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From the President

By Len Lindop



Saturday 5th November proved to be a phenomenally successful day for the club both on and off the field. The 1st XV had their 4th successive five-point win and are now 5th in the league, one below Sale whom we play today. The Blues had an incredibly good win against an unbeaten Richmond Vikings and strengthened their position to 2nd place in the Raging Bull Shield with seven wins out of eight games. This is the first time we have beaten Richmond Vikings in all the seasons we have been in this league.

Off the field, we had our 20th annual firework display, sponsored by Hanbury Wealth, and all the comments received from attendees were that this was the best of the 20. We sold 5,000 tickets before the event which was ticket-only on the night. The inclement weather only deterred 500 people from attending.

This is a huge effort on behalf of the club and needed a record number of volunteers to host the event, 100 in total, either stewarding, scanning tickets, or working on the bars, BBQs, and stalls. Thanks to Neil Clark and his committee of Paul Richardson, Al Jones, Peter Douglas, DJ Dave Green, Ian Jonas, Paula Amos, Karl Winter, Colin Johnson, Steve Dunkley, Rob Baines, and in particular Dee Compton for the overall organisation of the event.

I make no excuse for mentioning all the above plus the others who were kept busy with lighting, gas, and electric issues while keeping a cool head as they were being pulled from pillar to post. These included Mike Maguire, Nick Cox, Carl Furrer, Dennis Whiffen, Tubby Davies, and Sian Wilde.

Overall, a splendid example of being One Club and what we can achieve.

On top of this, we have our lunch today where we are welcoming our Match Day sponsor, Simon Hewson of Stansted BMW and guests. Paul Underdown and Peter Hilton and the guests of Hilton Group will award the Man of the Match. Both Stansted BMW and Hilton Group are long-serving sponsors of BSRFC, it is good to see them again at the club today. We have Ace of Lanes/Three Willows hosted by Dave and Brian, as well as Nockold's Solicitors hosted by Sarah Lockyer taking up their tables, as they do for all lunches.

We are planning for future lunches to invite other guests who can help with the speaking after lunch and spare you all from listening to me. For today's lunch, we have Marcus/Tom who will give us thoughts on the season so far for the 1st XV and respond to questions from the floor.

A diary date for 16th December is for members/sponsors and their children and grandchildren who want to meet and have their photographs with Father Christmas, details on page 64.





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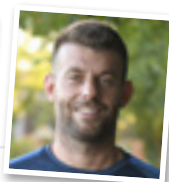
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Head Coaches

Marcus Cattell & Tom Coleman



Good afternoon, everyone and welcome back to Silver Ley's for today's game, one that we are sure will provide great entertainment for all supporters.

Let's begin by saying how proud we are of our players for the amount of effort they have put in to this five-game block so far. We couldn't of done any better than the bonus point wins we've produced and to return four wins from four games is just reward for all their hard work and commitment to date. Individually we have players performing at the top of their game but collectively is what we will always focus on and right now we certainly have the bit between our teeth. As a coaching team, we're beginning to see more and more the blueprint of how we want the boys to play and if we all keep working hard then there will be plenty more good times to come! The victory at Taunton last Saturday was a huge challenge for us to see how far we've come as a group, and the character the players demonstrated to get through those difficult moments (injuries included) was phenomenal.

We know only too well how difficult today's game will be. Sale arrives in good form themselves and have always provided us with an incredibly difficult challenge. They have a good mixture of youth and experience throughout their squad and are capable of playing multiple ways. We know the enormity of the challenge awaiting us, but we must enjoy these types of fixtures.

The blues also had another exceptional win last weekend against Richmond Vikings, again demonstrating the strength we have throughout the squad. With lots of players putting their hand up every week, selection meetings are certainly giving us a headache!...and long may it continue.

Lastly, we would like to say a massive thank you to all of our excellent sponsors and supporters for your continued support - especially those who made the journey to Somerset last weekend to cheer the boys on right to the final whistle. It really does make a big difference, and hopefully today you can all create a special atmosphere to inspire the players to victory.

Come on you blues!

Marcus & Tom

THE COACHING STAFF:



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ROB FAIERS



BEN SHEATH



JON SKELTON



IAN SIMPSON



ADAM VINE



DARREN ORBART



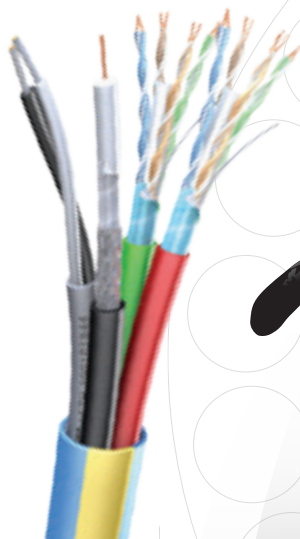
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Success breeds confidence

Jon Skelton



As I write this article, both the 1st XV and the Blues are coming off the back of four-game winning streaks. Confidence and morale are high within the group, and rightly so. Why? Well, success breeds confidence.



When it comes to building confidence, there's no one-size-fits-all approach. Within the group there are some players who have found that setting and achieving small goals works well for them, while others have preferred to set themselves bigger challenges. The key has been to find what works best for them and stick with it. This is absolutely the same principle outside of the rugby environment.

If you're looking to build your confidence, start by identifying what makes you feel good about yourself. Maybe it's your ability to make your friends laugh or your hidden talent for singing. Whatever it is, focus on building on your strengths and give yourself permission to stand out.

Life, like rugby often throws you a curve ball. One day you think that everything is going the way you want to, then out of nowhere something knocks you sideways. If this happens, try not to dwell on your mistakes or failures. Everyone makes mistakes and dwelling on them will only serve to lower your self-esteem. Instead, learn from your mistakes and move on. There are couple of insights that are worth remembering here; firstly, there's no such as failure, only feedback. Secondly FAIL stands for first attempt at learning.

Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it. If you're struggling with something, there's no shame in seeking out advice from someone who knows more than you do. There's a phrase that I find myself using with clients who are low on confidence; "You only know what you know, and you know more now that you did ten seconds ago." By doing this, you'll not only boost your confidence but also learn new things that can help you in the future.

So, there you have it - a few tips on how to build your confidence. Just remember to stay positive, focus on your strengths, and don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it. With a little effort, you'll be building up your confidence in no time!

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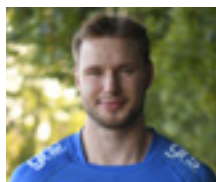


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Today's Opposition

Sale FC



Sale Football Club was founded in 1861 by a team of enthusiastic sportsmen drawn mainly from Sale Cricket Club and is the fifth oldest surviving rugby club. The club's most treasured possession is a Minute Book from 1865 which included for the first time the ten rules to be followed by all players, it is believed to be the world's oldest existing rugby rule book.

The club's famous Heywood Road ground has been home for them since 1903

Over the years, Sale FC have featured many prominent international and county players including Fran Cotton, Steve Smith, Dewi Morris, Richard Trickey and Jason Robinson.

Sale Sharks, the professional premiership team are an offshoot of Sale RFC moving out of Heywood Road to plough their own furrow in 2003.

Sale RFC had to restart their league rugby in 2003/4 season at the bottom of the Northern league structure in South Lancs/Cheshire 4, they progressed steadily through the leagues eventually winning National 3 North in 2014/15 and being promoted into National 2 North in 2015/2016 season.

Sale RFC were National 2 North champions in 2017/2018, this will be their 4th season in National One at Level 3. We have beaten Sale twice at home but have not yet won in Manchester.

We lost 33-35 at home to Sale in February in an exciting and close game with a two points difference for Sale coming from a remarkable drop goal

conversion in the first half from wide out being kicked after the ball had come off the kicking tee. We were beaten 32-24 at Sale in the earlier away October fixture.

They finished second to the promoted Caldy side last season and were in contention themselves for promotion until losing narrowly at Caldy, only missing out on promotion in the last but one Saturday of the season.

SALE FC



Andrew Hughes (Captain)



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
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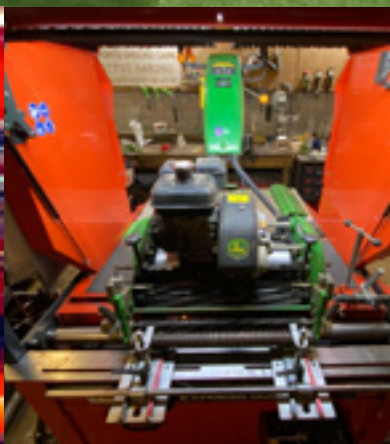
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Blues News

By Benji Furrer



Blues move top of the table with resounding win at Richmond.

Saturday saw the Blues travel away to a wet and miserable West London to face Richmond Vikings. The Blues struck first in the rain with slick hands from the backs lead to an overlap which allowed Hankin to put Radley over the line to score in the corner with a well-executed two vs one. Cole against the wind slotted the conversion giving the Blues a 7-0 lead. It didn't take long however for Richmond to strike back – the block of a Blues kick allowed the Vikings to sneak over the line.

The Blues had to adapted to the unfavourable conditions, with the forward pack showing off their driving maul and dominate carries and the backs looking to kick into corners. Richmond however were up to the challenge as they took the lead for the first time. Their try came from a long forward's set to crash Richmond over the line. Along with the conversion Richmond took the lead 12-7. The Blues didn't let this phase them as they bounced back applying pressure to the Vikings forcing knock on's and mistakes through a fantastic team defence. The pressure final cracked Richmond with a tackle from Hankin and Young lead to the ball getting dropped. Parry was able to sweep up the loose ball and run in under the posts from 50 meters. Cole was again up to the challenge nailing the conversion gave The Blues a slight advantage (14-12) going into half time.

The Blues used the momentum from the first half to pin Richmond deep in their own twenty-two. The pressure eventually paid off with Albert blocking the Richmond's

attempted exit kick before regathering it and taking it over the line, to extend the Blues lead at the start of this second half. The Cole conversion took the score to 21-12. Richmond didn't give up as they battled on to score from a well-read interception try against the run of play. Along with the conversion it allowed the Vikings to reduce the deficit to 21-19.

As the conditions became wetter and mud became thick the game slowed down with the penalty count increasing. The Blues used this too their advantage with Cole kicking for points and slowly taking the game away from Richmond as the Blues began to pull away. These two penalty kicks both just outside the twenty-two took the score up to 27-19 giving the blues the upper hand. Richmond continued to fight back kicking into the corners from Blues penalty's but Banks and the forward back defended the driving mal attempts and held the home side out.

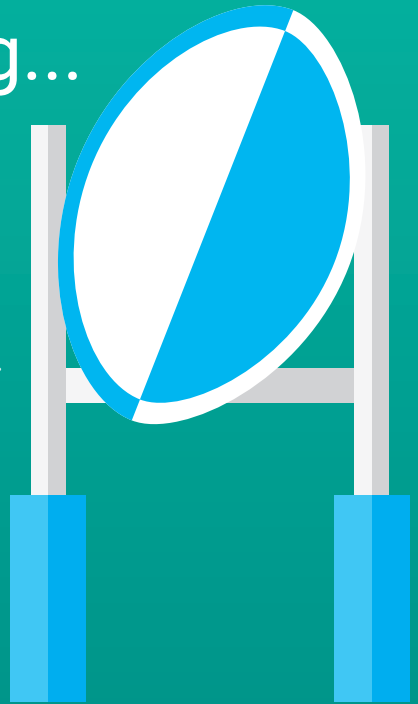
Stortford gave the final blow with a perfectly placed chip over from Cole which was gathered by Hankin. With only the fullback to beat Hankin gave a show and go to slide into the corner. This made the final score 32-19 and with that giving The Blues not only their first win against Richmond Vikings but also taking them to top of The Raging Bull League 1. A fantastic achieve from the team and putting them in a great position.

#	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	CD	TD	LB	PTS
1	Biologics Stortford Blues	6	7	0	1	374	167	212	7	0	36
2	Roadsign Park 2nd XV	6	7	0	1	341	117	224	6	0	35
3	Kings XI	9	6	0	3	305	210	95	7	0	34
4	Richmond Vikings (2nd XV)	7	6	0	1	423	94	329	6	0	31
5	Worthing Raiders A (2nd XV)	7	4	0	3	163	229	66	4	0	22
6	Amphill 1861 XV	4	3	1	0	173	108	64	4	0	18
7	Blackheath Heathens (2nd XV)	6	3	0	3	133	160	27	3	0	18
8	Barnes 2nd XV	7	3	0	4	194	234	76	0	0	18
9	Richmond Seaxons (3rd XV)	8	1	0	7	166	375	209	3	2	14
10	Hareley XI	9	0	1	8	104	276	262	2	1	11
11	Esher Centrals (2nd XV)	5	1	0	4	110	226	111	1	1	10
12	Chisner & Falcons	5	1	0	4	90	101	82	1	1	6
13	Maidenhead XI	3	0	0	3	36	165	129	0	0	3

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Results, fixtures and table

National League 1

Season 2022/2023 National 1

Results from 5 November

HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM
Birmingham Moseley	36 - 47	Rosslyn Park
Cambridge	38 - 24	Esher
Cinderford	10 - 10	Chinnor
Leeds Tykes	10 - 36	Rams
Plymouth Albion	36 - 24	Darlington Mowden Park
Sale FC	34 - 7	Hull
Taunton Titans	24 - 31	Bishop's Stortford

Season 2022/2023 National 1

Fixtures for 12 November

HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM
Birmingham Moseley	vs	Cambridge
Bishop's Stortford	vs	Sale FC
Chinnor	vs	Esher
Darlington Mowden Park	vs	Taunton Titans
Hull	vs	Cinderford
Rams	vs	Plymouth Albion
Rosslyn Park	vs	Leeds Tykes

National League 1 - 2022/2023											
Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	TBP	LBP	Points	Adj.
Rams	9	9	0	0	367	184	183	9	0	45	0
Cambridge	9	8	0	1	301	226	75	8	1	41	0
Sale FC	9	7	0	2	297	174	123	8	1	37	0
Rosslyn Park	9	7	0	2	342	232	110	8	1	37	0
Bishop's Stortford	9	6	0	3	256	232	24	8	2	34	0
Cinderford	9	6	1	2	259	224	35	7	0	33	0
Plymouth Albion	9	5	0	4	291	239	52	8	2	30	0
Darlington Mowden Park	9	3	0	6	233	256	-23	6	4	22	0
Taunton	9	3	0	6	216	261	-45	5	3	20	0
Birmingham Moseley	9	3	0	6	253	313	-60	4	1	17	0
Leeds Tykes	9	3	0	6	167	270	-103	2	1	15	0
Chinnor	9	2	1	6	203	257	-54	3	2	15	0
Esher	9	0	0	9	216	320	-104	5	2	7	0
Hull	9	0	0	9	175	388	-213	3	2	5	0

The Teams



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Bishop's Stortford 1st XV

BLUE AND WHITE

- 1 Tim Matthews
- 2 Alex Rayment
- 3 Tom McCrone*
- 4 Obinna Nkwocha
- 5 Luis Ball
- 6 Jacob Wrafter
- 7 Ollie Jones*
- 8 Will Rogers
- 9 Connor Lloyd
- 10 Matt Riddington
- 11 Jake Morris
- 12 Austin Pope*
- 13 James Ayrton(c)*
- 14 Josh Stannard
- 15 Dan Powell

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REPLACEMENTS

- 16 Ryan Jackson
- 17 Will Roberts*
- 18 Toby Tierney
- 19 Chris Bolton
- 20 Chris Smith

*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: **Dr Jonathan Cook**
ASSISTANT REFEREE 1: **Dewald Swart**
ASSISTANT REFEREE 2: **Simon Bourne**

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Sale FC BLACK

	Dan Birchall	1
	Josh Brown	2
	Cal Ford	3
	Ben Bamber	4
	Alex Groves	5
	Jake Barron	6
	Andrew Hughes ©	7
	Huw Davies	8
	Sean Street	9
	Kierran Wilkinson	10
	Callum Morris	11
	James Tinchnell	12
	James Rohins	13
	Tom Brady	14
	Mark Dixon	15
REPLACEMENTS		
	Rob Makin	16
	Oliver Longmore	17
	Samir Tahraoui	18
	Nick Gray	19
	Mark Dixon	20

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Mitres Update

By Paddy Dean



After a tough first season trying to establish the new look 'development squad' mitres, the start of this year's league campaign has been far more settled.

The aim for the team is to encourage those guys who reach the end of their youth rugby journey, to carry on playing within the senior teams. Furthermore, we hope to provide a low pressure, good quality rugby setting where these guys can continue friendships made during their youth rugby years, whilst integrating with the more established players, and hopefully furnish all of the senior sides with greater depth in numbers.

In our first season we struggled to find much winning form. Not really surprising when we rarely started a match with the full quota of players! However, numbers at both training and matches gradually improved, and by the latter stages of the season, we had real hope and excitement of what we could look forward to this year.

Following a couple of warm up friendlies against tough opposition, where we played some great rugby, confidence was high going in to our first league match away to Fullerians 2nd XV.

As is so often the case when the fixture takes place an hour away, our resources for the day were somewhat limited. However, with the 16 players we had we fully embraced the challenge and fought extremely well against a far more mature and experienced side. Having led for most of the first half, we unfortunately ended up on the wrong side of the 24-17 score line. The hosts additional subs making all the difference against our tired legs in the final quarter of the match.

The next week brought a new challenge when we faced local rivals Hertford away. The previous season on our very first fixture together, they managed to put 50 points past us in the first half alone! Thankfully this time it was our turn!

A great demonstration of how far we have come in twelve months. The rugby on display was, as ever,

breath-taking and the freedom these young guys play with, manifests with some beautiful rugby to watch, week after week (regardless of the score line!) We eventually ran out 55-7 winners.

One of the most memorable matches this year was against Ampthill 3rd team at home. They have, in recent years, dominated the top spot in our league with many highly experienced championship players strengthening their side. With no first or second team match on the day for Ampthill, this meeting was no exception.

After nine minutes, we were 19-0 behind! At that stage many teams would have folded. But not our young lads! I say young; the average age of the team hasn't been above 24 all season, and on this occasion was 20.8yrs!

We clawed our way back and incredibly were 19-19 at half time. Our first half tries had all started in our own half and the second half started in much the same vein. Unfortunately, though, Ampthills gamesmanship and experience shone through and won the day.

It was however the match that proved how good we were and how far we had come. A few days later when the Ampthill SECOND team sheet was published, seeing eleven names that had faced us a few days previous, just reinforced our thoughts as to how strong their '3rd' team had been!?

We continue to go from strength to strength and are gaining players regularly but there's always room for more. I still feel it's extremely early days for this group, and can't wait to see what the next 12 months bring!



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Girls and Ladies

By Carly Poyser



This season has got off to a positive start for the Girls and Ladies sections at the club. With many new members joining us this season and a drive to grow from all the players and coaches.

With the RFU changing the age grades we now have 4 girls' teams from U12 to U14, U16 and then U18. The split meant reduced numbers but we found a way around this as all local clubs had the same issues so we formed an x-league. With no formal league in place like the boys, we collaborated with other teams and Phil Solomon who manages Datchworth girls did an amazing job at collating and forming babes teams meaning the girls get full team game time around twice a month.

This has been fantastic for the girls' as despite them not all being part of one club, they play with the same clubs each time. Scores are kept for each game and at the end of the season we will have results to view like other youth teams. I hope this makes a difference to the girls as they can see not just their personal progress, but them as a team. They should be very proud of embracing this and playing as hard as they do each week!

We continue to grow the numbers across all teams with advertising, a wonderful new flyer designed by Jasmin Bice you will see this around the club and in the programme soon. Please do share and let those with girls in their families know that we are growing, we would love (as would every club!) to have full girls' sides playing in a season or two. Joss Linney is working with our local schools and we are grateful that we have the opportunity as a club to get out into the local community and showcase the wonderful coaching we offer.

We are still on the lookout for team managers for the u16 and u18, along with any help and appreciated coaching, the more the merrier! We train and play on Sundays 12:30-2pm and if you have any free time to offer any help, please let me know at bsrflcladies@gmail.com

A special thank you goes out to Lianna Kearns who is coaching our U12 Girls. Lianna played for the ladies but has moved over to fully commit herself to this role. She is dedicated to supporting her team, growing the numbers and showcasing the girls for the amazing section they are.

Thank You!



Pic of our U12 babes away to Bedford on 29th October with 8 tries scored!



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In the spotlight

Chris Smith. Sponsored by Forward Corporate Finance



In *Strictly Come Dancing* the celebrities “go on a journey” with Tony Adams presently on his way to become a ballroom dancer but Chris Smith’s rugby journey is arguably more unlikely and more interesting. Chris came to Stortford from Brentwood at the start of the club’s first season in National Division One in September 2017. He considered himself a centre but Andy Long started him off the bench against Plymouth and Rosslyn Park as a winger. He scored against Rosslyn Park and then went on to score from starts on the wing in his next three appearances for Stortford. There was no way he was now going to play centre. He went on to play regularly on the wing throughout the club’s successful first season in National One.

When his parents moved away at the end of that season, Chris stayed in the area, moving in with the Australian players at the club, Dan Elsom and Rob Duff. It was through his parent’s Irish and Welsh family connections and some key rugby contacts he was able to represent Ireland and Wales at Sevens. He played Sevens rugby at the highest level while still playing on the wing at Stortford and Sevens became the next step in his rugby journey. Not quite a move back into playing centre but certainly a style of rugby that Chris was well suited for and enjoyed playing.

It used to be said that you joined the Navy to see the World but now the best route to see the world is to play International Sevens and play in exotic locations all over the world. Since joining the Welsh Sevens squad, he has represented Wales in a number of international tournaments, playing for Wales in the Commonwealth Sevens in the “not so exotic location” of Birmingham this July. (From my personal point of view as a Welshman, it was great to see “Chris Smith Bishop’s Stortford” in the Welsh squad photos and if Cole Swannack had stuck it out at Stortford, the club could have had as much representation in the Welsh sevens squad as Llanelli).

Unfortunately, the Welsh RFU has dropped its commitment to international Sevens, now the only possible representation will be through a GB squad so Chris will unlikely to get more Welsh Sevens outings. Recently George North, a player of similar physique as Chris, has moved from the wing to centre for Wales as he has matured, with the number of younger players competing for the wing berths at Stortford there could be a chance Chris’ next step on his journey will be similar to that of George North and could be back playing at centre for Stortford?

Chris is sponsored this season by Forward Corporate Finance and Chris very much appreciates their sponsorship and support.





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Now in its tenth 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
Steven Wasley
Mark Smith

October 2022

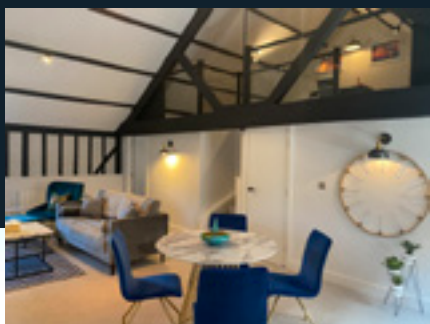
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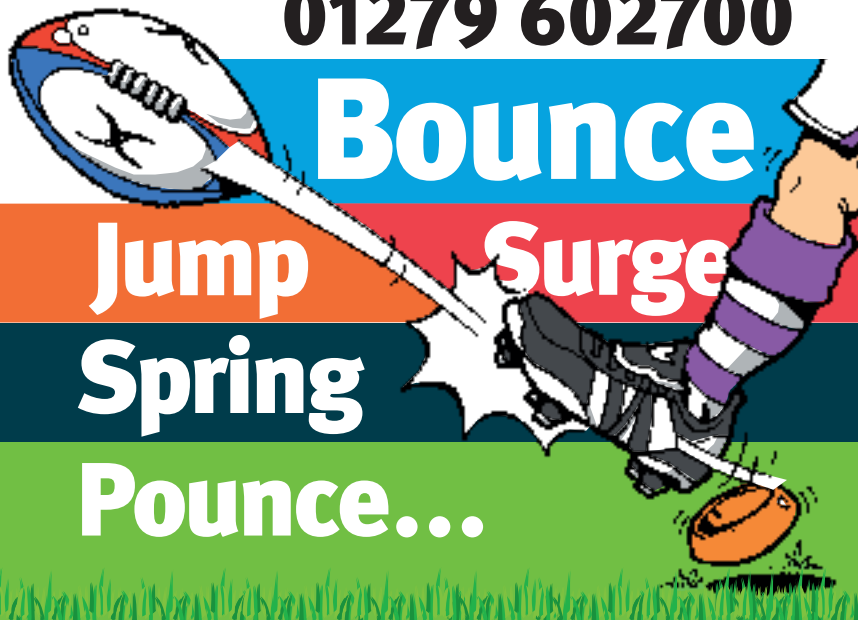


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My First School Friends

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Roadworks hell leaves trader 'frightened' to go to work

Chris Carter
chris.carter@stortfordindie.co.uk

A Bishop's Stortford trader revealed she was frightened to come to work because of the loss of business which she says is partly due to poor co-ordination of roadworks in the town.

Victoria Lee, who runs Friends Dress Agency in North Street, posted a comment on the *Indie's* Facebook page after our article last week highlighting the proliferation of roadworks in Stortford and the chaos caused on the road network.

Victoria, the mum of a four-year-old girl, said she had to close her shop after during half-term week to be able to collect her daughter on time. It had taken her 30 minutes to get from Northgate End one park to Hockerill.

Business was down during a period when she usually did well, with people hiring dresses for Christmas parties.

Victoria, who has run the shop for 11 years, said: "It's harder than the first recession, harder than the pandemic. The pavements are so quiet. It's so, so frightening."

On Friday she told the *Indie* her mental health was suffering because of the loss of trade and she believed the council should do more to help traders and plan the roadworks.

Victoria added the situation left her frightened to come to work because of the loss of trade but she hoped business would pick up. Sally Coleman, of Le Donne ladies' shoe shop in Bridge Street, agreed that business was slow and said customers had abandoned trips



Victoria Lee, who runs Friends Dress Agency in North Street, Bishop's Stortford, says the large number of roadworks around the town is affecting business.

to her shop after getting stuck in traffic.

Besides the constant road works park had put off some of her regular customers and she wanted more help from councils once Christmas time.

She added trade was so slow she was glad to see a parking warden pop in for some company.

A spokesperson for Hertfordshire Highways apologised to the town last

week for the works that blocked almost every route into town and insisted they were essential emergency works that coincided with planned improvements.

The council added some of the works would "ultimately benefit the town" but that sparked a furious reaction from *Indie* readers with many recounting stories of long journeys into town, hampered by road

closures and traffic signals.

One former trader, Alexandra Wood said she would get round town quicker in her mobility scooter.

On Monday, more roadworks appeared in town with High Street closed from the junction of North Street to Baslow Lane for unspecified

affinity water works. The work was initially due to finish today

(Wednesday) but the sign was altered to state it would go on until Thursday.

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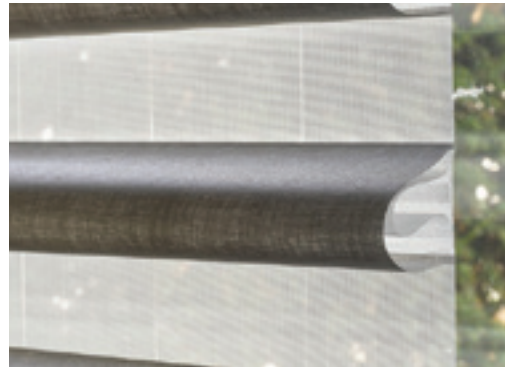
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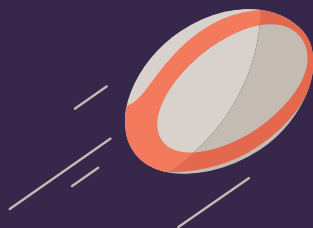


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The reason we wear a poppy

By Geoff Pederson



On November 7th, 1920, in strictest secrecy, four unidentified British bodies were exhumed from temporary battlefield cemeteries at Ypres, Arras, the Asine and the Somme. None of the soldiers who did the digging were told why. The bodies were taken by field ambulance to GHQ at St-Pol-Sur-Ter Noise. Once there, the bodies were draped with the union flag.

Sentries were posted and Brigadier-General Wyatt and a Colonel Gell selected one body at random. The other three were reburied. A French Honour Guard was selected and stood by the coffin overnight of the chosen soldier.

On the morning of the 8th November, a specially designed coffin made of oak from the grounds of Hampton Court arrived and the Unknown Warrior was placed inside. On top was placed a crusaders sword and a shield on which was

inscribed: "A British Warrior who fell in the GREAT WAR 1914-1918 for King and Country".

On the 9th of November, the Unknown Warrior was taken by horse-drawn carriage with Guards of Honour and the sound of tolling bells and bugle calls to the quayside. There, he was saluted by Marechal Foch and loaded onto HMS Verdun bound for Dover. The coffin stood on the deck covered in wreaths, surrounded by the French Honour Guard. Upon arrival at Dover, the Unknown Warrior was met with a nineteen-gun salute - something that was normally only reserved for Field Marshals.

A special train had been arranged and he was then conveyed to Victoria Station, London. He remained there overnight, and, on the morning of the 11th of November, he was finally taken to Westminster Abbey. The idea of the unknown

warrior was thought of by a Padre called David Railton who had served on the front line during the Great War, the union flag he had used as an altar cloth whilst at the front, was the one that had been draped over the coffin. It was his intention that all of the relatives of the 517,773 combatants whose bodies had not been identified could believe that the Unknown Warrior could very well be their lost husband, father, brother or son...

THIS is the reason we wear poppies.

We do not glorify war, we remember - with humility - the great and the ultimate sacrifices that were made, not just in this war, but in every war and conflict where our service personnel have fought - to ensure the liberty and freedoms that we now take for granted.

Every year, on the 11th of November, we remember.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.



Around The Club

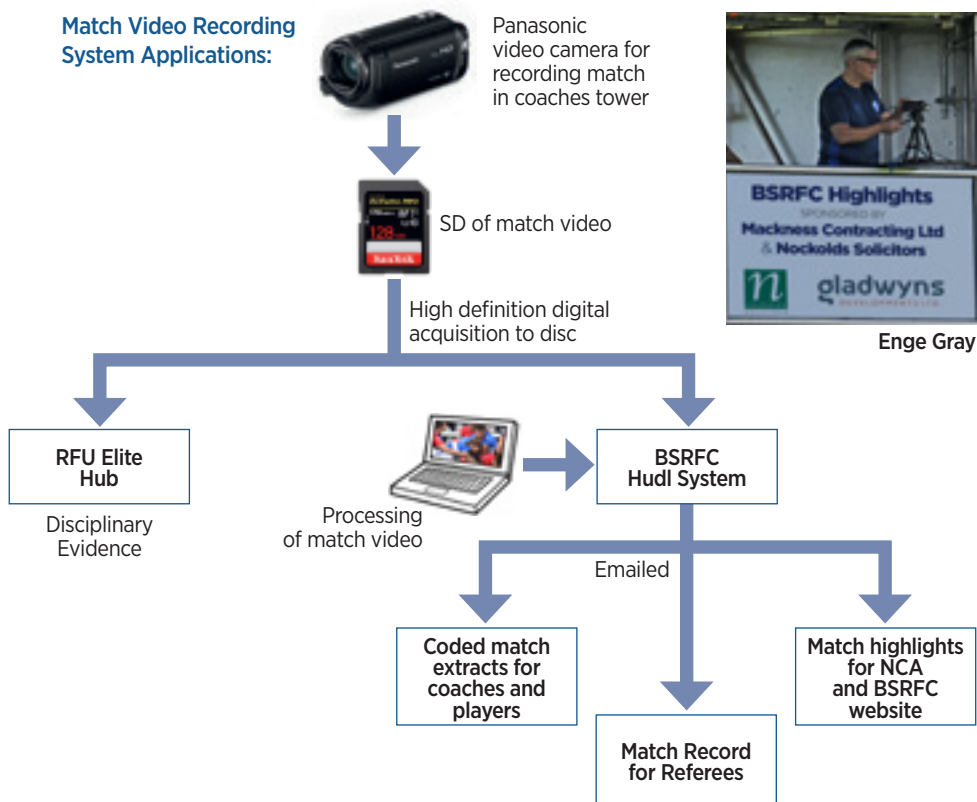
Richard Evans



The BSRFC Match Video System and its uses

At the start of the club's first season in National Division One, Andy Long instigated the construction of the coach's tower on the first team pitch. It was located in the middle of the team benches and its original purpose was to provide the coaching staff with a better view of the game, once again Andy proved himself to be ahead of his time as this tower was to be the ideal location for a video camera to produce the video match records of home games. The video recording of games has subsequently become an RFU and NCA League mandatory requirement.

The match video recording file is now the starting point for the AI software systems that can create support videos for disciplinary, coaching, referee and game highlights production purposes. See the overview diagram below:



The referee's microphone must also be connected to the video camera so there are very accurate sound and visual records of all games available to all clubs in the league. The Stortford coaches suspected that detailed video analysis of our attacking play patterns may well have been behind the comprehensive Rams defensive display that prevented Stortford scoring until the end of the game in our recent home match against Rams. Welcome to twenty-first century rugby.

Save
THE
date



- Friday 16th December 2022 -

A full evening of festive fun for all of the family

The Barringtons Annual Jingle Bell Sleigh
is coming to BSRFC

Father Christmas arriving on horse & carriage

Festive menu available | Christmas carols & more

Photo Opportunity in Santa's Grotto (Free)

Full details to follow

- 5pm to 8pm -

**FREE
ENTRY**

The
Barringtons Jingle Bell Sleigh

2022



Full updates can be found on Facebook @barringtonsfuneraldirectors

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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Match Report

Taunton 24-31 Bishop's Stortford



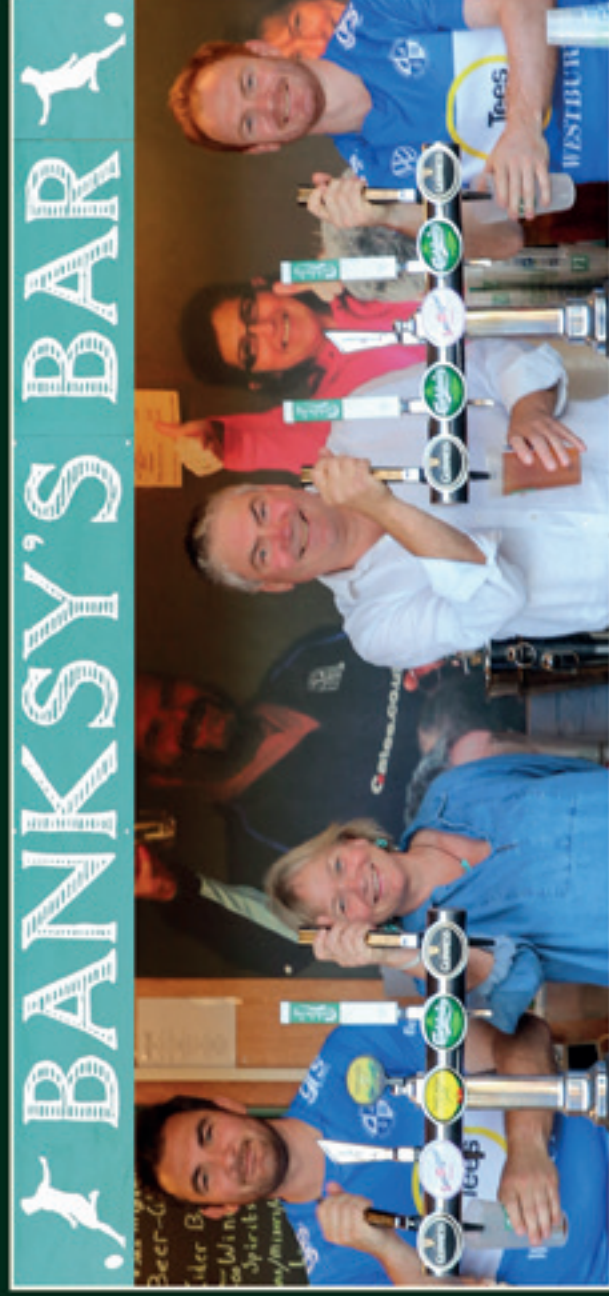
Despite greasy conditions, both sides were determined to keep the ball moving, with the home side offloading repeatedly out of tackles to make the most out of their powerful forwards and Stortford sticking to their normal, expansive game plan. As a result, the game swung to and fro, with penalties often crucial turning points. So it was, after 12 minutes that Taunton scored the first try, forcing a breakdown penalty and a driven lineout maul and three or four more phases round the fringes saw them over for a 5 point lead. Almost straight from the restart, Stortford won two penalties in quick succession and, although the second was right in front of the posts, they also went for touch and were rewarded for their ambition with a try to Will Rogers at the back of a driving maul. The kick cannonned out off the upright to leave the scores level. With 20 minutes gone, the visitors took the lead, when a clever cross kick from Matt Riddington, produced a Taunton lineout close to their own line. The ball was overthrown and fell to Ollie Jones, who he fed Rogers for his fellow back row to plunge over for his second try. This time Connor Lloyd made a good conversion but, within 3 minutes, the scores were level again, when the home side capitalised on an excellent 50-22 kick to drive over from the resultant lineout for a try, well converted by Iwan Jenkin. Stortford looked to be gaining momentum but a penalty was conceded as they tried to force an opening out wide on the Taunton 22 and a tackled Stortford player played the ball on the ground. A good long touch from the penalty set up position and more forceful Taunton play won another penalty near Stortford's 22. From the resultant 5 metre lineout, their powerful forwards drove over for a try, which was again well converted by Jenkin, as the half ended with his side in a 7 point lead.

Stortford started the second period fast, scoring within 2 minutes, when a long pass from Riddington put James Ayrton into space and the centre committed the last defender to give Josh Stannard a clear run at the line. Lloyd's conversion attempt from out wide once again bounced out off a post to leave his side 2 points behind. The lead soon changed hands, however, when Alex Rayment touched down at the back of a driving maul following a lineout 10 metres from the Taunton line. Lloyd made a good conversion to stretch the lead to 5 with 10 minutes of the half gone. Despite being down to 14 men, with their scrumhalf in the bin, Taunton fought back to level the scores, taking full advantage of a soft penalty on halfway for fullback, Jordan Gott to make a break for an unconverted try, after the ball was surprisingly released from the lineout. The next score took 14 minutes to come, with Rogers completing his hat trick with a try under the posts on 69 minutes. This was the try of the match and was created by more expansive rugby by Stortford, as Austin Pope cut a good line to break through from inside his own half and find Luke Bury in close support. The replacement hooker took the ball on well, committed the last defender and offloaded backhanded out of the tackle to leave the back row with a clear run-in. Lloyd made no mistake with the conversion. Taunton, once again threw themselves onto the attack and, going through many phases, forced their way up to the Stortford line, where Rogers was yellow carded for failing to roll away from a tackle. Now it was Stortford's turn to raise their collective game when short-handed and they produced some outstanding tackling to force the aggressive opposition slowly back and were able to hold on for an extremely hard-fought 24-31 win

John Allanson

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