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We welcome Taunton to Silver Leys and are delighted that it coincides with Armistice Day. We were at Taunton this time last year and were so impressed with the way they celebrated their Armed Forces Day that decided that it would be a good idea to follow their example. Hence today we are celebrating Armistice Day with our version of Veterans Lunch, and it is by coincidence that our opposition this Armistice Day is Taunton. For us. it will be a Veterans' lunch before the minutes silence on the pitch. We would like to thank Lieutenant Colonel Dave Walker for hosting the event and speaking at lunch, with John Robinson, President of the local British Legion Branch saving grace. We have two local veterans Jez Abbott and Tim Dedman at the Presidents Table, and we also welcome Matt Abbott from Vet Run 180, who do fantastic work with the veteran amputees.

Special thanks to Geoff Pederson, Dee Compton, and Julie North for their help in organising the day as well as Dave and John. We want to thank the Airforce Cadets who are attending the ceremony today and of course Gareth from Garson who looks after our pitches which are prepared with his usual care, and in addition he has reproduced the poppy emblem on the pitch as well as the words "Lest We Forget" as our special thanks for those who have served in the Armed Forces. Please note our team will be wearing a commemorative shirt for the occasion celebrated with the poppy. These will be auctioned to support the British Legion.

We would like to thank our Matchday Sponsor Corporate Forward Finance hosted by Rob Smith and our Man of the Match Sponsor Bit Solutions hosted by Sam Prior and Jon Tann. We would like to thank all the sponsors, some of whom are hosting veterans on their tables. The sponsor tables include Nockolds (James Brunton and Adam Dunkley), Seneca Reid (Andrew Smith), Edmundson Electrical, (Jeff Buchanan) Hanbury Wealth (Julia and Julie), Recruitability (Wendy and Lucy), Mulberry Homes (Will Almond), Steel Builders (Max King).

Sofa Design/Pro84 (Matt Abbott – Tom) and Three Willows/Ace of Lanes (Dave and Brian).

I reviewed my notes at the equivalent game for

last season and noted we were celebrating our fourth successive five-point victory. Somewhat different from this week's position. However, the team is confident that our fortunes will change. We note that Taunton is one place below us in the league but having spoken to their opposing teams in recent weeks they have all been impressed in their performances and are surprised how they have found themselves in a lowly position. This includes the views of league leader Rams.

Off the field, we had our 21st annual firework display, sponsored by Hanbury Wealth last Saturday. The organising committee led by Neil Clark and all the committee had sleepless nights in the week before the event caused by the potential havoc caused by Storm Ciaran. However, the weather turned at midday on Saturday and we had a dry period on Saturday resulting in an excellent turnout, selling 4500 tickets for the event. We would like to thank Neil and Dee and the rest of the committee, and the 100 volunteers on the night and in particular Karl Winter and his bar team and Paul Richardson and his team on the BBQs. It was mentioned that the stilt walkers introduced for the first time proved to be a great success.





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Welcome everyone to Silver Leys for a very special afternoon as we celebrate Armistice Day. Taunton are our visitors today and it's just a coincidence that we visited them this same weekend last year, when they too held an Armed Forces Day. Both teams I'm sure will be desperate to pick up the match points today, with only 3 wins between the sides.

Taunton have really picked up the last few weeks and a comprehensive home win Vs Rosslyn Park just shows that league position is nothing to go by and our preparations this week have been excellent as we know how hard this game is going to be this afternoon.

I won't hide the fact that we are disappointed with our last few performances but rest assured that we are working hard to turn the corner and we know how quickly that confidence can return.

Last week against Rosslyn Park was again an inconsistent performance and we left ourselves too much to do from 29-3 down after 35mins. However, at 29-17 and with Park down to 14 men our lack of execution on the 5m line meant the chance went begging



and like good sides do, they withstood wave after wave of attack only to then score a try of their own, a real killer blow when the game was in the balance. I was hugely proud of the character shown by the lads to even give ourselves the chance of getting something out of the game.

Thanks again to all the special people that make BSRFC the place that it is, we are all hugely honoured to represent the 1st XV and will be doing everything we can to get the win today.

Have a great day and see you after the game. Come on the Bishops!

Marcus

#### THE COACHING STAFF

Below, left to right: Cameron Boon, Konrad McKenzie, Ian Simpson, Darren Orbart.









Below, left to right: Manu Vunipola, Rob Faiers, Ryan Clarke, Jon Skelton.













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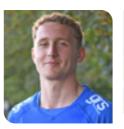
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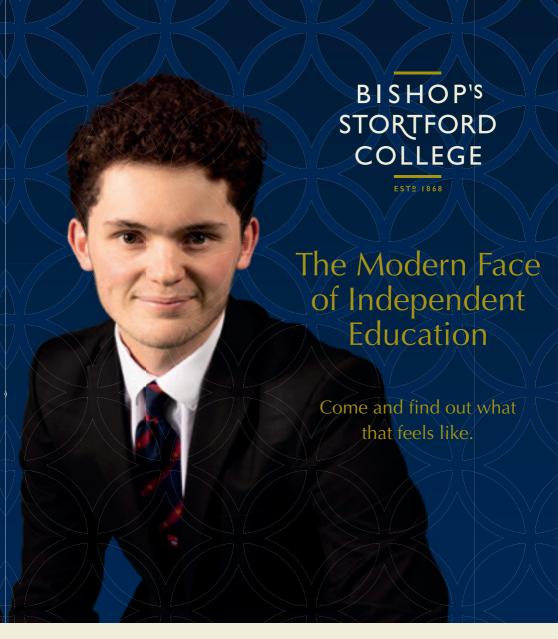


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#### It is an exciting time with the BSRFC Colts this season!

Things have started well with the introduction of Jimma Taylor's U16's from last season. They have brought some real energy and enthusiasm, adapting very quickly to the styles of the existing coaches and the way we wish to play. Our overall squad number has swelled to almost 60 players which brings so many challenges, hurdles, and headaches most clubs would wish they had. With each player guaranteed a minimum of a half in each game they are part of, it does bring selection difficulties in making sure all players get equal amounts of games. It is a shame when we come across clubs who only give some players minimal time at the end of a game, which I'm sure takes the gloss off the overall experience of playing youth rugby.

With so many players we obviously cover almost every school in the local area and a few beyond. It has been great to see Ryan Forrester making regular trips back from his college, Hartpury in Gloucestershire. This year we have added a new prop, Josh Buller, who has just moved from Felsted school to Sedbergh up in Cumbria!

Player rotation, to avoid over playing, always occupies conversation time in our selection meetings, when the RFU make the schools and Club National Cup competitions in the same week it does provide exhausting challenges.

We march on regardless and are now into the 3rd round of the National

Cup which is at home on 19 November against Eaton Manor, please do come along to support our lads.

Hopefully, many of this current batch of Colts will step forward into the senior ranks this season and maybe even beyond. It has been great to see many of the Colts from the past two seasons play for all the senior teams. It was only last Saturday that Niall McCrae told me his son, Ollie had played his first senior match in the 5th team alongside his elder brother which is also another first time for them. More families continuing the legacy of playing alongside siblings and even parents (there's still time for you to don the boots Niall!) in blue and white of Bishop's Stortford. Last Monday evening saw the Blues take on Cambridge University and it was a squad containing 5 Colts from the past two years. With more playing amongst the 3rd and 4th teams, the Colts is truly a conduit for young players to enter senior rugby after youth finishes. There are several stand out players, some literally with their size, amongst this year's squad so hopefully with a little bit of luck it will be the year we see a Colt make a first team appearance whilst still in the group!



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Taunton Rugby Club were founded in 1875 and have a long-standing pedigree of high quality rugby in their home county of Somerset.

They will celebrate their 150th Birthday in a few years, so we at just over 100 are mere pups in rugby terms compared to today's quests.

The first club ground was in the Holway district of Taunton before moving to their home for 66 years, Priory Park in 1935.

Their final move occurred in November 2001, moving to Hyde Park, the magnificent facility now known as Veritas Park which sits within sight of the M5 motorway just off the Taunton junction number 25.

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 were the owner of the fireworks display company involved.

There for the grace of God – is a phrase that springs to mind.

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

Our first encounter with them came on 2nd November 2013, following our promotion that year into Nat 2S. It was here at Silver Leys Taunton emerged from a high scoring thriller victory by 32 points to 37. We drew on our first visit to Hyde Park in March 2014, 24 apiece, a game that sticks in many of our memories because we were 24 -0 up at half time.

The following season we each won at our respective home grounds, they finished 3rd with us one place above them as Runners up.



We lost both home and away in 2015/16, we then returned that favour the following season in 2016/17 when we won promotion to National One.

In 2019/20 Taunton won National Two South earning them promotion to level 3 and National League One.

There were of course no league games in the 2020/21 season in National One due to Covid restrictions, in 2021/22 we won 26-21 at home and drew at Taunton 29-29. Taunton finished one place above us in the league in eighth position.

Last season we did the double on Taunton winning 24-31 at Taunton in November 2022 and 39-7 in March 2023 on Ladies Day. We finished sixth in the League and Taunton finished eleventh.





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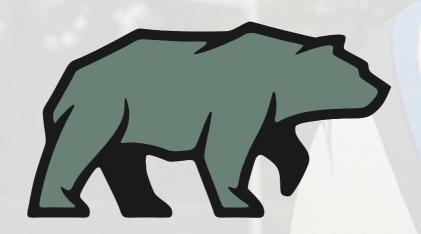
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#### Match Report: Ampthill & District Ladies 5 BSRFC Women 29

On Sunday 5 November, BSRFC Women's XV had their first away game of the season against Ampthill Lionesses. After a late start, Stortford won the coin toss, choosing to receive the ball. With a kick straight into the arms of tighthead prop, Ellie-Jayne Cappuccini, Stortford pushed forward, but an unfortunate knock-on led to the first of many scrums this match.

Stortford continued to make good ground, with excellent tackles from both fly half and captain, Jasmin Bice, and inside centre, Amy Vernon. A quick tap penalty for Stortford, taken by flanker, Christina Radukic, resulted in the first try of the game, with Radukic herself steaming through the opposition to put points on the board.

The restart from Ampthill once again landed straight to Cappuccini, who tore through their defence. The Blues, continuing with some strong work on the attack, were awarded a penalty for a high tackle from the home side which worked its way effortlessly to winger, Lorell Jordan. An unfortunate knock into touch resulted in an Ampthill lineout, but with a beautiful in-air snatch, Stortford regained possession and passed wide to full-back, Harriet Creasy, who shot down the outside to score the second try of the match, taking the score to 0-10 at half time.

The second half continued with the same pace as the first, but with after another Stortford knock-on came an Ampthill scrum. Despite the home side sending in their strongest players, Stortford were able to maintain control in defence and turn the ball over. However, a kick for ground was picked up by the opposition who were able to pass wide to their winger. Regardless of the team's best efforts to catch her, Ampthill were able to score a try.





The restart saw Ampthill attempt to kick for ground, which was quickly intercepted by outside centre, Eva Radukic, before reaching scrum half, Chloe Capp. With a phenomenal push, Capp powered through their defence in a clear race to the try line before putting the ball between the posts with flair. With a right boot more auspicious than Jonny Wilkinson's, Cappuccini kicked the conversion right through the posts, sending the crowd into a frenzy and bringing the score to 5-17.

Stortford continued to prove that they were the stronger team, with quick hands and strong attacking lines down the back line where Morgane Geary-Warne was able to really show off her speed before being taken down. Before Ampthill could even consider coming in for the ruck, Bice plucked the ball out to gain some ground before passing out to winger, Maja Wabich, who looped round the opposition to score her first try in a Stortford jersey.

With just a few minutes to spare, Stortford

used every last bit of energy to shift the ball through hands and entice Ampthill's defensive line into one place. Taking advantage of the space, Geary-Warne was once again able to sprint down the line, leaving a trail of defenders in her wake, to score Stortford's fourth try. Vernon didn't let the pressure of the clock get to her and kicked the ball straight through the posts to convert and end the game at 5-29 to BSRFC Women.





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This match was under threat all week from the weather, but luckily it improved, and the sun was shining on a perfect Saturday for rugby. The blues got off to a good start, with Jack Baird getting over the line, Jack has been out with a broken wrist for a long time, so was great to see.

Unfortunately, celebrations couldn't last too long with an attritional Esher pack mauling their way to some points within a tight first 20 minutes.

The physicality of the Esher pack in the mauls became something of an obstacle for the blues as they struggled to get any momentum going forward, despite excellent field position gifted to the forwards by Dan Powell. This was contrasted by the Stortford power at scrum time. These scrums set the platform for some beautiful backs play, allowing Powell to sling a 2 man miss pass out to Radley to score an outrageous walk-in in the corner. With lung-busting end-to-end rugby the blues edged in at the break ahead.

After some stern but motivating words from head coach Ian Simpson it was clear that to win the game, the blues had to match the Esher physicality. This was provided with front rowers. Callum Covne and Taine Richards-Farr continuing their scrummaging excellence. Furthermore. the rest of the forwards decided to show the strength of a Stortford maul, tiring the Esher pack, something that proved pivotal in the later minutes of the game.



A cagev first 15 minutes of the second half, with Esher line breaks becoming something of a commonality, was weathered partly due to the gruelling fitness work the boys have put in over the 2-week break. This was epitomised by a 60-metre recovery chase against the Esher winger by Frazier Kiff to earn the blues a try-saving turnover on the Stortford line, not bad for a second row.

That effort from Kiffy was a momentum changer and the blues really turned it on. Maul tries, backs moves, scrum penalties, you name it - the blues provided them all in the final 20. Wrapping things up with a beautiful blind side maul "trick play" scored by hooker Jack Hussey.

All-in-all a good away performance, 24-42 the final score in favour of BSRFC Blues. We were happy, but nowhere near satisfied. more to come next week.



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#### **Results from 4th November 2023**

HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM
Birmingham Moseley	22 - 14	Sale FC
Plymouth Albion	28 - 15	Blackheath
Rams	36 - 41	Darlington Mowden Park
Richmond	7 - 24	Cinderford
Rosslyn Park	48 - 22	Bishop's Stortford
Sedgley park	28 - 20	Leicester Lions
Taunton Titans	21 - 53	Chinnor

#### Fixtures for 11th November 2023

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

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1 TABLE											
Team	Р	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	TBP	LBP	Points	Adj.
Rams	8	6	0	2	278	207	71	8	2	34	0
Chinnor	8	6	0	2	300	133	167	6	1	31	0
Plymouth Albion	8	6	0	2	262	172	90	6	1	31	0
Sedgley Park	8	6	0	2	243	262	-19	4	0	28	0
Birmingham Moseley	8	5	0	3	213	223	-10	2	1	23	0
Richmond	8	4	0	4	224	212	12	5	2	23	0
Blackheath	8	4	0	4	229	192	37	4	2	22	0
Cinderford	8	5	0	3	161	201	-40	0	1	21	0
Rosslyn Park	8	4	0	4	262	240	22	4	1	21	0
Darlington Mowden Park	8	4	0	4	195	221	-26	3	1	20	0
Bishop's Stortford	8	2	0	6	214	272	-58	5	2	15	0
Taunton	8	1	0	7	222	297	-75	6	3	13	0
Leicester Lions	8	2	0	6	150	233	-83	1	2	11	0
Sale FC	8	1	0	7	110	198	-88	0	3	7	0

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- 1 Toby Hill
- 2 Alex Rayment
- 3 Henry Peck
- 4 Fraizer Kiff
- 5 Harry Charter
- 6 Ollie Jones
- 7 Austin Pope
- 8 Will Rogers
- 9 Connor Lloyd
- 10 Dan Cole
- 11 Chris Smith
- 12 Matt Riddington
- 13 James Ayrton(c)
- 14 Josh Stannard
- 15 Dan Powell

#### REPLACEMENTS

- **16** Jack Hussey
- 17 Matt Ramzan
- **18** Toby Tierney
- 19 Chris Bolton
- 20 Jake Morris

#### **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

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- 3 Isaac Dalton
- 4 Harry Wright
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- 7 Charlie Wright
- 8 Sam Prior
- 9 Jordan Petherbridge
- 10 Louie Sinclair
- 11 Noah Fenton
- 12 Dan Martin
- 13 Jeremey Tuima
- 14 Ollie Rice
- 15 Frankie Dart

#### REPLACEMENTS

- 16 Elvis Taione
- 17 Brian Ncube
- 18 Sam Knott
- 19 Will de Boehmler
- 20 Greg Kitson

#### Coaches:

Steve Frost Chris Brown Gary Kingdom

#### Medical:

Molly Brick

#### Media:

Jake Salvi

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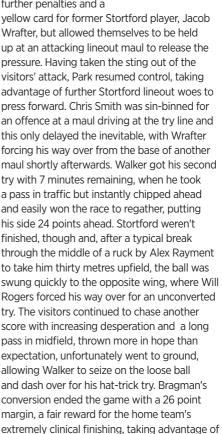
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#### Rosslyn Park 48 Bishop's Stortford First XV 22

Stortford started strongly and were rewarded with a Dan Cole penalty goal after only 3 minutes.

They enjoyed slightly the better of the exchanges over the next 15 minutes but a long break for an injury to a home prop seemed to galvanise Park, who scored their first try almost immediately, through right wing, Charlie Walker, whose Premiership pedigree stood out clearly throughout. Within 7 minutes, Benjie Marfo on the opposite wing added another try. rounding off a move built on turnover ball from one of a number of Stortford lineout mishaps. With Stortford kicking away too much ball, the home side were now well on top. Despite losing their loose head to the sinbin for a blatant high tackle with half an hour gone. Park attacked again and forced a penalty close to Stortford's posts, kicked by Josh Bragman to take his side into a 22-3 lead. Stortford threatened briefly but an attacking chip kick went inches too far, allowing ex London-Irishman, James Stokes to field, break away and kick ahead for another converted try. Stortford fought back, as the first half was coming to a close and a well-timed intervention into the line from fullback. Jake Morris saw him burst through and find James Ayrton inside for a well-worked try, converted by Cole to take the score at the break to 29-10. Stortford reduced the deficit to 12 points early in the second half with a try to Matt Riddington, after the side had gone through multiple phases, with two quickly tapped penalties by Connor Lloyd keeping up the high momentum to eventually break down the strong home

defence. The visitors continued to play with high tempo, forcing further penalties and a



Stortford's tendency to hand over possession

too often and too easily.





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#### **Matt Riddington**

Matt first played for Stortford in the club's first season in National One in the 2017/18 season.

Andy Long brought him into the side from the Bedford Blues Academy who were looking to get Matt regular playing experience. He played in the opening home game against Caldy at inside centre (Number 12) and scored on his debut. He missed a few matches through injury at the start of the season and was a regular member of the Stortford side at centre which finished seventh in the league in the debut season in Division One.

Matt played his school rugby at Oakham School in Leicestershire. Oakham won their first English Schools Cup back in March this year and has a close relationship with Leicester Tigers academy. The school has a very impressive sports "Hall of Fame" which includes Leicester and England rugby players, Lewis Moody, Tom Croft, and most recently. Jack van Poortvliet. It also includes Sam Costelow (Llanelli and Wales), Hamish Watson (Edinburgh and Scotland). Stuart Broad started his cricket career there, initially as a batsman!

Matt was a Leicester Academy player, he played for England U16's in 2014. His contemporaries in that U16 side included Ben Earl. Nick Isiekwe and Tom Curry, as well as another player who



centre for Stortford. Reuben Bird-Tulloch He had a contract in 2016/17 in France to play for the leading French club side. Montpellier, unfortunately injury prevented him ever playing in France before he returned to UK.

After the 2017/18 season at Stortford, his rugby



Despite his history of injury problems, when Stortford got in touch with him about playing again in the 2022/23 season and because he had enjoyed the first season at Stortford, he agreed to re-join. The main reason he wanted to continue playing rugby despite all the injuries, was the companionship and camaraderie of playing a team sport in the form of rugby, that was what he had really enjoyed at his first season in 2016/17 at Stortford. This time playing at outside half, helped by the physios with a tailored training regime, he was able to play throughout the season without any serious injury. He was a key member of the side that achieved Stortford's highest ever league finish at sixth, one better than his first season in the club's debut Division One season of 2017/18.

Matt will be going to study at Cambridge University, after George Cullen got his Blue playing for Oxford, Matt could provide Stortford with another Blue by playing for Cambridge in the Varsity game.

Matt is sponsored by Bolt Coaching, Chris Bolton not only provides his sponsorship, on match days plenty of good service from scrum half too.





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## Did you know



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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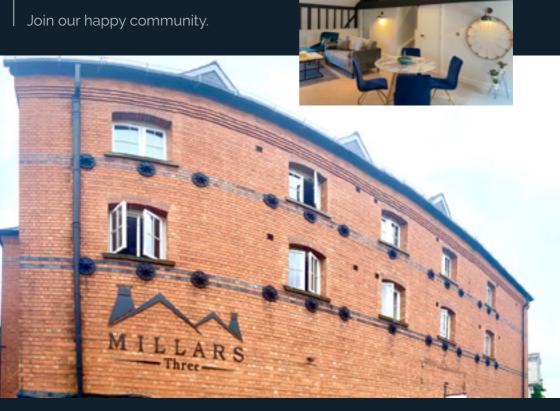
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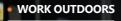




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The Oval Club was formed in 1998 by some Bishop's Stortford Rugby Football Club members who wanted to find a way of raising funds to improve the playing facilities of the Club with the mission statement:



'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

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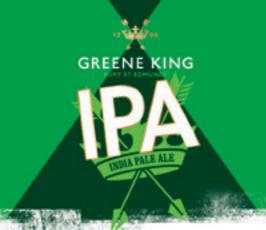
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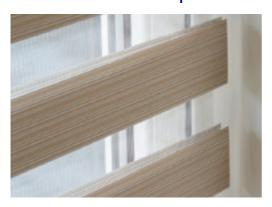
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#### **Armistice Day**

It is obviously right that the British and Commonwealth lives that were sacrificed in such large numbers in both WW1 and WW2 should continue to be remembered by the living. This is especially true now the last of the generation that fought in WW2 are sadly disappearing like the WW1 veterans. The first Armistice Day was on 11th November 1919 after the end of WW1 which had officially ended at the 11th hour, on the eleventh day and the eleventh month of 1918. Over the vears the fallen of WW2 were added and the ceremony itself has now combined remembering the people who died in the two World Wars with an appreciation of the people who now serve in the present military and the relatives who have lost family members in the hostilities. It is recognised by the public, despite the emphasis on adventure in the armed forces recruitment TV adverts. joining the military today still means that part of signing up could result in putting your life on the line "for King and Country".

Last season, in early November, all Stortford away supporters who'd travelled to Taunton came away with a very positive impression of what Taunton Rugby Club had done for Armistice Day. This admiration generated a resolution that our Club should also do something similar this season for future fixtures around the time of Armistice Day. There has always been a close connection between sport and military service, especially in rugby where the ethos of a team sport and the traditions of the game are present in both endeavours.



Stortford are also very fortunate to have their own well known "military man" at the Club, in the form of John B Robinson AFC and bar (the bar indicates multiple awards). The AFC is the Air Force Cross

Medal and is awarded for an act or acts of exemplary gallantry while flying, though not in active operations against the enemy. John has always been referred to as "JBR" at the Club, for this match program for our home fixture with Taunton the "Around the

Club" article will feature Armistice Day and our own JBR.

It would be an enormous understatement to say JBR has had a remarkable military career, you only have to read his autobiographical book, "Life of Flying" to gain an appreciation of how remarkable. The book has a foreword by an Air Marshall, one Sir lan Macfadyen KCVO CB OBE.

The Air Marshal writes the following:

"This book tells the tale of a fascinating and varied flying career, both in the Royal Air Force and in the civilian world, of a man who had a reputation for excellence and getting things done. Idle moments are not for JBR. Few qualify for the coveted A1 standard of the RAF's Central Flying School, very few have experienced nuclear and thermonuclear test explosions at first hand, even fewer have led two formation aerobatic teams and earned two Air Force Crosses. Only two people, one of which being the author, have been closely involved with the training for and granting of "Wings" to the Prince of Wales (now of course





King Charles III). JBR's RAF flying career alone therefore stands out from others, but it has been so much more than that".

The RAF and its pilots have always been regarded as dashing and glamorous but behind this image and the impression of effortless flying ability are dedication, diligence and a tremendous amount of hard work. JBR is the epitome of this impression and Bishops' Stortford Rugby Club are privileged to have JBR as a member. He has never played the game himself, but after his son joined the Club's Colts. he has ably served the Club in several key roles since 1979. At present he is Secretary of the Oval Club and the driving force behind their functions. (On a personal note, I have not worn a tie since retiring in 2009. I have no qualms in following JBR's instruction on wearing my Oval Club tie to ensure recognition for the free beer at Club functions).

It used to be said "join the navy and see the world" but if you follow JBR's flying career it should read "join the air force and become a pilot to see the world". However, when you talk with JBR there is no boasting or name dropping, just the impression that JBR has had a very interesting, varied, active, hardworking life and that he is very capable and extremely conscientious.

Armistice Day is about recognition and gratitude on at least one day by the British public for those who have carried out military service for the country. The AFC medal citation mentions gallantry "not in active operations against the enemy" but JBR has flown in peace time through British

nuclear bomb test radioactive dust clouds which is an extremely dangerous activity and is alone well worthy of Armistice Day recognition.







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## Behind the scenes with the 1st XV...



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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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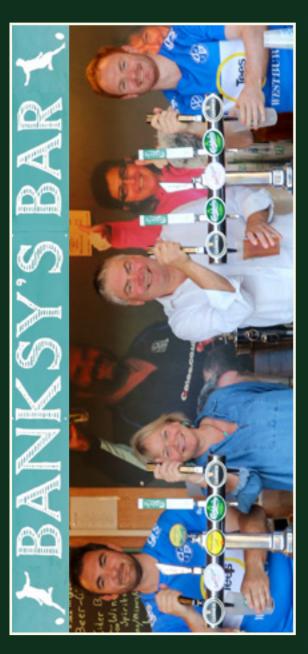




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