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NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD v ROSSLYN PARK

29th January 2022

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President's Welcome

MICK COLEMAN



It gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to Silver Leys this afternoon, especially all players and supporters of the visiting teams. We have our firsts and Blues teams taking on Rosslyn Park, whilst our Chindits take on Hertford. How good is it to have 3 teams playing at home? Just brilliant.

Whilst the Park are flying high at the top of the table, life has been a bit more of a struggle for us at the other end of the league, but a hard fought win against Leeds followed up by a thrilling draw away at Taunton last week, has seen us accumulate 7pts and moved us up to 10th position. But it still remains very tight! I'm confident that we will give it our all this afternoon and if the earlier fixture was anything to go by, when we could have nicked it at the death, having camped ourselves on Park's line, we should be in for a close game.

On Monday evening, our Blues visited Grange Road in Cambridge to take on the University side as they begin their preparations for the Varsity match. We were treated to a terrific game with us coming out on top 14-5. Not only was the quality high, but it was a real joy to watch some of our exciting young talent (combining with some older heads!) on show, who certainly stepped up and showed us what they're capable of. Whilst on the Blues, it's excellent news to see Ian Simpson back on the coaching staff, having agreed to take on the Blues role for the rest of the season. Ian is a former first team player and coach, very well respected, and his addition to the staff means we now have 5 former players on the senior coaching staff.

I'd also like to welcome all our sponsors today, especially

Darryl Clark and his guests from HAM who are our Match Day sponsors and Peter Hilton and guests of Hilton Coachworks who are sponsoring the Man of the Match- both are valued, long-standing sponsors of the club.

Can I please urge anyone who is still considering whether to sign up for our Centenary London Lunch at the Hilton, to contact either Perry or Lee Bowden ASAP to avoid disappointment as there aren't many tickets left. It's a one off, One Club, not to be missed event, so please don't miss out! All details can be found on the club website, along with all other club news and info.

Have a great afternoon and let's cheer on some Stortford wins!





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Head Coaches

TOM COLEMAN / MARCUS CATTELL



Good afternoon, we would like to firstly welcome everyone to Silver Leys today for our double header against table toppers Rosslyn Park and their 2nd XV. Having lost narrowly in the corresponding fixture earlier in the season we are confident that we can put in a performance that we can all be proud of, and the result will take care of itself. Games against Rosslyn Park are always of the highest quality, and we are in no doubt about the challenge which lies in front of us.

Looking back at the Taunton game, brings some mixed emotions. One being relief to come away from the game with 3 points after trailing 29-10 midway through the second half, but also one of slight disappointment as to why we couldn't have played like we did for the opening 10 minutes and last 20 minutes, in which we controlled the game. Still lots of positives to take out and areas to tidy up in the week.

On Monday night a strong but youthful Blues team travelled up the M11 to take on Cambridge University at Grange Road as the light Blues begin their build up to the Varsity game in April. The game was played at a frantic speed

from start to finish and even though the Cambridge University side included the current England U20's fly half and 70 cap Toby Flood in the replacements, the Blues put in a huge team performance to take out a 14-5 victory, with all 20 players (including two current Colts in Murray Davidson & Ryan Cox) contributing to result. There was a real buzz as the players left the field with a strong BSRFC following present on the night. Thanks to all those supporters who made the journeys to Taunton & Cambridge University, your support is most appreciated.

On a side note, it's been so good to see so many of the current U18's Colts stepping up to the senior teams over the past few weekends and tasting Men's rugby for the first time, long may this continue!!

We hope you all enjoy your time with us today at Bishop's Stortford RFC, as always thanks to all our great sponsors, supporters and volunteers who make so much of this possible.

Oh Stort are we...

Tom & Marcus

The Coaching Staff:



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Centenary Update

PERRY OLIVER



Unfortunately our fundraising efforts in the run up to Christmas were not as successful as we had hoped and we aren't yet able to move the ball forward to the £50k marker on our Fundraising thermometer in the clubhouse.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Xmas raffle, Silent auction and Xmas tree sales initiatives particularly the sponsors who provided us with 14 wonderful prizes for the raffle.

Despite the setback we must persevere because we have no choice but to improve our existing changing facilities and they are not going to fund themselves.

After what seems like forever our flagship fundraising event the Centenary London Lunch is now visible on the horizon. It was originally advertised for Friday 13th May 2020 with the tag line 'What could possibly go wrong?' Well as it turned out quite a lot!

But we haven't let a mere world-wide pandemic defeat us and stubbornly the event is now being held on Friday 13th May 2022 at the Hilton Hotel Bankside London SE1 with the tag line 'What could possibly go wrong this time?'

Our special guests at the lunch are ex Saracens, Bath & England prop and now ITV, BT Sport & Amazon Prime rugby pundit David 'Flats' Flatman along with Harlequins and England (84 Caps) Scrum half Danny Care

The capacity of the venue is 400 and so far we have sold 370 of those seats. We will shortly be closing bookings so that we can concentrate on delivering the prestigious event we have always planned. However if there is anyone reading this who would like to take up one or more of the available 30 seats, which cost £125 pp then please let me know ASAP. perry@perryoliver.co.uk or 07867908978

I am also extremely grateful to three of our former players, Gareth "Tubbs" Crockett, Rob Neal and Richard Worboys for agreeing to organise a team of club members who are

going to cycle 100 miles on 30th April 2022, the day of the 1st XV's last game of the season vs Tonbridge Juddians to raise funds for our Centenary appeal fund

Team members include former players Ian Cairns & Dan Holben, Vice Presidents Steve Williams & Mick Fitzgibbon, U6 Dad Matt Chapman & U16 Dad & Lead Coach Matt Woodford.

All the sponsorship money they raise will all be added to the Clubs Centenary fund

If you would like to show your support for their considerable effort for the benefit of the whole club you can do so by visiting our Go Fund Me giving page www.gofund.me/773abc5c
Thank You

And don't forget you can also easily and painlessly support our appeal via the contactless giving terminal which is situated near the big screen in the main clubhouse bar



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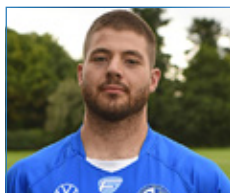


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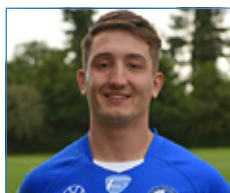
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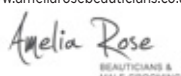


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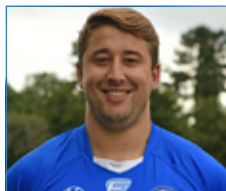


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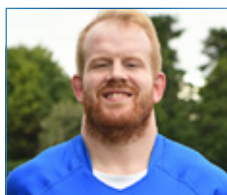
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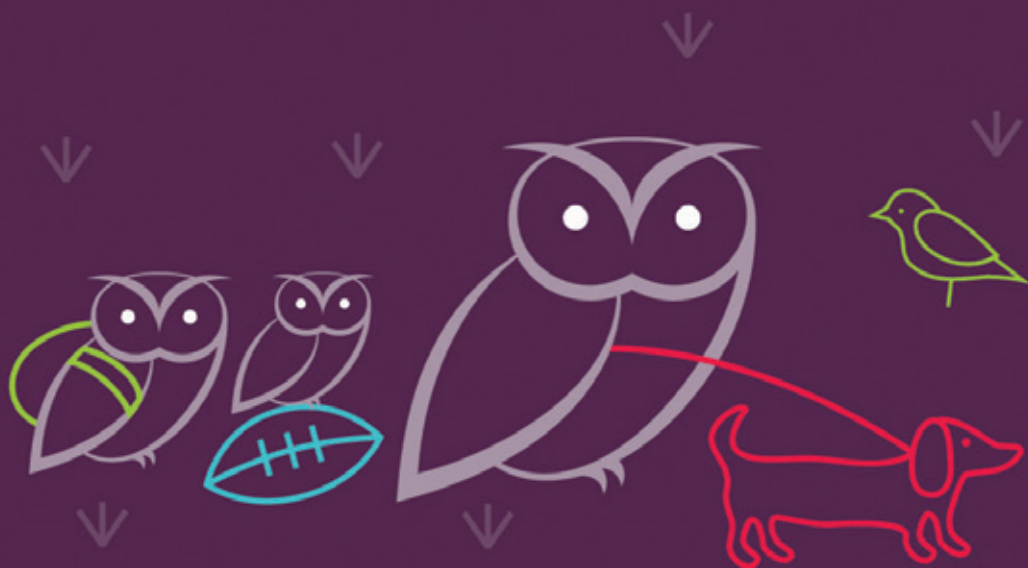
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Today's Opposition

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Rosslyn Park Football Club were founded in 1879 by cricketing friends in north London in order to keep the players together during the winter. There was already a Hampstead Football Club (from which both Wasps and Harlequins sprang), so the cricket club's name was adopted, reflecting the area of Hampstead where the cricketers first played their games in the grounds of Rosslyn House. Their original rugby ground was at South End Green, Hampstead, then Gospel Oak and Acton before a lengthy tenure at Old Deer Park, Richmond until 1956, when Rosslyn Park moved to its current premises in Roehampton.

Originally they wore a blue shirt with white Maltese cross but in 1881 adopted its current red-and-white hoops. It still remains a Football Club, without the need for the word Rugby, and so is correctly Rosslyn Park FC, not RFC.

The club became the first English side to play rugby internationally when they beat Stade Français in Paris on 18 April 1892. In 1975 and 1976, the club played in the final of the John Player Cup, narrowly losing on both occasions

When English league rugby began in 1987, Park were placed in Division two, which they won. The first team currently play in the third division of the English league system, National League One.

Their clubhouse has two bars, which are named after two of the club's famous players - Andy Ripley and Alexander Obolensky.

Our record against them in National One does not make happy reading. Played 6 Won 1 lost 5 but the majority of our match ups have been close including most recently our agonising

single point loss (14-13) down at Roehampton at the beginning of October.

Whilst there are several potential claimants to the National One crown this season, today's opponents are probably the most likely winners and having just missed out in the last two seasons having finished 3rd on both occasions it's easy to make an argument that perhaps 2022 is their year.

We of course wish them good luck for the rest of the season but not until the final whistle blows today



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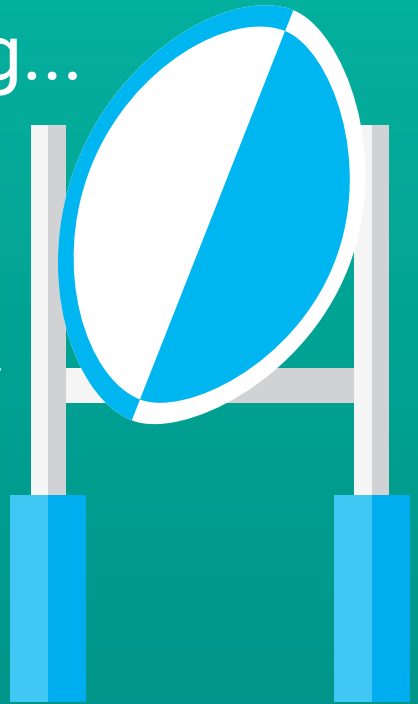
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Results grid, table and fixtures

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

FIXTURE SCHEDULE & RESULTS GRID 2021-22

	Blr M	BSRFC	Bkth	Caldy	Camb	Chin	Cnd	DMP	Leeds	Phym A	Rams	Ross Pk	Sale	Taunton	TJ's	
Blr M		33-3	22-20	11-15	29/01	22-29	23/04	23-22	33-32	19/02	05/02	8-29	09/04	05/03	34-21	
BSRFC	33-3		02/04	20-31	19-24	16/04	12/03	12/02	12-7	32-19	19-21	29/01	26/02	26-22	30/04	
Bkth	17-22	16-6		16-18	9-15	29/01	15-18	23-14	05/03	30-36	09/04	26/03	28-34	42-19	19/02	
Caldy	0-24	09/04	26-10		19/02	27-27	26-24	27-22	31-28	05/03	20-3	20-26	23/04	26/03	47-40	
Camb	32-7	23/04	12/02	22-22		26/02	27-21	26-26	15-17	26/03	28-34	34-29	17-14	09/04	45-14	
Chinnor	27-29	19-23	34-28	12/02	30-32		28-33	20-23	26/03	36-41	22/04	09/04	34-21	22-5	05/03	
Cnd	26-13	55-39	30/04	29-21	41-26	24-31		16/04	50-12	36-12	26/03	05/03	15-19	26-21	29/01	
DMP	30/04	33-22	15/01	29/01	05/03	19/02	26-7		22/04	09/04	29-23	17-28	15-32	32-38	26/03	
Leeds	26/02	33-25	27-25	12/03	02/04	12-29	19/02	19/03		16/04	25-22	13-19	29/01	29-41	21-19	
Phym A	34-12	31-17	26/02	7-26	0-17	12/03	12/02	49-22	05/02		19-26	08-37	7-10	23/04	02/04	
Rams	02/04	19/02	13-17	16/04	30/04	18/03	22-20	26/02	29-11	41-27		24-21	21-32	29/01	24-13	
Ross Pk	12/03	14-13	55-14	02/04	16/04	28-27	38-31	28-20	60-10	30/04	12/02		20-15	68-21	04/02	
Sale	24-0	32-24	16/04	21-26	15-7	30/04	02/04	12/03	21-17	38-27	05/03	19/02		53-28	66-10	
Taunton	22-19	29-29	12/03	31-36	26-26	02/04	26/02	24-14	30/04	35-25	18-17	14-40	12/02		16/04	
TJ's	12/02	18-18	21-23	26/02	12/03	15-34	12-21	24-30	09/04	12-10	19-22	23/04	30-21	21-24		
ROUNDS 1-17									ROUNDS 18-28 (inc rescheduled)							

Results grid, table and fixtures

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

Season 2021/2022 NATIONAL 1

Results from 22nd January

HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM
Leeds Tykes	25-22	Rams
Cambridge	27-21	Cinderford
Caldy	26-10	Blackheath
Chinnor	27-29	Birmingham Moseley
Plymouth Albion	7-10	Sale FC
Taunton	29-29	Bishop's Stortford
Rosslyn Park	28-20	Darlington Mowden Park
Spare week		Tonbridge Juddians

Season 2021/2022 NATIONAL 1

Fixtures for 29th January

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

National League 1 - 2021/2022

Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	TBP	LBP	Points
Rosslyn Park	16	14	0	2	540	289	251	11	2	69
Caldy	17	12	2	3	419	361	58	7	1	60
Sale FC	17	12	0	5	468	326	142	7	3	58
Cinderford	17	10	0	7	477	388	89	9	6	55
Cambridge	16	9	3	4	393	324	69	10	2	54
Chinnor	15	7	1	7	427	363	64	12	7	49
Rams	15	9	0	6	342	318	24	7	4	47
Taunton	17	7	2	8	418	525	-107	10	3	45
Birmingham Moseley	16	7	0	9	282	383	-101	3	3	34
Bishop's Stortford	17	5	2	10	377	407	-30	6	3	33
Blackheath	16	5	0	11	333	380	-47	4	9	33
Darlington Mowden Park	15	5	1	9	345	394	-49	4	3	29
Plymouth Albion	16	5	0	11	352	427	-75	6	3	29
Leeds Tykes	15	5	0	10	294	431	-137	4	5	29
Tonbridge Juddians	15	2	1	12	289	440	-151	3	6	19

The Teams



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Bishop's Stortford 1st XV

BLUE AND WHITE

1	Will Roberts
2	Dec Caulfield
3	Tom McCrone
4	Harry Charter
5	Tom Lewis
6	James Apperley
7	Ollie Jones
8	Rory Banks
9	Sam Bryan
10	Alfie Orchard
11	Joss Linney
12	James Ayrtton
13	Sam Winter (c)
14	Josh Stannard
15	Michael Ayrtton

REPLACEMENTS

16	Alex Rayment
17	Seb Brownhill
18	Toby Knight
19	Dan Smart
20	Dan Powell

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Lead Physio Jade Leeder | **Team Manager** Darren Orbart |
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 | **Physio** Ryan Clarke

The Teams

Referee Calum Howard

Assistant Referee 1 Brendan Fitzmaurice

Assistant Referee 2 Nick Borkett

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Rosslyn Park RED AND WHITE

	Kyle Traynor	1
	Charlie Piper	2
	Oisin Kearney	3
	Dan Laventure	4
	Henry Spencer	5
	Jared Saunders	6
	Arthur Ellis	7
	Hugo Ellis (c)	8
	Jack Gash	9
	Harry Leonard	10
	Craig Holland	11
	Nick Scott	12
	Brandon Jackson	13
	Benji Marfo	14
	Henry Robinson	15

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REPLACEMENTS

	Ollie Dawe	16
	Sam Garvey	17
	Dylan Flashman	18
	Dave Lewis	19
	Phil Cokanasiga	20

DOR Kieran Power | **Head Coach** John Mills | **Assist Backs Coach** Tony Paul |
Manager Fergus Farrell | **Team Manager** Kojo Jecy |

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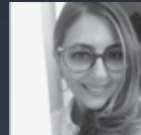
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BSRFC Colts

PROGRESSING WELL



Murray Davidson

The Colts have continued to improve throughout the season and are finally beginning to bear the fruits of their labour. None more so than last weekend when the A team managed to beat a strong Hemel Hempstead Colts team 12-5. Made even more pleasing given that Camelot are a team who have been a long standing nemesis for this age group.

Also on Sunday our B team continued their rich vein of form by despatching Cheshunt's A team 40-7 in a superb display of fast following attacking rugby.

In all we had 43 U18 players involved last weekend and with another 5 either injured or unavailable the age group is strong and our immediate future bright future at this level.

A number of them have also taken the important step up into senior rugby, most notably Ryan Cox and Murray Davidson who played for our Blues game against Cambridge University on Monday night.

The Mitres have also benefited with another 6 Colts players having already had their first taste of adult rugby with them this season.

We are also very pleased and indeed proud of the lads who have received representative and academy recognition so far this season. They are:

Saracens U17's/U18's; Oscar Wilson, Henry Walker, Charlie Reynolds-West and Tain Richards-Farr.

Northampton U18's; Carn Richards-Farr
England Lambs; James Sisterson and Benji Furrer

London and South East U18's;
Murray Davidson.

Herts U20's; Murray Davidson

Herts U18's; Archie Racey, Fabian Ducci, Benji Furrer, Joe Quinn and Murray Davidson.

Herts U17's; Oscar Wilson, Finn Quinn, Luca Van Eck, Lewis Baines, Henry Walker, Cam Lines, Tain Richards-Farr and Harry Ford.

The goal for the group now is to round off what has so far a good season by winning their respective leagues and Herts cups.



Ryan Cox

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Match Report

TAUNTON 29-29 BISHOP'S STORTFORD



Stortford shot out of the blocks, playing aggressive, expansive rugby and were 7 points up within 5 minutes, after Joss Linney crashed through the final tackle to touch down, after Dan Smart took a quick penalty and gave his winger a one on one. Dan Cole converted brilliantly from the touchline. A penalty against the visitors at a Stortford scrum inside the Taunton half, 8 minutes in, though, halted their momentum, when the home side won the resultant lineout and went smartly through 3 or 4 phases for their forwards to touch down from the base of a goal-line ruck. An easy conversion levelled the scores. Stortford swung back onto the front foot and looked threatening again, but settled for three points from Powell's boot from a breakdown penalty in front of the posts after 15 minutes. Taunton then accepted the gift of a loose box kick, 5 minutes later, to run around an isolated Stortford midfield defence and score a good try as Jack Walsh cut inside to take a scoring pass, from his winger. The flyhalf himself converted to establish a 4 point lead, which he stretched to 7 with an easy penalty goal, after some sloppy Stortford tackling in midfield gave them easy entry into the opposition 22, as first half time was running out.

Stortford started the second period in similarly generous mood, kicking away possession with two loose kicks, followed up by some loose tackling, resulting in another Taunton try after 3 minutes to the home pack from the base of a ruck. The difficult conversion was missed and Stortford looked like bouncing back, until a botched penalty just outside the home 22 failed to reach touch, putting a now rampant home side once more on the front foot. Some more weak tackling from the visitors, exploited

to the full by some good Taunton offloading quickly produced their 4th try, which was converted to establish a 19 point lead. Stortford would not lie down, though and a good break by Mike Ayrton took his side well into the opposition half, where quick hands gave Josh Stannard a one on one out wide, which he crashed through for an unconverted try. Two key events then turned the game on its head when Stortford first won a scrum penalty in their 22 to snuff out yet another Taunton attack after 20 minutes and then, four minutes later, the home side's playmaker, Walsh was yellow-carded for a deliberate knock on, as Stortford attacked. The home side defended well for a few minutes, but, finally, after 33 minutes James Ayrton forced his way over for a try, after Sam Bryan had created a one on one by committing a couple of defenders with a jinking run. Powell made a great conversion under pressure from out wide to bring his side within a losing bonus point, which had seemed a very distant prospect barely 20 minutes earlier. Now, however, the visitors started to show new belief and, despite a couple of attacking lineout mishaps, put the home defence under a period of sustained pressure. This culminated in a series of forward drives at the Taunton line, with Alex Rayment finally squirming over for a bonus point-winning try close to the posts. Tom Walker calmly converted to level the scores with only a couple of minutes left, but Stortford ensured a tense finish by knocking on, in trying to run the restart out of their 22. They then had to resist a brief battering from a smarting Taunton side, but this time the defence held firm and a turnover was won to finish the game and cap a remarkable Stortford comeback in the final quarter to win three precious league points.

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Dec – destined to be ‘a’ rugby player

BY JAMIE CAMPBELL



Let's start at the beginning.

Declan comes from a large sporting family. His parents, Mark and Janet, own an independent supermarket in town. One of 5 children, 3 of which are brothers. It was no surprise that he was destined to be 'A' rugby player.

He began his relationship with BSRFC at the age of 5 when he joined the minis section. Playing throughout his youth, for BSRFC, St Mary's and later TBSHS, he was then selected to represent Herts County at (this might surprise you) Fullback. It was at this point he made his transition into the front row due to his size, strength and physicality.

At 15 Declan joined the junior academy at Saracens where he played for 3 years. He tells me that there was a lengthy selection debate for only 1 hooker position. Unfortunately he was not selected as they opted for none other than Jamie George. But I'm not sure how much of this is true.

His 1st XV debut came at the age of 17 (2009) at Flanker. Finally turning 18, he played his first game in the front row where he would continue to play until the current day. His competition at the

time was BSRFC legend Rob Faiers, who soon realised his days were numbered and would need to hand over the 2 shirt in the near future.

I had the pleasure of being Declan's Best Man in 2021 when he married the wonderful Katie. He works for LCM (sponsors of the club) in the metal recycling industry.

As much as it pains me to say, Declan has developed into one of the most valued players at the club playing over 160 games. His leadership, experience and knowledge of the game have been vital to the success the team for over a decade. Now into his prime years at the age of 30, we hope that this can continue for a few more years.

Jamie Campbell

Thank you to Mark and Janet for info and photos.



Through the lens...

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Featured match: Blues 31 - 34 Jersey Reds



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Club Stortford



Now in its sixth season, **Club Stortford** was set up by a small working party to support the 1st XV 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,
- First team home and away lunches.

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

Mark Smith

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Julie Marson

Julie Marson, MP for Hertford and Stortford, writes for the Bishop's Stortford Independent (most fortnights)



Our MP on 'Partygate': Oh, hang on...



Bishop's Stortford
Independent

Comment

Soon after she became MP for Hertford and Stortford in the December 2019 General Election, we offered Julie Marson her own fortnightly column.

Although that irks some of her political opponents, we believe that as the democratically elected Member of Parliament she should have the opportunity to inform our readers and her constituents – especially those who do not follow her online – of her activities on their behalf at Westminster and elsewhere.

As she said at the time: "I don't want to be the Conservative MP for Hertford and Stortford, I want to be the MP who represents all of you."

In the two years since, we have never told her what to write about in her column – until this week and 'Partygate'.

On Friday we emailed her office: "In light of the widely reported events and developments concerning the Prime Minister this week, I would like Julie's scheduled column for next week's *Indie* to address fully and solely the issues at the heart of these matters, in a similar way to her 700-word statement of May 2020 concerning Dominic Cummings and his

Barnard Castle trip, which we published in full.

"The issues at the heart of this matter – of honesty, integrity, respect and decency – threaten to gravely undermine any remnants of public trust, faith and confidence in their political representatives, not just nationally but locally too."

Yesterday morning we received her column. It focused on train services for Hertford East passengers and hare coursing.

It made no mention of 'Partygate'.

A covering email said: "We've noted your comment about what you wanted it to be about but take the view that if a paper offers a column slot, then it's up to the person given that opportunity to decide what to write about."

"This is the normal local newspaper industry rules too."

We know that scores of constituents will have emailed her, raising issues warranting a full response, and received nothing beyond an automated acknowledgement of receipt of their emails. We feel you deserve better.

Consequently, we are not running her column this week.

■ We have asked Julie Marson's office to forward us the "local newspaper industry rules" that say a columnist should dictate a newspaper's content to its editor.



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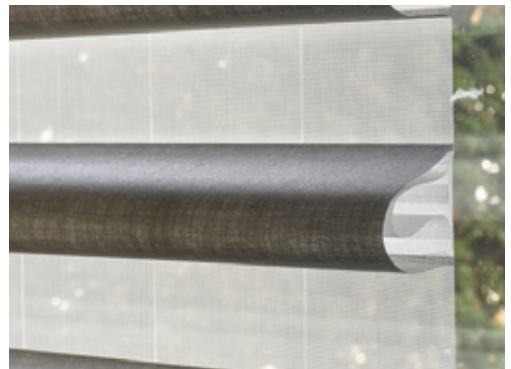
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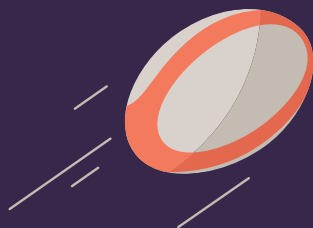
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BSRFC Centenary Book

ON THIS DAY - JANUARY



We first played today's visitors, Rosslyn Park, in our opening season 1921-22, though that was against one of their lower sides because in those days the big clubs played 'friendly' games against other clubs in the wider area: in that first season we played London Scottish, London Welsh, Richmond, and Rosslyn Park. It would be May 1990 before we have a record of another game against Rosslyn Park. That was our second season in London 2 North but the game against Park was an end-of-season friendly, not a league game. Reorganisation of the leagues in 1993-94 saw us playing at National Level 7 in London 2 North, but again our match vs Rosslyn Park was a friendly against their 2nd XV in a game we lost 20-43. Since our promotion to National 1, Level 3, we have finished above them in 2017-18 (our 8th to their 12th), but below them in 2018-19 (them 3rd, us 9th). Season 2019-20 was incomplete due to Covid, and Rosslyn Park was second at the time of suspension, but were allocated 3rd in the final standings.

Fifty nine years ago in January 1963, there was no rugby due to prolonged freezing weather, and all games between 29th December 1962 and 2nd

March 1963 were cancelled. In January the average temperature was -2.1°C (28.2° in old money) and much of the country was covered in snow throughout the month.

On January 23rd, 1972, the Club played Barnet away in the semi-final of the Hertfordshire President's Cup, having also played all their previous rounds away from home. The local Barnet press reported that Barnet 'was unlucky to be knocked out by Bishop's Stortford 12-15'. Late in the game Stortford's Dave Fuszard dashed thirty yards through the Barnet defence to score a brilliant try under the posts. The final was held at Hertford against Fullerians in which the Stortford forwards played aggressive rugby that did not allow their opponents to get any rhythm. The pack chased every loose ball and took control of lineouts, with the back row harassing at every opportunity with Dick Gregory and Dave Fuszard outstanding. Graham Springham combined with Fuszard to score two tries and Paul Hudson made a third for the 15-7 win.

The 1972 cup winning side is shown below –
How many players can you name?



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WITH GIRLS' RUGBY



We have worked extremely hard over the last 4 years, to get girls' rugby up and running in the Club, with some considerable success. We have now reached the point where additional help is needed urgently, to ensure that we can continue to both grow and consolidate the section. More specifically, we need the following:



1. General support/assistance - our U11 girls are now in the mins with their peers and we currently have 3 age groups for girls and each needs a number of general helpers to assist with general admin support, arranging fixtures and social events. Your commitment would be for an average of 2 hours per week during the season but more if you have the time and inclination.



join our Ladies' section. If you think you can make a contribution of some sort to girls' rugby, our Chair of Girls' and Ladies' Rugby, **Carly Poyser**, would love to hear from you. You can contact her, to get more information either via email - **bsrfcladies@gmail.com** - or her mobile number - **07368 528 737**.

Regards,

Carly



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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Why not join...

BISHOP'S STORTFORD RUGBY CLUB?

AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER:

- You will receive notices and newsletters
- Will be entitled to a reduced entrance fee on 1st XV Match Days
- You'll get 10% Bar Discount
- You will become a part of a thriving and vibrant community of like minded people



If you would like to join our club please visit our website:
www.bsrfc.co.uk for further details.



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