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RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

MEET THE NEW PLAYERS

**AROUND THE CLUB -
MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS**

**WHAT DO OUR HEAD COACHES
HAVE TO SAY?**



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From the President

By Len Lindop



I would like to thank Steve Dunkley for his kind words on my appointment as president for the next two years. You will all be aware is that Steve is a new appointment as both Chairman of the Club and a Trustee/ Director of the Charity section. Steve has taken over from Colin Tilley who has been in office for the last seven years as Chairman. Steve has a wealth of knowledge of the workings of the Mini and Youth sections, being actively involved during the time he spent with each group age group, supporting his son through his time with the club from six to Colts.



His work experience will prove a great benefit in his role as Trustee. He is leading a fully committed Executive and will help all the officials in attaining excellence in safeguarding, first aid cover as well as his commitment to introduce "walking rugby" for the over 55's to our pool of rugby sections.

For those who attended last week's lunch will have benefited from Lisa's excellent fare. The game itself allowed us to introduce several new members to the squad and for everyone to see the potential of the team with a hard-fought win against one of the new boys to the league. Just as entertaining and successful was the Blues who introduced six of last year's Colts

team in the match against Richmond Saxons. Winning and scoring 68 points was a good start for this team and their experience of senior rugby.

As Cambridge are our nearest club and longest serving rival in national One, we play them in the traditional fixture at the beginning of the season and the one just before the Christmas festivities. This Saturday it is our turn to host them. Our record in National One against Cambridge is not what we would like, only winning one match in 2019 since our promotion in 2017. It is time we changed this series of results. We are hopeful we can do this today.

A special thanks to Ashton Hunt from Tees, the club's principal sponsor, and are the Match Day sponsor today as well as long standing sponsor and former player Sam Prior from Bit Solutions who will be sponsoring the Man of the Match.



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Head Coaches

Marcus Cattell & Tom Coleman



It's was a great way to kick start the season with a bonus point win vs Hull last weekend. It's always difficult playing newly promoted sides, as everyone expects you to win and win well, which after a couple of periods of pressure, our quality and accuracy shone through and we put together a good performance. Add to that, we had 7 league debuts (and 7 home-grown players!!) last week, 5 of which have never played at this level before, but I'm sure you will all agree that they certainly didn't look out of place and the exciting part is, what can we achieve with this talented group this season?

We are under no illusions that the game this afternoon will be a huge step up from Hull last week. Local derbies are always great to be involved in, but unfortunately our last few performances haven't been to the level required to win. We have been working hard this week in putting together a game plan which will trouble Cambridge, as I'm sure they have. I'm sure you will all give a warm welcome to Seb Brownhill who returns to Silver Leys today in the Cambridge colours. Seb spent 7 successful years with us, arriving as a 17-year-old back in 2015.

Our Blues kick started their league campaign with a fantastic 62-28 win over Richmond Saxons. The team made up of 10 home-grown players of which 5 were part of the Colt's setup last year. This just shows the great work of all our fantastic mini & junior coaches who have produced such talented lads ready to make the step-up into league rugby. It's no coincidence that a strong Blues team only improves the 1st XV and pushes players to improve and perform week-in week-out. A number of the Blues players certainly put their hand up for selection this weekend, so no doubt more headaches for us coaches.

Thanks to all our great supporters, volunteers and sponsors who once again made it a fantastic atmosphere before, during and after the game last week, we look forward to another cracking day at Silver Leys and will catch up after the game for some refreshments.

A special mention to Gareth, Nigel and the Garson's team for producing what looked more like a bowl's green than a rugby pitch last weekend.

Oh Stort Are We.

Marcus & Tom

THE COACHING STAFF:



RYAN CLARKE



ROB FAIERS



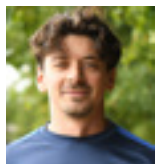
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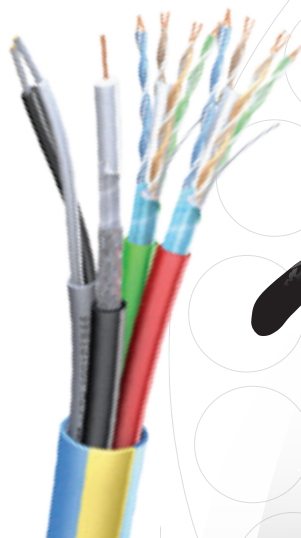
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Mental Health Matters

Jon Skelton



It's almost a month to the day that Australia captain Michael Hooper addressed his team and told them that he was simply not in the right headspace to play or lead the team, at least for the time being. He apologised to them, packed his bags and returned home to his wife and kid. Recognising the fact his mind was not where it needed to be showed incredible levels of maturity. To stand there and look your mates in the eyes and tell them took courage... but what is even more crucial about what Hooper did is that he didn't shy away from letting the World know.

Hooper could have easily had the coaches fabricate an injury or concussion to cover it up, nobody would have batted an eyelid. He plays with so much physicality, it wouldn't have been out of the ordinary. But instead, he took ownership of the situation. Michael Hooper wanted the World to know that one of the most respected men in Rugby, renowned for his tenacity and toughness, was mentally broken... and needed to rest and reset his mind. He knew how important an example that could set.

Now I know there will be some people that might be a bit bemused by this. There is still a belief, especially among Men, that suffering mentally is sign of weakness. If you're struggling, you need to soldier on and get on with it. Be a Man. Unfortunately to my detriment, I know that mentality. It was the standard I held myself to when I lost my father 6 years ago. I wanted to be unshakeable... no matter how unsteady I felt inside. Looking back, I think it was stupid of me and it nearly cost me.

If you are under 40, your most likely cause of death is you. The weight of your thoughts and the burden of your own mind can be too much for some people. The people who are struggling in their mindset, and like me deciding not to tell anyone about it. Reflecting back, I was lucky to have a positive support network... otherwise it could have been very different.

Lately I have had clients speak about the battles they're facing, and unlike how I used to perceive it, I now look at them in awe of their self-awareness, maturity, and bravery.

The self-awareness to recognise that something isn't right.

The maturity to know this is a battle they shouldn't fight on their own in silence.

And the bravery to speak openly about it, knowing full well that it will only serve to help others.

So please remember, if Michael Hooper, the Captain of Australia, a man who has played 121 tests, a man revered as a legend around the World, can put his hand up and ask for help... so can you. If you, or someone you know are struggling, reach out. Use the JOCA support that we have here at BSRFC and you can rest and reset and be the person you want to be.

Jon Skelton
Mental Skills Coach



The Players

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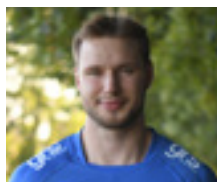


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Today's Opposition

Cambridge RUFC



Cambridge RUFC was formed in 1923 and was settled in its current ground by the 1950s. In 1993 the club was offered the opportunity to buy the lease on its existing three pitches and to buy adjoining land for a further three pitches from King's College.

They have spent the majority of recent seasons playing at the various guises of Level 3 having won promotion at the end of the 2005/06 season. Their highest ever finish was in the 2008/09 season when they finished runners up and were a mere 3 points away from promotion to the Championship!

They were though relegated in 2013 and played alongside us in our first season at Level 4 on National Two South in 2014/15. The next season they won that league and in doing so regained their position in National One.

I think it's fair to say that since we joined them at Level 3 in 2017, with all the matches we have played against them throughout the journey of the leagues, they have won far more, they lead us 5-1. Admittedly some of the games have been desperately close however, as we always say 'a win is a win'. Our solitary victory (24-6) came here in March 2019.

Last season they had a productive campaign and finished fourth in the Division One table and they did the double on us with two convincing wins.

They have strengthened their squad for this season and we could be playing against one

of our last season's props Seb Brownhill. We wish Seb well on his move to Cambridge but it will be strange to see him in the opposition front row today.

Apart from their 1st team they have two other senior men's XV's. Mini and Youth Rugby was started at Cambridge as far back as 1975 and today they have one of the largest Mini & Youth sections in the country, which includes Youth girl's teams.

CAMBRIDGE RUFC



George Bretag-Norris (Captain)



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
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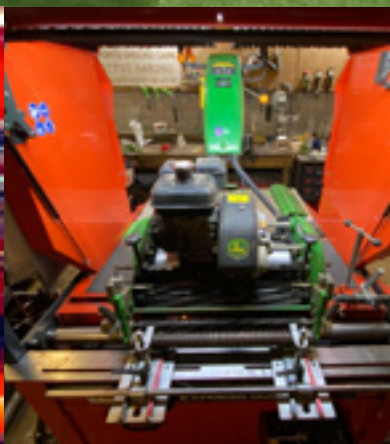
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Blues v Richmond Saxons

Reece Lane



Bishop's Stortford Blues got their 2022/23 season off to a blistering start by running in 10 tries against a Richmond Saxons side to win by 62 points to 28.

The dry conditions and weather suited the blues 'joue' style of play perfectly, and they proved too hot to handle for Richmond, who struggled to deal with the pace and intensity displayed by the Blues.

Led by new captain Reece Lane, the excellent work shown from pre-season translated seamlessly into this game against a side who historically have caused Blues teams some problems.

It only took five minutes for the first score after some impressive defence forced a turnover and allowed the Blues to pounce and feed Dan Powell into the corner for an early 5-0 lead.

The Blues continued to spread the ball wide and torment Richmond with their speed, but a direct pass from Jack Scantlebury put Alex Gilham through a gap and fed winger Sam Tutt for another score. 10-0.

Richmond soon caught their breath and got a foothold in the game after some ill-discipline and penalties conceded territory.

A charged down box-kick from a ruck was re-gathered by Richmond, who strolled in to score their first converted try making it 10-7.

The Blues quickly recovered, and after some searing line-breaks and sharp snipes from the ruck, the team hauled themselves up the pitch with Powell forcing himself over from close range for a 2nd try converted by Tom Walker. 17-7.

The dominance displayed by the Blues was also at set-piece with the scrums forcing Richmond backwards, and a quick tap from a free-kick, followed by some quick-thinking by Scantlebury, meant he crashed over before half-time to make it 22-7.

The message at half-time was to keep the pressure on and kill the game off, which is exactly what the Blues did with Gilham finishing off a flowing move and intercepting a loose pass soon after to score a brace. Both were converted for a 36-7 lead.

Relentless waves of attack continued to follow, and Charlie Garwood smartly fed Callum Coyne cut a great line and ran in unopposed, making it 43-7.

The Blues were then guilty of taking their foot off the gas as the Saxons capitalised on some sloppy play to bundle over from a driving maul making it 43-14.

Despite an impressive score by Tutt from within his own half, Richmond refused to lie down and scored two quick converted tries for a losing bonus point at 50-28.

However, the Blues had the last laugh with prop Joe O'Sullivan crashing over, followed by a break in the Blues 22 hacked down field for Benji Furrer to touch down and sensationally end the game at 62-28.

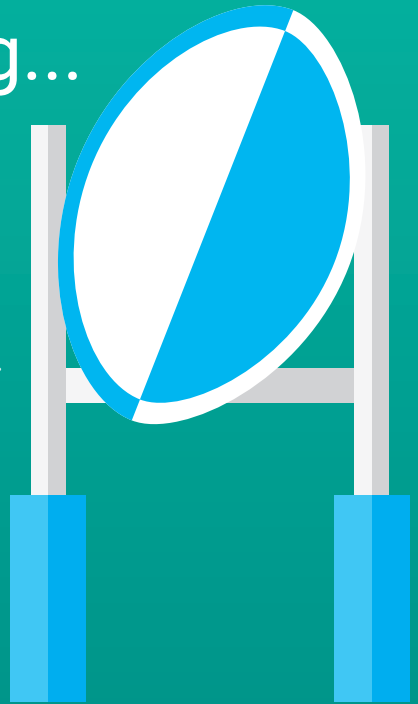
It was a great all-round performance from the Blues, who have laid down a marker for other teams this season and proved that they will cause teams some serious problems.



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Results, fixtures and table

National League 1

Season 2022/2023 National 1

Results from 3rd September

HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM
Leeds Tykes	24-28	Taunton
Birmingham Moseley	13-32	Sale FC
Rosslyn Park	46-26	Cinderford
Rams	38-21	Esher
Darlington Mowden Park	23-16	Chinnor
Bishop's Stortford	44-20	Hull

Season 2022/2023 National 1

Fixtures for 10th September

HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM
Hull	vs	Darlington Mowden Park
Esher	vs	Rosslyn Park
Cinderford	vs	Birmingham Moseley
Sale FC	vs	Leeds
Sale FC	vs	Darlington Mowden Park
Bishop's Stortford	vs	Cambridge

National League 1 - 2022/2023											
Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	TBP	LBP	Points	Adj.
Bishop's Stortford	1	1	0	0	44	20	24	1	0	5	0
Rosslyn Park	1	1	0	0	46	26	20	1	0	5	0
Sale FC	1	1	0	0	32	13	19	1	0	5	0
Rams	1	1	0	0	38	21	17	1	0	5	0
Cambridge	1	1	0	0	34	28	6	1	0	5	0
Taunton	1	1	0	0	28	24	4	1	0	5	0
Darlington Mowden Park	1	1	0	0	23	16	7	0	0	4	0
Plymouth Albion	1	0	0	1	28	34	-6	1	1	2	0
Leeds Tykes	1	0	0	1	24	28	-4	0	1	1	0
Chinnor	1	0	0	1	16	23	-7	0	1	1	0
Cinderford	1	0	0	1	26	46	-20	1	0	1	0
Esher	1	0	0	1	21	38	-17	0	0	0	0
Birmingham Moseley	1	0	0	1	13	32	-19	0	0	0	0
Hull	1	0	0	1	20	44	-24	0	0	0	0

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 James Apperley*
- 7 Ollie Jones*
- 8 Jacob Wrafter
- 9 Connor Lloyd
- 10 Dan Cole
- 11 Jake Morris
- 12 Austin Pope*
- 13 James Ayrton*(c)
- 14 Josh Stannard
- 15 Charlie Parkhouse

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- 16 Luke Bury*
- 17 Matt Meek
- 18 Obinna Nkwocha
- 19 Will Rogers
- 20 Chris Bolton

*Homegrown player

Head Coaches Marcus Cattell | Tom Coleman |

Lead Physio Ryan Clarke | **Team Manager** Darren Orbart | **Lead Forwards Coach** Ian Simpson |

Forwards Transition Coach Rob Faiers | **Head of Strength and Conditioning** Ben Sheath |

Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach Adam Vine | **Mental Health Coach** Jon Skelton |

The Teams

REFEREE: **Alan Chandrachud**
ASSISTANT REFEREE 1: **Richard Gordon**
ASSISTANT REFEREE 2: **Tracy Pettingale**

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Cambridge RUFC

RED AND YELLOW

	Harry Morley	1
	Ben Brownlie	2
	Billy Walker	3
	Kieran Frost	4
	Gareth Baxter	5
	George Bretag-Norris(c)	6
	Matt Dawson	7
	Anthony Maka	8
	Kieran Duffin	9
	Steff James	10
	Dan Brough	11
	Matt Hema	12
	Scott Lloyd	13
	Joe Green	14
	Joe Tarrant	15

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REPLACEMENTS

	Willie Priestley	16
	Seb Brownhill	17
	Matt Collins	18
	Toby Dabell	19
	Kwaku Asideu	20

Director of Rugby **Richie Williams** | **Defence Coach** **Anthony Allen** |
Forwards Coach **Neil Harris** | **Head Physio** **Paul Carter** |

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U13's - New season

By Andy Greenacre



Good afternoon all and a warm welcome to our opponents.

I trust you have all had a restful, albeit sweltering hot summer. I for one, was getting sick of it!

I'm pleased, but not surprised to see that the grass has been as resilient as our Club. After a couple of difficult covid years both our Club and it's hallowed turf have both battled through, and it now appears we have shaken off the worst of it and we're raring to get underway with our new season.

This year it's our turn to migrate from Mini's to Youth rugby. Many of our Coaches have been with our age group from the moment Al Jones welcomed them to BSRFC all those years ago. Therefore, it is a big milestone for the boys who have remained with the Club they love and graduate to the Youth age group.

The migration has been greatly helped by the warm welcome received from Reesy, Steve and the other Youth Coaches. Much appreciated Gents.

At the beginning of last season, and as predicted, with them all beginning High School, our numbers plummeted drastically.

We quickly emptied our waiting list and then with a handful of quiet Sundays towards the back end of last season we took the opportunity to invite those interested in playing for a taster session. This proved to be just the carrot they needed and along with lots of new enquires over the close season we are now back to full strength and are raising our bat for a half century of squad members.

These fifty will play a crucial part, as we begin fielding two teams.

The year ahead sees us split our resources. Coaches, parents, size 4's and first aid kits will now travel in opposite directions.

Reuniting under the floodlights on Wednesdays for a debrief before hitting the road again. Fun times!

Our calendar filled up rapidly over the summer months and we decided not to accept any fixture invitations throughout the whole of September. The hope being that this time will prove invaluable getting the squad prepped in readiness for their inaugural HMJL fixture in early October. From there on in it's a relentless season like so many which have gone before.

Our squad are fortunate enough to be gifted match jerseys from our sponsors Mulberry Homes, BMW Barons Stansted and Mantle Business Centres. They will also be receiving post-match polo shirts from our sponsors Andrew Banks Wood Flooring.

The boys haven't been given them yet, but when they do, well...

The Club are extremely grateful for such generosity and once distributed, the boys will undoubtedly wear them with their normal pride

Lastly, all the Coaches from the Youth Section wish the Coaches and players from the Mini's, Colts and Senior Sections a safe and successful season.

Andy Greenacre
U13's Coach / Team Manager



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Photography by Emma Cox



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Welcome to the Club

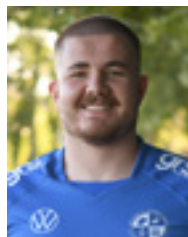
Richard Evans



Stortford are very proud of their reputation for bringing home grown junior players through to become National Division One players to represent the club. Last season the homegrown players were identified by an * in the team list in the program and everyone at Stortford is keen this recognition for home grown players continues. Stortford however are realistic enough to acknowledge that to maintain National Division One status there will always be the need to introduce new players from outside the club to replace players who retire and stop playing for a range of other reasons. In the last two seasons, 2019/20 and 2021/22, we lost established players at scrum half, hooker, second row, back row and the Covid abandoned season of 2020/21 also restricted the opportunity to introduce new players. This season Tom and Marcus have put a lot of work in to strengthen the squad with the recruitment of the following new players from outside the club.

There are two new second rows:- **Frazier Kiff** (sponsored by Hilton Coachworks) who has joined from Moseley and **Harrison Langworthy**

(sponsored by Coleman's Farm) who comes from Christchurch, NZ, Harrison has played for Sumner RFC and Canterbury U20s. There are also two new hookers:- **Ryan Jackson** (sponsored by Tangi-Flow) from Tonbridge Judians and **Charlie Garwood** (sponsored by Excelsior Kitchens) who joins us from Ampthill. Two new scrum halves:- **Connor Lloyd** (sponsored by Walden Capital) who played against us for Leeds Tykes last season and **Chris Bolton** (sponsored by GRS Groundworks) from Bury St Edmunds. There are three new back row players:- **Henry Wills** (sponsored by Steel Build Masters), Henry played for Durham University who were BUCS title winners in 2021/22; **Toby Tierney** (Sponsored by Jon Skelton), Toby joins us from Brentwood and **Will Rodgers** (sponsored by Sofa Design), Will is another overseas recruit from the North Brisbane club in Queensland, Australia. In the backs:- **Charlie Parkhouse** (sponsored by PRH Engineering), Charlie is an attacking full back who has joined from Hertford.



CHARLIE GARWOOD



CHARLIE PARKHOUSE



CHRIS BOLTON



CONNOR LLOYD



FRAIZER KIFF



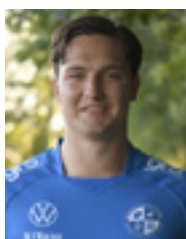
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Now in its sixth season, **Club Stortford** was set up by a small working party to support the 1st XV squad after promotion to National League Rugby in 2013/14. Our aim is “to ensure Bishop’s Stortford RFC has a sustainable future in National League 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 2022

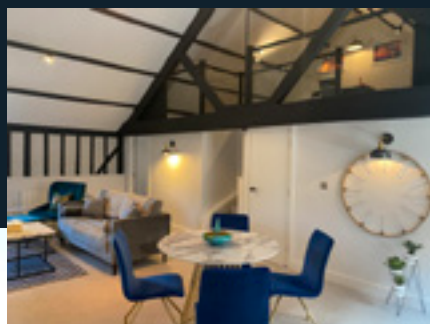
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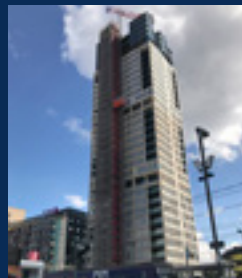
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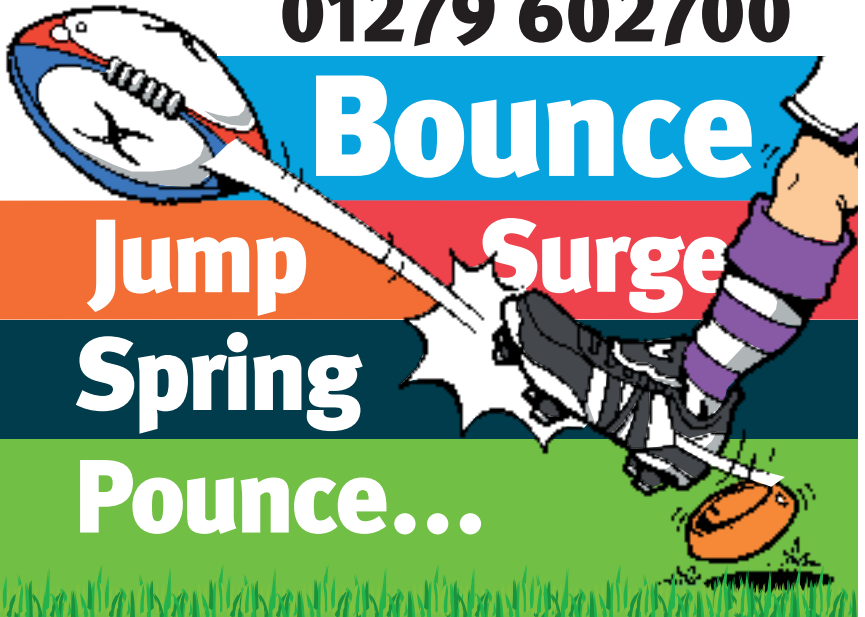


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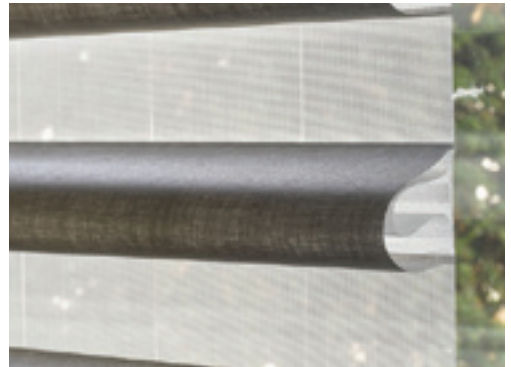
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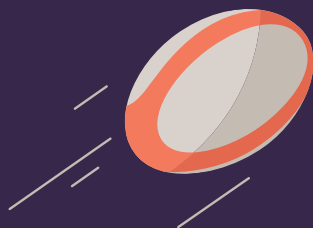


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Around The Club

Richard Evans



Jon Skelton Mental Health Skills Coach

Modern day living has changed a lot since the coming of the digital media age and that applies to rugby as well as life. It is no longer enough for a player to be physically fit but he or she has to be mentally fit as well to ensure good performances. There are enough complications in understanding how an individual functions well in a team game but in the modern game you will hear the comment that also the player has to be mentally in the right frame of mind to play well.

Bishop's Stortford have appointed Jon Skelton this season to a new role within the club "Mental Health Skills Coach". Jon entered this area from a background in PE teaching. When his teaching role required that he move from PE to a combined PE and maths role, he began to assess what he would now get out of teaching as a future long-term career. Having to deal with the death of his father, he found an interest in mental health and how that effects your day-to-day experiences.

He had played rugby at Stortford in the Chindits up to his early thirties, with his PE background in sports, he became interested in the mental health area of the same. After talking with the club's coaches, Tom and Marcus, he is now Mental Health Skills Coach at the club this season.

There is no doubt that a player's confidence affects his play, but there is often not a clear understanding on how a player loses or gains that confidence. A lot can obviously happen on the field to affect playing confidence but also a lot that happens off the field can influence a player's confidence. The modern rugby coach has more than enough to deal with, all the on the field aspects of a side's performance related to selection, tactics, injuries and assessment of oppositions strengths, without the additional problems of dealing with any possible

off the field players' issues. You cannot get an understanding of "off the field problems" from the match video recording.

Jon has a tool kit of techniques and approaches to address off the field mental health issues which can be used not just with players and sporting teams but with individuals and other organisations and groups.

There are increasingly many ways to measure physical performance on the rugby field these days, for instance the players already wear tracking devices to measure accurately the players levels of activity. It will be interesting to see how Jon achieves improvements in the player's mental health skills as the season progresses, the club are taking the right steps in beginning to address this area.





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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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Match Report

Bishop's Stortford 44-20 Hull RUFC



Stortford brush off early-season rust to achieve a convincing win against a highly-committed Hull side, playing their first game at Level 3.

The game started scrappily and Stortford proved the perfect hosts to newly-promoted Hull by conceding a penalty right under their posts, looking to run the ball out of their own 22. The highly-experienced Joe Carlisle needed no second invitation to put his side 3 points into the lead. Stortford ground their way back into the game and a period of forward pressure on the Hull line allowed space to be created out wide for Charlie Parkhouse to score his debut try with ten minutes gone. Dan Cole's conversion attempt went narrowly wide and his side were soon 3 points behind, as Carlisle was given an easy run in to the line, as Stortford were slow to cover across after a speculative high kick from the Hull flyhalf was spilled.

The home side once again worked their way back into the game, with the pack establishing a bit of an edge at ruck and maul and it was two driving mauls in succession on the visitors' line that produced a penalty try on 25 minutes, as a desperate defender went in at the side. Stortford's lead was stretched to 7 points, when Dan Cole slotted a penalty on 33 minutes, as Hull offended at a breakdown. Things quickly got worse for the visitors, as Charlie Beech was yellow carded for a high tackle and Will Roberts capitalised almost immediately, diving over a ruck to touch down. Cole added the two points as the last action of the half to take the score at the break to 22-8.

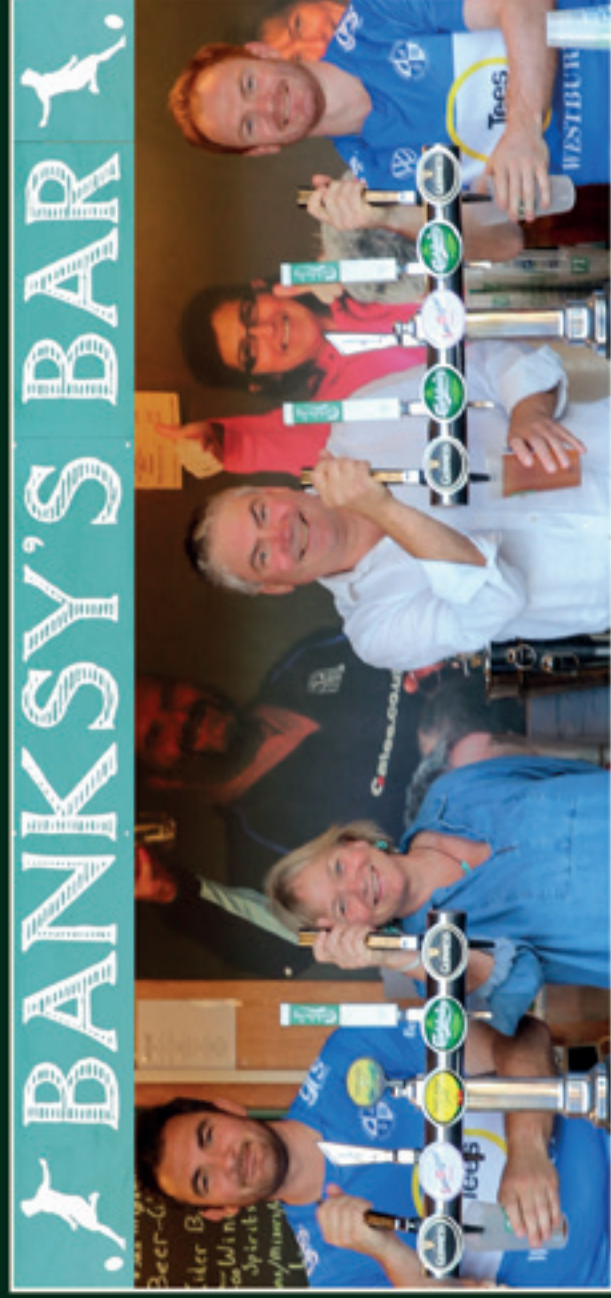
The home side started the second period, as they did the first, by conceding an early penalty for not releasing the ball at a tackle, again with only a minute on the clock. Although this offence was less obvious, as Josh Stannard broke through a tackle, Stortford's slowness in covering a quickly taken penalty was hard to excuse, allowing, as it did, Hull scrumhalf, Harvey Harding to scoot over all too easily for an unconverted try to narrow their

deficit to 9 points. The visitors looked to up their intensity yet further, but suffered a severe setback, when their skipper, second row, Cameron Curry overstepped the mark with a dangerous clear out directly to the head of a Stortford player and was shown the inevitable red card. With the opposition briefly down to 13 men, the home side were quick to capitalise, with James Thacker touching down from more good driving forward play, in which Alex Rayment was prominent. Cole converted and did so again, after he created a fifth try only three minutes later with a pinpoint cross kick to Jake Morris. The winger had himself created the position from which his score came, through a tremendous solo run, making thirty yards into the visitors' 22, but was the beneficiary of good work by his fellow threequarters to score his second try 5 minutes later. A side with less spirit than Hull might well have buckled at this stage, but they fought back manfully and exploited a new-found superiority in the scrums to force a try for No 8, William Hall, converted by Dean Reece. The visitors pressed again, but Stortford were eventually able to break out of defence and some slick handling by the inside backs gave Parkhouse space wide on the right. He exploited this cleverly, drawing the defence and putting in a well-judged kick ahead with Josh Stannard comfortably winning the race for the touchdown and a good good team try to round off a strong win.

By John Allansson



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