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FOOTBALL CLUB

**LADIES DAY 2023**

**CONNOR LLOYD -  
IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

**WHAT OUR COACHES  
HAVE TO SAY!**



**BISHOP'S STORTFORD**  
VERSUS  
**TAUNTON TITANS**

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1  
MARCH 04 2023  
3PM KICK OFF

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# From the President

By Len Lindop



Today we are in the Rose room again for the pre-match lunch before the game against Taunton. We note that Taunton has shown great improvement with some of the bath Academy players helping them with recent convincing victories against Chinnor and Hull. It may well prove a harder task than we had when we played them on their Armed Forces Day in November.

Today we thank GRS, hosted by Ross Rolfe, as the Man of the Match Sponsor, and Will Almond for hosting the Mulberry Homes table. Dave and Brian are hosting the Three Willows/Ace of Lanes table.

Our famed (some might say infamous) annual Ladies' Day returns after a Covid-enforced absence. This has become a very important event for us over the years, enabling us to donate thousands of pounds to 'Ladies' charities with this year's recipients being Teens:)Unite, a teenage cancer charity. We have to thank all our many volunteers, especially Dee who help to make this such a brilliant and rewarding day for both the Club and the Charities.

Looking back, it was when we were playing Chinnor at the last Ladies' Day and had lunch in the Rose Room when Andy Lines from the Daily Mirror spoke to us about the issues facing Ukraine at the beginning of the war. Here we are, 12 months later, and the conflict is still going on. A great upheaval for the people of Ukraine but an incredible effort from the people and their forces to resist Putin and the Russian invasion of their country.

Coming back to rugby we have faced 4 difficult away trips since the New Year, but we have come through them well with a draw and 6 bonus points. Last week our performance at Plymouth was outstanding with our free-flowing rugby leading the way in the first twenty minutes and then a real turn-up for the books when we were awarded several scrum penalties as their forwards tired after being run

a merry dance on the pitch. A five points victory against Plymouth who had won seven successive games was a real boost. All of this without our Captain, Vice-Captain, and several regular first-teamers showed our strength in depth.

Looking through our social diary we have the following functions coming up for your entertainment. These include the Icon Fancy Dress party on 22nd April, the Players Dinner in May, and the Summer Ball on 10th June.

We must also mention the Volunteers evening on 26th April where up to 350 of our volunteers will be invited to help celebrate their efforts in supporting the club and all our events. Another event where volunteers come into force is the Under 13 Festival on the 29th and 30th of April.





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# Head Coaches

Marcus Cattell & Tom Coleman



Good afternoon and welcome to one of the most anticipated days on the BSRFC calendar... LADIES DAY!

It goes without saying, this weekend is always a highlight for players and supporters and the atmosphere around the club is always buzzing. Thanks to all those who have helped make Ladies Day the success it is and we hope all the Ladies have a great day.

But! First things first. Taunton Titans are in town, and that brings a huge challenge which we are massively looking forward to. I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our guests from Somerset, we had some titanic battles with Taunton over the years, and there have been some fantastic games played between the two sides. Both teams have certainly hit some form as we move into the business end of the season, so expect some attacking flair and big collisions throughout the game.

Last week we returned from Plymouth with the 5 points and one of the most satisfying afternoons on the road this year. Notoriously one of the toughest away games in the league, the boys fronted up and produced a very well-rounded performance and one that all the group can be very proud of. Two weeks ago we had to dig deep to keep a desperate Leeds Tykes outfit at bay, and this again shows that anyone on their day can beat anyone in National One. A number of injuries meant a reshuffle in the pack but the boys adapted excellently and held on for our first win in 5 games.

We hope you all have a wonderful day at BSRFC today.

Come on you Blues.

**Marcus & Tom**

## THE COACHING STAFF:



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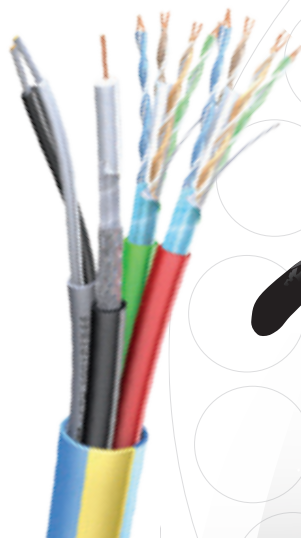
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# Mental Health

Jon Skelton



## Reducing the Mental Load

For those of you who use social media, you may have seen recently that there is a bit of a hot topic around Mental load, particularly for mums. As today is our annual Ladies Day, I thought it would be a good day to highlight how we can all support with this.



Mental Load is a concept that has become increasingly relevant in today's world as more and more responsibilities are expected of individuals. Mental load is the pressure we feel from having to remember, plan, organise, and manage tasks. It can be difficult to keep track of everything when there are numerous obligations competing for our attention and energy. However, according to research, the mental load disproportionately impacts women. Women in heterosexual relationships, even those who are their family's breadwinners, are three times more likely than breadwinning men to carry the mental load.

The overbearing mental load can lead to a variety of mental and physical health symptoms - and the connection is often missed. Juggling family issues, personal matters, and work can be overwhelming and stressful. Not being able to step away can lead to mental health issues. Some of the most reported ones include anxiety and depression. Women are almost twice as likely to be diagnosed with anxiety disorders. And 1 in 10 women - parents included - experience symptoms of depression. Parents of multiples like twins or triplets are at a higher risk for depression.

The good news is that there are ways to manage mental load and cultivate resilience in challenging times. One important step is to identify what tasks you can delegate or outsource so that your time and energy resources are maximised. Additionally, setting realistic expectations and goals can help you to stay organised and on track. Finally, taking time out for yourself is essential to remain balanced and energised. Self-care does not always have to mean a long break or holiday; small gestures like giving yourself permission to take a few minutes to go for a walk or delegating a few tasks to someone else can make a world of difference.

Mental load is an unavoidable part of life, but with a little bit of planning and self-care it is possible to manage it in healthy and productive ways. With Mother's Day just around the corner, I'm sure your partners appreciate the choccies and flowers, but I reckon they would appreciate some the time to recognise their own needs and a chance to take a break.

Just something to think about.

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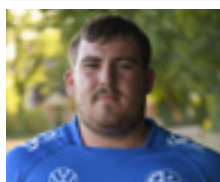


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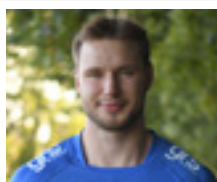


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# Today's Opposition

## Taunton Titans



Taunton Rugby Club were founded in 1875 and have a long-standing pedigree for playing high quality rugby in their home county of Somerset. They will celebrate their 150th Birthday in a few years, having recently just reached our 100 years centenary we are mere pups in rugby terms compared to today's guests.

The first club ground was in the Holway district of Taunton before moving to their home for 66 years, Priory Park in 1935. They moved again in November 2001 to Hyde Park and the magnificent facility now known as Veritas Park, which sits within sight of the M5 motorway just off the Taunton junction: J25.

Unfortunately, the grounds closeness to the motorway was a key factor in the circumstances that led to probably the darkest day in their history in November 2011. Smoke generated by a fireworks' display at the club made worse a thick fog that drifted over the Motorway. Seven people were killed and another 51 injured in the resultant horrific multi vehicle road traffic accident. Thankfully the club were exonerated of any blame as eventually was the owner of the fireworks display company.

Taunton won promotion from National Three South-West in 2009/2010 to National Two South after just one season and remained in National Two South for ten seasons.

Our first encounter with them came on 2nd November 2013, after our promotion that year into National Two South, it was here at Silver Leys and Taunton emerged from a high-scoring match as the victors by 32 points to 37.

We drew on our first visit to Hyde Park (now Veritas Park) in March 2014, 24 apiece, a game that sticks in many of our memories because we were 24 -0 up at HT!

The following season we each won at our home grounds as they finished 3rd with us one place above them as Runners up. We lost Home and Away in 2015/2016 but then we returned that favour the following season 2016/2017 when we won promotion to National One.

In 2019/2020 they won National Two South earning them promotion to level 3 & National League One, fixtures between Stortford and Taunton would have recommenced in 2020/2021 if the season had not been cancelled through Covid.

Last season we won 26-22 against Taunton at home in September and drew 29-29 at Taunton in January, Taunton finished one place above us in the league at 8th to our 9th.

They currently run three senior sides plus a Colts XV. Like us they have huge Mini & Youth sections.

### TAUNTON TITANS



**Charlie Wright** (Captain)

### TAUNTON TITANS



**George Gosling** (Captain)



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
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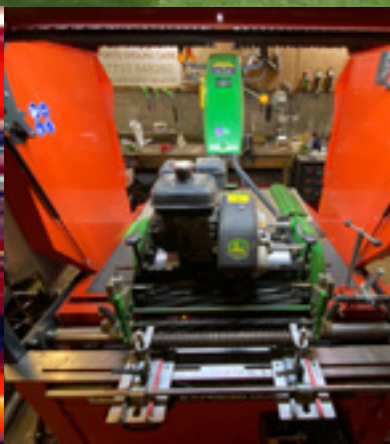
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# Girls and Ladies

By Carly Poyser



As I write this, the ladies have 3 games left of this season (possibly 4 if we can get one re-arranged) and it has been one of our most 'trying' seasons so far. With numbers and injuries meaning postponing games, and other teams having the same issue. Last Tuesday (28th February) we hosted an 'Inner Warrior' event to encourage more women in the area to come and give rugby a try. We are looking forward to a great season and hope to see at least 30 ladies training and enjoying pizza in the clubhouse afterwards!

We would like to see a full ladies First XV and Second XV squad established in 2024 and with our friendly and welcoming squad, great coaches, and support from the Club, we can begin to see this happening, which is exciting! Jess is establishing herself as the new ladies' manager and doing a great job in driving the recruitment forward. Along with Captain Jasmin Bice and Head Coach Tom Brady, we have a winning team who are committed to seeing the Team grow and make their mark! It is an exciting time for the ladies at our club and we thank all of our Team, Coaches and Supporters for their commitment and passion.

Our new Girls Manager, Lianna, and some new coaches are seeing our girls' teams blossom and although we have a lot of work to do, we are committed to growing our numbers. Starting the teams back in 2018, then with covid hitting and the RFU age grade split changes it has hit us hard, but we are certainly not 'out' and feel it is important to have this valuable pathway for girls in

the area and at our club. We are excited to be starting a new 'Skills and Drills' session! This will be taking place for all girls age 11-17 on a Tuesday evenings 6:30pm, you can contact [girlsmanager@bsrfc.co.uk](mailto:girlsmanager@bsrfc.co.uk) for more information. Please watch this space for a Girls Fun Day coming soon!!

For more information on any of our girls and ladies' teams please contact Carly at: [ladieschair@bsrfc.co.uk](mailto:ladieschair@bsrfc.co.uk)

**Carly Poyser**

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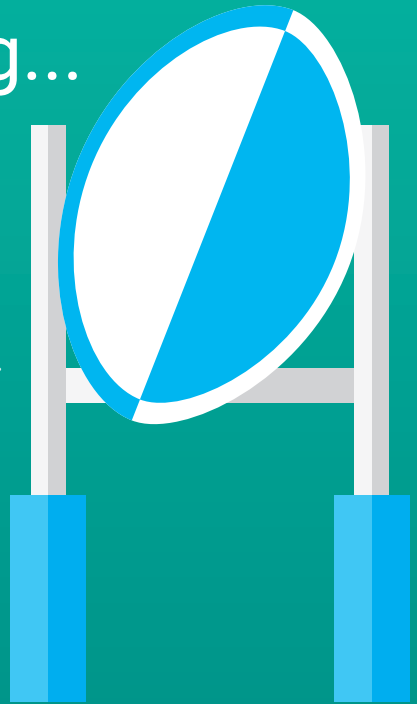
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# Results, fixtures and table

## National League 1

### Season 2022/2023 National 1

### Results from 25 February

HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM
Birmingham Moseley	21 - 24	Rames
Cambridge	50 - 28	Rosslyn Park
Cinderford	35 - 47	Esher
Leeds Tykes	25 - 27	Darlington Mowden Park
Plymouth Albion	12 - 24	Bishop's Stortford
Sale FC	27 - 17	Chinnor
Taunton Titans	73 - 18	Hull

### Season 2022/2023 National 1

### Fixtures for 04 March

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

National League 1 - 2022/2023											
Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	TBP	LBP	Points	Adj.
Rams	20	18	0	2	704	429	275	19	1	92	0
Cambridge	20	16	1	3	680	462	218	16	3	85	0
Sale FC	20	17	0	3	619	426	193	15	1	84	0
Rosslyn Park	20	13	0	7	639	513	126	14	2	68	0
<b>Bishop's Stortford</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>0</b>
Plymouth Albion	20	11	0	9	566	473	93	14	2	60	0
Cinderford	20	10	2	8	528	523	5	13	3	60	0
Darlington Mowden Park	20	8	0	12	523	518	5	11	7	50	0
Birmingham Moseley	19	7	2	10	522	564	-42	10	3	45	0
Esher	20	7	0	13	551	634	-83	12	2	42	0
Chinnor	19	6	1	12	498	569	-71	11	3	40	0
<b>Taunton</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>-93</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>
Leeds Tykes	19	4	2	13	360	528	-168	4	6	30	0
Hull	19	0	1	18	335	812	-477	5	3	10	0

# The Teams



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## Bishop's Stortford 1<sup>st</sup> XV

BLUE AND WHITE

- 1 Tristan Smith
- 2 Alex Rayment
- 3 Tom McCrone\*
- 4 Oninna Nkwocha
- 5 Harry Charter
- 6 Toby Tierney
- 7 Ollie Jones\*
- 8 Will Rogers
- 9 Chris Bolton
- 10 Matt Riddington
- 11 Josh Stannard
- 12 James Ayrton(c)\*
- 13 Francis Moore\*
- 14 Chris Smith
- 15 Jake Morris

### REPLACEMENTS

- 16 Ryan Jackson
- 17 Will Roberts\*
- 18 Henry Wills
- 19 Connor Lloyd
- 20 Charlie Parkhouse

\*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: **Tim Allatt**

ASSISTANT REFEREE 1: **Peter Caunt**

ASSISTANT REFEREE 2: **Dewald Swart**

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## Taunton Titans

LIGHT BLUE

Will Vaughan **1**

Alex Spurdle **2**

Isaac Dalton **3**

Sam Leworthy **4**

Charlie Rice **5**

Ewan Richards **6**

Charlie Wright(c) **7**

Sam Prior **8**

Jordan Petherbridge **9**

George Worboys **10**

Shai Bonnick **11**

Frankie Read **12**

Nick mason **13**

Henry Webb **14**

Frankie Dart **15**

### REPLACEMENTS

George Gosling **16**

Brian Ncube **17**

Ben O-T **18**

Ratu Vakalutukali **19**

Joe Blackburn **20**

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**Assistant Coach** Ben Turner | **Physio** Molly Brick |

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# Match Report

## Plymouth Albion 12-24 Bishop's Stortford 1st XV



Although, as expected, up against it up front against the big home pack in early exchanges, Stortford quickly launched their running game, which brought early reward, when Francis Moore gathered a perfectly judged chip kick in midfield by Matt Riddington, handed off a couple of would-be tacklers and had just enough pace to make the try line. Riddington converted with 5 minutes gone, but narrowly failed to repeat the feat only 4 minutes later, after Chris Bolton had finished off another clinical move, after skipper, Will Rogers made a great break just inside Plymouth's half, then dummied the final defender and delivered a perfectly measured pass to his scrumhalf, supporting on the inside. The home side was clearly rocked on their heels, but they dug in and the game was evenly balanced for the next 20 minutes. It was Stortford again, though, who broke the deadlock, with Moore scoring his second try through a brilliant solo break, after early inroads into home territory had been made by Austin Pope. Albion fought back with a vengeance, though, to score two tries and one conversion in the last 8 minutes of the half. The first came from some expansive rugby of their own, stretching the visitors' defence to breaking point after many phases, but the second was trademark Albion, scoring from a long driving maul from a lineout, after two scrum penalties went to touch. 12-19 at halftime, with the breeze at the home side's backs promised a tough second half.

In the event, despite a faltering start with the opening dropout going straight into touch,

Stortford progressively took charge of the game, with the scrum, in particular transformed from the first period. Having repelled early Plymouth pressure from a penalty to touch well inside Stortford's 22 through a lineout steal by Obinna Nkwocha, the visitors steadily took control, as their pack started to dominate the set piece, although the two sides were now largely nullifying each other with defences broadly on top. Even so, such scoring threats as did arise were mostly for the visitors, with Riddington pulling the strings and Josh Stannard coming increasingly into the game, with one particularly notable cross field dash after a dart down the short side of a scrum by Connor Lloyd. It was 25 minutes before the scorer was troubled again and it was Will Roberts who registered Stortford's bonus point try, after the ball was moved quickly from an attacking lineout on the right, with blindside wing, Stannard featuring twice to stretch the home defence and allow the prop to dash over from a well-timed inside pass. Lloyd's conversion attempt was blown wide by the blustery wind to leave the score at 12-24. Plymouth threatened briefly to come back again, but their most threatening move ended, when Alex Rayment burrowed into an attacking driving maul to turn the ball over, allowing his side to see time out for a notable away win, taking Stortford to 5th in the table, leapfrogging today's hosts in the process. A memorable day for the many travelling Stortford supporters!

**John Allanson**

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# Colts News

By Dave Macfie



It's been a fairly topsy turvey season for the Colts A team this season. It started with great enthusiasm and they showed significant improvement before numerous injuries and unavailability's cost the team at crucial times. It has been sad to see our close rivals Hertford implode over the past few years but their youth section proves as strong as ever and they have dealt us blows in both the A team county cup and HML leagues. Clubs ebb and flow in their own youth success, for many different reasons, but at Silver Leys we always seem to be there or thereabouts most years and provide a big hurdle for all the other sides in Herts to overcome if they wish to be successful.

Special praise must go to Hertford as they field 3 teams in the colt's divisions of the league and cup and to their credit, they even played all three teams at home on the same day they knocked our A team out of the county cup. For those who have run an age group they will appreciate the enormity of the task in fielding three teams let alone all on the same day. However, they can enjoy their day in the sun for now but we will be back next season chomping at the bit to take local advantage back!!!!

**Back on the field our B team continue their march to finals day at the end of the season. They have Datchworth at home a week on Sunday in the county cup semi-final and this mouth-watering fixture I'm sure will live up to expectation.**

Some talented players and a great team spirit carries this team through its toughest struggles in games but those who enjoyed success last year spearhead the charge and the sprightly u17's players enjoy the ability to just play and express themselves without being over shackled

with the pressure of playing a certain way. The league is an open lottery as to who will win, but the B teams' hat is certainly in the ring when it comes to the team who tops the league.

We have over 50 players again in the colts this season and it gives me great pride to see the older players start journeys into senior rugby. It's not quite the same path I walked many moons ago. Players no longer start in the 6th team to begin an apprenticeship under the tutelage of the likes of Joe Clark, Tim De'ats, Phil Coleman, Mark "geezer" Elton and Tim Imlach but instead we have the senior coaches, and in particular Ian Simpson with the blues and Paddy Dean with the development, search for player potential and draft them in for an opportunity to test themselves out.

Things may have changed with the road to senior rugby but it's great to see young Colts playing not just to better themselves on the field, but for the social enjoyment that rugby brings and long may this continue! Not all players will be players who have the ability or desire to commit to the demands of 1XV and 2nd XV rugby but we have 5 senior men's teams that hopefully will have at least a sprinkling of colts leaving the nest of youth rugby year on year to bolster the teams so that one day we may see the resurrection of the 6th team!!

**Dave Macfie**

**SUNDAY 12TH MARCH**  
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# In the spotlight

Connor Lloyd



There is only one position on the rugby field where a lack of size and height can be considered to be an advantage and that is the scrum half position. A lack of size is an advantage because the scrum half is constantly bending down to get hold of the ball and being closer to the ground is an obvious advantage. This however, must be balanced by the player being very smart, very lively and extremely tough. The scrum half also must possess the full range of rugby skills of passing, kicking from hand and tackling. This is certainly the case for the 5ft 8 inches Connor Lloyd.

The scrum half is always involved in most of the action on the field and sets the tone for how the side will play. Scrum halves who play behind a dominate pack are considered to have an easy ride as they are allowed ample time from the tight play to make their decisions and execute their plays. This is rarely the case for a scrum half at Stortford where Stortford's team strength hinges on playing the game continuously in the open with the emphasis on lots of pace and frequent movement.

Connor Lloyd, joining Stortford from Leeds Tykes at the start of this season has proved he can fulfil all the above requirements and has proved himself a very good replacement for the long-time servant for Stortford at scrum half of Tom Banks. It has become evident also through this season that he may even turn out to be a better goal kicker than "Banksie". Connor certainly takes tap penalties as quickly to keep the play moving as Tom did but has not yet started as many "incidents" with the opposition and referee on the field as Tom did, but this is only his first season at Stortford. Stortford can consider themselves very fortunate to be able to have found a replacement scrum half to have the potential to perform as well as the legendary Tom Banks has done for the club.

Connor comes from Narbeth in West Wales and has played scrum half for Carmarthen Quins, Llanelli Scarlets, and Wales u20's. Connor first went to and played for Swansea University and then Leeds Birkett University.

Connor has a proven captaincy record having led the Leeds Birkett side to the 2018 BUCS Super Rugby Final at Twickenham and though his side were beaten by favourites Hartpury, they gave a good account of themselves against the multi-time winners of the competition.

He made an impression on the Stortford coaches playing against Stortford for Leeds Tykes last season, he was enticed down South to play for Stortford this season. He has appeared in all Stortford's games this season either by starting or appearing off the bench. Connor has scored seven tries so far and kicked numerous conversions and penalties and was responsible for 20 points himself in the match at Cambridge. He has also received two yellow cards with the second one for foul play by "picking on" a much bigger Rosslyn Park player.

Connor is sponsored this season by Walden Capital.



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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**

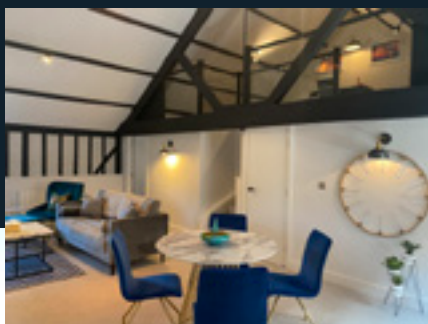
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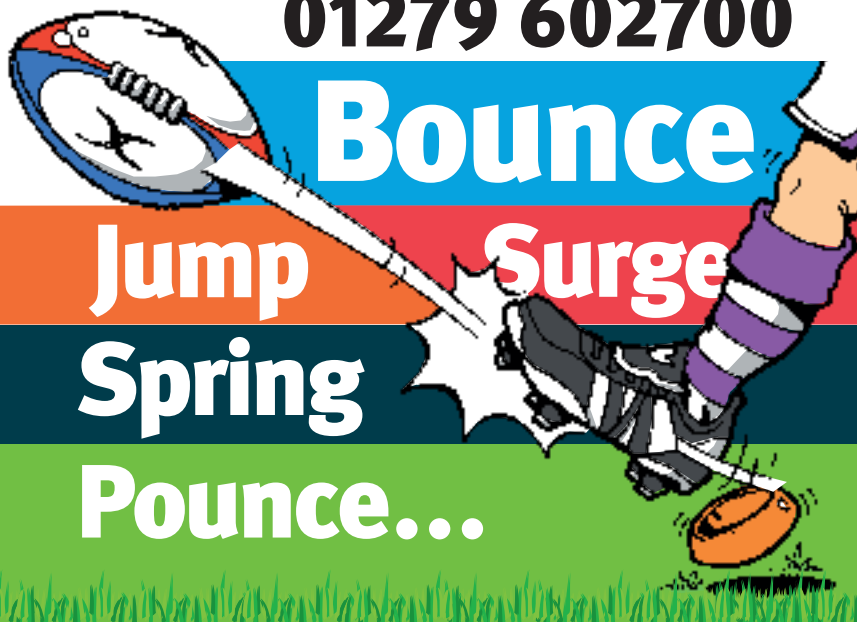


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# Bishop's Stortford Independent

Est 2017  
Issue 283

£1.50

March 1-March 7, 2023 | [bishopsstortfordindependent.co.uk](http://bishopsstortfordindependent.co.uk)

## Bishop's Stortford Independent

Includes coverage of Sawbridgeworth  
& Stansted Mountfitchet

### Flying flags of defiance



Bishop's Stortford's Ukrainian community marked the first anniversary of Russia's invasion of their homeland at the Methodist Church in South Street - see Page 4  
Picture: Wade Linco

## Residents fear lorry hell over park plan changes

Chris Carter  
[chris.carter@stortfordindie.co.uk](mailto:chris.carter@stortfordindie.co.uk)

A developer has launched a "despicable" attempt to change planning conditions for a controversial business park, which could see residents facing a barrage of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) travelling past their homes at all hours of the day and night.

Last September, East Herts Council gave Wrenbridge LLP permission to build a business park off Whittington Way. Bishop's Stortford, as part of Countryside's St James' Park development over 50 acres (4 ha), delivering 750 homes, a care home, a neighbourhood shopping centre, employment space, a primary school and the relocated Bishop's Stortford High School. Wrenbridge's initial proposals for a 50m "logistics scheme" caused a storm of objections from campaigners who feared it would

generate a stream of HGVs with the resultant impacts on air quality and noise. They were backed by Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth town councils and Thetford Parish Council.

Permission for a revised scheme - unhappy about - was granted but a condition was put in place ensuring HGVs visiting the site would travel via the A1184 and A120 bypasses when travelling to and from the M11 and A10.

But last month Wrenbridge applied to amend the wording of the conditions to allow HGVs to travel to and from the south via all A-roads which link to the site. This would mean lorries would be able to use the A1184 through Sawbridgeworth to access motorways to the south, local representatives.

In a supporting document, Icon Projects Transport, acting for Wrenbridge, stated: "While most of this is standard, the clause requiring

all HGVs to travel via the A1184 St James Way Bishop's Park Way to access the A10 and ultimately the M11 and A10 is considered to be overly onerous."

It continued: "While this is perfectly reasonable for vehicles travelling to and from the north or for HGVs travelling to and from the M11 and Harlow to the south."

Wrenbridge admitted the concerns of members of East Herts Council's development management committee (DMC) over HGVs travelling through Sawbridgeworth and Stortford had led to the clause.

But it stated: "HGV drivers are unlikely to have routed through Bishop's Stortford in any one given signal junctions, on-street parking and reduced street widths."

"However, this is not the case with Sawbridgeworth, where it would be the logical route for drivers as well as being an A-road, which by its very nature is deemed suitable for

carrying HGVs.

"Therefore, trying to prevent HGVs from using the A1184 to the south of the site will be very difficult to enforce and justify to future tenants/suppliers of the site."

The proposed amendment led to criticism from Sawbridgeworth Town Council's planning committee at its meeting on Monday, with one councillor launching a blistering attack.

GLR Annaliese Furnace, who is not a member of the committee and read a statement through the public forum, said: "This is a despicable attempt to change the conditions under which planning was granted."

She claimed it would lead to "increased pollution and even poorer air quality in Sawbridgeworth, which already has an Air Quality Management Area representing a danger to residents' health and wellbeing."

Continues on page 3

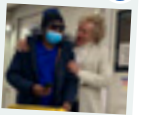
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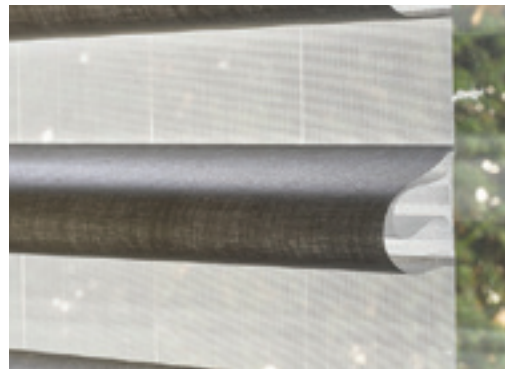
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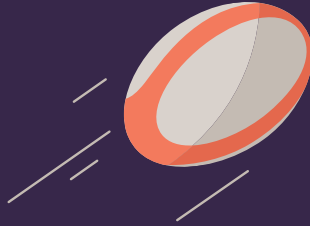


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# Around The Club

## Ladies Day



The first Ladies Day game was held back in April 2013 against Westcliffe, it has become a very popular home fixture event every season since, there were of course no games due to the Covid break in 2020 and 2021. The original instigator of the day in 2013 was Steve Pope who got the idea from Blackheath, the concept was then taken forward by Russell Cattell.

The Ladies Day results have been as follows:

### **National League 3 London and SE**

6 April 2013 Stortford 50 Westcliffe 5

### **National Two South**

5 April 2014 Stortford 53 Redruth 8

11 April 2015 Stortford 38 Lydney 7

16 April 2016 Stortford 53 Redingenians 5

8 April 2017 Stortford 36 Redingenians 33

### **National One**

7 April 2018 Stortford 71 Fylde 24

23 April 2019 Stortford 37 Cinderford 17

16 April 2022 Stortford 39 Chinnor 26



That is a 100% winning record which could be related to wearing the pink Ladies Day jerseys but more likely because Stortford have traditionally played their best rugby in the early Spring when the ground is firmer and the weather more conducive to running rugby. Whatever the reasons the Ladies Day results speak for themselves. Redingenians (the present Rams) gave Stortford the tightest game on Ladies Day in our promotion season. When we played them away wearing the pink jerseys this season, Rams beat us, but it was not a Ladies Day event!

**Ladies Day in 2014,2015 and 2016 raised £14,000 for Breast cancer and Cancer Research, subsequent Ladies Days have raised the following sums:**

**2017 £5,000 Edie's Butterfly Appeal**

**2018 £6,000 Target Overian Cancer**

**2019 £6,000 Jo's Cervical Cancer**

**2022 £7,000 Eve Appeal**

The first attendance was around 150 ladies and has averaged around 220 since with this season's ticket sales being 275. Unsurprisingly the "unlimited Prosecco and Pimms" has also increased each year, with nearly 400 bottles consumed at the 2022 lunch when you include both the Pimms and additional purchased wine.

There of course must be music for the day, this is provided by club member, "Disco Dave".

The highlight of the day after the match, the auctioning of the players pink shirts modelled by the players themselves. Historically, Ladies Day sponsors include Tees Law, Nockolds, Belcom, BMW Group 1 Auto, MJ Warner, HD Print, Zara's,



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Ace of Lanes and 3 Willows. Russell Property sponsor the Prosecco flutes for the occasion, Prosecco could obviously not be consumed in pint glasses.

This year SK Aesthetics have taken the primary sponsor role and the players pink shorts have been sponsored by The Wheatsheaf pub.

There are numerous raffle prizes donated by local companies, sponsors and members of the club. Chives Catering our caterer, is providing a prize of a home cooked meal for eight served at the auction winner's home by some 1st XV players.

The fabulous Ladies Day committee volunteers have previously been, Mark & Janet Caulfield, Sally Winter, Debbie Read and Russell & Jackie Cattell. This year the event has been taken on by the Club's Social Committee under the watchful eye of Dee Compton, as is the Stortford way, numerous volunteers and helpers have been and will be involved on the day.



It is a shame there are no league bonus points awarded for running a Ladies Day event because Stortford would undoubtedly claim the league



# Emma's Favourites

Photography by Emma Cox



 @emma\_rugby\_photography  @emmacphotos

# 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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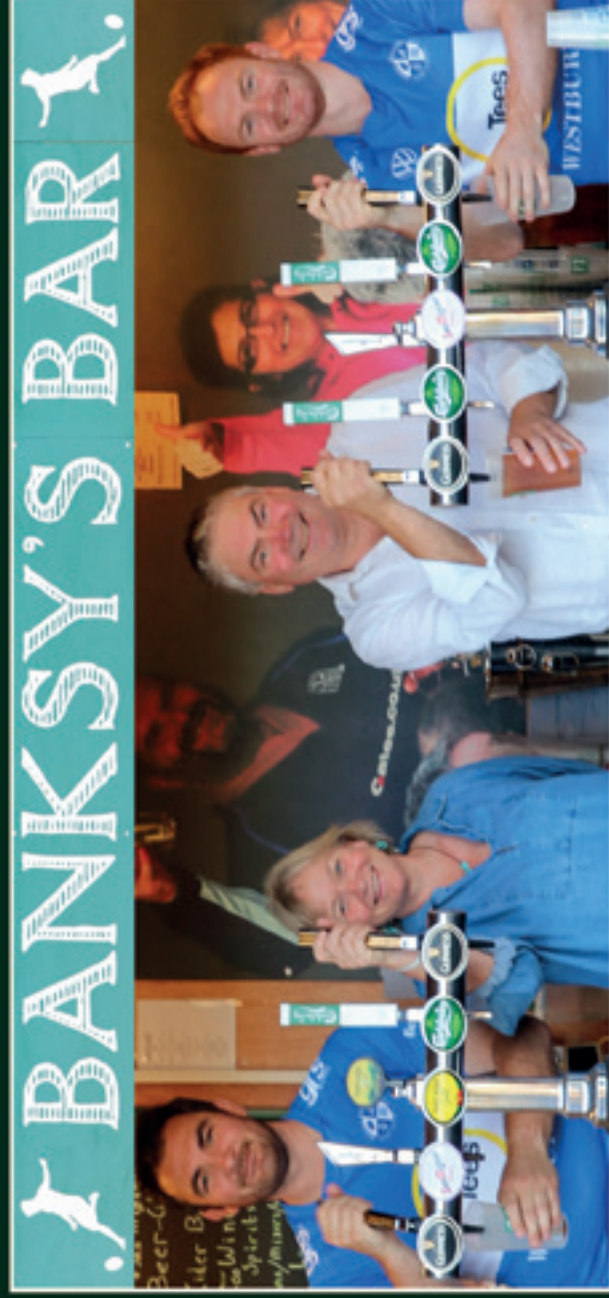
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