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NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD v CINDERFORD

12th March 2022

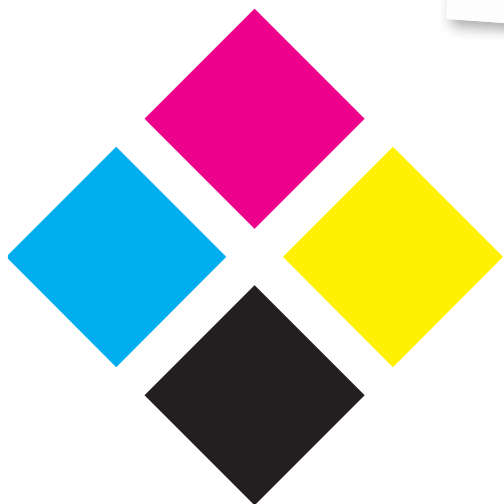
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President's Welcome

MICK COLEMAN



It gives me great pleasure to welcome our friends from Cinderford to Silver Leys, as today's opponents in our latest round of National League 1 matches. It's always a tough match against Cinderford and I would be very surprised if today was any different, especially if we can get our start right, which was undoubtably our problem last time out against Sale. But what a game that was! Our comeback against a team of that quality was outstanding and some of our rugby nothing short of sublime, but obviously, we just can't afford to give teams a 20 point start.

Today's Match Day sponsors are Corporate Forward Finance, who through Rob Smith have been a generous supporter of the club, as indeed are Tees, who are our Man of the Match sponsors. Whilst these are our headline sponsors today, we also have a further 9 tables of corporate sponsors here, and hopefully it goes without saying, but we greatly appreciate your input to our club and it's fantastic to see so many of you here. One of these sponsors is EFF, whose boss is our own Spencer Kersey, who just happens to be celebrating his 40th birthday today. What better way to celebrate... but he might be one to steer clear of later!

Along with 2 tables of Club Stortford supporters, we also have a very distinguished Centenary table of club Trustees, who to be fair are mostly always here, but not normally on the same table. I would like to acknowledge the huge amount of work they carry out on behalf of the club, and please don't let anyone ever tell you they're stuck up there in an ivory tower, because it really couldn't be further from the truth. As the club has continued along it's extraordinary path of success, from our first team's

amazing rise through the leagues, our ability to still field 4 other senior teams, our massive numbers of youth and mini players (and parents), through to our ladies and touch sections, they continue to find ways to drive the club forward at all levels whilst adhering to a strict budget, which I'm sure you will all agree, has been somewhat challenging over the last few years.

Finally, please keep an eye on our website where you can see all the latest club news, especially on ways you can support our Centenary changing room appeal!





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Head Coaches

TOM COLEMAN / MARCUS CATTELL



Good afternoon, we would like to start by welcoming everyone to Silver Leys today for what promises to be a cracker of a game against our friends from the Forest of Dean, Cinderford RFC.

A double header for our 1st XV and Blues always creates a great atmosphere at the club and we expect no different today.

Last time out we came agonisingly close to beating high flying Sale FC but couldn't quite hold on after fighting back from 21-0 down inside the opening 15mins. We will certainly be looking for a better first quarter of the game today!

Our opposition today Cinderford, like Sale FC, are also pushing towards the top of the table, and will provide a huge test for us this afternoon. The reverse fixture back in November ended in a high scoring 55-39, but that doesn't tell the whole story as we led 38-39 going into the last 10mins, only for a couple of late tries and penalty kick to take the game away from us!

With no 1st XV game last weekend, our Blues entertained Rosslyn Park 2nd XV in a rearranged Zoo league fixture from late January. In heavy conditions it was always going to be tough going against a much bigger pack, but the young Blues side, including 6 U20 year olds played some excellent rugby, despite losing 24-7.

The production line of young talent looks stronger than ever, with no fewer than 7 of the current colts having played 2nd XV rugby this season, as well as joining the senior squad in training on a Tuesday and Thursday. Add to that a further 8 current colts having played for our Mitres (3rd XV), the future looks bright!!

We hope everyone has a great day at BSRFC, and with another packed lunch taking place, we hope we can put in a performance to make you all proud!

Finally we would like to wish our very own Chindits sponsor, player and DJ, Spencer Kersey a very happy 40th birthday!

Oh Start are we!

Tom & Marcus

The Coaching Staff:



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


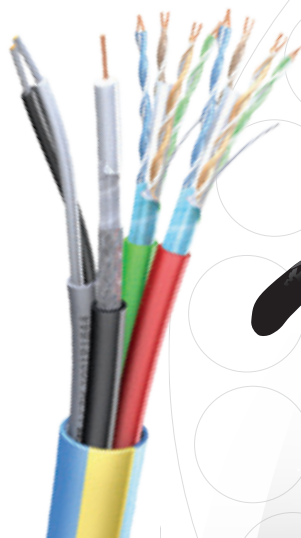
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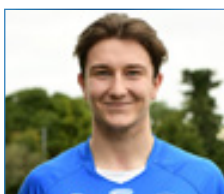
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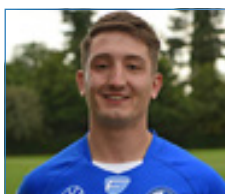


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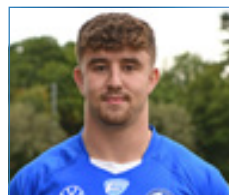


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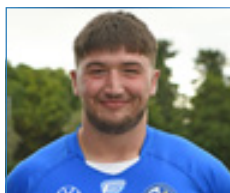


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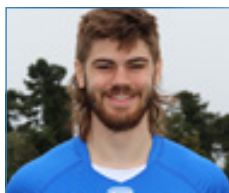


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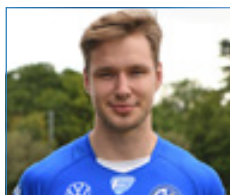


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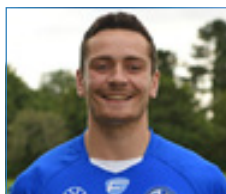


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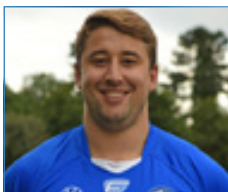
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Today's Opposition

CINDERFORD



Cinderford RFC was formed in 1886 in the Forest of Dean, a mining area in West Gloucestershire situated between the Rivers Severn and Wye. The area, a source of iron ore and coal since pre-Roman times, also provided timber for Nelson's navy and was seen as remote and the inhabitants as wild and unpredictable.

By the turn of the twentieth century Cinderford were playing leading teams from England and South Wales but after the Great War the club's fortunes, and the local coal mining industry declined, and many good players 'went North' to seek employment in the coalfields and rugby in the 'Northern Union'. Nevertheless A. D 'Bumps' Carpenter gained an England Cap against South Africa in 1931.

The club's re-emergence after WW2 owes much to the efforts of the late Bob and Mary Beavis. 'Cinderford White Rose' a club mainly of miners, had kept rugby going over the war years. When they decided to re-form as Cinderford RFC, Mary became Hon. Sec. and remained so for the next fifty years!

The club started league life at level 6 and by 2001 was at level 4. Relegated after just one season Cinderford were back by 2004 and made it to Level 3 in 2007-08 after a nail biting North/South play-off with Darlington Mowden Park. After eight seasons in National One they were relegated at the end of 2015-16. During that time budding internationalists Freddie Burns, Sam Underhill, Harry Williams and Josh Adams, all gained valuable experience as dual-registered players.

Our first encounter with them was at the beginning of our promotion winning 2016/17 season in National Two South, when in September we travelled to their Dockham Road ground and emerged with a hard fought 22-15 victory. We then lost the return fixture in January 2017 by a single point (29-30). A

result which at the time we thought might scupper our promotion hopes.

At the end of following season Cinderford regained their place in Nat 1 by becoming National 2(S) Champions themselves. In season 18/19 we were victorious in both our encounters with them. 11-0 at Dockham Road in November & 37-17 here in the March.

Our last two encounters have both been at Dockham Road, namely our only meeting in the aborted 19/20 season which finished 18-13 and then the free scoring 55-39 match up back in November. Unfortunately for us both those scores were in Cinderford's favour. A similar high scoring home win would be very welcome this afternoon.

All that means that the head to head record is level at 3 wins a piece

They have had a good season to date, winning 13 of their 21 games. Last Saturday they lost narrowly at home to Rosslyn Park.



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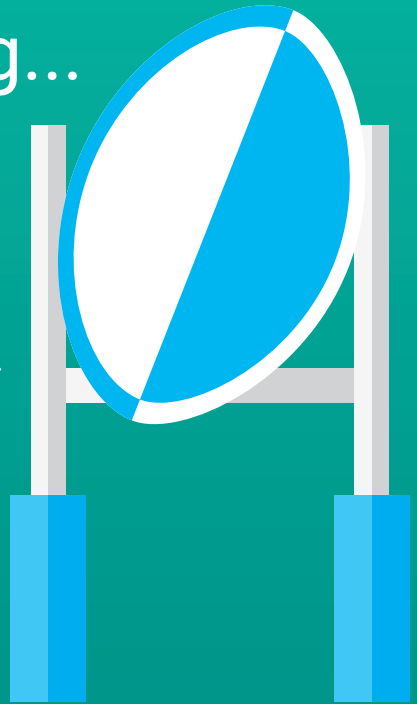
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Results grid, table and fixtures

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

FIXTURE SCHEDULE & RESULTS GRID 2021-22

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Blr M		26/03	22-20	11-15	10-21	22-29	23/04	23-22	33-32	19/03	5-26	8-29	09/04	22-20	34-21
BSRFC	33-3		02/04	20-31	19-24	16/04	12/03	36-26	12-7	32-19	19-21	36-24	33-35	26-22	30/04
Bkth	17-22	16-6		16-18	9-15	25-15	15-18	23-14	21-22	30-36	09/04	26/03	28-34	42-19	12-16
Caldy	0-24	09/04	26-10		9-0	27-27	26-24	27-22	31-28	47-28	20-3	20-26	23/04	26/03	47-40
Camb	32-7	23/04	34-7	22-22		41-3	27-21	26-26	15-17	26/03	28-34	34-29	17-14	09/04	45-14
Chinor	27-29	19-23	34-28	12-23	30-32		28-33	20-23	26/03	36-41	22/04	09/04	34-21	22-5	36-10
Cind	26-13	55-39	30/04	29-21	41-26	24-31		16/04	50-12	36-12	26/03	10-13	15-19	26-21	41-5
DMP	30/04	33-22	19-14	7-40	20-22	42-17	26-7		22/04	09/04	29-23	17-28	15-32	32-38	26/03
Leeds	27-30	33-25	27-25	12/03	02/04	12-29	07/05	19/03		16/04	25-22	13-19	13-17	29-41	21-19
Plum A	34-12	31-17	24-22	7-26	0-17	12/03	13-20	49-22	29-18		19-26	08-37	7-10	23/04	02/04
Rams	02/04	17-5	13-17	16/04	30/04	18/03	22-20	36-32	29-11	41-27		24-21	21-32	43-19	24-13
Ross Pk	12/03	14-13	55-14	02/04	16/04	28-27	38-31	28-20	60-10	30/04	13-17		29-15	68-21	57-5
Sale	24-0	32-24	16/04	21-26	15-7	30/04	02/04	12/03	21-17	38-27	22-21	21-17		53-28	66-10
Taunton	22-19	29-29	12/03	31-36	26-26	02/04	19-30	24-14	30/04	35-25	18-17	14-40	40-50		16/04
TJ's	16-39	18-18	21-23	21-40	12/03	15-34	12-21	24-30	09/04	12-10	19-22	23/04	30-21	21-24	
ROUNDS 1-22									ROUNDS 23-28 (inc rescheduled)						

Results grid, table and fixtures

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

Season 2021/2022 NATIONAL 1

Results from 5th March

HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM
Sale FC	22-21	Rams
Chinnor	36-10	Tonbridge Juddians
Blackheath	21-22	Leeds Tykes
Darlington Mowden Park	20-22	Cambridge
Caldy	47-28	Plymouth Albion
Cinderford	10-13	Rosslyn Park
Birmingham Moseley	22-20	Taunton
Spare week		Darlington Mowden Park

Season 2021/2022 NATIONAL 1

Fixtures for 12th March

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

National League 1 - 2021/2022

Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	TBP	LBP	Points
Caldy	22	17	2	3	578	429	149	10	1	83
Rosslyn Park	21	16	0	5	664	378	286	13	4	81
Sale FC	22	17	0	5	613	450	163	9	3	80
Cambridge	21	13	3	5	511	373	138	13	2	73
Rams	21	14	0	7	502	414	88	10	5	71
Cinderford	21	13	0	8	578	438	140	11	7	70
Chinnor	20	8	1	11	508	506	2	13	7	54
Birmingham Moseley	21	10	0	11	388	493	-105	5	3	48
Taunton	21	7	2	12	516	670	-154	11	4	47
Bishop's Stortford	21	7	2	12	487	509	-22	9	4	45
Darlington Mowden Park	21	7	1	13	491	559	-68	6	5	41
Plymouth Albion	20	7	0	13	446	534	-88	8	4	40
Blackheath	21	6	0	15	413	488	-75	4	12	40
Leeds Tykes	18	5	0	13	352	507	-155	5	7	32
Tonbridge Juddians	21	3	1	17	364	663	-299	3	6	23

The Teams



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Bishop's Stortford 1st XV

BLUE AND WHITE

1	Will Roberts*
2	Alex Rayment
3	Seb Brownhill
4	Harry Charter
5	Tom Lewis
6	James Apperley*
7	Ollie Jones*
8	Jacob Wrafter
9	Tom Banks*
10	Alfie Orchard
11	Chris Smith
12	James Ayrton*
13	Sam Winter (c)*
14	Josh Stannard
15	Mike Ayrton

REPLACEMENTS

16	Harrison King
17	Matt Meeks
18	Rory Banks*
19	Dan Smart
20	Tom Walker*

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*Homegrown player

The Teams

Referee Hamish Grant
Assistant Referee 1 Brendan Fitzmaurice
Assistant Referee 2 Nick Borkett

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Cinderford

RED, BLACK AND YELLOW

George Porter	1
Sam Baker	2
Tim Brockett	3
Tyler Jerrum	4
George Evans	5
Matthew Lane	6
Jack Shields	7
Harry Hone (c)	8
Mike Austin	9
Reece Boughton	10
Will Hendy	11
George Boulton	12
Jamie Forrester	13
Will Baldwin	14
Reece Dunn	15

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REPLACEMENTS

Alex Chalklin	16
Dewi Wilcox	17
Mat Gilbert	18
Aaron Ryan	19
Jimmy Williams	20

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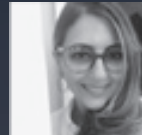
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Colts Report

BY DAVE MACFIE



The Colts returned to competitive rugby in September and have gone from strength to strength since. A new coaching team took the reins in the form of former first team players Steve Hearn and Dave Macfie working alongside current 1st XV player and community rugby coach Austin Pope, with Richard Ward taking on the managerial role. The coaching team was finalised and comprises of a few old heads and some young current players in the form of John Cullen (JC), Ulrich Van Eck, Brad Quinn, Ben Harrison Price and James Thacker. They Colts have been bolstered pitch side with the valuable first aid services of Mehmet Mehmet.

September saw the Colts start with a solid victory over local rivals Shelford in the first round of the National Cup and they then followed this up in the 2nd round with a comfortable win against Chelmsford. Unfortunately November saw the team slump to defeat in the 3rd round to Cambridge in a rather disappointing fashion but it has spurred the whole squad on to aim to complete the remaining season as county champions in both A+B team competitions as well as finish at the top of both their respective Herts Middlesex leagues.

With 52 registered players playing at U18 level, competition for places is as challenging as ever.

This was never more evident than when both teams travelled the short distance to another local rival in Hertford at the end of November. With the return of several players from representative rugby the Colts were at full strength and this showed win a combined victory of 117-0. All coaches were delighted with the quality of the tries but probably more impressed with the teams desire to pull together and refuse to concede points.

The B team are currently sitting top of their HML league and the A team will hopefully follow suit when they complete all their fixtures. Both teams currently await semi-final fixtures in the county cup after some great victories in the previous rounds. In the quarter finals the A team completed a 12-7 victory over Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) in a tough affair at Silver Leys but more impressive were the Will Marriott led B team who travelled to Hitchin and came away with a 29-17 win in a fixture which at one point saw the team reduced to 13 men through injury. A delighted coaching duo of Austin and BHP were overjoyed with the character shown by all the players on the day.

The strength and character have been more than evident with the amount of older players in the squad who have transitioned into senior rugby. Currently 15 of the squad players have made the step up into the senior section of the club with hopefully more will follow this year and the seasons to come.

The players who have made the transition so far are; Archie Racey, Aston Beaverstock, Aidan Murphy, Ryan Cox, Benjy Furrer, Harrison Compton, Murray Davidson, Will Marriott, Fabian Ducci, Nathan Brandrith-Bossert, Alex Siddle, Cian Nagle, Carn Richards-Farr, Charlie Reynolds-West and Josh Perry-Jones.



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Match Report

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 33-35 SALE



Stortford started confidently, after receiving the opening dropout but proceeded to gift Sale possession from an early forward pass under no pressure and then continued playing the generous hosts for the first 13 minutes, by which time the visitors' slick backs had cut the home defence to pieces, registering three tries to Jack Moorhouse, twice and Nev Edwards, all well converted by James Robins. Some of the Sale interplay was very hard to defend, with Moorhouse and fellow centre, Fergus Mulchrone looking particularly threatening, but, as Stortford proved later in the game, by stemming possession and defending more aggressively, they could be more than a match for the league high-flyers. The "Dogs" soon had to experience some dogged opposition themselves, as Stortford fought back, taking advantage of a Sale forward pass to launch a slick backs' move, with Chris Smith going in for a try out wide on 18 minutes, brilliantly converted by Alfie Orchard. The game was now much more even and was lit up by a superb solo try from Josh Stannard after 29 minutes, recovering a loose ball well inside his own half and stepping inside to run diagonally, swerving his way through the heart of Sale's defence, finally outpacing the covering winger for a converted try. With halftime approaching, Stannard struck again, gathering his own kick ahead to plunge over in the corner for an unconverted try and narrowing the deficit to only 2 points. Orchard's conversion attempt across the wind slid agonisingly wide. Once again, though Stortford generosity came to the fore, as they botched a defensive lineout, allowing Sale's hooker, Josh Brown to gather on the run and bundle over for the softest of tries. To pour salt on Stortford's self-inflicted wound, Robins calmly converted with a drop kick from out wide after the ball had toppled off the tee. Undaunted, Stortford started the second half strongly and, with Sale now, rather surprisingly

kicking ball away, a good return kick from Mike Ayrton, backed up by a good chase, forced a breakdown penalty, kicked to touch close to the visitors' 22 after 49 minutes. Good ball from the lineout gave Orchard room and a clever chip kick by the flyhalf, saw James Ayrton touching down by the posts for a converted try. The home side kept up the pressure and a yellow card to Sale's Rhys Davies for foul play on 56 minutes opened the door for another Stortford score, with Jacob Wrafter registering a fifth try from a driven lineout maul only 2 minutes later. This was also well converted by Orchard. Being behind for the first time in the game, it was now Sale's turn to live up to their nickname, as they hurled themselves onto the attack. They couldn't find the fluency of the first half, but ran through multiple phases and eventually found the crucial offload out of a tackle for Jack Metcalf to scoot under the posts, giving Robins an easy conversion. There were still 10 minutes to go, but, despite Stortford's best efforts, they managed to see the game out without undue alarm.



Many thanks to today's Matchday Sponsors, Hanbury Wealth for their continuing, outstanding support and to RC Boreham, today's Man of the Match sponsors. After his outstanding solo try and, slightly less spectacular (!) second touchdown, the award today could only go to Josh Stannard.

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Seb Brownhill

BY RICHARD EVANS



How do you become an established prop in the front row of the Bishops Stortford First XV having started playing rugby at their nearest & historic rivals Hertford RFC?

Seb Brownhill has played for Stortford for five seasons and had a long continuous run of games in the front row featuring in all the league games so far this season. That run of games helps of course but you know that you are really established in the pack for Stortford when you replace Will Roberts at halftime and that popular RFU referee, Vryan Boscawen mistakes you for a Stortford stalwart Tom McCrone! Mr. Boscawen yellow carded Seb for allegedly pulling a maul down in the 56th minute in the Plymouth home game this season. Vryan later claimed that the yellow card was meant for McCrone. On being corrected about which player he had actually yellow carded he replied "But I always yellow card McCrone when I referee at Stortford".

But perhaps Seb will only be considered to have achieved full Stortford prop legend status when Mr Boscawen states "I always yellow card Seb Brownhill when I referee at Stortford".

Seb came to Stortford via Hertford minis and Under 14's, the Saracens Academy, Haileybury College on a Dallaglio Foundation scholarship and Loughborough University. His rugby "journey" is even more interesting as in his early playing days he was a second row but coming up against gigantic second rows like the current English international, Nick Isiekwe in the Saracens Academy he thought it was wiser to bulk up and become a prop.

Very few forwards successfully make the move from second row to front row. After all the front row is now rugby's most specialized position. For reasons of technique and safety it is considered dangerous for anybody other than another experienced front row player to replace a front row forward. And of course when a front row player is yellow carded, a player from another

"less important" position has to leave the field for a replacement front row to come on.

Seb is sufficiently flexible playing in the front row to cover both the Loose-head (No.1) and Tight-head (No.3) and you need a rugby PhD (or read the article on page 61 of this Programme) to understand the differences. Props are also considered such key players that they are always rotated and Seb can be substituted for a justifiable rest if he starts the game or invariably be brought on in the second half if selected on the bench. Maybe it would have been simpler and easier for Seb to have stayed as a second row?

Seb was badly injured at the start of 2020 and required surgery to fix the injury. Seb appreciated his continued sponsorship support by Virtus during his long injury and when he took the field from the bench at Tonbridge Juddians in September 2021 it was his first league game back. The Covid restrictions and no league games in the 2020/21 season meant he had plenty of time to fully recover from the injury as borne out by his constant presence in the side this season.





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Covering The Colts

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Featured match: Colts vs Camelot (Hemel Hempstead)
Final score 12-7 to BSRFC

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



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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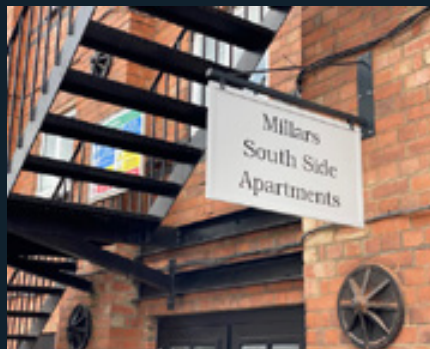
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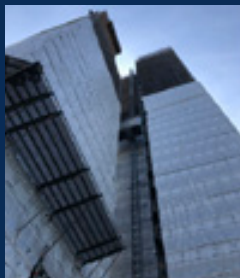
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Includes coverage of Sawbridgeworth & Stansted Mountfitchet

Independent

Drugs den shut down after death of woman

Shane Carr & Hollie Ryder
newsdesk@stortfordindependent.co.uk

Police have shut down a house in Bishop's Stortford where a young woman died suddenly after it became a magnet for criminals and left neighbours living in fear from drug dealers.

They began investigating the property in Oak Street, off Bartholomew Road, which was let to a 45-year-old female care worker. In January 2021 after receiving information it was being used for dealing and taking drugs. There were also multiple complaints about anti-social behaviour.

Last month, paramedics were called to the address and police subsequently confirmed the non-suspicious sudden death of a female.

An inquest has yet to be held, but police initiated the tragedy as part of their 56-page dossier of evidence put before the courts in seeking the closure order.

The order was granted by Stevenage magistrates last Thursday (March 3). It prohibits anyone from entering the address for the next three months.

PO's Derek Lewis and Osi Anadolfo compiled the dossier which detailed:

- Drug dealers threatening to harm the tenant and cause criminal damage
- Drug users causing noise and nuisance around the clock, with people shouting and screaming outside
- Fights between visitors to the address
- Vehicles arriving and the occupants baying and selling drugs
- Residents unable to have their grandchildren visit because of fears for their safety or forced to keep

youngsters indoors to prevent contact with drug users outside.

- Multiple calls to the ambulance service and numerous visits by police
- A rise in criminality in the town centre, including shoplifting and counterfeit currency, directly linked to visitors.

Insp Mark Collins, from Stortford police, said: "The effect of anti-social behaviour in the area has been devastating for residents and I thank them for their support."

"Working with our partners at East Herts Council and Clarion Housing, we've ensured they can start getting in their peace without living in fear."

He said the tenant had not always been living at the property and had given the keys to a family member. Despite lengthy negotiations, police, the housing association and council were left with little option but to seek a closure order.

The tenant has been subject to a number of out-of-court resolutions, has a community protection warning and has had tenancy warnings," said Insp Collins.

The tenant was approached on numerous occasions and asked if they were under any duress or if the housing being evicted, however on this occasion this relates to the vulnerable victim.

"A closure order will only come as a last option - the last thing we want to do is remove anybody from their homes. We have to satisfy the courts to ensure all responsible steps have been taken to safeguard the tenant and the community."

Insp Collins said that a number of arrests had been made prior to the closure order and formed part of their evidence.

Community rallying round for Ukraine as donations pour in for Indie aid appeal



Main: Coopers of Stortford staff helped to load readers' donations into the van with Lou from Felstead Aid for Deprived Children ahead of the charity's aid mission to Moldova. Inset: volunteers including Jess Kensik-Dowdle, left, and Stephanie Hodds have been busy sorting the piles of donations in the indie office - see pages 4-5

for their safety or forced to keep their evidence.

left, and Stephanie Hodds have been busy sorting the piles of donations in the indie office - see pages 4-5

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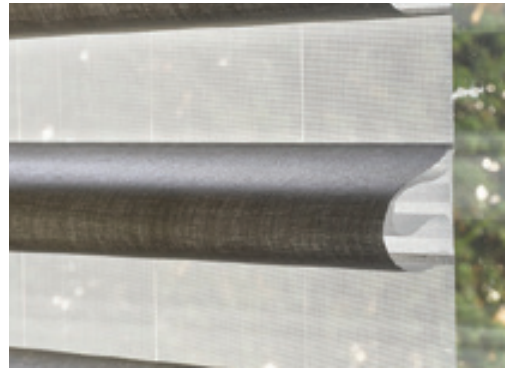
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Loose or tight?

THE PROP POSITIONS EXPLAINED BY RICHARD EVANS



Scrum is significant events in our Union version of Rugby. They are a source of primary (or clean) possession and because the side putting the ball into the scrum are expected to win it, strikes against the head or turnovers in the scrum are highly prized.

What exactly goes on during each scrum is extremely difficult to say for certain even for very experienced rugby followers. The secrets are closely guarded by those in the so called 'Front Row Club' but in truth they often don't know either!

What we do know is that all three front row players (the Hooker No.2 is the one between the props) on each side need to work together to be successful. So sometimes it might not actually be the fault of the penalised player when something is judged to have gone array.

The Loose-head (#1) is on the left hand side of the scrum and as the name suggests their head is not completely bound in. It is the more technical of the prop positions, in the sense that because only one shoulder is engaged, it is somewhat akin to lifting a set of weights with only the right arm, and nothing to balance on the left. The primary role for the Loose-head is to ensure his hooker is not under pressure and can channel the ball by staying square.

By contrast, the Tight-head (#3) on the right hand side of the scrum has their head retained on both sides and is a position where sheer strength is more important than technique. The Tight-head prop is the cornerstone of a scrum and it all of the angles of force come through him.

The 'battle' at each scrum between the props

involves the Tight-head trying to force open the gap between Loose-head and their Hooker to make life more difficult for the Hooker and the Loose-head trying to destabilise the Tight-head and thus the whole opposition scrum. Who wins most decisively invariably determines the outcome of each scrum.

The nuances of each battle are extremely difficult for officials to see clearly and illegal techniques or as those involved like to term them 'the dark arts' are often involved.

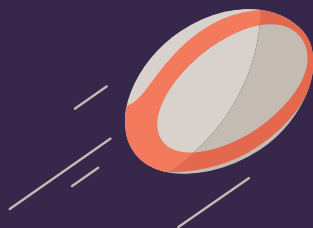
Some might argue that in the modern game sheer size and strength are valued more highly than technique but one thing the vast majority of us can agree upon is that the integrity of the 'individual battle' element of Union scrums needs to be maintained because without it our game will lose much of its charm and interest

I have to end with my favourite prop story of Phil O'Callaghan, the Irish Tight head prop, who during an international game was tapped on the shoulder and admonished by the referee. "O'Callaghan you are boring" referring to the way he was lining up against his opponent in a scrum. The reply from 'Philo' was a classic. "You're not so entertaining yourself Sir."



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On this day...

MARCH 1996



A lot was going on in March 1996, 75 years after the formation of the club in May 1921. The headline in the Herts & Essex Observer on March 14th read 'Veteran Johnson Tastes That Old Barbarian Magic'.

After 27 years of playing for Bishop's Stortford, Colin aged 43, played for the Barbarians in the 75th Hobbs Memorial match against East Midlands at Franklin Gardens. Among his many international teammates was Ben Clarke who had played junior, youth, Colts and two seasons of 1st team rugby for our club before he played for Saracens, Bath, Richmond and 40 times for England and represented the B&I Lions. Colin received the loudest cheer of the day from the 5000 plus crowd when he scored a try after a driving maul. He subsequently admitted that it took him a few days to recover from the tremendous pace at which the game was played.

A week later at Silver Leys, Bishop's Stortford 1st XV booked their place in the final of the Herts President's cup with a convincing 40-5 win over Hemel Hempstead, in which Gordon Waddle scored a hat-trick and current president, Mick Coleman kicked two penalties and two conversions. The scoring was completed with tries from Geoff Ridgewell and captain Paul Woodford and a conversion and a penalty from Joel Eley.

On the same day, the U16's won the John Conn Trophy at Chingford. Captained by Sandy Macfie the

side played dazzling rugby to record victories of 45-0 over Braintree, Chingford 'B' 47-0 and Canvey Island 31-0. A tough game ensued in the final but the determination and strength of our pack and two tries from Danny Gibson produced a 12-5 victory. In all, Gibson scored 35 points that day and was awarded Man of the Day.

Not to be overshadowed, the U14's extended their unbeaten run to 53 matches from April 1994, in which they scored a total of 1760 points, including 294 tries and conceded only 88 points. This remarkable record earned them the headline 'Bishop's U14s Maintain Amazing Unbeaten Run'.

On 28th March there was another H&EO headline for the club. 'Stortford Triumph in Herts Cup Final' reported the 18-10 victory over local adversaries Old Albanians at Croxley Green. Paul Woodford scored the winning try after earlier tries by Chad Ferguson and Scott Hadfield and a penalty by Mick Coleman. Simon Piper had the game of his life, dominating the lineup and was voted Man of the Match by Ben Clarke.



Women's & Girls Rugby report

BY CARLY POYSER



With a lot of new players starting this season across our girls and ladies it meant building up that team spirit along with the skills needed to play.



With the ladies under Tom Brady's leadership, with Nick Kane, Jack Fellowes-Prynn and Dave Walker, girls coached by Joss Linney, Jasmin Bice, Carleigh LaLonge, Ben Lucas, Christian Evans and Carly Ball... We really do have a great team in place.

As it stands the ladies stand 5th in their league, often coming off agonizingly second best on the score sheet. As the squad plays more together and gels as a proper team, those tight matches are bound to turn our way and result in a better showing next season.

The last fortnight has also seen a number of the squad go off to test themselves at county trials and whilst we we're waiting to see how many may have made the squad, it's been great to see a significant number of players wanting to try and take a step up.

Making the girls teams sustainable as a long term section of the club has been our main focus this season. With the RFU changing the age grades of girl's rugby next season we have had to review what this looks like for BSRFC.

To do this we started by moving the U11 girls into the U11 minis team, which has always been a mixed section. As the girl's age grades split into U12/14/16/18 these girls will split from their team

next season, but our vision is that they continue to train next to their male teammates with separate coaches and managers made up of their parents and supporters. As many of you may know the girls don't have official leagues like the boys yet, so fixtures are planned and arranged by the managers and this will be the first section of girls where the new plan is in place.

The other girls sections will be moved to Sunday morning training, and with games held Sundays too it means a much higher chance of fulfilling these fixtures and getting the girls the game time they deserve.

It is a really exciting time for our girl's teams and securing the sustainability of these teams across the club and county.

For anyone interested in playing, or supporting our girls and ladies please contact **Carly** on **07368 528 737** or **bsrfcladies@gmail.com**



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

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