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OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME

IN THE SPOTLIGHT
JOHNNY NEVILLE

MATCH REPORT
BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1ST XV
VS LOUGHBOROUGH STUDENTS

**FIVE MORE 'FASCINATING' FACTS THAT YOU
MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT BSRFC**

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1
BISHOP'S STORTFORD RFC V CHINNOR RFC
26th January 2019

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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

MICK COLEMAN



Whisper it, but have we turned the corner??

At long last, in this massively frustrating season, we have managed to secure back to back wins for the first time, hopefully giving the team a much needed boost in confidence. It's not even that we've been playing badly, as many of our performances have easily matched those of last season, and yes, I'm fully aware that we can't keep on putting it down to bad luck, but it is satisfying that we appear to be getting a little rub of the green at long last.

So, off the back of two wins (against Sale and Loughborough Students) we now face a very different challenge against today's opposition, our old friends from Chinnor, whom we've enjoyed many a battle against over the last few seasons.

Chinnor were very generous hosts when we visited them back in October (and I don't mean on the pitch, where we were worthy winners by 13 -6!). That cold, wet day, 39 intrepid cyclists rode from Silver Leys to

Chinnor RFC to raise funds for Jimmy Rea's daughter, Aurora, to enable her to receive specialist treatment in America for her condition.

A remarkable £23,000 was raised by that event and I for one, won't forget Chinnor members having a whip round, which added over £700 extra quid to the total. Your support that day was much appreciated, and I extend a very warm welcome to all our guests from Chinnor today. Also welcome are Harlow Agricultural Ltd (HAM) who are today's Man of the Match sponsors and corporate sponsors Nockolds and Three Willows/Ace of Lanes.

Sadly, Johnny Neville, one of our long term injured players, has decided to call it a day and retire from all further playing rugby. Unfortunately, Johnny has suffered too many concussions over the recent years and on medical advice, he feels it is time to put his long term health (and Tesco career) before another couple of seasons of rugby. His hard, straight running and off loading game has already been sorely missed this season, whilst off the pitch he is genuinely someone you enjoy spending time with. I know I speak for everyone in wishing you all the best for the future Johnny and I hope you'll still enjoy paying us regular visits.

Yet again, I urge you to get behind the boys this afternoon – by all means enjoy a beer (or several) but please show your support, as games can turn quickly, so please do 'a Hankin' and make some noise! And whatever the result of this afternoon's match, don't forget that we need to get behind the team for next week's fixture away to fellow strugglers Esher, by turning out in large numbers – it really does make a difference!



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DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

ANDY LONG



Good afternoon everyone and welcome to Silver Leys

Two weeks and two wins for both 1XV and Blues have made for some happier Sundays in the Long house!

The whole squad has put in massive effort as we looked to turn the tide and wrestle ourselves from the position we are in. There is still a long way to go but our performances are showing more resilience and confidence. We know that we have to stay humble and continue to drive for better each week.

Off the field we are starting to get some of our longer term injured players back on the field, Steve Ball and Sam Winter returned last week for the Blues and Baxter Wilson makes his first appearance of the season today. Sam James looks set to return to action over the next couple of weeks so competition for places will hot up.

A huge amount of praise has to go to Kathy, Ben and their teams for all their effort they have put into treating and rehabbing the squad back to fitness.

Today's visitors Chinnor need very little introducing, we've had some fierce battles over the years with only ever a handful of points separating the teams at the final whistle.

We know that they will bring not only a hugely physical pack but some dangerous and skillful players too.

Finally I have to finish on a sad note, after careful consideration and medical advice Jonny Neville has been forced to retire from the game.

Johnny joined us back in 2013 and amassed 96 appearances playing a massive part in our climb to the top of National 2. Johnny's influence was not only on the field his impact as a leader off it was immense always happy to help younger players and make sure our standards were high and the group stayed humble.

Johnny will remain part of the group as he looks to transition into coaching, imparting all of his experience onto the younger members of the squad. Thank you Johnny for all you've done for our club.

Enjoy the game everyone

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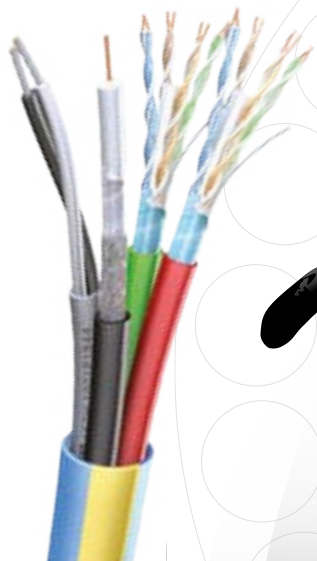
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Time for your January Touch Group Fitness programme.

Whether it's Dry January or Veganuary or any other contraction of words, New Year's resolutions to be healthier are common place. Rather than mess with your diet though, why not come and run around instead?

It's often at this time of year that the Touch Group obtain new members so if you're looking for a fitness kick, it's well worth a go. Touch is a superb game and a great form of social fitness. It is open to all regardless of age, gender and size of beer gut. It delivers teamwork and most importantly it's fun and sociable. The rules are straight forward: no tackling, no kicking, rolling subs so natural breaks are taken (some more often than others).

Over the last few months the group has been bolstered by a number of new players. Some have come from the traditional starting point for many of the group – mini's parents who have either never touched a rugby ball or are "retired" from playing contact rugby – who have been inspired (or guilted) into having a run out by watching their kids on a Sunday morning.

We have also been joined by many new players who have come to us from outside of the club. It's great that we have new members coming into the BSRFC Rugby Family from this route.

The group meets on Wednesday evening on the floodlit pitches at 7.30pm so if you'd like to join the group, just turn up then. Attendance also gains you points for the O2 Touch reward scheme – free t-shirts and hoodies aplenty.

And for all of the promise of boosted fitness in this piece, there are at least three people who simply use the run around as an excuse to head to the bar at 9pm.

In addition to the Wednesday evening sessions, there are some upcoming fixtures approaching. Royston will be visiting us on 30th January with a return fixture planned for a couple of weeks later.

And following previous tours to France, Italy and Portugal, details of this year's international tour will be released soon.

July will bring the, now annual, BSRFC O2 Touch Festival. We have had tremendous support from across the club with this event with a number of teams being entered each year, taking on teams from across the county. If you've got a group of six mates who would like to turn out this year, just get in touch with one of the Touch Group committee.

They can generally be found in the bar on a Wednesday evening from 9.30 until Sarah kicks them out.



THE PLAYERS

BSRFC 1'S XV 2017/18



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C'mon down and see the Mighty Blues

JULIET SCANTLEBURY (AKA SCANTS MUM)

If you have never watched the Blues, you don't know what you're missing!

Richard and I have been supporting our son Jack and the rest of the team for four years now, ever since Jack finished university and returned to his rugby roots to play with his school and club mates here at BSRFC. There have been highs and lows, but it is the passion and commitment of the team that never fails to deliver and is infectious to all that play and follow. Well done to the coaches Danny, Faiersy and Ash for giving up their valuable time and energy to train and manage the Blues. They always make us feel welcome on match days.

You can watch the Second team for free with the payback normally being a longer walk to the pitch. Last year's Barnes away game required a ten minute walk to the furthest corner of the park and certainly no stands for protection from the elements. This adversity creates the camaraderie, friendship and fun of supporting the Blues. All of this is amplified with the away trip to Jersey staying for a few nights in The Royal Yacht Hotel. Last season's away win is one of our top highlights with Big Bird (Ross's Dad) and Radders (Ollie's Dad) sipping wine from their own two litre lemonade bottles at pitch-side and then not making dinner with us, a couple of lightweights! Faiersy's emotion at beating Jersey away after a 3am start reflected the passion that we all feel when the Blues do well.

One item that has been a source of much amusement and embarrassment to Jack has been my iPad. Photos of varying quality have been taken and posted on Facebook or Instagram but the trusty iPad has now been superseded by a brand new camera with a zoom lens (feel sure you have nothing to fear Andy Todd!). There are often a few customary group shots after the game with the Bens (all five of them sometimes!) checking their hair and vying for inclusion.

Over the years of watching we've seen players come and go through injury and call

up to the Firsts and individuals grow from young colts into talented and accomplished adult rugby players. This season we've seen a flourish of new colts come in and this has meant Jack, at the tender age of twenty five, has become a senior player and indeed Captain. A prime example is Bradley Etherington who plays Number Eight for the Blues. His father Mark had this to say.....

"Since our son Brad made his debut for the Blues back in Dec 2017, my wife and I have travelled up and down the country to watch and support the team. We have some great memories such as winning the President's Cup Final at Allianz Park last year and some terrible memories such as the heavy defeat at Cambridge this season. Having watched the Blues play for just over twelve months, we have got to know the coaches Danny and Rob and their team. They always take time to talk to us about the game whether good or bad and credit to all the players too who make us feel welcome and come over to chat to us about their rugby. We have some high hopes for the rest of this year as the lads are playing some fantastic rugby at the moment. This was on show at Richmond, not an easy place to go and win, but they did it quite comfortably. We sincerely hope they can push on and finish well in their league."

Good luck to the Blues today, we are all hoping for a win against Chinnor to avenge the 13-7 loss back in October.





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TODAY'S OPPOSITION

CHINNOR RFC



Our opponents today Chinnor RFC were founded as recently as 1962 making them the 'youngest' club in the National leagues, by a group of regulars at 'The Bird in Hand' pub in Chinnor. The pub was their unofficial HQ and 'clubhouse' for many years whilst they played matches on a field next door.

In 1971 the club moved to Towersey Playing Fields in Thame, building their very first clubhouse on the site, entirely through volunteer labour. The club quickly grew, adding Mini & Youth Rugby in 1973 and winning the Oxfordshire County Cup in 1976. Not bad for a club, that was at that point, only 14 years old!

Within a few years though the village decided they wanted their playing fields back forcing the club to look elsewhere for a permanent home. In 1987 they moved to the ten acre site at Kingsley Road which many of our supporters will be familiar with. They won a play-off to secure their promotion to National league 2S (Level 4) in 2012 and many of you will remember our first encounter with them which was at this level on 26th October 2013. That match at Kingsley Road was a close fought encounter with the hosts running out winners on that occasion 29-27.

That was the first of several memorable matches which we contested in the three seasons we were together in National 2 South. Chinnor were of course along with Old Elthamians & ourselves involved in a 3-way dog fight for promotion during the 2016-17 season, a fight that thankfully resulted in us gaining the automatic promotion with OE's just pipping Chinnor to the play-off spot.

Chinnor went one better last season, securing 2nd spot in N2S & beat Sedgley Park from N2N in a high scoring home play-off, 40-31 to secure their position in National One for the very first time.

Earlier this season we won 13-6 at Kingsley Road, giving them every incentive to redress the balance today. They currently sit in a highly commendable 5th position in the table having already won no fewer than 10 of the 19 games to date.





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RESULTS GRID, TABLE & FIXTURES

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

FIXTURE SCHEDULE & RESULTS GRID 2018-19

[illegible]

Season 2018/2019 NATIONAL 1

Results From 19th January

Home Team		Away Team
Rosslyn Park	31-32	Darlington Mowden Park
Loughborough Students	26-41	Bishop's Stortford
Esher	17-14	Caldy
Chinnor	27-29	Cinderford
Blackheath	26-31	Amphill
Birmingham Moseley	10-14	Old Elthamians
Sale FC	13-12	Rotherham
Plymouth Albion	29-17	Cambridge

Season 2018/2019 NATIONAL 1

Fixtures for 26th January

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

National League 1 - 2018/19

Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	TBP	LBP	Points
Amphill & District	19	12	1	6	554	387	167	12	5	67
Old Elthamians	19	13	2	4	490	377	113	8	2	66
Blackheath	19	13	1	5	466	378	88	8	3	65
Rosslyn Park	19	12	1	6	519	444	75	10	3	63
Chinnor	19	10	2	7	497	483	14	10	5	59
Rotherham	19	12	0	7	464	401	63	7	3	58
Cinderford	19	9	1	9	410	443	-33	7	4	49
Darlington Mowden Park	19	9	0	10	449	487	-38	9	4	49
Plymouth Albion	19	9	0	10	395	423	-28	7	5	48
Sale FC	19	8	1	10	480	532	-52	6	4	44
Caldy	19	8	0	11	406	469	-63	6	6	44
Cambridge	19	8	1	10	383	394	-11	3	6	43
Esher	19	8	0	11	409	501	-92	4	5	41
Birmingham Moseley	19	6	0	13	489	543	-54	7	8	39
Bishop's Stortford	19	6	0	13	425	393	32	6	7	37
Loughborough Students	19	4	0	15	502	683	-181	11	5	32

THE TEAMS



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BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1ST XV

BLUE AND WHITE

1	Seb Brownhill
2	Declan Caulfield
3	Tom McCrone
4	Jon George
5	Matt Tomlinson ©
6	James Apperley
7	Dan Elsom
8	Charlie Kingham
9	Tom Banks
10	George Cullen
11	Joss Linney
12	Jack Scantlebury
13	George Keen
14	Rob Duff
15	Nick Hankin

REPLACEMENTS

16	Harrison King
17	Ben Harrison-Price
18	Steve Ball
19	Reuben Bird-Tulloch
20	Tom Coleman

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BLACK AND WHITE

	Ricky Cano	1
	Dan George	2
	Ben Betts	3
	Ben Thomas	4
	Scott Russell	5
	Joe Dancer	6
	Ben Manning	7
	Paddy Ryan	8
	Connor Tupai	9
	Ben Palmer	10
	Reon Joseph	11
	Greg King ©	12
	Alex Dancer	13
	Kieran Goss	14
	Craig Holland	15

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REPLACEMENTS

	Tom Price	16
	Jack Gilding	17
	Jake Elwood	18
	Danny Barnes	19
	Josh Hodson	20



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MATCH REPORT

LOUGHBOROUGH STUDENTS 26 - 41 BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1ST XV



Stortford made a fast start to the game and, despite tremendous Loughborough tackling, crossed the try-line after 5 minutes, when George Keen made a clean break and found Dan Elsom in close support to run in from the 22 for an unconverted try.

The visitors were soon back on the front foot and scored their second try with 10 minutes gone, when Charlie Kingham burst through the middle, almost making the line himself from 30 yards out, but quick ball saw Joss Linney in out wide. Tom Banks stepped up to make a great conversion from the touchline and the lead became 19 after 20 minutes, when James Apperley scored his second great individual try in two weeks. This time he took a short pass from George Cullen close to halfway to burst clear and once again surprised the opposition with his pace over distance, feinting passes to supporting players but outpacing the covering players to make the line with room to spare. Banks again added the extras.

The home side fought back and forced their way through their lively backs into the Stortford 22, but a good cover tackle by Cullen dislodged the ball for a crucial turnover. A breakdown penalty to Stortford shortly after was taken quickly by Banks, who ran 30 metres and, when he was hauled down some 40 metres out, another penalty quickly resulted. This produced a yellow card for Loughborough's fullback and a shot at goal for Banks, which was pulled wide.

The relief for the home side was, though short-lived, as a good take from the restart saw Nick Hankin make a clean break to run some 20 metres before feeding Rob Duff outside to run in the bonus point try with 25 minutes gone. The Students now showed real character, battling their way into the game and giving the visitors' pack a hard time in the scrums, causing the referee to award a series of penalties. This took Loughborough steadily upfield, despite some tremendous tackling by Stortford. Eventually, the official lost patience and, following another penalty at a scrum on the 5 metre line, sin-binned Seb Brownhill. Unsurprisingly, Loughborough opted for another scrum and a further Stortford offence produced a penalty try to take the halftime score to 7-24.

The home side started the second half strongly, but were held at bay by solid Stortford defence and, with 5 minutes gone, a loose home pass in midfield was seized on quickly by George Cullen, who had the pace

to run the ball in for a fifth try, giving Banks a relatively easy conversion.

Loughborough were undaunted and took full advantage of a poor Stortford lineout close to halfway to force their way into the Stortford red zone through their always threatening backs. Two successive penalties took them to the 5 metre line and their forwards were able to force their way over for a try under the posts.

Stortford registered their 6th try after 68 minutes, when a powerful break up the middle by replacement hooker, Harrison King found Manu Vunipola in space on the home 22, but with defenders still to beat. The flyhalf showed great presence of mind to turn the retreating defenders, cutting out to the left and taking the last tackler over the line. Banks converted to stretch the lead to 24 points, but still Loughborough came back, though they were perhaps fortunate to be rewarded 6 minutes later with a second penalty try, when Duff, attempting to cut out a long crosskick was presumably considered by the nearby assistant referee to have deliberately knocked the ball into touch, for which he was yellow-carded and officials clearly felt that the home winger, flying in on the outside would certainly have gathered the difficult kick.

Stortford were reduced to 13 men for the final 4 minutes of the game, when Hankin was penalised 3 minutes later for what was considered a late and no-arms challenge on the Loughborough left wing.

Stortford's 13 men bounced back onto the attack, but a knock-on was quickly seized on by Loughborough's lively backs, who dashed some 50 metres upfield. When they were stopped by good cover defence, they ruthlessly exploited the inevitable space out wide on the opposite wing with a pinpoint cross kick from flyhalf, Charlie Reed flying into acres of space, such that the winger was able to allow the ball to come to a stop over the line, before touching it down for his side's own bonus point. The conversion was missed and the game was closed out a couple of minutes later, when the home side offended at a breakdown some 30 metres from their line, as Stortford again threatened with their running game. Banks calmly slotted the goal to bring the final score to 26-41.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

After 6 seasons with this rugby club I have decided to take the tough decision to hang up my boots, after a string of concussions I need to think about the future. I'm sure most of the boys will now be thinking "alright stop milking it Nevs" but I'm grateful for this opportunity nonetheless.

I've decided to give you my 3 favourite memories, the 3 things I'll miss personally and the 3 things I'd like to pass on.

Memory 1: Exmouth changing room, we had just won national league division 2 south, the reality of the achievement no way near setting in, all we knew was we had done something brilliant. 30 odd top blokes stood in a tiny changing room singing every song they could possibly think of until they had no voice left to sing, beer flying all over the place, champagne sprays, photos, intermittent quick chats sharing kind words and looks of sheer elation and disbelief. Words can't describe the feeling.

Memory 2: The Bus back from Redruth after losing yet another game we should have won, after playing in mud as thick as clay with rain heavier than anyone would have believed possible, a miserable score line of 5-0 after a try in the first 10 minutes in "hell fire corner", the jeers from Cornish locals still ringing in the ears. Then getting to Exeter and realising sulking isn't going to do much good so yet again singing the songs until you have no voice, telling the same stories the bus has all heard 100 times and creating a feeling of togetherness and a resilience that would see us go on to do great things.

Memory 3: Barnes at home, final game of the season we were promoted, the guard of honour from the whole community from the clubhouse to the pitch, 3 deep the whole way, having two juniors on match day experience either side of every player as we walked up the tunnel soaking it in, a beautiful day, Silver Leys in it's prime. A try, a worthy reward for a particular fly-half's retirement (or so we thought). A truly special occasion.



What will I miss?

The pre match huddle, 15 blokes ready for to lay it all on the line for the same cause. The adrenaline is pumping, there is no turning back the only way out is to give it everything you've got for the next 80 minutes and if you do you will get your just reward. That feeling doesn't come around every week when you are not playing. The opportunity to test yourself with your teams trust and support is special.

The feeling after a game, usually just as I get in the changing room, the acceptance of any result is so much easier if you know you gave it everything you had to offer. I can say confidently I've never lost a game at Stortford due to lack of effort from the team, therefore you can always be rewarded despite the result. I'm lucky enough to have won a lot more frequently than I have lost but regardless of the result the satisfaction gained from the combined effort of the team is something I will miss greatly.

The contact, it took me to play with this team to understand that I didn't need to be brilliant at everything I just needed to focus on what my strengths were. My strength was running as hard as I could. The feeling of dominating a collision is electric, rugby is a simple game if you win the physical battle more often than not you win the match. I have no regrets over getting injured the physical challenge makes our game great.

JOHNNY NEVILLE

Things to pass on:

To the players: our sport is awesome, nothing can reward you like rugby. Play with a smile on your face and don't fear making mistakes. We are all at our best when we express ourselves. Try your best in every situation and you will get your reward. Be an energiser, work hard and put the team first.

To any junior or parent: You are playing at the best rugby club in the country, there will be times though when rugby is tricky. Every injury I ever picked up was worth it, I have nothing but love for this game, don't worry about the: "he's bigger than me, she's quicker than me, not another injury..." Stick with it, even when you can't face another training session in the cold and wet, the lessons you will learn, the friends you will make and the journey you will go on is unlike any other, you will surprise yourself with what you can achieve, don't look to be a professional tomorrow just stick with it and you will achieve your personal goals in time, I did.

Thank you: Finally I'd like to pass on a heartfelt thank you to all of you who have made my last 6 years the best experience of my life to date. Coaches, Players, Physios, Jackets, Supporters, Sponsors, the Youth teams. I simply can't express my gratitude, I look forward to continuing being part of this great club as a coach next year.

#oneclub #COYB

Johnny has been the perfect example of what we look for in a player to join this club. He well and truly bought in to our culture from the start (after he stopped wearing his Newcastle Falcons shirt to every training session and telling everyone he played for their academy).

The whole squad has grown very fond of Johnny with his straight talking and straight line running, and we are all gutted he is having to walk away from playing.

I'll leave you with the top 3 Johnny-isms - **work hard, bring the energy, stay humble.**

From everyone at the club, we love you Johnny and thank you for everything. It's been a hell of a ride. **#ohstortarewe**

1st XV stats from 2013/14 - 2017/18

Played 74
31 Tries
1 Conv
Total 157pts
3 Yellow Cards



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

Director of Rugby, Andy Long, has reiterated on a number of occasions the importance he attaches to the financial support given by Club Stortford. Quite simply, without it's support, the team would not be able to perform at such currently high levels.

We continue to look for new members, to allow us to broaden and deepen the extent of our support.

We would urge you to consider joining Club Stortford. If you are interested and would like further information, please contact our secretary,

Russell Cattell 07778 101988



THE OVAL CLUB



The Oval Club was formed in 1998 by some Bishop's Stortford Rugby Football Club members who wanted to find a way of raising funds to improve the playing facilities of the Club 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 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 which have been approved by the Rugby Club's Executive Committee and which fall within its mission statement.

Funds are raised by monthly contributions from the Members two thirds of which are set aside for Rugby Club projects with the other third reserved for social events for Members.

To date The Oval Club has raised over a quarter of a million pounds with the Rugby Club receiving more than £150,000.

The Oval Club makes contributions to the Rugby Club for one off projects which are of long term value and not part of on-going budget requirements. Often these contributions have been made to the Club to enable it to secure grants from the Rugby Football Union and other sources.

So far, major contributions have been made towards the cost of:

- Flood lighting the main pitch,
- Floodlighting the back field pitches,
- Pitch repair and maintenance,
- Improvement of the playing surfaces, including the purchase of a verti-drainer,
- Drainage of the back field pitches,

- Rabbit fencing,
- Replacement of goal posts,
- Refurbishing the changing room showers,
- Purchase of physiotherapy equipment,
- Playing equipment and travel costs for all teams,
- Supporting youth and mini through tours, kit and additional playing facilities,
- Junior coaching courses.

On the social side there are annual Members' events. Currently these are:

- A self-supporting golf day at one of the local golf clubs,
- An Annual Dinner and Forum,
- A First Team Home lunch,
- A First Team Away coach trip and lunch.

Through its contributions The Oval Club plays a considerable part in helping the Rugby Club enhance its playing related facilities for the use and benefit of all members of the Club.

Anyone who is interested in joining The Oval Club should contact a member of the Committee below.

The Oval Club Committee:

Robbie Kerr - Chairman
John Robinson - Secretary
John Power- Treasurer
Mark Caulfield
Mike Howatson

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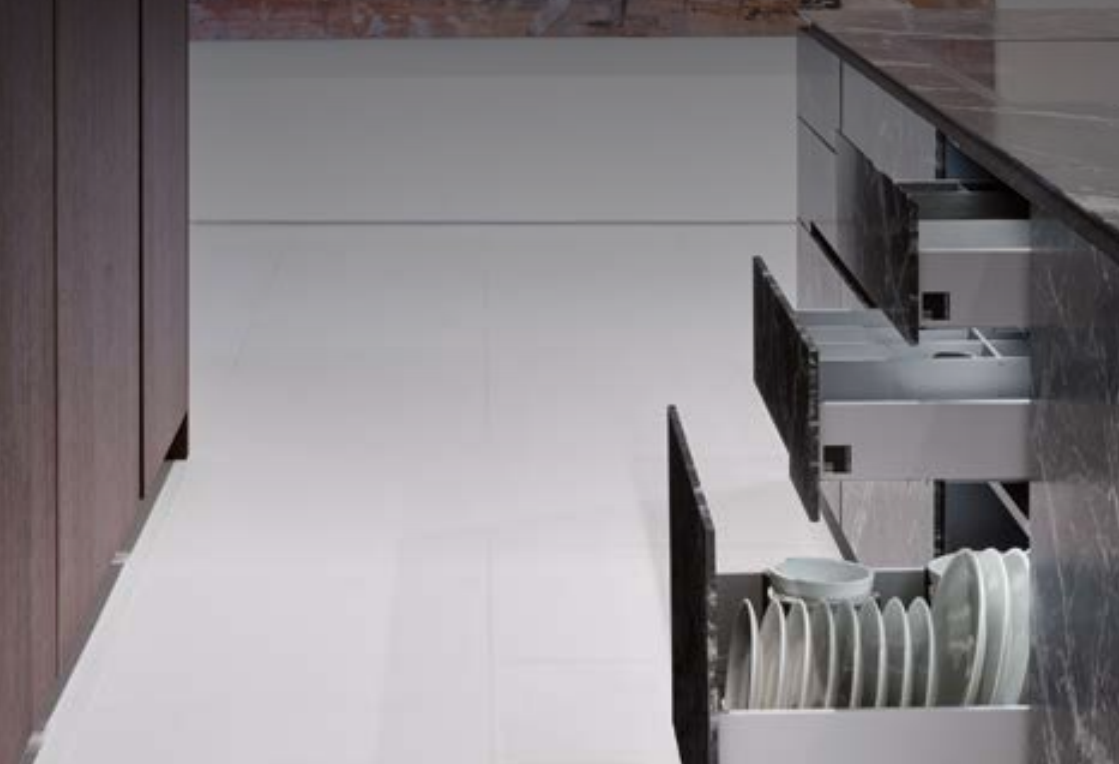


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FIVE MORE 'FASCINATING' FACTS THAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT BSRFC

1. For several seasons after its formation Bishop's Stortford had a pre-season match with the famous Blackheath Club.

On their first visit to Silver Leys in 1937, Blackheath "lost 2 Players en route." In fairness it must have been a bit of a trek back in those days!

2. Bishop's Stortford won their League in the very first season 87/88 by winning 9 of the 10 Games and thus gained promotion into London 2 North.

But In the 14 seasons until their next promotion they finished in runners-up spot on no less than 5 occasions. It is a sobering thought that the clubs gaining promotion in those 5 season none have achieved to level of Bishop's Stortford and in some instances gone backwards:

- 1988-89 Cheshunt now back at London 3 North West (Level 8)
- 1990-91 Eton Manor now London 1 North (Level 6)
- 1996-97 Cheshunt – see above
- 1997-98 Woodford now London 2 North East (Level 7)
- 1999-00 London Nigerians withdrawn from Leagues

3. Bishop's Stortford are the only club to achieve the County Cup and County 7's 'Double'

League In the days before Leagues the main accolade for Clubs was the County Cup played on a knock out basis. In Season 1971-72 Bishop's

Stortford RFC completed "The Double" of County Cup and County 7's and remain the only club to have achieved this distinction.

4. Colts rugby was started here in 1960 and was soon followed by the other youth age groups.

Regular attendees at matches will be aware that we are proud of the fact that many of our 1st Xv players are 'home grown'

Since that time we have won the National Colts Cup twice. Firstly in 2006 with a squad that involved Marcus Cattell, Richard Gill, Aaron Springham & Rupert Cooper and again in 2013 by the team that included Charlie Kingham, Oli Jones, Joss Linney, Ben Harrison-Price, Sam James & James Orbart.

We have also won the National Colts Plate victories on two occasions in 2005 (Tom Coleman, Sam Whiffen, Gilly & Matt Tomlinson) and 2011 (George Cullen, Tom McCrone, Tom Banks, Rory Young, Jack Scantlebury, Will Roberts & Tom Cattell)

5. Significant birthday for Minis soon?

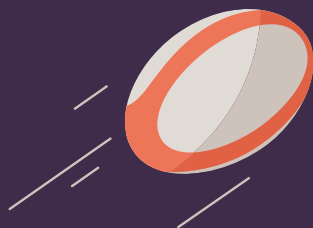
Our Minis rugby section was formally established in 1977 but had existed in an ad-hoc fashion for several years before that. So as we have started planning for the club centenary they had soon better start thinking how they are going to celebrate their Golden Anniversary

(Thanks again to Paul Maxfield for the research)



FORWARD.

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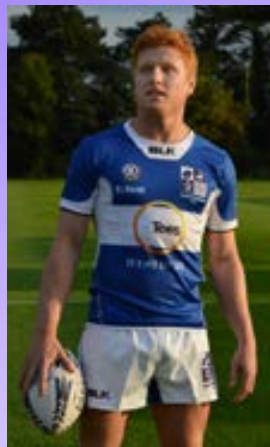
Thremhall Park, Start Hill, Bishop's Stortford CM22 7WE

ANDY TODD

PHOTOGRAPHY



OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER OF
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BISHOP'S STORTFORD RFC MATCH DAY EXPERIENCE

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE 1ST XV



As part of the Clubs ethos 'to be a strong and successful rugby club united from Senior to Mini's, trusted and valued by our community' the BSRFC Director of Rugby, Andy Long, Club Captain Sam Winter, & the rest of the 1st XV Squad provide an insight for our "Mini & Junior" Members into what goes on behind the scenes as the Players prepare for a National League

1 Match. The day kicks off with a Q&A in the 1st XV Changing Room, followed by Training, Games & Warm up Sessions with the Coaches and Players. They then form the "Players Tunnel" alongside the "Blazers" to welcome both the opposition and the 1st XV onto the pitch before the game. Their experience culminates with Post Match Photos alongside the Players.



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