OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME







Saturday 14th October 2023 Kick-off 3pm

ISSUE: 04 | PRICE: £15 MEMBERS: £7

200 FIRST XV ADDEARANCES FOR NICK HANKIN

ees

BISHOP'S

VS SEDGLEY PARK NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

COME ON YOU BLUES

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We welcome Sedgley Park to Silver Leys. They were promoted from National two to National One for the first time in their history last season. You are all very welcome to Silver Leys. Sedgley park have started this season well and are lying sixth in the league having won one more game than Stortford who are ninth in the table. However, looking at Stortford's position we have played four of our first six games against teams in the top five clubs. It proves that any team in National One can beat any other team. Apart from Saturday, all our games have been settled only in the last few minutes of the tie, so our record could be guite different. The Rams game was the only game we have played where we did not gain a bonus point.

Our speaker today is Stuart Haslam. As you all know Stuey has captained the club and played many games for the 1st team, and in later years he has guested for the Saturday social teams. Now he spends much of his time coaching the Under 13's.

The Man of the Match will be awarded by Marshall Fire hosted by Steve Marshall, and we also welcome Nokolds hosted by Michael Talbot, and our regulars, Three Willow/Ace of Lanes hosted by Dave and Brian.

On the President's table we give a warm welcome the Hankin family, Debs, Bryan, and Grace to help celebrate Nick's 200th game for the 1s t XV. Nick and Grace are very close to celebrating their new arrival and so there promises to be much celebration in the Hankin household. A victory on the day will help seal it. We also have Matt Slade Chairman of Social Rugby, and Andrew Mackenzie 4th XV captain at the table.

We congratulate the Colts on their victory in the latest round of the National Cup, a home tie against Romford and Gidea Park by a convincing 27-15. An excellent performance by the team who are looking forward to their final regional round in January.

For the last two weeks, the club has been full on Sundays with both the Minis and Youth teams playing games against local clubs. It is certainly good to walk around the pitches and watch the youngsters displaying good skills. We are also thankful for our many volunteers who give up their Sundays to help coach the many teams we have in each



age group. We are fortunate that many of the older boys and girls migrate to the social teams on Saturdays. We are also indebted to the band of referees who turn out and referee more than one game every Sunday morning. These are unsung heroes, Peter Brady, Matt Dunn, John Lewis, Jez Abbott, Peter Stoke and youngster Oscar Tanfield.

Another reminder about the annual fireworks display sponsored by Hanbury Wealth which will take place on the 4th of November. This is a huge event for the club and whilst many volunteers are already signed up, more are required please contact Neil Clark Fireworks@ bsrfc.co.uk if you are able to support.

Yet another reminder of the silent auction for the special shirts the 1st XV we be wearing for Armistice Day on 11th November. All the proceeds are going to a good cause.





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Last week away at Rams was a real disappointment. We never really fired any shots and came away empty handed. It was again a similar story to our previous two visits to Old Bath Road, in which our lack of accuracy, especially in attack, meant we weren't able to put points onto the scoreboard. We spoke all week about 'shocking' Rams with our intensity and physicality in attack but like very good teams do, they put pressure on us and we were unable to find a way to break them down. However, there were still huge positives to take from the game, and I have no doubt that today we will be able to showcase our full potential. This will be no easy task as we welcome Sedgley Park to Silver Levs for the verv first time in league rugby. Sedgley Park have had a fantastic start to life in National 1 and will arrive in great confidence and rightly so, we know full well that today's game will be as tough as any game in Nat 1, and if we want to come away with anything from the game we will have to perform to the best of our abilities.

Today is also a special game for Nick Hankin who celebrates his 200th 1st XV appearance for the Club and what an achievement it is. I remember when Nick arrived back in 2013 from Chelmsford, having decided to join us over Southend RFC (a wise decision!) and it was clear to see early on that his athletic ability and eye from the try-line that he was going to be an outstanding player for us... having scored well over 100 tries for the club (most he has in video clips on his phone



if you ask him) Nick has been a mainstay in the squad since we moved into the National leagues after winning Nat 3 London & SE in 2012/13, and continues to deliver week in week out. Enjoy the day Nick, you've earnt it!

After today's game we have a two-week break which will be well received by players and coaches alike. The boys continue to work hard in training and where the results may not have gone how we would have liked, we definitely feel we are improving each week and moving in the right direction.

Special thanks as always to our sponsors and supporters who get behind us every Saturday, and I ask that again today, you create a special atmosphere for the lads to thrive off. Catch you after for a beer.

Come on you Blues.

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Welcome to the new season!

The European Flavours & Fragrances sponsored BSRFC 4th Team or "Chindits" as we are known are just about to embark on a new season in the Hertfordshire & Middlesex Merit League Division 2. A competitive league comprising of local 2nd and 3rd teams that see many players that have played at a high standard for their clubs over the years move down to in order to enjoy the more social aspects of rugby but still at a decent level of rugby that is challenging enough. The Chindits have the benefit of a large squad of players that have all been playing at BSRFC for many years at multiple levels for the club. It is this large squad of players that always ensures the Chindits turn out a good squad at all of our away games. This year we may have some BSRFC superstars playing for us - keep your eyes peeled.

The Chindits have had a couple of warm up games ready for their new season against OAs and Chess Valley - winning a hard fought game against a young and fit Chess Valley 2s side but losing to an more experienced Old Albanians 4th team that clearly contained a few players similar to the Chindits that have played at higher levels, it was a very enjoyable game with the two teams going at each other, both falling foul of the new tackling laws frequently. The new tackling laws provide intense challenges for us older and in some case less flexible players, but referees have been helpful in indicating what is ok and what isn't, before ten thousand penalties in both games for both sides. I don't think the RFU thought that in some cases and for some of our players, it is a physical impossibility to bend 90 degrees let alone get below the waist. This really speaks volumes of the peak physical condition that most Chindits are in!

Off the field our sponsors EFF have taken pre and post-match hospitality to a new level, bringing back some of the social rugby traditions that were being slightly lost over the years. One of these being inviting the opposition into the changing room after the game for



beers which embodies one of the core values of rugby, sportsmanship. In the main this has been very well received by the opposition and even though not necessarily reciprocated at away games it is something we will continue to lay on for our guests to silver leys. Chindits corner is now a well established part of the 1st team pitch, it is the first corner you reach as you enter the gate by the first team pitch, it is usually where you find most Chindits on match days if we are not playing - please come and find us and have a drink any time we are most welcoming!

Finally on behalf of the Chindits and on behalf of BSRFC we would like to congratulate and thank for his service to our country Colour Sergeant Ross Thiele



who has most recently left the army after a 23-year career. CSgt Thiele has served 23 years with the Parachute Regiment during which time he has deployed operationally and conducted overseas training exercises in the Balkans, Africa, the Middle East, Northern Ireland, Germany and Antarctica, many of these deployments involved him commanding troops in demanding environments. We all at BSRFC wish Ross the best of luck with his new job working along side the TMG group in Iraq and look forward to seeing him back at the club soon. TMG. CHINDITTTTSSSSS! Next-door neighbour Local dog walker Mum on the school run Rugby team member We're not estate agents. We're locals.



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Sedgley Park Rugby Union Football Club, the 1st XV team of which play under the name of Sedgley Tigers, is a rugby union club based in Whitefield, in the Metropolitan Borough of Bury, Greater Manchester.

Sedgley Park is a district of Prestwich approximately two miles north of Manchester city centre. In 1932 at a public meeting in a temperance bar, the club began. The very first ground was a farmer's field in Whitefield, the club has never been based in Sedgley Park. Despite primitive conditions - cowshed for changing, farmyard pump for washing - the new club thrived.

A clubhouse had already been built; three regular teams were being fielded before World War II broke out in 1939. They survived the war years, although a difficult period afterwards when they lost their rented ground. For two years all games were played away, with barely enough playing members for two teams, until 1955 they moved to their present site. Park Lane in Whitefield, with an immediate and spectacular improvement in playing standards. During the next twenty vears Sedglev Park became a successful and respected junior club but, in the years before league rugby, advancement was practically impossible, especially for a club notorious for its muddy pitches: they were often nicknamed 'Sludgley Park' by other teams!

The decision to build a large, two-story clubhouse was arguably the most significant one in their history. Building began in 1978 at a time when the club was enjoying great success on the field, it was completed in time for the 1982 Golden Jubilee season: it had been a risky venture at the time, but it set them apart from all the local junior clubs. The Courage Leagues began in 1987, they had progressed far enough to be placed in Northwest 2 (level 8), from which they gained promotion at the first attempt. They remained in Northwest 1 for seven years; meanwhile, the club was expanding in other directions with a huge increase in quantity and quality at the age-group level of the game.

During this time the clubhouse was extended, floodlights and terracing added to the pitch. A newly purchased field, iust across the road.



provided three more much needed pitches and floodlit training.

Another promotion, in 2001, took them to National League Two, which was then level 3 of the English game. The Tigers attained National League One status in 2004 (the equivalent of the Championship now), their 6th promotion since 1987, but were relegated back to level three in 2009.

The 1st XV pitch at Park Lane is now a highquality playing surface. It is floodlit, the clubhouse at one end and a recently built stand to one side. The stand was constructed in 2002 and seats 320 people. The cost, which was more than £100,000, was funded entirely by the club without any outside assistance. This facility has proved to be a tremendous benefit in terms of attracting sponsors.

In 2012/13 they were relegated with Cambridge down into the new regionalised level four with Sedgley now playing in National League Division 2.

The nearest Sedgley Park have come to playing Stortford before today was in 2017/18 when they lost to Chinnor in the National League Division 2 North and South play-off and hence did not make National League One status and the chance to play Stortford.

Sedgley Park were National League Division 2 (North) champions last season and won promotion back to National League One, they were in the third tier of English rugby again and play Stortford for the first time today.





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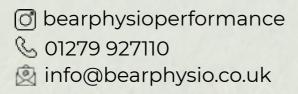


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The BSRFC women's team has continued to grow since the 2023-24 season started, almost tripling the number of players. Three weeks ago, they played their first match in the NC3 league which resulted in a 37-22 win over Aylesbury who are experienced in the league. Spectators said, "it was an exciting game to watch, cracking start to the season".

The team are taking on individual player sponsorship this season so that the women can be provided with training kit and post-match shirts, which most male teams would take for granted, but will be an exciting luxury for the women as they become part of a team aiming for promotion.

We'd like to thank our individual sponsors so far: Mokut Mower Services, The Three Tuns, Cappuccini and Sides Design Associates and Martin Wylie, to name a few. If you'd like to sponsor one of our women, please get in touch with Kate Hawkins, BSRFC Women's Team Manager ladiesmanager@bsrfc.co.uk.

The next match for the women is at home against Letchworth, KO 2pm. It's sure to be a good watch so make sure you come down and support your girls!







Fancy giving the game a go?

Each of our teams welcomes girls and women of every shape, size and fitness level. If you – or anyone you know – would like to give rugby a go, drop us a message on one of our social media channels or email ladiesmanager@bsrfc.co.uk or girlsmanager@bsrfc.co.uk

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BSRFC's Iris Smith

Landrover, Defender, the main sponsors of The Rugby World Cup, 2023 have selected 12 year old, Iris Smith to be their Offical Mascot. They are flying her out this week to Stade Vélodrome, Marseille.

The judges said: "We are incredibly impressed by her dedication to building a better tomorrow for girl's rugby and we wholeheartedly support her campaign for PE curriculum equality in this sport. We believe Iris will do a fantastic job as an Official Mascot at Rugby World Cup 2023" Make sure you tune in to ITV catch-up

Quarter finals, Marseilles to watch Iris run on the pitch with *Wales*

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Results from 7th October 2023

| HOME TEAM | AWAY TEAM | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|------------------------|--|--|
| Birmingham Moseley | 25 - 18 | Leicester Lions | | |
| Blackheath | 52 - 12 | Cinderford | | |
| Plymouth Albion | 36 - 10 | Sale FC | | |
| Rams | 26 - 10 | Bishop's Stortford | | |
| Richmond | 24 - 34 | Darlington Mowden Park | | |
| Rosslyn Park | 21 - 48 | Chinnor | | |
| Sedgley park | 32 - 28 | Taunton Titans | | |

Fixtures for 14th October 2023

| HOME TEAM | | AWAY TEAM |
|------------------------|----|--------------------|
| Darlington Mowden park | VS | Birmingham Moseley |
| Leicester Lions | VS | Rams |
| Bishop's Stortford | VS | Sedgley Park |
| Chinnor | VS | Blackheath |
| Cinderford | VS | Plymouth Albion |
| Sale FC | VS | Richmond |
| Taunton Titans | VS | Rosslyn Park |

| NATIONAL LEAGUE 1 TABLE | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|------|
| Team | Р | W | D | L | PF | PA | PD | TBP | LBP | Points | Adj. |
| Rams | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 218 | 140 | 78 | 6 | 0 | 30 | 0 |
| Plymouth Albion | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 222 | 137 | 85 | 5 | 1 | 26 | 0 |
| Blackheath | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 206 | 111 | 95 | 4 | 2 | 22 | 0 |
| Chinnor | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 194 | 104 | 90 | 4 | 1 | 21 | 0 |
| Sedgley Park | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 170 | 209 | -39 | 3 | 0 | 19 | 0 |
| Richmond | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 193 | 173 | 20 | 5 | 2 | 19 | 0 |
| Rosslyn Park | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 197 | 178 | 19 | 3 | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| Birmingham Moseley | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 163 | 182 | -19 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 0 |
| Bishop's Stortford | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 159 | 179 | -20 | 4 | 2 | 14 | 0 |
| Darlington Mowden Park | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 127 | 157 | -30 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| Cinderford | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 117 | 182 | -65 | 0 | 1 | 13 | 0 |
| Taunton | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 161 | 227 | -66 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 0 |
| Sale FC | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 81 | 152 | -71 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 0 |
| Leicester Lions | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 104 | 181 | -77 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 0 |

BISHOP'S STORTFORD BLUE AND WHITE



- 1 Toby Hill
- 2 Alex Rayment
- 3 Henry Peck
- 4 Ben Harrison
- 5 Harry Charter
- 6 Harrison Langworthy
- 7 Ollie Jones
- 8 Will Rogers
- 9 Connor Lloyd
- **10** Matt Riddington
- 11 Chris Smith
- 12 Austin Pope
- 13 James Ayrton (c)
- 14 Jake Morris
- 15 Nick Hankin

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 Ryan Jackson
- 17 Matt Ramzan
- 18 Tom Charter
- 19 Chris Bolton
- 20 Dan Cole

Head Coach: Marcus Cattell

Forwards Coaches: Rob Faiers Cameron Boon

Blues Lead Coach & Forwards Coach: Ian Simpson

Attack & Backs Coach: Manu Vunipola

Head Strength & Conditioning: Konrad McKenzie

Lead Medical: Ryan Clarke

Team Manager: Darren Orbart

Performance Coach: Jon Skelton

REFEREE: Matt Sharpe

ASSISTANT REFEREE 1: Jamie Parr

ASSISTANT REFEREE 2: Harry Parsons



- 1 John Blanchard
- 2 Danny Maher
- 3 Patreece Bell
- 4 Bob Birtwell
- 5 Oscar Crowe
- 6 Mark Goodman
- 7 Lewis Bradley
- 8 Tom Ailes
- 9 Jacob Tansey
- **10** Warren Seals
- 11 Alex Wills
- 12 Matt Riley (c)
- 13 Oli Glasse
- 14 Rhys Henderson
- 15 Andy Riley

REPLACEMENTS

- **16** Danny Rylance
- 17 Adam Mallinson
- 18 Austin Downham
- **19** Nathan Pope
- **20** Georged Bordill

Head Coach: Scott Barrow

Assistant Coaches: Dave Livesey Steve Hazelby

Head of Medical: Alan Munro

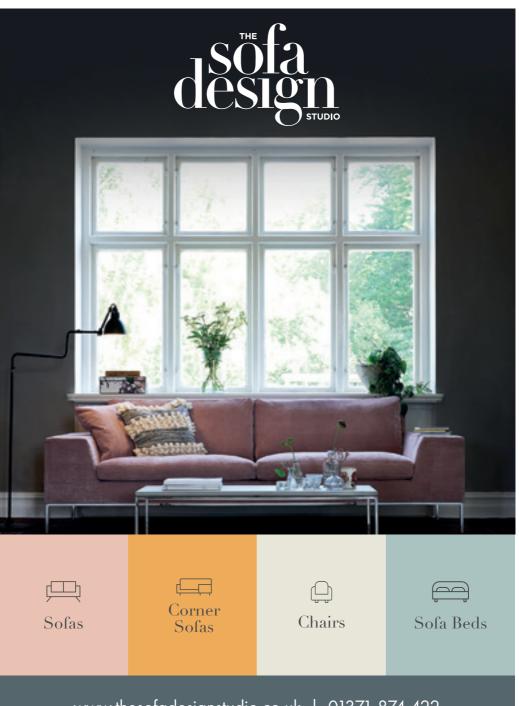
Assistant Medical: Jack Oliver

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Rams 26 Bishop's Stortford 1st XV 10

Stortford failed to make early territory count, squandering opportunities from a freekick and a penalty on the opposition 22 and when, after 6 minutes they were penalised for a crooked push at a dominant scrum, they were made to pay the full price.

Rams drove upfield from the resultant lineout and went through phase after phase inside the visitors' 22, forcing 4 or 5 penalties, the last bringing with it a yellow card for Toby Tierney. Another kick to touch and a solid lineout routine - something that, unfortunately eluded Stortford for much of the afternoon - saw the home side in for a try, converted by Fraser Honey. Stortford fought back and Chris Bolton made huge inroads into the home defence. It looked as if he might have had the pace to have run in for a try, but chose to pass to the wing and the danger was snuffed out - albeit at the cost of a yellow card to Rams 7, Vince Everitt for preventing a quick tap at a subsequent red-zone penalty. Stortford were still struggling to win lineout ball, but defensively continued to shine, holding out a number of drives from 5 metre lineouts. Eventually, it was a Stortford handling error in midfield, which led to their line being breached, as the home side seized the opportunity to stretch the defence through a couple of quick breakdown balls, which allowed Rams to find an uncharacteristically loose tackle to burst through for an easy try for Jak Rossiter after 33 minutes. The home side finished very much on the front foot, but more sterling defence from the visitors sent them into the break only 12 points behind.

Stortford enjoyed some early attacking possession after the restart, but their problems in winning attacking lineouts persisted and eventually they settled for three points from the boot of Bolton. A vellow card to Ollie Jones for a dangerous clear out after18 minutes proved significant, with the home side shortly after producing a clinical backs' try, switching the ball



support to dash in under the posts. Connor Lloyd added the 2 points with a drop kick. The game ended with the visitors again successfully defending their line for their lives against a number of powerful Rams' drives.



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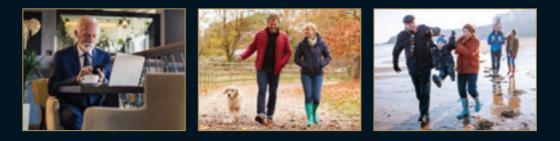
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THE SPOTLIGHTT RYAN JACKSON

Ryan Jackson

Back in the good old rugby days the hooker's main job was winning the ball in the scrums and his greatest achievement was "winning the ball against the head". Ryan started playing rugby union after leaving school in the Oldham area in what is rugby



league country where forwards are expected to be able to pass the ball well and be serious ball carriers. Ryan then went "down under" and played a couple of seasons in the New South Wales Country Rugby Union where he was based in Newcastle, NSW.

When Ryan returned from Australia, he joined Tunbridge Juddians in the 2016/17 season, he was an important member of the Tunbridge side that won promotion for RFU Second Division South to the RFU First Division for the 2021/22 season. He played as a flanker for Tunbridge in their win over Stortford at the end of that season and then joined Stortford for the start of the 2022/23 season. By the middle of the season, he had established a very strong hooker

This was an achievement against the odds as it meant the hooker had been able to get the ball back to his side of the scrum despite his feet being further from the ball in the front row than his opposing hooker. There were also laws to control hooking in the scrum that penalised the hooker for striking for the ball too soon (feet up) and the scrum half not putting the ball in straight (crooked feed). Nowadays the hooker throws into lineouts and can be punished for the throw not being straight, but a crooked lineout throw is much more obvious to the spectator than what used to be going on in the front row of scrums.

The hooker is also now expected to be a strong ball carrier in the open field and Ryan Jackson is very much a modern hooker in that area of the game. Ryan always looks confident with the ball in hand and provides Stortford with plenty of go forward momentum. double act for Stortford with Alex Rayment.

He had come on at the start of the second half in the Moseley away fixture in January last season and got the try from a driving lineout at the end of the game that led to the 34-34 comeback draw. This season at home he would also have scored another try against Moseley from a driving maul if that well known try poacher, Conor Lloyd, had not pinched the ball from him on the try line.

Ryan was awarded Stortford Man of the Match in the Plymouth match this September by the match sponsors, GRS.

Ryan maintains his connections with Kent rugby, he played for Kent in last season's County Championship, Kent won for the first time since 1927, beating Lancashire 39-37 at Twickenham in an exciting finish. You can see Ryan holding the County Cup on the BSRFC Twitter/X account in May 2023!



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Did you know **Club Stortford** has raised over £430,000 to help



the 1st XV team over the last ten seasons? Now in our 11th season, it's hard to believe we started as a small working party to support the squad after our promotion to National League Rugby in 2013/14.

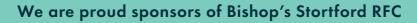
Club Stortford works closely with the 1st XV coaching team to provide funding for expenditure beyond the resources of the main club. Head coach Marcus Cattell says "We could not remain as competitive as we are in National League Rugby without the help of Club Stortford. The group

has helped us with everything from match analysis equipment, scrum machine repair and even funding of players' medical expenses to get them back on the pitch sooner. This allows us to develop our entire squad, improve our performance and nature our homegrown talent."

We are always on the hunt for new members which help us broaden the extent of our support for the squad. Both individual and corporate membership options are available, and come with exclusive Club Stortford jacket and ties, pre-match lunches and other perks like access to Six Nations and Autumn Internationals tickets. Alongside this, you'll get discounts to local restaurants like Zara.

Get in touch with our secretary **Russell** Cattell on 07778 101 988 for more information or to join.







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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 ongoing 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 Keen to discuss your needs Here's my mobile number A drink in the pub Just popping in to say hi We're not estate agents. We're friends.



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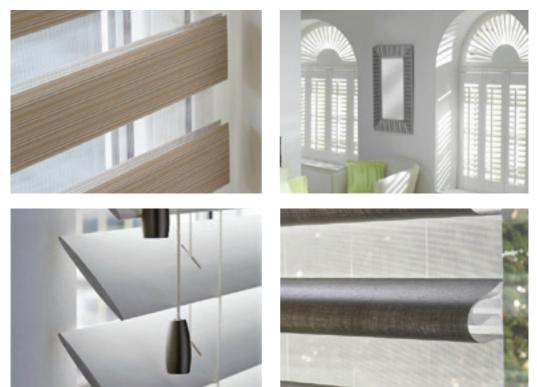




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BSRFC Fireworks Night

The BSRFC Centenary Yearbook explains that the first fireworks event was held in November 1999 just for the "Mighty Fifths" friends and families. The instigators were Ros and Mike Lennon for the next two years other lower club teams became involved, a BBQ, music and stalls were added to the event. The fifths were still running the event up to 2004 with the event now opened to the whole club. In 2005 a separate club Firework's Committee was needed when the event was opened to the Bishops' Stortford community.



Professional firework expertise was also added in 2005 with the hiring of Essex Pyrotechnics who continue to provide the fireworks for the event to this day with sponsorship help added by Hanbury Wealth. From the event being opened to the whole club in 2002, except for 2020 when Covid caused the cancellation of the firework night that year, 2023 will be the twentieth event. It has become the major Firework Night attraction in Bishops' Stortford, and we believe the largest event in Hertfordshire!

This has meant the event requires a considerable amount of organisation and a great deal of volunteer support from the club on the actual night. The event also requires an advertising campaign in the build-up to the night which is now supported by an online system for ticket sales. Information to the public has to be provided for clear parking arrangements on the night. There were issues

a few years back with the power supply on the night but the upgrade to club's power supply has now solved such problems.



The use of one of the sides of the back field pitch providing the spectator area for the display is a good arrangement, with the music stage set up to one side at the furthest end of the pitch. The clubhouse and the area around it providing drinks and BBQ areas.

It could not have been expected back in 1999 when the Mighty Fifths had the idea for a fireworks' night display for their friends and family that the event would grow into the major fireworks event it has become. We now have 5,000 visitors, 2 live bands, 3 stages, 3 bars, an amazing team cooking on 3 large BBQs, 2 entrances, first aid tents, 5 funfair rides, sweet stalls, light toys, a DJ, plus an awesome 20 minute display! This year, in case that was not enough we have introduced stilt walkers and a live fire performance act to entertain the crowds, oh plus our very own club mascot "Storty" will be wandering around.

The club has benefited from the funds raised and it has also been able to sponsor several selected charities through the event.

It has become a major event in the club's calendar with the huge contribution made by the organising committee recognised within the club. Not many rugby clubs will have a dedicated Fireworks Committee.



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Behind the scenes with the 1st XV...



As part of the Club's ethos 'to be a strong and successful rugby club united from Senior to Minis', trusted and valued by our community BSRFC Head Coach Marcus Cattell along with Club captain James Ayrton 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 Q&A in the 1st XV changing room, followed by training, games and warm-up sessions with the minis coaches and injured 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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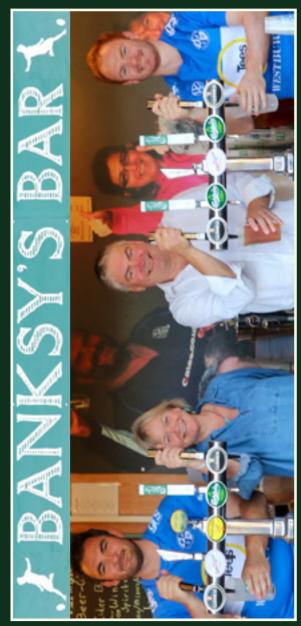
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