



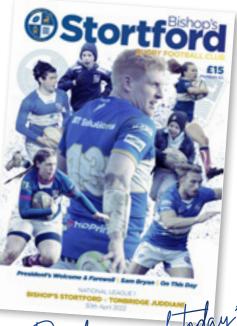
President's Welcome & Farewell | Sam Bryan | On This Day

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

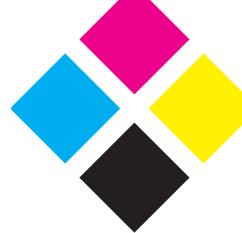
**BISHOP'S STORTFORD V TONBRIDGE JUDDIANS** 

30th April 2022

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## **President's Welcome**

#### MICK COLEMAN



For the last time this season, it gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to Silver Leys this afternoon, especially today's first team opposition Tonbridge Juddians. Sadly, TJ's have found the step up into National 1 a bit tough going and have unfortunately been unable to stave off relegation. However, TJ's are a proud side who will want to finish on a high, so please don't anyone think this is going to be an easy afternoon for Stortford, who will also want to finish with a big performance (especially after last week's disappointing loss to Cambridge), so fingers crossed, we should be in for a cracking game. We are currently in 9th position in the league and if we can get a win today and Leeds do us a favour and beat Taunton. we'll find ourselves finishing the season in a very creditable 8th position.



This afternoon sadly sees the last appearance of our captain Sam Winter in the blue and white shirt of Bishop's Stortford. Sam epitomises everything that's good about our club and has been such an influential player for us over many seasons, gaining the respect of opposition players and coaches alike. I can't think of any coaches over the last 10 years who haven't passed

comment on that 'bloody good ginger lad' in the centre. Sam has never been a scorer of spectacular, long distance tries, rather battling or support ones but he gives you hard go-forward ball every time, is an outstanding defender, see's every tackle as an opportunity and is the type of player that every team would want in their side. You're going to be a very hard act to replace Sam.

Also hanging up his boots is my own son Sam Coleman. Sam has never quite nailed down a permanent starting place at scrum half despite making many appearances but has been an important squad member for many seasons and will be remembered for occasional flashes of brilliance. most notably his outstanding try against Barnes



which turned the game in our favour in a promotion season.

Yet again, it's terrific to see so many of our valued sponsors here today, in particular Johnny Hey of Westbury Garden Rooms who are our match day sponsors and (his nephew!) Sam Prior of BIT Solutions who are sponsoring todays Man of the match.

Congratulations and good luck to both our Colts sides, who play in their respective county cup competitions tomorrow at O.A's. If you're at a lose end, why not go and cheer the boys on, as they wind up another outstanding season.

And finally, as most of you know this is my last lunch as your President. It's been an absolute honour and privilege (even a pleasure sometimes!!) to have held this position, especially through our centenary season. I apologise for those rubbish jokes you've had to endure but take heart from a Billy Connelly quote: "There's a fine line out there, and you have to make sure that you're just the wrong side of it". So that's my excuse! Good luck to Len Lindop as he takes over next year – there can't be many club members more deserving than Len to take on this role and I know he'll do a fine job.



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## Head Coaches TOM COLEMAN / MARCUS CATTELL





Welcome everyone to our last game of another long and challenging season.

We've been through so many up and downs together, and we would like to thank you all for sticking with us and giving the team that positive energy from the sidelines. The atmosphere you create here at Silver Leys can be so valuable to the team, especially those big second half performances attacking Banksy's Bar! A special mention to those who travel all over the country to watch us, the time and effort you invest is incredible and does not go unnoticed.

It's very important that we can finish the season with a victory as we were very disappointed with how we played last weekend at Cambridge. We treat all our opponents with respect and we know that Tonbridge will want to end their season on a high and will present another difficult challenge for us today. They have clearly had a difficult season but we wish them well in their attempts to bounce back next season.

Lastly, we would like to express our gratitude to all our amazing sponsors. The last two years have not been easy but you have stuck by us and continued to support the club and players throughout. We hope to see as many of you as possible after the game to enjoy a drink and hopefully celebrate another excellent home victory.

We look forward to seeing you all again next season.

Yours in Rugby

Tom & Marcus

#### The Coaching Staff:



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Tonbridge Juddians RFC was formed in 1999 by a merger between Tonbridge RFC and Old Juddians RFC, the new club being based at The Slade and the Avebury Avenue site being sold for development, with the proceeds to be used for the furtherance of rugby in the town.

After some testing years in London League 2 South TJs slipped into London 4 South East but have since bounced back impressively. They continue to put out Five regular XVs who compete in their own respective Leagues and Merit Tables (very few friendlies these days!).

TJs has thriving Mini and Junior sections, a legacy from many years of hard work by TRFC and The Judd School. Records show a pioneering Colts (U.21) side formed at TRFC in 1946, the forerunners of the current crop of youngsters - which now includes a successful Girls section. They have developed a strong Women's Rugby Squad.

In 2004, the Centenary of Rugby in Tonbridge, TJRFC developed its facilities, including an ambitious clubhouse development, to provide the infrastructure for likeminded souls of all ages to enjoy rugby for the next one hundred years.

TJs won three league titles in a row between 2010 and 2014 and were promoted again in 2016-17 into National 2 South. A short period of consolidation followed, but the club came out of the pandemic fighting and gained promotion to National One this season. Their short stay at this level will undoubtedly have come as a big disappointment, after their recent run of promotions, but they have continued to battle throughout. They will doubtless give

a good account of themselves at level 4 next season and can be expected to be competing to come straight back up.

After drawing the away fixture at TJs, way back in September, Stortford will not be taking anything for granted in today's final game of the season. TJs had out a strong pack that day, the core of which played last week against Rosslyn Park and a somewhat weakened Stortford scrum was made to struggle for ball. Let us hope for another fine day and some entertaining, free-flowing rugby to round off the season on a high.



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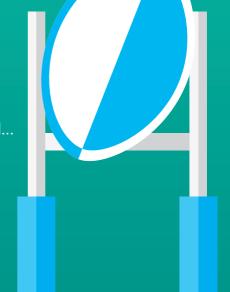




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## Results grid, table and fixtures NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

#### Season 2021/2022 NATIONAL 1

#### **Results from 23rd April**

HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM
Birmingham Moseley	10 - 14	Cinderford
Caldy	13 - 9	Sale FC
Cambridge	41 - 19	Bishop's Stortford
Plymouth Albion	54 - 17	Taunton Titans
Tonbridge Juddians	12 - 46	Rosslyn Park
Chinnor	43 - 40	Rams
Darlington Mowden Park	15 - 30	Leeds Tykes
Spare week		Darlington Mowden Park

#### Season 2021/2022 NATIONAL 1

#### **Fixtures for 30th April**

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

National League 1 - 2021/2022										
Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	TBP	LBP	Points
Caldy	28	23	2	3	752	538	214	14	1	111
Sale FC	27	21	0	6	762	541	221	13	4	101
Rosslyn Park	27	19	0	8	841	528	313	17	6	99
Cambridge	27	18	3	6	755	503	252	18	3	99
Cinderford	26	17	0	9	717	526	191	13	7	88
Rams	27	16	0	11	673	593	80	14	7	85
Chinnor	27	12	1	14	740	720	20	18	7	70
Taunton	27	10	2	15	717	911	-194	16	4	64
Bishop's Stortford	27	10	2	15	631	663	-32	12	5	61
Birmingham Moseley	27	12	0	15	525	680	-155	8	4	60
Plymouth Albion	27	9	0	18	656	751	-95	14	7	57
Darlington Mowden Park	27	10	1	16	604	739	-135	7	5	54
Leeds Tykes	26	8	0	18	562	733	-171	10	9	51
Blackheath	27	7	0	20	552	659	-107	6	15	49
Tonbridge Juddians	27	4	1	22	494	896	-402	5	8	31

#### **The Teams**



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## Bishop's Stortford 1st XV

**BLUE AND WHITE** 

1	Seb Brownhill	
2	Alex Rayment	
3	Tom McCrone *	
4	Harry Charter	
5	James Thacker *	
6	Tom Lewis	
7	Ollie Jones *	
8	Toby Knight	
9	Sam Bryan	
10	Dan Cole	
11	Josh Stannard	
12	James Ayrton *	
13	Sam Winter(c)*	
14	Jake Morris	
15	Mike Ayrton	
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16	Harrison King	
17	Tim Matthews	WESTBURY
18	Rory Banks *	GARDEN ROOMS
19	Sam Coleman *	
20	Austin Pope *	

Head Coaches Tom Coleman | Marcus Cattell |

\*Homegrown player

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 Neil Sweeney
Assistant Referee 1 Henry Lowis
Assistant Referee 2 Simon Bourne

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## **Tonbridge Juddians**

RED, WHITE AND BLUE

	Alex Reid	1
	Mike O'Sullivan	2
	Bobby Bratton	3
	Toby Freeman	4
	Matt Foulds	5
	Ryan Jackson	6
	Joe Duffy	7
	Will Colderick	8
	Charlie Edwards	9
	Ryan Taylor Dennehy	10
	Hugo Watson	11
	Jack Lucas	12
	Duncan Tout	13
	Tom Chapman	14
	Kyle McGhie	15
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Physio Hannah Perrett |

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# Minis Report BY STUART WILKINS



The under 6s have had a fantastic first season together, and have come on leaps and bounds since September. We very much aim to keep every session a fun and fast affair, they get game time every week so that they are prepared for when fixtures start next season. As an age group we are committed to developing skills and also the right attitude for rugby and we have certainly got a great group of kids.



This was put to the test when 3 of our little ones went on tour as part of the mini's section. They joined in with the under 7s and played against teams from Sleaford and Wisbech. They acquitted



themselves brilliantly, scoring, passing and taking tags with the best of them. We held a practice 'match day' this week to prepare them for

next season. They all took to it like ducks to water and showed just how far they have come.

None of this would be achieved without the relentless commitment of the volunteer parent coaches, who give up their Sunday mornings every week and spring about to create a fun and energetic session, come rain or shine.

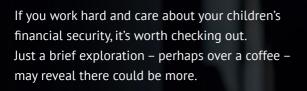
We are always looking for more players to grow our age group. If your child is currently in Year 1 at School come along and give rugby a try.

#### Stuart Wilkins (U6s Coach)





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#### **Match Report**

#### CAMBRIDGE 41-19 BISHOP'S STORTFORD



Struggling for possession at both scrum and lineout, it was hard for the visitors to gain any rhythm early on, but this did not explain some very patchy defending, which contributed to a halftime scoreline of 26-0. Poor ball management from the opening drop-out led to a Cambridge penalty, when Stortford failed to release the ball at a tackle, playing directly to Cambridge's great strength, their driving maul, which duly produced a try with only a couple of minutes gone, well converted from out wide. The home side dominated the next period and duly added another converted try 7 minutes in, albeit from a very fortunate, square bounce of a tactical kick, which ended up in the arms of Cambridge's 10 for an easy touchdown under the posts. Stortford did now manage to win some ball and went through multiple phases but without seriously threatening to break down a strong home defence. In marked contrast, when Cambridge broke upfield around the 20 minute mark, their attack proved much more incisive against a more passive defence and duly registered their third converted try. The home side's unconverted. bonus point try came just before halftime, taking advantage of some poor tackling to set up a 5metre scrum, from which their scrum half was able to scuttle over off a dominant push. There was time enough in the half, though, for Stortford to lose both props to the sin bin from separate incidents before the break.

Starting the second half with 13 players, the visitors ironically enjoyed their best period of possession and territory and were rewarded with a penalty try after 5 minutes, when James Ayrton was tackled high as he ran for the line out wide. With the culprit also yellow-carded, Stortford added another 7 points 8 minutes later, when Tom Lewis went over from close range and Dan Cole added the conversion. Unfortunately, the team was unable to keep up the momentum and quickly conceded a rather

soft breakaway try to go 17 points behind with 17 minutes of the half gone. Stortford showed their resilience, though, and enjoyed another good spell of possession, going through multiple phases of harum-scarum rugby, rounded off with a try to Harrison King after half an hour, with Cole's conversion effort cannoning out off a post. Sadly, that was as good as it got for the visitors. They remained well in contention for the next few minutes. and looked to have a golden opportunity to turn the game around, with 5 minutes to go, when Cambridge's 15 was vellow-carded for a cynical, deliberate knock-on inside his own 22 of a wide pass to an unmarked Stortford player out wide. Somewhat predictably, though, the home side stole yet another Stortford lineout from the resultant penalty and swept upfield, where they took advantage of poor Stortford handling to seize on the loose ball and dash over for a soft try - effectively a 10 point swing. The game ended with yet another unconverted try to the hosts, as they broke through some tired defence around the fringes of a ruck and a single pass to a supporting three quarter put him in for a comfortable run-in, taking the final score to 41-19.





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## **Sam Bryan**BY RICHARD EVANS





The scrum half position involves making a lot of auick decisions and as the scrum half will be handling the ball a lot during a game the position also calls for both auick reactions and a decisive rugby mind. It is pretty obvious that when vou watch Sam

Bryan play at scrum half for Bishops' Stortford he has both those key skills as well as displaying a lot of commitment and enthusiasm on the field. Sam, like most Saracens academy players that pass through our club, has really embraced the Stortford ethos and our playing style and as such has become a well respected and valuable team member.

Sam started his rugby career at Chelmsford minis and then played for their youth section before joining the U15 Saracens Academy Pathway, and then progressing to the Saracens U18 Academy and now plays under contract for the Saracens Senior Academy. Sam attended Felsted School where he captained the school side and was selected for the England U18 squad that toured South Africa in 2019 to play in an International U20 tournament held in South Africa. He started for England in the second game of the tour when they beat France, and was on the bench for a number of Saracens games in their brief stay in the Championship in the 2020/21 season.

Sam's first game for Stortford was at Darlington this season and he has featured in 14 games for Stortford so far with 11 starts and 3 appearances off the bench. Stortford supporters will need no reminding that he scored the opening try against Rosslyn Park back in January, when he managed to keep pace with a Josh Stannard break to take the scoring pass in what turned out to be the start Stortford's best win of the season. Sam also managed two tries coming off the bench away at Sale but unfortunately a final last minute penalty kick gave Sale a 32-24 win and denied Stortford a much- deserved losing bonus point. The Ladies Day home game against Chinnor featured another Stannard-Bryan double act performance even if they were upstaged by a final Stortford try featuring an outrageous backhand reverse "Sonny Williams" style pass by Tom Lewis - a second row!

Sam plays for Stortford under the RFU dual registered English Academy Players (EAP) rules which are intended to give Premiership Rugby Academy players the opportunity to play competitive rugby at Championship and Divisional rugby levels. The drawbacks with the scheme are that the Premiership side obviously controls when the player can appear and having first call on the player and controlling how many times the player can turn out for the lower side. In Sam Bryan's case Stortford have benefited by having the services of a gifted scrum half especially at the start of the season when Stortford had injury concerns at the scrum half position and certainly by his wholehearted performances it looks like Sam has enjoyed turning out for Stortford.

Sam is sponsored by Coleman's Farm, whose proprietor is better known for breeding halfbacks for the club rather than sponsoring them.

Chelmsford RFC were rightly very proud of Sam's selection for the Saracens Senior Academy and for the England U19's side and I am sure when Sam goes on to a distinguished rugby career he will also be fondly remembered for his appearances this season at Stortford



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# Emma's Favourites EMMA COX PHOTOGRAPHY





















#### **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
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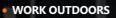




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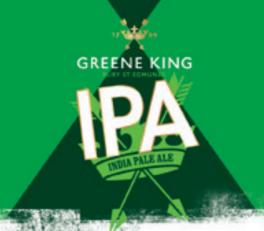
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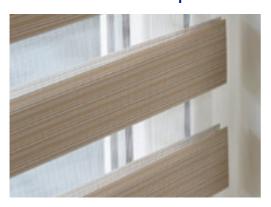






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#### **Ladies Day 2022**



Congratulations to **Russell Cattell** and his amazing team of volunteers, together with our generous sponsors, the lovely Ladies and of course our 1st XV for their contribution to yet another successful Ladies Day. In excess of £15,500 was raised on the day for the chosen charity **The Eve Appeal**. A fantastic time was had by all.



## On this day... 30th APRIL

As we come to the end of the season, and almost to the end of our Centenary Year, it is appropriate to reflect on the triumphs and disappointments of previous ends of seasons. National League systems were introduced by the RFU for the 1987-88 season and, based on the previous season's Merit Table position, Bishop's Stortford was placed in London 3 NorthWest. We finished top of that league with 28 wins, 2 draws, and only 6 defeats – a triumph! This resulted in promotion to London 2 North which comprised eleven clubs, initially playing each other once only. It was a strong league that included Old Albanians, Norwich, and Woodford as well as Hertford, but we did well in that first season, finishing second behind Cheshunt. The same format was used in 1989-90 but we finished a disappointing 6th with only 4 wins and 2 draws. We started well in 1990 winning six games from the first seven and we challenged for the top spot throughout the season, winning 8 games and losing only one, but Eton Manor became champions on points scored difference – having been so close it was a big disappointment.

A further restructure for 1991-92 introduced a thirteen club league, playing home and away. A strong start got us to 3rd in early February with promotion hopes but a poor run meant 7th place – disappointment again. The next season saw the value of a try increase from four points to five and the designation of the London 2 North league as National Level 7. The RFU changed the structure again for 1993-94, reducing the league to 10 teams, playing home and away, and renaming it National 5 South. Again, Bishop's Stortford made a strong challenge for promotion and was top of the league in March but finished a disappointing 3rd. There was a further disappointment in 4th place finish in 1994-95. Another RFU restructure in 1995-96 reduced the number of teams to nine, out of which we again finished 4th but we savored triumph in the 18-10 victory over Old Albanians in the Presidents' Cup. Notable triumphs in the past twenty-two years for the First XV:

Hertfordshire 7s Winners	1965, 1972, 1986, 1994, 1997, 1998	Hertfordshire Presidents' Cup Winners	1972, 1979, 1996, 2009	Champions London 3 NW Promoted to London 2 North	1987 -88
London 2 North Champions Promoted to London One	2002 -03	National League 3 London & SE Champions	2012-13	National League 2 South Champions Promoted to National One	2016-17

After fifteen attempts we won promotion to London 1 in 2003 so a lot of disappointments in that record!. The club triumphed with promotion to National League 2 South in April 2013 and only four years later, on 22 April 2017, we beat Exmouth 60-7 away to reach the highest level in the Club's history in front of a crowd that had more BSRFC supporters than the home side - a triumph for the Club, the team and the supporters.

The first XV does not have a monopoly on the triumphs! There have also been many triumphs for other sides:

The Blues won the Hertfordshire Presidents' Cup in 2013 and again in 2016. 2017 and 2018.

Since the late 1960s, the Colts have provided a steady supply of keen and talented players for the 1st XV and have had multiple triumphs of their own, not least in the Hertfordshire Colts Cup; winning in 1991, 1992, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2004, and 2005, and then a run of four successive triumphs from 2008 to 2011 and again in 2014. They also won the National Colts Trophy in 2006, 2013, and the Plate in



2011. In 1981 there was a major disappointment losing the county 7s final to Heme Hempstead by a penalty on the stroke of full time. Season 2004-5 saw the Colts play 22 games, score 906 points, and conceding only 125. Scoring 140 tries. They lost only one game that season, to the winners of the National Cup but they triumphed in the Plate final.

Youth sides, particularly the U15 and U17 teams have in turn fed the Colts and thence the 1st XV. In 1992 the U16s triumphed in the Jack Conn cup in the Chingford tournament but were disappointed to lose in the final of the Herts U16 County Cup. In 1994 the U17s completed a remarkable triumphant series having won the Herts County festival at U12, U13, and U14 as well as the Colchester festival at U13 and U14. Season 1994-95 saw the U14s triumphantly win all their 23 matches including defense of their county title in which they played four games, scored 16 tries, and conceded no points! The following season they continued their triumphant run to complete an unbeaten sequence of 54 matches, in which they scored 294 tries and a total of 1,750 points.

In 2004-5 the U17s completed a five year triumphant sequence as County Champions, a feat achieved the previous year by the age group above them.

The MInis ran five age groups from 1981 and at the Chelmsford end of season festival, they triumphed from U8 to U12 and were runners up at U11. In 1997 every age group either won or finished runner-up in their county festivals - triumph all round. This pattern of success at festivals remains the case today.

To (almost) quote Kipling "If you can meet with triumph and disappointment and treat those two imposters just the same...."

We greatly enjoyed researching and writing the Centenary History and we hope all of you have found items of interest in reading it and this series of short articles in the match programme.

The History Project team: **Squin Clarke, Rod Homer, John Robinson, Douglas Young**, and **Jan Zelezinski**, not forgetting

our sadly missed friend

Paul Maxfield.



The Book, '100 Years of Blood, Sweat and Cheers' is available from the club shop or from Rod Homer rodghomer@gmail.com, priced £25.

# **BSRFC Girls and Ladies**END OF SEASON ROUNDUP





By Womens' & Girls' Chair, Carly Poyser and Ladies Captain, Social Media Guru & Girls' Coach, Jasmin Bice.

I am extremely proud of both the ladies and the girls this season. We have had new players and coaches, and they all have a real drive to perform their best. There is nothing more that I could wish for in the teams.

The girls' teams continue to grow, but as ever, we need more players – so please do get involved! A real season highlight for our U18s was a great evening playing against the Swedish international U18s squad (organised and coached by our own Joss Linney – thank you!).

A huge thank you to all of our coaches this season in the girls' teams, total "newbies" and experienced alike, teamwork really does make the dream work!

The ladies' coaches, led by Tom Brady along with Jack Fellowes-Prynne, Nick Kane and our medic, Dave Walker, have been an unwavering support to the team. Come rain or shine, they have worked very hard to turn the ladies from individual players to work as a team. Although the scoreboard for the last ladies game was harsh, the communication and work rate within the team has been amazing and next season we will come back even stronger!

There is always more to do, but we are all up for the challenge.

(Now over to Jas...)

For the ladies, this season has been a mixture

of highs and lows (as you can tell by the scoreboards), but, without sounding cliché, there are so many positives to take away. Firstly, the number of new ladies coming along to give rugby a try has been incredible.

Whether they've played rugby before or not, we've had a huge number of new players coming along to Silver Leys on a Tuesday – which has meant that for the first time in BSRFC Ladies history, we have been able to put out a full team for every single match!

Being able to watch the confidence grow in new players, and the team as a whole, has been amazing to see. After going through so much uncertainty over the last couple of years, the support that our coaches have given us this season has really pushed us to want to do better for each other – which really shows just how much we're coming along as a unit.

The girls' section is going from strength-tostrength, and this is really all down to Carly and the band of volunteers who give their time to make sure that the girls have training and can play matches. Again, despite the uncertainty everyone has faced, the teams haven't been affected and this is really paving the way for girls in the area to be able to start rugby at a younger age and work their way right through to the ladies.

Across both sections, we've had injuries, penalties (a couple of yellow cards for the ladies) and unfortunately some leavers; but, the development in player numbers, skills and teamwork has been great to watch and we're looking forward to continuing it into the 2022-23 season.

As ever, we always welcome new players, so once you've finished reading this let our ladies convince you why you should join our team!

See you next season!

Carly & Jas



#### **Match Day Experience**

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# 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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