us enjoyed a fabulous couple of days, with some great hospitality afforded to us from the officials and supporters of Caldy, back in April to finish off last season, which culminated in a comfortable win for us. It was also rumoured that a couple of Stortford officials, who should have known better, (especially as it was the morning of the match) discovered that the legendary Cavern nightclub in nearby Liverpool, actually closes at 3 am, making their arrival by taxi at 3.30 am a bit of a wastel

However, this season has been a little different from last, with Caldy getting their season off to a great start, although they have stuttered ever so slightly just recently, and Stortford frustratingly losing those tight games by the odd point or two, leaving us 7 league positions adrift of our opponents. But then, we all know how tight this league is.... as we keep proving! Three of our last four games have gone to the wire, with us being on the wrong side of one score defeats each time. But hats off to the boys, we cause problems to every team we play, and are still playing some great rugby which will start bringing us some positive results, hopefully today!

We also need to spare a thought for our Blues, who have suffered probably more than any of our sides as a result of our huge injury list. Despite all that they've had to deal with they are still keen to play each week but sadly others aren't. They lost two opponents this week alone as first Coventry development & then Bury St Edmunds have both had to pull out of games. So to Danny, Rob, Ash and the boys keep going guys. Your efforts are appreciated.

Likewise, the Colts, who take on Ealing in the 2nd round of the National Cup on Sunday, K.O 1.30. Support them if you can, and cheer on our stars of tomorrow!

A very warm welcome is extended to Johnny Hey and his guests from Westbury Garden Rooms, who are todays Man of the Match sponsors.

Also, due a mention is Club Stortford, who have remarkably just gone past the £250,000 mark in funds raised for the first team efforts. Set up and funded by ordinary (?) club members to provide the first team squad with the extra funding that was needed to play, and maintain our position in level 3, particularly around player welfare, and support for youth coaching etc, they have far exceeded their early expectations and are to be hugely congratulated.



As many of you will know, we sadly lost a diamond of a club member last month.

John Follows passed away on October 31st aged just 53, following an earlier heart attack. John will be best remembered by so many players and parents, as being a very amiable character who was always available to referee any youth match on any Sunday.

John's funeral is on Monday at Birchanger, our thoughts are with his family.

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DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

ANDY LONG

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to Silver Levs as we embark on the middle third of our season

It's fair to say that the first period has been one of fine margins and missed opportunities. If we reflect back to this time last season, our first in this league, many of the narrow games we've lost this time round resulted in Stortford wins. Cast your mind back to Moseley, Rosslyn Park, Blackheath and OE's all games that we were victorious in the last moments of the game.

Confidence is still high in the camp and we are training and preparing really well, focussing fully on our performances which we know will lead to a greater chance of success.

We know today will be very competitive, Caldy have backed up last season's fine campaign with some solid performances. they have a strong forward pack and some dangerous backs who we know will punish us if we are not at our best.

Having said that we are desperate to get back to winning ways so this is set up to be a cracking game.

Finally our Colts are in action tomorrow in the next round of the National Cup against Ealing Trailfinders KO 1.30, it would be great to see as many of you here to see our stars of the future.

Enjoy the game

















Danny Johnston





Rob Faiers

Ash Boyle

Longy

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COLTS REPORTSIMON WILSON

Tomorrow (18th), our Colts and their army of supporters hope to take another step towards National cup glory when they clash with Round two opponents Ealing Trailfinders, here at Silver Leys. KO 1.30pm.

Immediately before Kick-off we will be paying our respects to John Follows. So please come along to remember John & play your part in their Cup campaign. The game promises to be a thrillingly close battle.

The team a mixture of U16, U17 and U18 players, aim to raise their game to new heights after an encouraging Round 1 performance against Saracens Amateurs saw them run in 5 tries away from home in East Barnet.

Stortford were the smaller side for that Oct 21st encounter and conditions were in their favour, promising a fast game once the glorious sunshine had dried out the dew on the rather lush and long grass. The larger home side dominated the opening exchanges and they took the lead with a 4th minute penalty.

BSRFC soaked up further pressure from the Saracens pack and levelled the score with a Scott Mitchell penalty on the quarter hour. Continuing with even opportunities, Saracens then scored 2 tries and 1 conversion to make the score 15-3 with half an hour gone. Stortford hit back via a try created by Tyler Gleed and finished by Adam Oakey with Francis Moore converting.

The re-start saw Stortford straight back in the Saracens' half and pushing for the line. No 8. Greg Imber went over from a ruck and Moore hit the upright to deny the Blues a half time lead. 15-15. The home team were visibly tired but were buoyed by an unconverted try within 5 minutes of the re-start. Their lead didn't last long. By now the sun had done its work and a much drier ball meant that Stortford could unleash their talented back line. Some great handling saw the scores even again following a

strong run on the right wing by man-of-the-match Max Hadley and a try in the corner. 20-20.

Making good use of rolling substitutions, BSRFC created a strong platform for the try of the day: Rhys Williams - on at 9 - kicked cross-field for left wing Dan Beer to catch the ball cleanly on the run and circle behind the opposition to score between the posts for Moore to convert. Stortford were ahead but had to wait a further 15 minutes until the result was secured via a powerful Michael Sankey try. With the conversion, the final tally made for happy reading: Saracens Amateurs 20 Bishop's Stortford 34.



- 7

THE PLAYERS BSRFC 1'S XV 2017/18



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NEWS FROM THE BLUES

OLLIE JONES

How the work I have done with the Blues has given me opportunities with the 1st XV

2013 was my first year in men's rugby after coming through the age groups and the National Cup winning Colts team. The step from Colts to 2nd XV rugby was quite natural and I quickly found my feet enjoying every minute playing for Stortford.

I have always had the desire to represent the 1st XV but without the support of the coaching staff and playing 2nd team or Blues rugby, I wouldn't have been able to achieve this goal.

The many years I've spent in the Blues have enabled me to develop areas of my game that are essential when playing at the highest level at BSRFC. Discipline and controlled aggression are characteristics I was able to build upon whilst playing. These are vital when playing for the 1's, especially in Nat 1 when you're facing ex professionals every week.

Playing regular rugby in the Blues helped me understand the importance of communication during games. The Blues taught me to talk more whilst playing. This is an essential area when playing at any level but especially for the 1's. Knowing what the person inside. outside and behind you in doing and making sure they 'have your back'.

The ongoing support and encouragement of the Blues coaches Danny Johnson & Rob Faiers together with the input of experienced players

such as Dec Caulfield, Mark McCraith and Matt Tomlinson to name a few, has made my transition to the 1st team a natural and enjoyable process. Their professional approach and experience instils confidence in players.

I never forget that I am part of a squad at BSRFC & enjoy playing for the Blues almost as much as I do the 1's. Without doubt playing for the Blues is an essential part of any young player's development & an important part of the process needed to produce effective 1st XV players.

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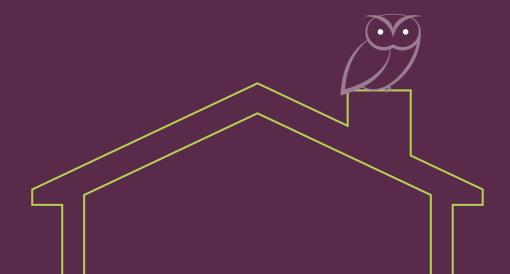
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TODAY'S OPPOSITION CALDY REC



Caldy Rugby Football Club were formed in February 1924 when some Old Boys of Caldy School, with the encouragement of the then Headmaster, decided that they must carry on playing rugby together so the 'Old Caldeians' R.F.C. came into being at a meeting held at a café in West Kirby.

They started playing in a farm field and changing in the farm buildings, bathing facilities were somewhat primitive as they used a tin bath which was filled from a tap in the farm Yard.

They have come a long way since such humble beginnings but like ourselves they've done it the right way, steadily & sustainably. They won National 2 North whilst we were winning 2 South in 2017 & thus we were promoted together. It was therefore fitting that we should play each other in our first ever games at level 3 on the opening weekend of last season's campaign here at Silver Leys. We emerged victorious that day winning a high scoring encounter 49-26.

At that early stage we were both uncertain as to how our respective first seasons at this level would develop but thankfully by the time we met again on the last day of the season at their charming Paton Field home, both sides were assured of a second season at National One. Although it mattered little in the overall scheme of things, our large contingent of travelling support that sunny

April day on the Wirral, were pleased that we finished the season with a victory. 28-18.

But that as they say is history and there is no doubt that they have had a much more productive start to the second season than we have! Their record of six wins in the first ten games sees them currently sitting comfortably in 6th position. Two of those 6 victories are particularly notable and can perhaps act as a form guide going into today's game. On 13 Oct they beat Ampthill at home 19-18 & the following week triumphed away at Cambridge 27-22.

As you will know most of the games this season in this league have been decided by a single score and todays match up promises more of the same.





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RESULTS GRID, TABLE & FIXTURES NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

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Ampt		33-22	8.12	16.02	2:02	6-13	22.12	54-10	24.11	35-20	43-34	9.03	12.01	30.03	22-8	13.04
Bckhth	19.01		30-26	30.03	16.02	2.02	8.12	9.03	15-0	27.04	24.11	10-21	5.01	23-15	13.04	41-24
Bir M	6.04	9.02		5.01	27.04	15.12	17.11	23-24	36-41	23.03	2.03	19.01	1.12	2.02	28-22	31-22
BSRFC	10-29	1.12	52-8		17.11	2.03	26.01	23.03	23-26	26-29	57-25	13.04	9.02	22.12	8.12	12.01
Caldy	19-18	17-25	30-27	6.03		9.02	12.01	31-38	8.12	31-29	43-19	30.03	26.01	13.04	24.11	22.12
Camb	26.01	24-43	13.04	23-22	22-27		20-22	16.02	30.03	12.01	22.12	24.11	32-26	8.12	9.03	36-36
Chin	38-33	6.04	9.03	6-13	24-27	5.01		19.01	16.02	15.12	30.03	20-20	27.04	33-33	2.02	24.11
Cind	9.02	17.11	22.12	24.11	2.03	14-9	21-26		13.04	26.01	12.01	8.12	15-12	29-36	30.03	40-31
DMP	23.03	12.01	26.01	27.04	6.04	1.12	21-23	15.12		2.03	9.02	5.01	17.11	34-33	42-19	29-31
Esher	5.01	98-7	24.11	2.02	19.01	17-10	13.04	10-7	24-25		8.12	16.02	21-24	9.03	15-45	30.03
L'boro	27.04	23.03	35-25	19.01	5.01	14-20	1.12	8-39	39-27	6.04		2.02	15.12	16.02	5-38	9.03
OE's	17.11	22.12	38-27	15.12	1.12	23.03	9.02	6.04	31-22	22-10	48-24		2.03	12.01	27.04	26.01
Plym A	17-5	20-21	30.03	23-19	24-14	19.01	11-26	2.02	9.03	22.12	13.04	15-19		24.11	16.02	8.12
Ross Pk	1.12	26.01	27-22	25-17	15.12	6.04	2.03	27.04	19.01	17.11	39-31	37-24	23.03		5.01	9.02
Roth	2.03	15.12	12.01	6.04	23.03	17.11	32-26	1.12	22.12	9.02	26.01	33-34	25-14	29-12		32-27
Sale	15.12	2.03	16.02	22-8	26-24	27.04	23.03	5.01	2.02	1.12	17.11	42-38	6.04	23-31	19.01	
			RC	ROUNDS 1 to 15	15						RC	ROUNDS 16-30	c			

FIXTURE SCHEDULE & RESULTS GRID 2018-19

Season 2018/2019 NATIONAL 1

Results From 3rd November

Home Team		Away Team
Esher	24-25	Darlington Mowden Park
Loughborough Students	35-25	Birmingham Moseley
Ampthill	22-8	Rotherham
Cambridge	23-22	Bishop's Stortford
Caldy	31-38	Cinderford
Chinnor	33-33	Rosslyn Park
Plymouth Albion	15-19	Old Elthamians
Blackheath	41-24	Sale FC

Season 2018/2019 NATIONAL 1

Fixtures for 17th November

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

National League 1 -	2018,	/19								
Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	TBP	LBP	Points
Blackheath	10	8	0	2	266	187	79	4	0	36
Old Elthamians	10	7	1	2	295	240	55	5	1	36
Rosslyn Park	10	6	1	3	288	265	23	7	1	34
Ampthill & District	10	6	0	4	278	191	87	6	3	33
Rotherham	10	6	0	4	283	225	58	6	2	32
Caldy	10	6	0	4	263	252	11	5	2	31
Cinderford	10	6	0	4	237	240	-3	4	3	31
Chinnor	10	5	2	3	244	231	13	4	3	31
Darlington Mowden Park	10	5	0	5	267	274	-7	6	2	28
Cambridge	10	4	1	5	209	227	-18	2	4	24
Sale FC	10	4	1	5	284	310	-26	4	1	23
Plymouth Albion	10	4	0	6	186	197	-11	3	4	23
Bishops Stortford	10	3	0	7	247	216	31	3	4	19
Esher	10	3	0	7	182	261	-79	2	3	17
Birmingham Moseley	10	2	0	8	253	321	-68	3	5	16
Loughborough Students	10	2	0	8	234	379	-145	5	1	14

THE TEAMS



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BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1ST XV

BLUE AND WHITE

1	Seb Brownhill	
2	Sam James	
3	Billy Walker	
4	Jon George	
5	Matt Tomlinson	
6	James Apperley	
7	Andy Christie	
8	Charlie Kingham	
9	Tom Banks	
10	Manu Vunipola	
11	Jimmy Rea	
12	Reuben Bird-Tulloch	
13	Sam Winter ©	
14	Rob Duff	
15	Nick Hankin	
	REPLACEMENTS	Man of The Match
16	Sam Crean	
17	Louis Castiglione	WESTBURY
18	Brad Etherington	GARDEN ROOMS
19	Will Simmonds	GARDEN ROOMS
20	Tom Coleman	

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

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

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MAROON, WHITE AND BLACK

	John Whittaker	1
	Edward Stagg	2
	Derek Salisbury	3
	Gerrad Martin	4
	Thomas Sanders	5
	John Collister	6
	Nyle Davidson	7
	Josiah Dickinson	8
	Benjamin Jones	9
	Lewis Barker	10
	Luke Hibberd	11
	Michael Barlow	12
	Gavin Roberts	13
	Nicholas Royle	14
	Rhys Hayes	15
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	Richard Vasey	16



15	_ Rhys Hayes
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MATCH REPORT

CAMBRIDGE 23-22 BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1ST XV

This local derby, with both sides sitting in the wrong half of the table and coming off three game losing streaks was always going to be hard fought and so it proved.

Playing against a strong wind, Stortford managed to dominate most of the first half, with their scrum well on top and the whole team running through phase after phase of slick handling to have much the better of both possession and territory, thus preventing the home team from taking any great advantage of the elements. Cambridge, though tackled well and limited the scoring threats that the visitors could pose. The first score in fact went the home side's way, when flyhalf, Lawrence Rayner converted the second of two successive penalty shots at goal after 8 minutes. Undaunted. the visitors swarmed back onto the attack and a spell of intense 15 man attacking play brought its reward 4 minutes later, when quick handling by the threequarters created space out wide for Dan Elsom to go over for an unconverted try.

Stortford continued to enjoy the bulk of the ball and to control territory for the next 25 minutes, but were unable to break down Cambridge's strong defence again and, with time running out, the home side managed a rare sortie into opposition territory. A penalty was again awarded against Stortford in a very kickable position, but Rayner this time crashed the ball against an upright. Unfortunately, for the visitors, Cambridge reacted more quickly to seize the rebound and a quick, long pass to winger, Kwaku Asiedu allowed him to break a despairing tackle from his opposite number to run in for an unconverted try out wide.

Turning to play with the breeze, with only a 3 point deficit, things still looked good for Stortford and, when Louis Castiglione crashed over close to the posts for a try after only 5 minutes of the second period, following several strong thrusts by his fellow forwards, the writing seemed to be on the wall. Manu Vunipola's conversion took his side out to a 4 point lead, but this proved to be short-lived, as Cambridge showed that they too were capable of playing flowing rugby to sweep

back upfield through multiple phases. Stortford's defence, unfortunately proved to be less resilient than had Cambridge's in the first half, as Sam Yawayawa brushed off tackles from 3 or 4 players to touchdown out wide for an unconverted try. This seemed to signal a significant swing in the balance of the game, as the home side suddenly started to enjoy the kind of scrum dominance that Stortford had hitherto enjoyed - the visitors' cause not being helped by the absence from the field of Jon George (injured at the end of the first) half and Mark McCraith now also withdrawn, calling for a wholesale reshuffle of the visitors' pack, requiring scrumhalf, Tom Banks to see out the game at blindside flanker.

Cambridge again attacked through multiple phases and Stortford's defence once more was found to be vulnerable some quarter of an hour later, when flanker, Jake McCloud ran through a wide gap close to a breakdown to touch down under the posts. Rayner's conversion stretched their lead to 8 points, but Stortford continued to battle and forced their way back upfield, where, after 35 minutes, they settled for a penalty goal to Vunipola to bring themselves within one score of the opposition. The visitors then took full advantage of a midfield penalty, which was deflected by Cambridge's fullback into touch in goal, when they mustered a rare solid scrum and Sam Winter took a short pass from Vunipola to step and crash his way between three Cambridge tacklers to stretch out for the line to equalise the scores. Vunipola held his nerve well to kick the conversion and, with only two or three minutes of injury time left, it looked as if it was Stortford's turn to have snatched a result at the death. Unfortunately, though the team lacked the composure to see the game out and were turned over, trying to run the ball out of their own half, instead of playing the percentages with a kick for territory.

Cambridge stormed onto the attack and were rewarded with a penalty close to the visitors' posts. Rayner this time made no mistake with his shot at goal, which proved to be the last act of the game.





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IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

GEORGE CULLEN

Looking back on the first third of this season, It has been a frustrating one so far for us as a group, defined by a ridiculous number of injuries and losing pretty much every game that could have gone either way! Despite this, I know for a fact that we are one of the best teams in this league and I have no doubt that the results will start coming! We've played some great stuff at times and we just need to learn how to marry this up with closing out games. Despite results not quite going our way thus far, one thing I still believe is that everyone is immensely proud to pull on the blue and white jersey whenever the chance is presented, and this in itself will pay dividends as the season progresses.

As all of the lads will testify, the support we get week in, week out is absolutely unbelievable. There is honestly no better sight than being 5 hours up the road on an away trip and a bus load of blazers rolls on in mid-warm up to prop up the bar! So, thank you all for the support- it's part of what makes our club special.

This season is something of a funny one for me personally. On the one hand being part of this group is something really special and a focal point of my life- particularly having the chance to play alongside some of my best mates and guys I have played with since the age of 7. *I still vividly recall turning up for my first ever training session, getting a gum shield fitting and throwing up because I couldn't work out how to just breath through my nose.

I am determined to give everything I can to the team while I am around (Hopefully the hamstring gets itself together!)

to Tokyo in aid of The Movember Foundation and The Ian Williams Foundation. We aim to raise £30,000 as we pedal eastwards over the course of 6 or 7 months and will (hopefully) make it in time for the Rugby World Cup. We are using the game today as a platform to promote what we are doing and the incredible work that these respective charities do, and hopefully raise a bit of money as well

Embarking on an adventure such as this has been nibbling away at me for some years now. It has got to a point in my life, age 25, that if I don't go for it now then there is every chance that real life will take hold and I will be looking back in 10 years regretting that I didn't go. The sudden death of my friend lan Williams (my former flat and team mate at Oxford), while training with Doncaster Knights, showed how life is too short and my decision was made. So after a few too many pints one night, Ben and I decided to give a whirl. Since then 'The Hairy Handlebars' has slowly snow-balled into something that I believe has the chance to make some real positive changes to the state of men's health.

Both Ben and I are immeasurably grateful to everyone at the club who has supported us in A) backing the rogue decision to go and B) Help get our story out there and hit our fundraising target. You can find out more and donate via our website: www.thehairyhandlebars.co.uk or by collaring me in the bar!

In the meantime, with help of my awesome sponsors Mantle Estates, here's to getting Stort back to winning ways!





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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 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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BSRFC Girls and Ladies Update

By Jasmin Bice

Last weekend saw two of our girls Coaches, Donna Bird and Carleigh LaLonge head off to Hitchin for a girl's festival. Donna was with the U13s Girls which was a great atmosphere with girls helping clubs out to ensure we got 12 vs 12 or 10 vs 10.

All the girls had a good time as being part of newly formed girls' teams along with Cheshunt and Datchworth, this was a fantastic show of rugby bringing all the clubs together.

Carleigh with the U15s made a Barbarians team together with Cheshunt & Biggleswade and were able to receive game time. They also were able to play a big mix game with Hitchin joining in to make two x 15 a side teams.

All the girls got stuck in making tackles and running well with the ball. This was a great experience for the Girls to build confidence on.

We are taking some of our U11 & U13 girls to Twickenham after being asked to perform guard of honour duties for the England Vs Australia game on 24/11/18. They will also enjoy a lunch, tour of the stadium and playing a game on the pitches, we are very excited to be able to share this experience with the girls!

A Cheeky Christmas Present

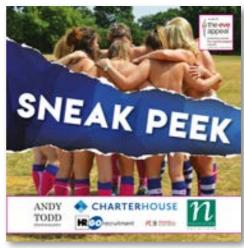
You might think it's a little early to start thinking about Christmas (but probably not, unless you're a last-minute-Christmas-Eve-present-buyer), but the BSRFC Ladies are incredibly pleased to announce that you will very shortly be able to buy our BRAND NEW cheeky calendar.

On sale soon, the calendars will be available in desk or wall calendar formats and sold online and through the club shop. At £10 each (plus postage if bought online) these calendars are in aid of The Eve Appeal, a charity which raises awareness and funds ground-breaking awareness into the five gynaecological cancers.

With the aim of raising as much money as we possibly can for this charity, our ladies stood strongly for body positivity and empowering as many women as we could.

We obviously wouldn't have been able to do this without our sponsors, Charterhouse Voice and Data, HR Go, and Nockolds Solicitors, and of course, the wonderful Andy Todd (who was very professional, and is probably owed quite a few apologies from the ladies who took part...).

We owe a very special thanks to Amwell Electrical who VERY kindly paid for the printing of the calendar. Their generosity means that we are able to donate 100% of all profits to The Eve Appeal – make sure to keep an eye out for when they go on sale!



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For further information please see the club website: **www.bsrfc.co.uk** or contact **Bob Winnington** on **07988 646 384.**





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Club Development Update

From Richard Norden, Chairman BSRFC Board of Directors/Trustees

£950,000 – that is the amount we've spent on improvements to the clubhouse and pitch space over the last 13 years. Where has it all been spent you might well ask? – A fair question. Well, on a series of projects which started with the new car park extension opposite the Squash Club and continued with various upgrades to the clubhouse, which included the main toilets, a refurbishment of the shower block, conversion of the old gym into the Stokes Room, the refurbishment of the Main Hall, a new Bar and the creation of a new entrance, to include the Club Shop.

There has also been considerable expenditure on the pitches, with professional drainage & floodlights installed to pitches 3 and 4 behind the clubhouse. More recently we've also added floodlights to Pitch 1 in the hope that they will benefit us all during the winter months. Indeed, today will see them in use for the first time

Within the last few days we have completed work to provide a new significantly upgraded electricity supply to the clubhouse. This should provide sufficient capacity for current and future needs. It has proved to be a very complex and time-consuming project, ably coordinated by John Allanson with assistance from Sid Sidey.

However, that is very much the past and the Trustees have for some time been working on two future projects which are much needed. The first and most important, involves the construction of additional changing rooms in a new extension to the rear of the clubhouse. Ultimately, we hope to be able to produce eight changing rooms, five in the extension and three refurbished in the clubhouse, together with improved referee's facilities, a larger kitchen and more storage.

The design of the new changing rooms incorporates the RFU's exacting specification which means each room must be self-contained (so that Men's & Ladies games can be played alongside each other) & capable of accommodating 22 players. One of their conditions is that there cannot be any plunge baths anywhere in the clubhouse – a touch of nostalgia for older readers!

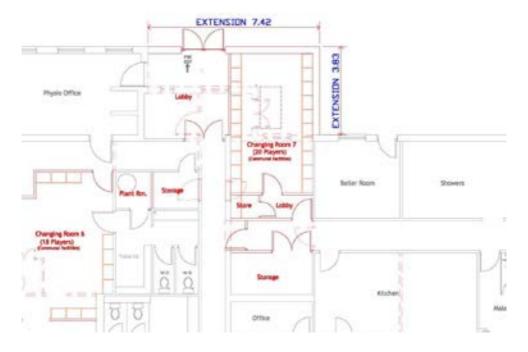
Planning permission was granted on 18th August for this project, which involves the removal of all of the trees which currently occupy the proposed location of the new development. This will enable soil survey tests to be carried out and a foundation design to be prepared. Although we do not as yet have any firm costings for the project, it is unlikely to be less than £700,000 and ideally, providing we have the funding in place, we would like to commence construction at the end of the 2019/2020 season but it may be 20/21.

We are anticipating that a potential source of funding will arise from the housing developments that are currently being undertaken, either within or adjacent to the Stortford North developments close to Silver Leys. As part of the planning consent for these developments, the housebuilders have signed a Section 106 Agreement to provide funds for sport and leisure facilities in the Town, part of which is specifically earmarked for the Rugby Club. However, these sums will only be paid after the occupation of a minimum number of houses, so this will by no means be immediate. We are however in regular contact with Councilors and Officers of East Herts Council to try and progress our application for a grant from this future funding

Indications have already been given by the Rugby Football Federation that provided the layout and specification of the new changing rooms meets their requirements, then a substantial interest free loan could be forthcoming. Peter Scarlett will be pursuing this & other avenues of potential grant funding.

We cannot however rely on others alone to finance this project and we will need to look to club members and sponsors to assist with this. Perry Oliver has agreed to lead the Appeal for funds for a project that is vital to the future of the Club, so you have been warned! It is likely to commence next year, linking up with our Centenary celebrations due to take place in 2020/21. We very much hope that when the time comes, all of those who have an interest in the Club will feel able to make a contribution to this Appeal in some shape or form. The important thing to remember with the project is that this will be very much a whole Club facility, used by members from all teams and age groups.

Apart from the building project, but complimentary to it, there is also the need to upgrade the remaining utilities and drainage. Whilst the new electricity supply is now in place, a similar exercise will be required to upgrade the gas, water and main drainage which will all add to the overall cost of the scheme.



The other project for which planning consent has been granted is the erection of two 100 seat stands to be located either side of half way on the far side of Pitch 1 to provide improved spectator facilities. We are hoping that a sponsor or sponsors will be prepared to assist with the funding of these as part of our appeal.

To complete the picture on the property and infrastructure front, the Trustees are in discussion with the Silver Leys Trustees to enable the club to take up a new 50-year lease of the trust land we currently occupy. This is an important development in securing the long-term future of the club at Silver Leys.

The club has also obtained agreement from the Stortford North consortium to use a grassed area on the other side of Dane O'Coys for Mini rugby purposes and Tubby is now working hard to bring the surface up to a playing standard.

The Club has also been given permission by the College to use a pavilion and toilet facilities, as well

as their pitch space, on a Sunday morning. This helps to cement a relationship with the school for which the Club is extremely grateful.

Finally, it is no secret that we have a long-term aspiration to incorporate the pitch space currently used by the Swifts Football club into our playing area. This would enable the Minis to move back from the College. However, this is dependent on the Swifts finding alternative pitch space and clubhouse facilities. These may be provided in the Hoggetts Wood area of the new Stortford North development. However, this is not imminent and could only take place in the latter stages of the project & sadly we have no real control over this.

So significant challenges lie ahead!

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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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