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New Season Begins | Absent Friends | Centenary Fund

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD v PLYMOUTH ALBION

11th September 2021

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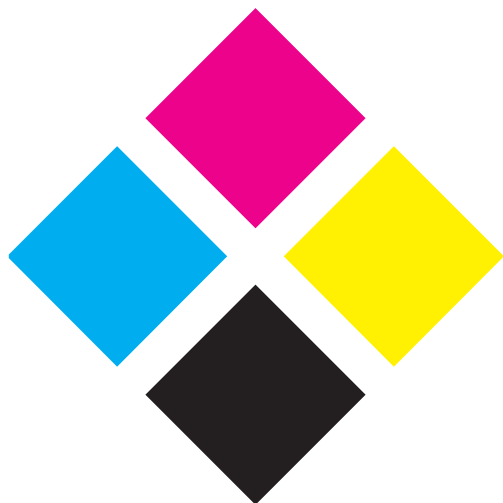
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President's Welcome

MICK COLEMAN



It is my absolute honour to welcome everyone to Bishop's Stortford RFC in this, our (belated) centenary season and what a great feeling to finally be back amongst so many rugby friends! Who would have thought when we played Rotherham way back in March 2020 that we would have to wait 18 months before we could resume league rugby?

During our enforced shutdown, the community spirit that burns so brightly in this club, shone through as perhaps never before. All aspects of the club came together as one to support us throughout the lockdown. From players, coaches and support staff, our members and VP's, through to our fantastic sponsors, all of you continued to support us financially, which was not only remarkable, but also quite humbling. We've always considered our sponsors to be very much part of this club and they certainly proved that throughout Covid! Many thanks to all of you. Finally, we shouldn't forget the volunteers who run the club - The Trustees, The Charity Executive Committee and The Trading Subsidiary. These guys spent endless hours on zoom meetings, making sure the club stayed afloat and having to make some very difficult decisions during that period. I must also include Julie North in that group who just seems to bring so many parts of the jigsaw together, way more than just her sponsorship duties, which she does so brilliantly. Many thanks to you all.

Today we welcome Plymouth Albion to Silver Leys. Plymouth will be looking to get their campaign up and running, having lost to Rosslyn Park last week. Having not played for so long, we're all trying to assess each other's strengths and weaknesses as we all jockey for position, so today's game should be interesting to say the least! Our own new coaching team led by Tom and Marcus will also be looking to improve on last week's draw at Tonbridge. We also welcome our new forwards coach Lee Soper to the club who has joined us fresh from coaching the Army. Thanks also to Lee's Dad who sent us a kind message of support!

As it's our centenary season, we've decided to pour all our fundraising activities into our changing room project rather than adopting a chosen charity. These extra, larger changing rooms are urgently needed as we currently only have 2 full sized rooms with the others being a tight squeeze for 15 players, allowing no room for subs or coaches. Frequently, our social sides have had to forgo home matches simply because there is nowhere to change. We also need to accommodate for our expanding ladies' section, and just need much more space on a Sunday for all our junior teams. I'm sure you will all recognise the need for this project and support us in our fundraising efforts. A contactless giving terminal has been set up inside the clubhouse, specifically for donations to the fund, so don't be shy!

As you will see from the front cover of the programme, we have lost some big hitters from the club since we were last here. Bev Clarke, Janice Brook, Terry Ellis, Paul Maxfield and Tony Springham were not only fantastic servants to the club, but also delightful people whose company it was impossible not to enjoy. You will all be sadly missed by all your many friends at BSRFC.

Finally, thanks to Tees Law, who are today's match day sponsors and Russell Property, our man of the match sponsors and sponsors of Match Day Experience.





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Head Coaches

TOM COLEMAN / MARCUS CATTELL



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to Silver Ley's after such a long and frustrating period without any competitive rugby - we have missed you. The players are very much looking forward to getting back out there in front of our supporters and hopefully putting in a performance to make it a winning return to rugby at our home.

Last week we kicked off at Tonbridge Juddians and although we didn't get the result we wanted, there were many positives to take away from the game (which included eight debuts) and we look forward to an improved performance this week against tough opposition. We've had some cracking games with Plymouth over the last few years and hopefully today is no different. With both teams having disappointing results to kick off the new season, we're sure today's game will be fiercely contested until the very end!

We couldn't write this without mentioning our amazing sponsors. We're sure we speak for everyone attached to the club in saying a massive thank you for all your continued support towards the club through such difficult times. You are all important members of our team and we are incredibly grateful for your continued generosity and look forward to sharing a drink (or two!) with you throughout the season.

Lastly, we remember today some much loved characters who always supported the team with great enthusiasm (a few moans!) and encouragement. Bev Clark, Terry Ellis, Tony Springham, Paul Maxfield and Janice Brook. You will all be missed dearly and thank you for the time you gave to our great club.

We look forward to hearing you cheer the boys on and hope you all enjoy the game today.

Tom and Marcus

The Coaching Staff:



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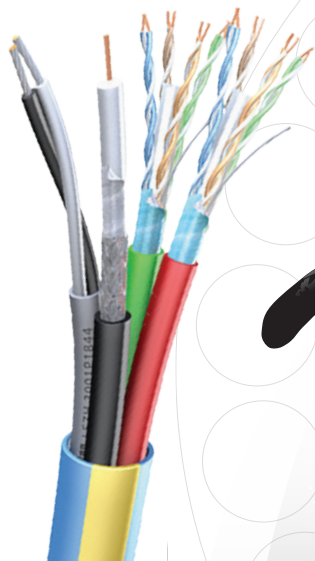
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New Laws for 2021/22 Season



World Rugby have introduced a few new laws that are to be trialled worldwide for the next 12 months at all levels of the game. There is a think it's fair to say a debate as to what if any difference they will make to rugby at our level and below

These are the changes what do you think?

First up the 50:22 kick

If the team in possession kicks the ball from inside their own half and it bounces into touch inside their opponents' 22, they will get the throw into the resultant lineout.

The ball cannot be passed or carried back over half way for the 50:22 to be played. The phase must originate inside the kicking team's own half.

The thinking behind this is that it will make the defending team leave more players in the back-field to cover the 50:22 kick. In doing so there absence from the defensive wall will create more space to attack.

But are the kickers good enough at level 3 and below to consistently exploit the benefits of this change? Perhaps?

If you do have a kicker or kickers in your back line capable of regularly doing this then the resultant close range attacking lineouts will be a massive advantage but if you haven't you could just end up kicking away possession that might otherwise have been better used in hand.

So will it actually have the desired outcome of removing players from the defensive line? Possibly not?

This next one we will definitely see in action - the Goal line Drop out

Whereas previously if the ball is held up over the try-line or there is a knock-on from an attacking player in-goal or an attacking kick is grounded by the defenders behind their try-

line, then play would be restarted with either a scrum or 22m drop kick. But this change means that these scenarios will now lead to a game being restarted via a goal line drop-out taken from anywhere along the goal line.

It is hoped that this one will encourage variety in attacking play close to the goal line and reduce the number of scrums in a game. The kick must be taken without delay (whatever that means) so in theory if players are alive to the new law and its application it could create some interesting opportunities for a length of the field counter attack.

It might also discourage teams from constantly using their pack to pick & go near the try line

There are three other law changes but we'll deal with them in the next programme as I'm sure these two have given you enough to think about and debate for one day

And finally remember these law changes are also new for the officials so please cut them some slack and as always please be respectful. We wouldn't have a game without them!



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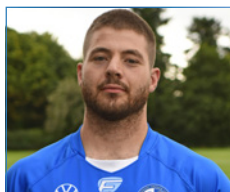


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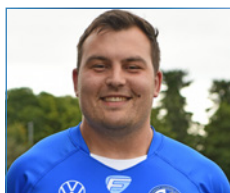
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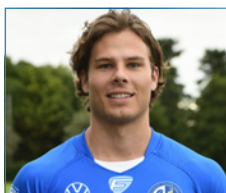


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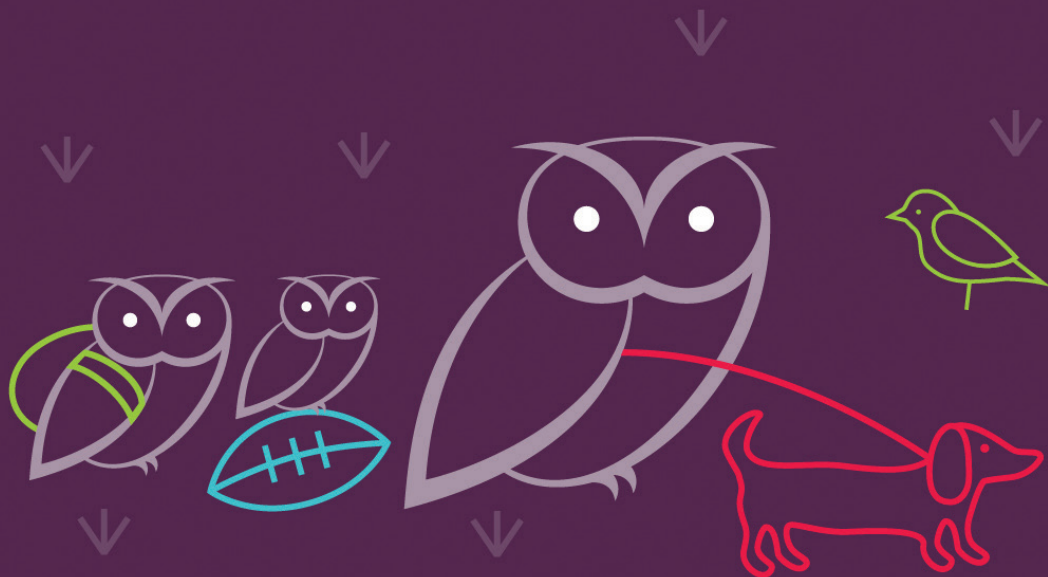
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Today's Opposition

PLYMOUTH ALBION RFC



The present club was founded in 1920 from a merger between Plymouth RFC and Devonport Albion RFC (both founded in 1876). Since 2003 they have played their home games at The Brickfields stadium.

After thirteen seasons in the Championship, in 2015 they were relegated to National One.

Albion were a major force in English rugby union in the 1920s having five internationals on their books at one time. Around this time they attracted a crowd of 18,000 to a midweek game against Oxford University which established a record crowd for a club match in England which was not exceeded until the 1980s.

On their way to promotion to Nat One in 2002, the team went on a two season unbeaten streak of over 50 games, starting when the club was in Division Three South.

Albion experienced financial problems a few years ago and only avoided entering administration early in 2015 following a cash injection of £250,000 by local businesses. That though did not save them from formally entering administration in April 2016 at which point two former players, Bruce Priday and David Venables came to their rescue. However by going into administration they incurred a RFU penalty of a 30 point deduction applied to the standings of the 15/16 season which relegated them to 8th position instead of 4th.

Since then Bruce Priday has moved on, but Max Venables is still the Club's Managing Director.

In 2016/17 they again showed their class by finishing Runners up to Hartpury one place above now promoted Ampthill

In 17/18 they finished 3rd, 18/19 - 5th and in the aborted 19/20 season after the final standings were announced they were placed 6th although we did famously record a first win against them in the first game of that season, at the Brickfields

stadium when we came back from 21-0 down after the first 15 minutes to win 40-42

Unfortunately the return fixture here was a victim of the pandemic

They are then perennial high placed finishers in National One and have made no secret that their goal is to secure a return to the Championship.

They lost their opening game at home last week to Rosslyn Park but that is no disgrace given that they are many people's favourites for the title this season.

Albion will provide us with very stiff opposition today and you would think that our guys will have to be at their best to win.

Albion also have a successful women's team and recently formed a Under 18s Academy





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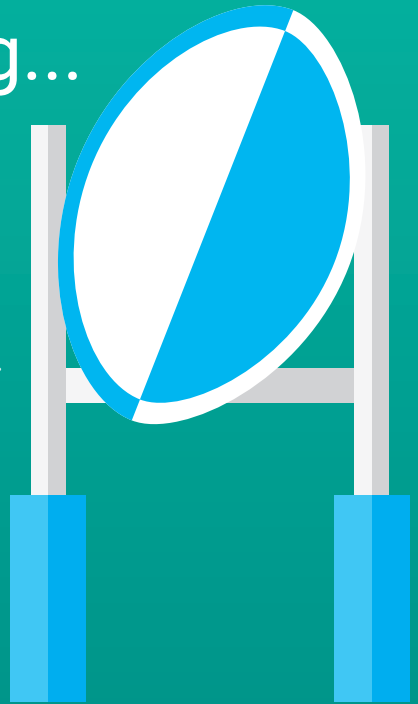
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Results grid, table and fixtures

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

FIXTURE SCHEDULE & RESULTS GRID 2021-22

	Bir M	BSRFC	Bkth	Caldy	Camb	Chin	Cind	DMP	Leeds	Phym A	Rams	Ross Pk	Sale	Taunton	TJ's		
Bir M		26/03	11/09	15/01	29/01	25/09	23/04	23-22	23/10	19/02	27/11	13/11	09/04	05/03	09/10		
BSRFC	20/11		02/04	04/12	18/12	16/04	12/03	12/02	15/01	11/09	16/10	29/01	26/02	25/09	30/04		
Bckth	08/01	27/11		25/09	09/10	29/01	15-18	18/09	05/03	23/10	09/04	26/03	11/12	13/11	19/02		
Caldy	18/09	09/04	22/01		19/02	09/10	08/01	02/10	13/11	05/03	11/12	27/11	23/04	26/03	23/10		
Camb	02/10	23/04	12/02	16/10		26/02	22/01	30/10	27/11	26/03	28-34	11/12	08/01	09/04	13/11		
Chinnor	22/01	11/12	02/10	12/02	23/10		18/09	16/10	26/03	13/11	23/04	09/04	34-21	27/11	05/03		
Cind	18/12	13/11	30/04	11/09	25/09	15/01		16/04	19/02	09/10	26/03	05/03	27/11	23/10	29/01		
DMP	30/04	09/10	15/01	29/01	05/03	19/02	11/12		23/04	09/04	23/10	25/09	13/11	11/09	26/03		
Leeds	26/02	18/09	30/10	12/03	02/04	20/11	16/10	18/12		16/04	22/01	08/01	02/10	29-41	04/12		
Phym A	16/10	08/01	26/02	30/10	20/11	12/03	12/02	04/12	11/12		18/09	08-37	22/01	23/04	02/04		
Rams	02/04	19/02	04/12	16/04	30/04	18/12	20/11	26/02	25/09	15/01		09/10	30/10	29/01	11/09		
Ross Pk	12/03	02/10	20/11	02/04	16/04	04/12	30/10	22/01	11/09	30/04	12/02		16/10	15/01	18/12		
Sale	04/12	23/10	16/04	18/12	11/09	30/04	02/04	12/03	29/01	25/09	05/03	19/02		09/10	15/01		
Taunton	30/10	22/01	12/03	20/11	04/12	02/04	26/02	08/01	30/04	18/12	02/10	18/09	12/02		16/04		
TJ's	12/02	18-18	16/10	26/02	12/03	30/10	02/10	20/11	09/04	27/11	08/01	23/04	18/09	11/12			
									ROUNDS 1 to 14						ROUNDS 15-28		

Results grid, table and fixtures

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

Season 2021/2022 NATIONAL 1

Results from 4th September

HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM
Tonbridge Juddians	18-18	Bishop's Stortford
Cambridge	28-34	Rams
Birmingham Moseley	23-22	Darlington Mowden Park
Blackheath	15-18	Cinderford
Leeds Tykes	29-41	Taunton
Chinnor	34-21	Sale FC
Plymouth Albion	8-37	Rosslyn Park
Spare week		Caldy

Season 2021/2022 NATIONAL 1

Fixtures for 11th September

HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM
Bishop's Stortford	vs	Plymouth Albion
Birmingham Moseley	vs	Blackheath
Rams	vs	Tonbridge Juddians
Cinderford	vs	Caldy
Darlington Mowden Park	vs	Taunton
Sale FC	vs	Cambridge
Rosslyn Park	vs	Leeds Tykes
Spare week		Chinnor

National League 1 - 2021/2022

Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	TBP	LBP	Points
Rosslyn Park	1	1	0	0	37	8	29	1	0	5
Chinnor	1	1	0	0	34	21	13	1	0	5
Taunton	1	1	0	0	41	29	12	1	0	5
Rams	1	1	0	0	34	28	6	1	0	5
Cinderford	1	1	0	0	18	15	3	0	0	4
Birmingham Moseley	1	1	0	0	23	22	1	0	0	4
Bishop's Stortford	1	0	1	0	18	18	0	0	0	2
Tonbridge Juddians	1	0	1	0	18	18	0	0	0	2
Cambridge	1	0	0	1	28	34	6	1	1	2
Darlington Mowden Park	1	0	0	1	22	23	-1	0	1	1
Blackheath	1	0	0	1	15	18	-3	0	1	1
Leeds Tykes	1	0	0	1	29	41	-12	1	0	1
Caldy	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sale FC	1	0	0	1	21	34	-13	0	0	0
Plymouth Albion	1	0	0	1	8	37	-29	0	0	0

The Teams



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Bishop's Stortford 1st XV

BLUE AND WHITE

1	Will Roberts
2	Alex Rayment
3	Andy Peverelle
4	Harry Charter
5	James Thacker
6	Tom Lewis
7	Jacob Wrafter
8	Aiden Burnett
9	Sam Coleman
10	Dan Cole
11	Chris Smith
12	James Ayrton
13	Sam Winter (c)
14	Cole Swannack
15	Dan Powell

REPLACEMENTS

16	Harrison King
17	Seb Brownhill
18	Tom McCrone
19	Rory Banks
20	Tom Walker

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Backs Transition Coach Ash Boyle | **Forwards Transition Coach** Rob Faiers |
Head of Strength and Conditioning Ben Sheath | **Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach** Adam Vine |
Forwards coach Lee Soper |

The Teams

Referee Vervan Boscawen
Assistant Referee 1 James Clarke
Assistant Referee 2 Jason Newell

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Plymouth Albion WHITE, RED AND BLACK

Danny Southworth	1
Max Norey	2
James McFarland	3
Dan Collier	4
Shek Sherriff	5
Jake Clemson	6
Alex Sheridan	7
Herbie Stupple	8
Henry Clement	9
Tom Putt	10
Alex Ducker	11
Robbie Weekes	12
Jeremy To'a	13
Frankie Nowell	14
Phil Jones	15

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REPLACEMENTS

Jamie Salter	16
Bailey Williams	17
Ramaz Rukhadze	18
Dan Goldsmith	19
Olly Mulberry	20

Director of Rugby Nigel Sparrow |
Head Coach Damian Welch |
Assistant Coach Ryan Lamb |

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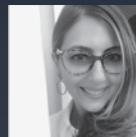
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A new season for BSRFC Mini's Section



As our club's Centenary season dawns and the much-anticipated return to playing competitive matches is less than a month away the parent's attentions are initially turned to visiting the online club shop to order the new, long awaited centenary badged kit. Following a disrupted start/stop eighteen months due to the awful pandemic the ill-fitting kit which last season was deemed as "perfectly acceptable for training in" is now destined for the hand me down pile.

A big note of thanks goes to all our sponsors Hanbury Wealth, Nockolds and Russell Property for their continued support and generosity.

The usual triple Sunday registration process of queuing with the credit card in a heaving clubhouse full of excited boys eagerly queuing for their first portion of "rugby chips" is gladly no more. Now just a few online clicks buys you the best value ticket in town.

For us Coaches, the respective age-related rules are being absorbed, training plans are being conjured up, Easi-Coach manuals are being flicked through and then passed off as original training plans, the assortment of balls of varying degrees of grip are being inflated and scrubbed clean of last season's mud, bibs and tags are getting the annual soak in the bath, First Aid kits are thoroughly checked, kit bags are checked, Covid safe measures continue to be ensured and last but not least our trusty whistles are given a test blast. ... and breathe!

It would appear that the Coaches have given the new season of Mini's rugby the green light.

Many of the Coaches have playing experience but many do not. The need for parents to put their hand up and volunteer remains the reason why Mini's rugby exists and becomes such a success. From a Coaches standpoint the satisfaction of watching them progress through the age groups is hard to beat.

The highlight of our year always comes early and surely after an abysmally long period of cool and cloudy summer weather some decent Autumnal sunshine is well overdue to help showcase Silver

Leys for our annual BSRFC Mini's Festival this year taking place on Sunday 24th October. The festival organisers do an amazing job and make the endless list of tasks run smoothly. However, chivvyng-up volunteers is again the key to success. Please, please put yourselves forward. Many hands make light work.

If you aren't a parent of a child in the Mini's section we would encourage you to pop along and watch our festival. With the U7's making their debut tag rugby appearances through to the old hands in the U12's showing how technical and robust they've become. About 300 of our boys versus 300 from visiting clubs plus up to 1000 spectators make it four or five hours of rugby heaven.

Around Easter there is a Tour organised at an outdoor adventure centre. A two night stay travelling by tour bus or by car. I could say more but what goes on tour stays on tour!

Suffice to say they are very enjoyable for all who go.

Should you then wish to sign-up please visit the club website www.bsrfc.co.uk/payments/category/membership

Lastly, all the Coaches from the Mini's wish the Coaches and players from BSRFC Youth and BSRFC Seniors a safe and successful season.

Andy Greenacre
U12's Coach / Team Manager



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Match Report

TONBRIDGE JUDDIANS 18-18 BISHOP'S STORTFORD



The home side soon established control at the scrums, in their first ever game at level 3, but it was Stortford, with their lineout functioning extremely well on both their own and opposition throws, that enjoyed territorial advantage through the first ten minutes, as the flowing passing of their backs stretched the home defence repeatedly. Eventually this pressure produced quick ball to the left, generating an overlap, which Josh Stannard, looping round from the blindside wing, exploited to perfection, to put fellow winger, Chris Smith clear to run round for a try, converted by George Cullen after 11 minutes. The visitors' threequarters continued to look threatening, but a combination of strong TJs' defence and some soft Stortford turnovers prevented any further score until the 28th minute. At this point the home side finally managed to capitalise properly on their scrum control, forcing a couple of penalties in quick succession to set up a further scrum, 5 metres from the Stortford line. Two subsequent drives by TJs' forwards were enough to break Stortford's goal line defence for an unconverted try. The visitors soon forced a penalty for a breakdown offence just outside



TJs' 22, but the goal attempt went narrowly wide. With 36 minutes on the clock, though, a further offence by the home team in a similar position, for failing to release at a tackle, was duly punished by George Cullen. This took his side into the break with a five point lead, but, turning

to face a stiffish breeze, this was a far from comfortable margin.

TJs started the second period strongly, dominating possession and territory and duly gained a lineout inside Stortford's 22 from a penalty with 10 minutes of the half gone. A series of threatening forward drives were held out, but after three or four phases, the ball was spun out for an unconverted try close to the touchline to level the scores. Five minutes later, the benefit of the following wind was clearly demonstrated, as TJs' fullback planted a penalty well over the crossbar from close to halfway to put his side into the lead for the first time in the game. The scores were soon level again, though, as Stortford moved into the opposition 22 and won a penalty, converted by Cullen, as a maul, driving towards the TJs' line was collapsed. Despite continued solid defending from Stortford, they came under increasing pressure, as they failed to hold on for any significant periods of time onto increasingly scarce possession, with fortunes at the lineout swinging in the home side's favour. Eventually, with little more than 10 minutes left, TJs ran back a poor defensive kick and made a rare clean break to set up a two on one in Stortford's 22. They still needed some good fortune, though, as a scrambling defence blocked the offload, but the resultant loose ball bounced back into their hands for one of their big forwards to force his way over for another unconverted try. The visitors hit straight back from the restart and quickly stretched the home defence almost to breaking point, with only a deliberate knock-on inside their 22 preventing a potentially scoring pass reaching its target. The culprit was duly yellow-carded and from the resultant penalty Stortford were soon driving at the try line. The ball was spun quickly wide, where skipper, Sam Winter used an overlap outside to dummy and crash over for a try. Cullen's conversion went narrowly wide to leave the final scores level, despite some further late pressure from the home forwards.

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Dan Powell

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Position: Full back / utility

First club: Sidmouth

Previous clubs: Sidmouth, Exmouth, Plymouth Albion

Rugby inspiration: James Thacker

Memorable rugby experience:

Winning the national rugby cup at Exeter college with my best mates. What a bus journey home.

Why I chose Stortford: I wanted a new challenge and to move away out of my comfort zone and having played against Stortford a number of times, they play a very exciting brand of rugby which I wanted to be a part of.

Goals: To be a regular in the 1st 15 and make some friends!

Who's stood out from the team: the first weekend I moved up here, we had a pre-season weekend in Canterbury. It was the perfect ice breaker but unfortunately, I can't remember much from the nights out - however I do remember being propped at the bar drinking pink gin with Jamie Gage and James Thacker for a long time, however it was very naive of me thinking I can keep up with 2 large forwards. On the field I love the way George Cullen plays.

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Now in its sixth season, **Club Stortford** was set up by a small working party to support the 1stXV squad after promotion to National League Rugby in 2013/14. Our aim is “to ensure Bishop’s Stortford RFC has a sustainable future in National League Rugby and continues to nurture home grown talent.”

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

Our Joint head coaches Tom and Marcus have stressed on a number of occasions how important the financial support given to them by Club Stortford is. 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 101 988



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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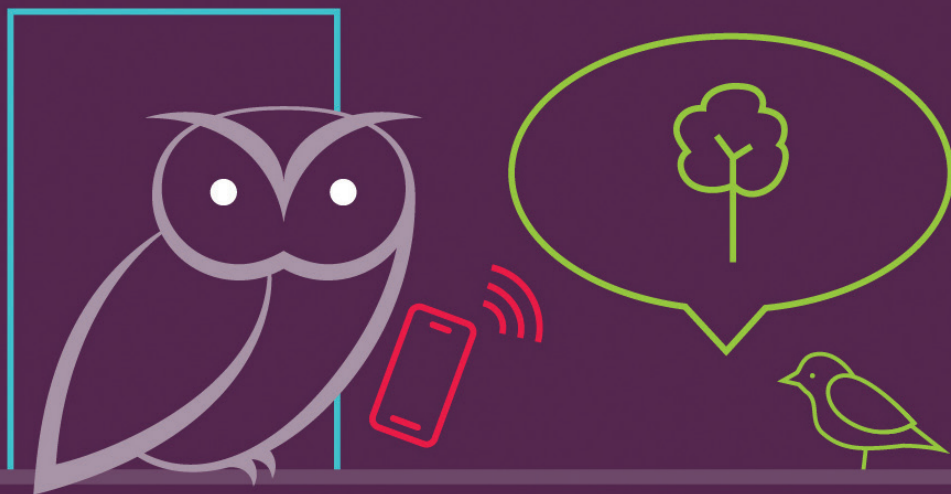
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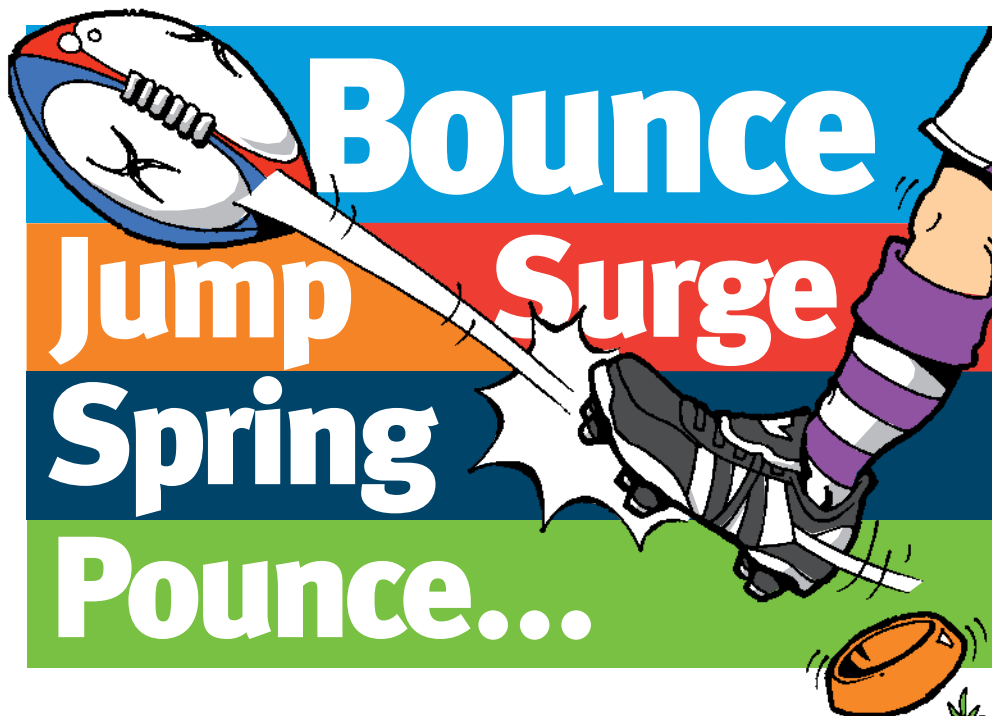
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Ladies Match Report

BSRFC LADIES 34 - 17 GRAVESEND LADIES



Bishop's Stortford ladies began their 2021-22 season with a home friendly against Gravesend Ladies at a sun washed Silver Leys on Sunday.

The home side got proceedings underway and both sides seemed eager to run the ball. However, a combination of robust defence and a couple of loose passes saw the opening ten minutes pass scoreless. It was Stortford who got on the board first, with some great offloading and a good line from Stortford 15 Kate Hawkins seeing her dot down in the corner. The difficult conversion was narrowly missed.

The lead was short-lived, with Gravesend capitalising on bit of a defensive inattention from Stortford to pick and go from a scrum on the 22, exploiting an unmarked blindside to go over in the corner. The conversion was just out of range for the Gravesend 10.

There then followed a purple patch for the home side, with some great individual skills and fantastic handling putting first scrumhalf Jasmin Bice and then prop Carleigh Lalonge in under the sticks; fly half Becca Coppen neatly bisected the uprights to convert both tries. A fourth try followed for

Stortford after a powerful carry by lock Gio Marinisse saw her cross the line with a couple of defenders hanging off her.

The heat and a steady stream of injuries then seemed to take their toll on the home side, and Gravesend dug in to keep the pressure on, a number of crash balls finally holing the Stortford line and earning the visitors a try under the posts, which was neatly converted. This seemed to rejuvenate them, and they secured their third try as the game headed toward the final quarter to close the gap to seven points.

However, the Stortford ladies were not to be denied and rallied impressively, with first winger Cat Gleed and then centre Chloe Capp dotting down to put the win beyond doubt. A final flourish in the shape of a second try for Lalonge was chalked off after eagle-eyed referee Peter Brady spotted a forward pass in the build-up, but that took none of the gloss off a fantastic opener against a very competitive and determined Gravesend side.

Final score BSRFC Ladies 34-17 Gravesend Ladies.

By **Dave Walker**



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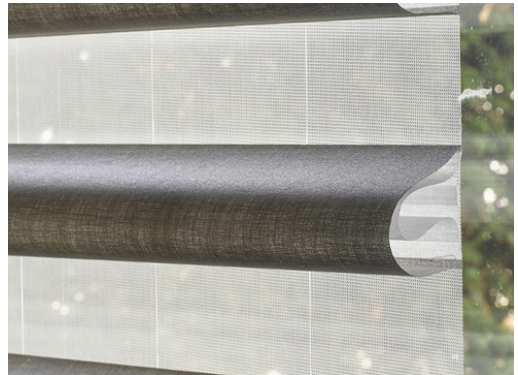


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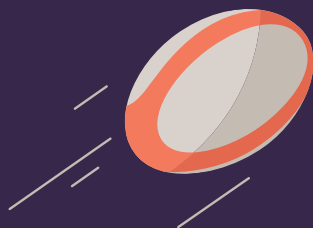
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BSRFC Centenary Book

RESEARCHING AND WRITING THE HISTORY



The idea to publish a book of the history of the club emerged at the end of 2016 when we first started to think about our centenary. The suggestion was quickly approved by the Executive Committee and a project team was formed. Several people 'volunteered' to help:

Squin Clarke - Long serving member

Paul Maxfield - Ex-President and notable sponsorship manager

John Robinson - Ex-Club Secretary

Jan Zelezinski - Ex player and Youth Coach

Douglas Young - Ex-Club Assistant Secretary

Rod Homer - Ex Trustee and Membership Secretary.

Our first project Meeting was in February 2017, so with a target date for publication of Autumn 2020, we had 'loads of time'. We began by defining the structure and contents of the book and considering the style. Having pondered various formats it was agreed that it should be a celebration of rugby and a high-quality publication, hardback, printed on good paper, with lots and lots of pictures and graphics. It should cover costs but was not required to make a profit.

It was apparent that the Club did not have an official archive so our sources of information and events were; selected extracts from press coverage by Herts & Essex Observer, old matchday programs, Newsletters and Club minutes, photographs in the Clubhouse and member's personal archives as well as members memories though these were not always reliable!

Jan spent many hours over the next four years in the archives of Herts County Council searching microfilm of the Herts & Essex Observer for articles about BSRFC and taking photocopies of match reports, many of which are in the book. The personal archives were invaluable and thanks are due to all those who provided their treasured records, including photographs. All the digitised items will be archived for future reference, as will the library of hard copy material.

As each chapter was drafted, Chief Editor John, applied his red pencil to overlong items or any which he thought of little interest and passed the draft to former player Peter Dobie for design and layout in the required printers software, InDesign. Peter runs a design business and his expertise was invaluable in preparing layouts for the printers. Each chapter was then passed for proofreading to Glynis Springham with husband Graham looking over her shoulder verifying dates and personnel.

'Loads of time' became a hectic dash to finalise for publication before Christmas 2020. We can all be proud of the book which provides a long-lasting tribute to our Club.





BISHOP'S STORTFORD RFC FIREWORKS DISPLAY 2021

Saturday 6th November

Sky's Alight 7pm

Tickets: www.bsrftickets.co.uk

Advanced Ticket Prices

Family Ticket (2 adults + 2 children (2-17yrs))	£15
Additional Child Ticket	£3
Additional Adult / Unaccompanied Child Ticket	£5

Tickets bought on the night will cost more

No Re-admittance. No Sparklers.



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Match Day Experience

BISHOP'S STORTFORD RFC

Behind the scenes with the 1st XV...



As part of the Club's ethos 'to be a strong and successful rugby club united from Senior to Minis', trusted and valued by our community BSRFC Joint Head Coaches Tom Coleman and Marcus Cattell along with Club captain Sam Winter and the rest of the 1st XV Squad, provide an insight for our "Mini and 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 QandA in the 1st XV Changing Room, followed by Training, Games and 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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- **Will be entitled to a reduced entrance fee on 1st XV Match Days**
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If you would like to join our club please visit our website:
www.bsrfc.co.uk for further details.



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