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On This Day | Josh Stannard | Sweden v BSRFC U18

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD v BLACKHEATH FC

2nd April 2022

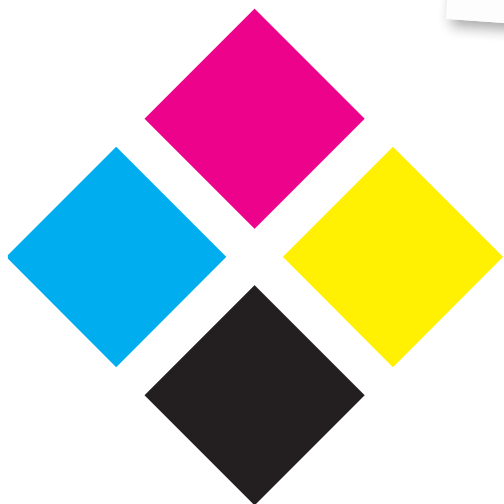
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President's Welcome

MICK COLEMAN



I extend a warm welcome to Silver Leys to all players, supporters and alickadoos from Blackheath, for what should be a highly competitive Nat One contest this afternoon, albeit at the wrong end of the table! Last Saturday we basked in the comfort of beating Birmingham Moseley, only to learn Blackheath had surprisingly come up trumps against title contenders Rosslyn Park which all adds a bit more spice into today's game. No ring fencing in this league!

The reverse fixture at Well Hall last year was a bit of a dour affair, largely influenced by the appalling weather, which we lost 16-6. We have however, managed to find some good form post-Christmas, although not as consistently as we would like, but with 10+ home bred players in the squad, complimented by some exciting youngsters like Alfie Orchard, Josh Stannard and Jacob Rafter, we'll be expecting a good 'Stortford' performance.

Yet again, we have a sell-out lunch today which is quite astonishing and hugely appreciated that so many sponsors (13 corporate tables) and club members continue to support these lunches. A big thank you as well to all the many volunteers that beaver away to make these days work – it wouldn't happen without you. Anyone out there with a bit of time on their hands who might like to get involved, be it mid-week or match day and if only for an hour or so, then please get in touch.

Our headline sponsors today are new boys the Wickman Group led by Owen Coyne who are match day sponsors, and have also donated a fantastic British Superbike package for auction, and Mantle Business Centres who kindly sponsor the Man of the Match through those fabulous Baker Boys, Jamie and Guy.

Congratulations to our Abbots (senior 5th team), who last week beat Royston

2nds 36-24 to take the Herts & Middlesex Merit table 5 N/E. Sponsored by Croucher Needham, winning the title was a terrific end to a great season. Well done to all involved!

And finally, we should all be indebted to Sean, Gareth and Suzi who have run 100km through March to build funds for JOCA, our in-house mental health charity. Anybody within the club can make contact with JOCA **stortford@jocarugby.co.uk** if things aren't going too well, and if that is you, then please don't hesitate. They operate in complete confidence and already have a proven track record in guiding sufferers with sound help and advice. If you want to donate a few quid (and you should), then please visit the website for details. **www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bsrfc**

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Head Coaches

TOM COLEMAN / MARCUS CATTELL



We would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone for today's game which has been set up perfectly after both teams claimed vital victories last weekend.

In only our second away win of the season at Birmingham Moseley, we were incredibly proud of the team's resilience and effort even if the performance wasn't as accurate in some areas as we would have liked. We have to give huge credit to the team however, as many times this season, we've been the better side in games and been on wrong side of the result.

We couldn't get going in the away game at Blackheath earlier in the season and deservedly lost the game, but the boys are fired up for this one and very excited about trying to put that right today.

There was also a brilliant result for our blues against Richmond Saxons where we continue to have a great blend of exciting youngsters coming through with some experienced heads.

An outstanding team performance saw us score three late tries to claim a superb bonus point victory. We hope the boys can continue this form today when they take on Esher.

Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to all of our excellent sponsors, volunteers and supporters who have continued to support the team in many different ways this season, it is greatly appreciated.

Come on you Stort!

Tom & Marcus

The Coaching Staff:



ASHLEY BOYLE



DARREN ORBART



JADE LEEDER



ROB FAIERS



BEN SHEATH



LEE SOPER



RYAN CLARKE



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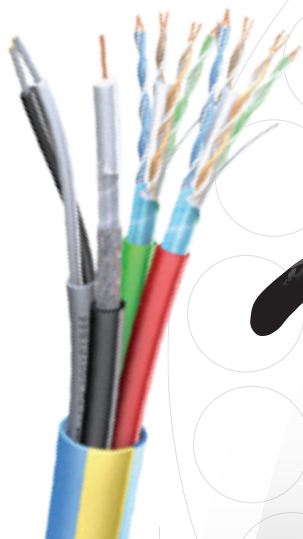
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Mantle is proud to sponsor BSRFC.

What are Mantle's centres like to work at?

We offer fully serviced private offices from one to 100 desks, and bigger offices for larger companies. Or we can offer dedicated desks in shared offices, as well as virtual offices, meeting rooms and support services. During COVID we launched our Home Flexi service, which enables clients to come in to our offices for one or more days per week. This has proved very popular.

Each centre has a dedicated on-site centre manager and support team. We can answer your calls, deal with your post and deliveries, managing everything from the heating bill to broadband to cleaning to security. All offices are fully furnished.

Our centres are fitted out in a modern, contemporary house style, and each has breakout space as well as kitchens, phone booths and meeting rooms. All have plenty of parking space available, and our centres at Thremhall Park, The Officers' Mess at Duxford and The Bradfield Centre on Cambridge Science Park have cafes, which are open to all.

What makes Mantle different?

At Mantle, we pride ourselves on our excellent customer care. Our teams habitually go the extra mile for our clients and we have over the years received many testimonials from very satisfied customers, thanking us for helping them. We retain a very high proportion of our clients, and many have moved to larger offices at our centres as their companies have grown. This is a big vote of confidence, which we are very proud of.

Our centres are modern, smart, bright and spacious, and we aim to provide a working environment that really can inspire businesses to thrive. Our contemporary house style is distinctive yet unpretentious. We try to offer professional surroundings for professional organisations. We don't have beer taps or DJs, but we do have polite, friendly, helpful and professional teams to support your business.

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What does the future look like for Mantle?

Mantle is the leading flexible serviced workspace provider in our region and we aim to expand both in the Eastern region and the broader South-East over the next few years.

If you would like to hear more about our exclusive offers only available for BSRFC members, or would like to arrange a tour, please do contact us on **0333 00 66 330** or email **hello@mantlebusinesscentres.co.uk**. We would be very pleased to help.



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BSRFC First XV Squad 2021/22



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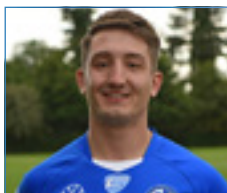


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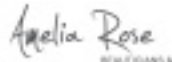


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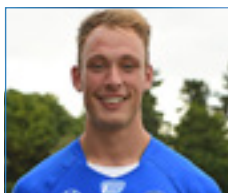


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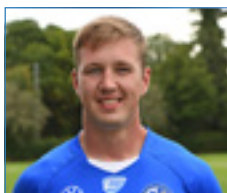


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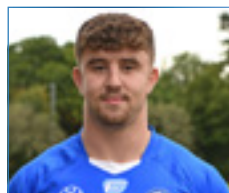


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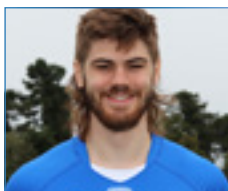


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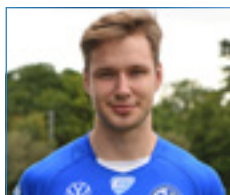


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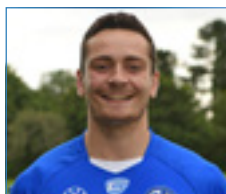


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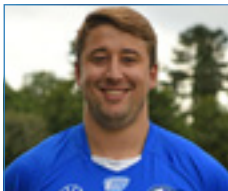
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Today's Opposition

BLACKHEATH FC



Blackheath Football Club was founded in 1858 by old boys of Blackheath Proprietary School who played a "carrying" game of football made popular by Rugby School.

When the old boys played against the current pupils, supporters would shout for either "Club" or "School" accordingly. This is why to this day supporters of BFC shout for "Club", not for "Blackheath".

In 1863 the club developed the tactic of passing the ball from player to player as an alternative to the solo break and the "kick and follow-up".

In 1863 Blackheath was a founder member of The Football Association which was formed at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, on Lincoln Inn Fields, London 26 October 1863 with the intention to frame a code of laws that would embrace the best and most acceptable points of all the various methods of play under the one heading of "football". Mr Francis Maule Campbell, a member of Blackheath, was elected treasurer. At the fifth meeting Campbell argued that hacking was an essential element of 'football' and that to eliminate hacking would "do away with all the courage and pluck from the game, and I will be bound over to bring over a lot of Frenchmen who would beat you with a week's practice." At the sixth meeting on 8th December Campbell withdrew Blackheath, explaining that the rules that the FA intended to adopt would destroy the game and all interest in it.

Other rugby clubs followed this lead and did not join the Football Association. In this way the great divide between soccer and rugby took place.

In December 1870 Edwin Ash, secretary of Richmond Football Club published a letter in the papers which said, "Those who play the rugby-type game should meet to form a code of practice as various clubs play to rules which differ from others, which makes the game difficult to play." On 26 January 1871 a meeting attended by representatives from 22 clubs was

held in London at the Pall Mall Restaurant. As a result of this meeting the Rugby Football Union (RFU) was founded. The Club is one of seven of the original twenty one clubs to have survived to this day.

Blackheath initially played its matches on the Heath (meeting and changing at the Princess of Wales public house) but occasional interruptions from spectators led the club to move, initially to a private field (Richardson's Field) in Blackheath before moving to the Rectory Field in 1883.

In 2016 after 158 years at Rectory Field, the Club moved to their training ground at Well Hall in Eltham.

Remarkably in the 3 seasons we have now been in National One we have a winning record against 'The Club' having won 3 of our 5 encounters. In season 17-18 we did the double over our illustrious guests winning home and away. Last season the honours were shared as we lost here by the solitary point, before exacting revenge at their place in March with a 9 point win.

This season's first encounter was fought in awful weather conditions with Blackheath emerging the victors with the score 16-6.



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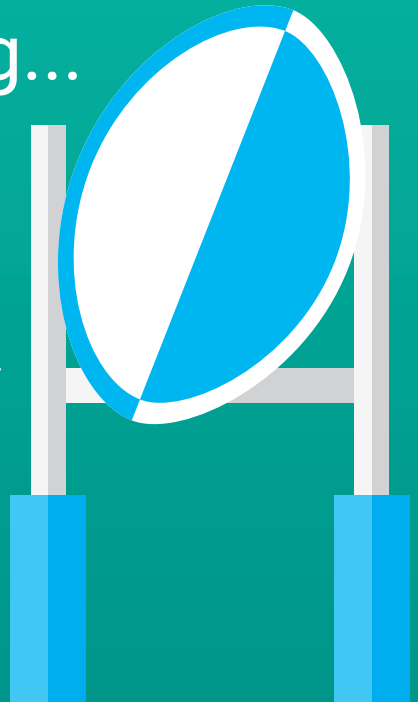
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Results grid, table and fixtures

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

Season 2021/2022 NATIONAL 1

Results from 26th March

HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM
DMP	22-20	Tonbridge Juddians
Blackheath	31-24	Rosslyn Park
Caldy	52-31	Taunt Titans
Cambridge	48-24	Plymouth Albion
Chinnor	36-27	Leeds Tykes
Cinderford	38-17	Rams
Birmingham Moseley	17-29	Bishop's Stortford
Spare week		Darlington Mowden Park

Season 2021/2022 NATIONAL 1

Fixtures for 2nd April

HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM
Sale FC	vs	Cinderford
Bishop's Stortford	vs	Blackheath
Leeds Tykes	vs	Cambridge
Plymouth Albion	vs	Tonbridge Juddians
Rams	vs	Birmingham Moseley
Rosslyn Park	vs	Caldy
Taunton Titals	vs	Chinnor
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 | Tom McCrone* |
| 4 | Harry Charter |
| 5 | James Thacker* |
| 6 | Tom Lewis |
| 7 | Jacob Wrafter |
| 8 | Rory Banks* |
| 9 | Dan Smart |
| 10 | Alfie Orchard |
| 11 | Joss Linney* |
| 12 | James Ayrton* |
| 13 | Sam Winter(c)* |
| 14 | Josh Stannard |
| 15 | Mike Ayrton |

REPLACEMENTS

- | | |
|----|---------------|
| 16 | Harrison King |
| 17 | Matt Meek |
| 18 | Ollie Jones* |
| 19 | Tom Banks* |
| 20 | Tom Walker* |

Match Day Sponsors



Head Coaches Tom Coleman | Marcus Cattell | **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

*Homegrown player

The Teams

Referee Andy Wigley
Assistant Referee 1 Henry Lowis
Assistant Referee 2 Brendan Fitzmaurice

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Blackheath FC

RED AND BLACK

	Tom Williams	1
	Ollie Walliker	2
	Matt Collins	3
	Dom McGeekie	4
	Ed Taylor (c)	5
	Harry Holland	6
	Andrew Denham	7
	Harry Dugmore	8
	Dan Hiscocks	9
	Jake Hennessey	10
	Marcus Kershaw	11
	Markus Burcham	12
	George Spencer	13
	Jake Lloyd	14
	Nick Foster	15

Man of the Match Sponsors



REPLACEMENTS

	Conor Mitchell	16
	Andy Boye	17
	Dan Dass	18
	Oli Claxton	19
	James Newey	20

Head James Shanahan | **Assistant Coaches** Tom Stradwick | Adam Barnard |
Physios Reece Gibbs | Ross Skinner

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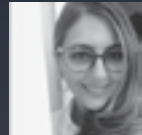
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Youth Report

BY BEN MILLARD



The early years of youth rugby are an exciting and challenging time. The transition to larger pitches, longer games, more contact, more structure and ever more complicated laws, is a big test to young players who are also having to navigate their way through their first years of secondary school and the various joys of becoming a teenager.



Never has this been more difficult for them than the last two years, with Covid limiting not only the time that we have to work with them, but also limiting the way in which we have been able to coach and nurture them as rugby players. Even 6 months ago, it probably felt to many of us that we would never get back to 'normal'.

Slowly but surely however, restrictions have lifted, and over the course of this season our youth players have shown themselves both keen and resilient as they have thrown themselves back into their rugby, and picked up as if there was never a break.

Numbers don't seem to have dwindled, with a strong showing across all age groups and all local secondary schools represented. With most youth age groups running both A and B teams, and some even a C or development side, there really is a place at Bishops Stortford Rugby Club for any young rugby player, no matter their size, shape, or ability.

Wednesday nights and Sundays are busy again, and not only busy, but successful as we continue as a club to produce fantastic young players, and to compete at the highest levels of youth

rugby. The culmination of this hard work by the players as they progress through the age groups is no better illustrated by both our Colts' A and B teams having once again reached the finals of their respective National Cup competitions and ultimately, the high number of former Youth section players that represent our Senior sides from 1st XV through to Abbots on a Saturday.

None of this happens of course without the continued support of our sponsors, our dedicated teams of volunteer coaches, and first aiders, and of our players' parents. I'd like to thank all of them on behalf of the whole Youth section.

As this season draws to a close, we turn our minds to September and how we can properly hit the ground running for the first time in a long time. I for one am excited to help our youth players to develop and enjoy their future in rugby, and hopefully at Bishops Stortford Rugby club!

Its never to late to get your child involved in rugby. Maybe they've just discovered rugby at school, or maybe they've never played and are curious? Either way, they're welcome to come and join the youth section. The Youth section train on a Wednesday evening, and have matches and further training sessions on Sundays. If you are interested, in the first instance please contact the manager of the appropriate age group and they will discuss all aspects of it with you.

Ben Millard, U13 Coach



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Match Report

BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY 17-29 BISHOP'S STORTFORD



An error-strewn game, but huge commitment from both sides and a slightly more controlled approach from Stortford, saw the visitors deservedly take a vital victory.

Stortford started strongly, assisted by a Moseley knock-on from the starting drop-out and quickly forced a breakdown penalty, which Alfie Orchard converted with barely 3 minutes on the clock. The home side countered immediately, though, and a well executed training-ground move, with flyhalf, Dan Lewis looping around his centres to split the visiting defence apart, put the Stortford line under threat, forcing a penalty, which Lewis confidently converted to level the scores. Only 9 minutes had elapsed, though, before the visitors regained the lead, when a good team kick-chase put the Moseley defence under pressure and quick ball down the line gave Joss Linney a few yards of space, which he exploited to the full, beating two men on the outside, to run round for a try under the posts, giving Orchard an easy conversion. A bit of a midfield arm-wrestle ensued, with neither side able to string enough phases together to break the other down. Eventually, though, Stortford won a crucial penalty at a breakdown in midfield and a strong drive from the resultant lineout had the home defence back-peddalling, but it still took a tremendous finish from James Thacker after 25 minutes to touch down out wide from a second-phase, before he was forced into touch by two defenders. Once again, though, the home side bounced straight back onto the attack and this time found it all too easy to breach Stortford's midfield defence, setting up position well inside the 22, from which prop, Ethan Priest forced his way over under the posts to narrow the gap to 5 points with 11 minutes of the half left. Stortford then had to withstand a bit of a battering from a resurgent Moseley, but dogged defence, aided by a penalty shot rebounding off an upright allowed them to turn round with a 5 point lead and the fresh breeze at their backs for the second half.

The next score was always likely to be crucial and it went Stortford's way 8 minutes into the second period, when Will Roberts stretched to reach the line from a secondary maul, after Joss Linney had forced a Stortford lineout 5 metres out from the Moseley line, with a clever grubber kick, which he just failed to regather. Orchard made an excellent conversion from out wide to stretch the lead to 12 points, but this was soon narrowed to 4, when, with only 11 minutes gone and with Stortford now looking to be on top, a loose long pass right under the home side's posts was intercepted by Lewis, who had the pace to run the length of the field for a simple converted try. As Moseley sub, veteran Ashley Johnson came and went, so fortunes at the scrums seemed to ebb and flow, with the home side winning two scrum penalties, but they were unable to capitalise on the resultant territory. With 29 minutes of the half gone, Stortford remarkably took a scrum against the head and, aided by a bit of good fortune with the bounce from a Sam Winter kick stopping just short of the Moseley line, another strong team chase allowed the visitors to force a penalty. A good lineout drill saw Roberts driven over for his second try and the crucial bonus point for his team, with Orchard again adding two tremendous points for the conversion from out wide. The home side continued to battle, but Stortford were able to see the game out without further mishap for a crucial 5 point win.

With the Blues registering an impressive home win over Richmond Saxons and the Abbots sealing their position as league winners, this has been a notable day for BSRFC!



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Josh Stannard

BY RICHARD EVANS



What was special about the Stortford home game against Darlington this year? It was the only game in 2022 that Josh Stannard had played in but did not score a try. Josh has played in seven games in 2022 and scored eight tries. A very impressive scoring ratio even for a winger with Josh's pace. The tries he scored against Rosslyn Park and Sale potentially being "try of season" contenders. These try scoring feats should not have been a shock to Stortford supporters, as Jim Bloxham, in a Blues report on a match with Chinnor Seconds in 2019, had perceptively written "Josh is getting better game by game after returning from injury and his speed is frightening". Josh, however, scored only one try in the first half of this season in 2021 and of course that was against Darlington away!

News of Josh's try scoring prowess must have reached Moseley because when Joss Linney scored Stortford's first try against Moseley in last Saturday's game, the announcer credited it to Josh. The official RFU match card has also even recorded the try to Josh. It could be argued that from the heights of Moseley grandstand and with Stortford's "camouflaged" playing numbers the wingers' numbers of 14 (Josh Stannard) and 11 (Josh Linney) could have been confused. However, any regular Stortford supporter can easily tell you the difference between a Joss Linney try and a Josh Stannard try. Joss powerfully runs into defenders to break tackles and can also avoid

defenders in any confined spaces in front of him. Josh on the other hand with his deceptive pace glides past defenders who then end up behind him and forlornly chasing him. The clinching difference should have been that once he crossed the try line Joss Linney "pinballed" through defenders in the dead ball area to touch down under the posts for his try. In the case of Josh Stannard, touching down a try under the posts there would usually be no defenders left in the dead ball area to contest the touch down.

Josh joined Stortford as a centre at the start of the 2019/2020 season from Brentwood with fellow Brentwood player Brad Burr who joined as an outside half. Whilst Burr was the headline player, it was Josh that caught the eye of the coaches. He played all the way through the age levels at Brentwood and scored while playing centre for Brentwood (Badger) Colts in their 19-7 win in the 2016 National Colts Final against Havant at Bedford. This Brentwood Colt side were made up in the Stortford tradition, mainly consisting of players that had begun their playing career with Brentwood U8 and minis sides.

When Josh joined Stortford he was recovering from a serious knee injury, and it was our excellent physios and S & C team who assisted him with his rehab which was only completed in the September. Although the 2019/2020 season ended up being curtailed by Covid, Josh was now making regular appearances for the First XV as a winger and making some important contributions to Stortford scores in games. Notably when coming on for his debut as a replacement against Hull, when Josh took a high ball with ease before effortlessly gliding past his opposite number and passing inside to create a classy try. He then went on to score one for himself and provide another assist in what turned out to be an inspired substitution, and also the start of Josh becoming a regular first teamer.

Josh has been sponsored by Little Acre Construction since joining Stortford and very much appreciates their support.



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Featured match: Bishop's Stortford 2nd XV vs Richmond Saxons 3rd XV
Final score 40-30 to BSRFC

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
August 2021

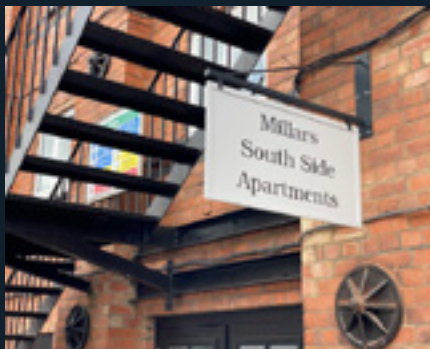
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Page 5

Pedestrian crossing to finally get green light?

New hope for families over safety improvements on Hadham Road

Sinead Carr
sinead.carr@stortfordindependent.co.uk

Parents campaigning for a pedestrian crossing in Bishop's Stortford's Hadham Road have finally made progress after three years of pressure. Exasperated families launched an attempt to force Hertfordshire County Council to find funding for the vital safety measure on the A1309 near Maze Green Road. The road is used by pupils at Bishop's Stortford College, Hockerill Anglo-European College, Herts and Essex High School, St Mary's Catholic School and Northgate and Windhill Primary, as a route to and from school. One of the campaigners, Helen makes it extremely dangerous for pedestrians to cross the road during school drop-off times and this situation is getting worse as more and more new housing developments are occupied to the west of the town, including the large Stortford Fields estate. The county council should have

made provision for improved road safety on Hadham Road in the planning conditions for Stortford Fields, yet a crossing in this location does not qualify for any of the £5m transport provision associated with the development.

This now needs to be put right and funds should be provided urgently to avoid a serious accident. Two years ago former county councillor for Stortford West division Colin Woodward used part of his highways budget to commission a vehicle speed and volume survey plus a pedestrian survey which proved the crossing was required.

Since then, his successor, Cllr Alastair Ward-Routh, has backed the campaign and finally been able to report some good news. Design work has begun and Cllr Ward-Routh, who is also an East Herts Council member, is hopeful he will soon have a firm indication of costs and a possible timetable. He is hopeful the location might be suitable for a zebra crossing, without

» Continues on page 3

Village pub's first floor and thatched roof destroyed in Mother's Day fire



Ten fire crews fought to save the Ave and Comptons in Arkhadden after flames ripped through its thatched roof shortly before it was due to open on Sunday - full story, see page 3. Picture: Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

"The county council should have

» Continues on page 3

thority before it was due to open on Sunday - full story, see page 3

Picture: Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

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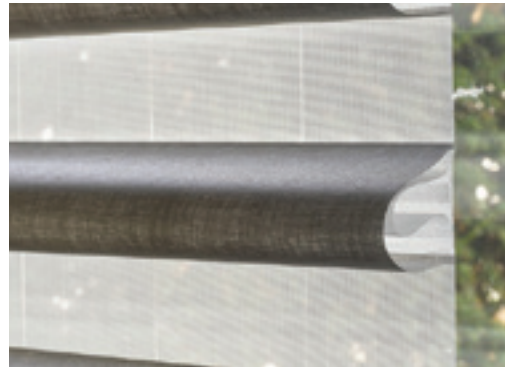
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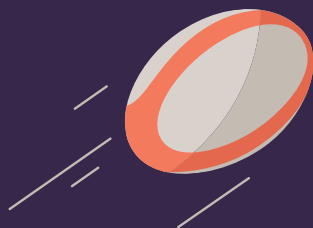


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On this day...

APRIL



In April 1965 Bishop's Stortford entered the Hertfordshire Sevens, but was rated so lowly that we were the only team whose players were not named in the programme! Perhaps the team felt insulted by this as they fought through the 2nd and 3rd rounds (16-5 vs EAC and 9-6 vs Harpenden) and the semi-final (Camelot 8-00). The final pitted us against familiar rivals Old Hertfordians, and the Herts & Essex Observer noted 'hard graft and fine teamwork' in our 8-6 win to take the Macmillan Cup. The victory got us noticed in the county and beyond and led to the strengthening of our fixture list.

By April 1981, sixty years since the formation of the club, an additional seven acres of land beyond the clubhouse had been acquired for two pitches and a training pitch at a cost of £17,000. A local farmer, Ted Harvey had previously rented the land from the Gardiner/Gilbey family and he gave up his grazing rights so that the club could buy the land. The purchase price of £17,000 was funded by loans of £5,000 each from Rayments brewery and the RFU and a grant of £5,000 from the Sports Council.

As a reminder of the high inflation of the early 1980s, we note that the RFU loan carried an interest rate of 12%; it was repayable in equal instalments over 15 years so gradually reducing as the capital was repaid but in the first year the repayment was £1,783.

Town twinning with Villiers-sur-Marne had been established in 1965 and to celebrate the tenth-anniversary BSRFC were asked in 1975 to take a rugby team to play a Villiers side. The team and supporters were hosted in the homes of

Villiers team members and the local paper noted that 'the warm welcome given to the Bishop's rugby men on Friday evening did not affect the quality of the game'. The translated report went on, 'it was not until the 33rd minute that it was possible for Kerr, the visitors' excellent fly-half, to open the score with a splendid try from a long way out, converted by Smith with his legendary kick'. With the hosts leading 14-6 'BSRFC reacted vigorously with a try by wing three-quarter Springham after which they attacked incessantly with all the finesse of the game and impeccable orthodoxy'. The final match score was a win for Bishop's Stortford 22-14.



The captains exchange pennants before the game at Villiers in 1975.

The following year, on 18th April 1976, the Villiers team came to Bishop's Stortford and a tight game was won narrowly by the home team 8-7 with a big win for the 2nd team 36-7. In France, in 1977 all three games were won by BSRFC and at home the next year there was a big 33-0 win for BSRFC. As the club's standard of rugby improved annual fixtures with Villiers were stopped to be revived by U16 and U17 sides in 1980. Both games were won and the U16 hosted a return fixture the following year which ended in a draw.

Sweden Vs BSRFC U18s

BY CARLY POYSER



Wednesday 23rd of March saw a touring Sweden U18s team arrive at Silver Leys for a much-anticipated games of 7s.

With the newly formed girls' team from Bishop's Stortford College joining for some training and a game, it meant there were 25 girls playing in the sunshine into the evening under floodlights.

The game was arranged by Joss Linney who is one of our BSRFC 1st XV players and coaches both Sweden U18 girls' team and BSRFC U18 Girls team!

Joss coached with the aid of Liana Kearns along with support from the college and a great mixed training session was had by all.

4 rounds of games were then played with Linney refereeing and BSRFC Women and Girls Chair, Carly Poyser with club Chair, Colin Tilley supporting from the side-lines.

Both teams did well, there were some great runs and defensive efforts from Elke Smit, Grace Frankham and Gracie Lucas, and tries scored by Ruby Wood and Lily Whittaker. Every one of the team has shown such improvement and understanding we cannot wait for our next game!

The girls all enjoyed some food provided by BSRFC in the bar where swapping of snapchats and tik-tok fun was had by all the teams.

Thank you to Sweden Girls for joining us, we hope to reciprocate the effort and head to Sweden soon!

BSRFC U18 Girls are always looking for new members, and with girl's teams U13+ we warmly welcome new players. Please contact **bsrfcladies@gmail.com** for more information.



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
- You'll get 10% Bar Discount
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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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