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We have 350 at lunch in the Hilton Marquee this afternoon and welcome many of our sponsors to help celebrate our Christmas lunch. Tees are hosted by Rob and Kay our Match Day Sponsor, Sam Prior and Jon Tann from BIT Solutions will select the Man of the Match. Both Tees and Bit Solutions are long-term sponsors, and we are grateful for their continued support.

Other sponsors attending today are KMD Wealth, hosted by Kevin Deamer, HAM. are hosting two tables today, hosted by Darrell Clarke. Regular supporters are Three Willows/ Ace of Lanes, hosted as usual by Brian and Dave, Russell Property hosted by Dominic Russell, and GRS Group hosted by former player, Ross Rolfe. It is also good to see relatively new sponsors. Advanced Demolition hosted by Paul and Harry, and Smart Merchants led by Mark. Kris Bayford is hosting the table for Little Acre Homes and Will Almond is hosting Mulberry Home. We very much appreciate all the support and assistance we receive from our sponsors; it is a privilege to welcome them all at our lunches and wish you and all our guests here today a very Merry Christmas

Today, we have new opposition to share our Christmas festivities, as our longstanding opponents Cambridge, decided they would be treated more favourably by their opposition in the Championship. We wish them well in their new venture. However, not knowing what the RFU is going to do next season there is no understanding of what will happen with promotion and relegation in any of the RFU leagues, apart from the premiership where there will be no relegation, next season.

Blackheath is our new Christmas opponent, and we welcome them to Siver Leys for today's game. This is the return fixture, as we played them in the second game of the season in what was extremely different weather conditions than we have recently in recent weeks and probably what we will have today. There were frequent water breaks as the players had to endure temperatures in the mid-30s. However, it clearly suited our players as we came from behind to win the game.

Hopefully, we can repeat the feat today.

I would like to welcome and thank Mick Coleman, our former President who has agreed to speak



at today's lunch. He has been supportive of me in finding club members to speak at our lunches. Our other guests include Neil Clarke who for the past two years has organised our successful Fireworks Displays which raises much of our well-needed funds each year. Julie North, our Sponsorship Manager is also on our table, and we thank her for organising and encouraging our sponsors to continue to support the club. Our remaining guest is Graham Springham, a former President and a longstanding supporter of the club.

To remind you of all our efforts on Armistice Day we hope when we get the few remaining bidders at the auction to release their funds, we should be able to donate to the Poppy appeal in excess of £4500. This is in addition to the funds collected by their collection agents on the day. We thank you all for the support we received on that special day.

This leaves me with wishing each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and Healthy New Year.





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What a Christmas cracker we have in store today! If it's anything like the game back in September, when it was hotter than the sun, we are in for a real treat. We welcome Blackheath to Silver Leys for a league double header, the oldest club in the world, and a team littered with match winners across the board. Games between the sides especially at home, have been played in some of the harshest weather conditions, from gale force winds to storms, rain, snow, sleet and as mentioned, sweltering heat at Well Hall during the second round of fixtures. Today's weather looks remarkably good for this fixture, so lets hope the BBC weather app hasn't let me down!!!

Last week we travelled north to Manchester to take on a resurgent Sale FC side. For most of the game we felt we physically dominated a team who have previously done the same to us. We executed our game plan to how we set it out, the only problem is we didn't take our chances, especially in the opening 20 minutes when we had created some good scoring opportunities. Points on the board in those types of games are invaluable and so it proved at the full-time whistle. To add to the frustrations, we picked up a number of injuries which could potentially sideline both Rvan Jackson and James Avrton for 6-8 weeks.

Hopefully Ryan and the medical team can work their magic and get the boys back on their feet sooner rather than later.

A fortnight ago vs



for a well-earned beer and maybe even some

Cheers!

Christmas carols.

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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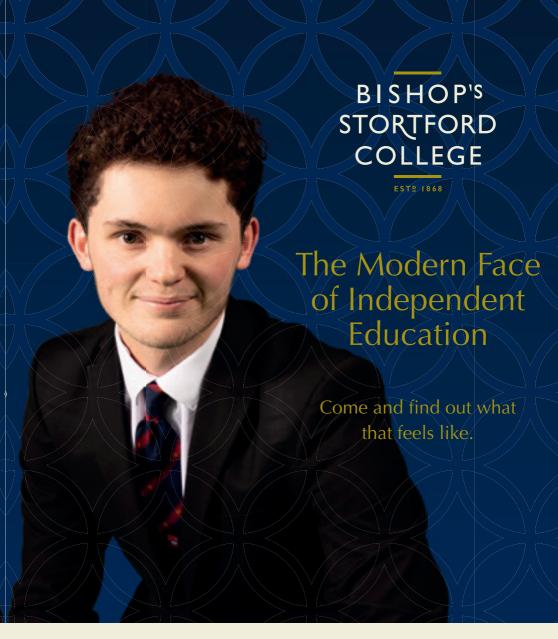


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A Minis Christmas!

Each start of the season at BSRFC is packed to the brim with matches across all ages and sections. It is also filled with different social events from the Saturday Lunches to the Huge Fireworks display.

However, on Friday 8th December we saw the newly named Hilton Marquee transformed into a winter wonderland. A small group of festive volunteer elves took the time to decorate and arrange the marquee to be a welcoming space for the main guest to arrive later that evening.



A huge 'thank you' to Al Jones for liaising and organising the event. The Rugby Club teamed up with Barringtons funeral directors who every year have a horse drawn Santa sleigh that visits areas of Bishop's Stortford, raising much need funds for the wonderful Charity Isabel Hospice, before landing at the final destination Silver Leys.

The festive event started in the early evening, welcoming lots of members from the very youngest to some of the senior players and spectators, as well as those from the local area. Inside the magical winter wonderland, saw festive food and drinks from the club's caterer Lisa and her team, a Teddy Bear Tombola raising money for Isabel Hospice, the clubs

pop up shop and the delightful 'Woodwind of Stortford' band who filled the room up with Christmas cheer.





The U10s set up a chocolate Tombola with some amazing donations from the minis section and managed to raise some money towards the Minis Tour being held in April 2024. We have lots left over which we will be hopefully setting up chocolate tucks shops during the second half of the season to raise more money. We are still looking for sponsorship, if anyone is interested, please contact Nikky Wilkins – minischair@bsrfc.co.uk

During the evening, the crowds flooded to watch Father Christmas arrive in his Sleigh, where he stunned the children with his horses and Elves. Visitors were then able to meet Father Christmas and his Elves personally in the specially created grotto, where wishes and memories were made.

After Father Christmas departed, the room changed to a party disco, with lights, smoke machine and some amazing dance moves form all ages of the club, watching team members bond and have fun!

It was a brilliant evening and lots of festive fun was had by all. Thank you to all who came along, took part, volunteered or donated. We look forward to welcoming you all back next year!

Here is to 2024! Looking forward to the second half of the season!

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Blackheath Football Club was founded in 1858 by old boys of Blackheath Propriety School who played a "carrying" game of football made popular by Rugby School. When the old boys played against the current pupils, supporters would shout for either "Club" or "School" accordingly. This why to this day supporters of Blackheath shout for "Club" and not "Blackheath".

In 1863 the club developed the tactic of passing the ball from player to player as an alternative to the solo break and the "kick and follow-up". Also in 1863 Blackheath was a founder member of the Football Association which was formed at the Freemasons' Tayern, Lincoln Inn Fields, This association was formed with the intention to frame a code of laws that would embrace the best and most acceptable points of all the various methods of play under the one heading of "football". At the sixth meeting of the association on 8th December 1863 the elected treasurer from Blackheath. Mr Francis Maule Campbell, withdrew Blackheath from the association explaining that the rules the FA intended to adopt would destroy the game and all interest in it. A number of other "rugby" clubs followed this lead and did not then join the FA. This was how the great divide between soccer and rugby started.

In December 1870 Edwin Ash, secretary of Richmond Football Club, published a letter in the papers which said: "Those who play the rugby-type game should meet to form a code of practice as various clubs play to rules which differ from other clubs and which makes the game difficult to play."

On 26 January 1871 a meeting was held at the Pall Mall Restaurant, London, and attended by representatives of 22 clubs. As a result of this meeting the Rugby Football Union was founded.

Blackheath is one of the seven of the original twenty-one clubs to have survived to this day.

Blackheath initially played its matches on the

Heath but occasional interruptions from spectators led the club to move. This was at first to a private field (Richardson Field) and



then to the Rectory Field in 1883.

In 2016 after 158 years at Rectory Field, Blackheath moved to their training ground at Well Hall where Stortford have been playing them since our promotion to National Division One in the 2017/2018 season. That season we won our first ever game against Blackheath 19-21 at Well Hall with a last minute try by our Australian winger Robert Duff and a splendid touch line conversion by George Cullen to give Stortford a very memorable win.

The eight league results since that first season in National One have always been close with Stortford winning four and Blackheath wining three and one drawn game. However, Stortford have only finished once above Blackheath in the table in Blackheath's relegation season in 2021/2022. Blackheath convincingly won promotion for National Two East last season back to National Division One and with Cambridge moving up to the Championship this season, Blackheath will now provide our local Christmas derby game opponents.





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What a difference a year makes!

At the halfway point of the season, I'm delighted to say that the Womens' XV are currently sitting top of NC3 Midlands (South). A fantastic recruitment drive in the summer that has carried on through the season, means that the womens' squad is in a very healthy position right now.

Some guick numbers: 30 women, ably led on the pitch by captain Jasmin Bice, have played a competitive fixture including 16 debutants; five U18s have made a successful step into senior rugby; four wins from five games; 12 players scoring 24 tries along the way - it's been a very eniovable and successful first half of the season.

After finishing last year struggling for numbers, it's been an amazing transformation. We're incredibly thankful to all our team (Nockolds and Charterhouse) and player sponsors, but from my point of view having Bear Physio on hand to manage injured players back to match fitness has made a huge impact - thanks James!

The last two seasons, we've been proud to provide the county squad with four players. and we have added to representative honours already this season with Harriet Creasey being selected for the Essex U18s squad.

Off the pitch, it has also been fantastic to see how many people are coming along to watch the team on a Sunday. We've always had a strong core group of support, but to see over 100 people turn out for the Cambridge game last month was a sign of. It was a shame we couldn't put on a winning performance for the crowd - Cambridge put on a very strong

showing, but we're improving so much as the year goes on that it would be great to take

a travelling crowd up the road in February to try and get one back. The way the season has panned out so far, that could well be a title decider.

There has regularly been 25+ turning up to training so I'm very grateful for the support provided by Dave Walker, Becca Coppen and Phil Povser who make up this year's coaching group – as well as our own sponsors, Unit TV and FC Electrical. Thanks also to Kate Hawkins who has stepped into the role of Women & Girls' Chair – coaching's a lot easier when you've got a friend you trust to make sure every single other thing is under control away from the pitch. However, there's never a time to sit back and relax, the ultimate desire is to keep growing the squad to the point where we can field more than one side.

We will be running an Inner Warrior session on Tuesday 9 January 2024 where everyone will do a real back to basics session... if you're considering giving rugby a go this would be an ideal time to start. But please feel free to turn up any Tuesday after that or speak to any of the squad when you see them around the club. You'll normally find the props at the bar trying to scrummage against the men's sides!

I'll finish off by wishing you all a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all at training or on the touchline in 2024!





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Results from 9th December 2023

HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM
Blackheath	0 - 15	Rosslyn Park
Chinnor	27 - 24	Birmingham Moseleyt
Cinderford	40 - 31	Taunton Titans
Darlington Mowden Park	29 - 3	Leicester Lions
Plymouth Albion	22 - 3	Sedgley Park
Richmond	40 - 47	Rams
Sale FC	8 - 7	Bishop's Stortford

Fixtures for 16th December 2023

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

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1 TABLE											
Team	Р	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	TBP	LBP	Points	Adj.
Rams	13	10	0	3	430	328	102	11	2	53	0
Chinnor	13	10	0	3	465	227	238	10	2	52	0
Plymouth Albion	13	9	0	4	367	268	99	7	2	45	0
Rosslyn Park	13	8	0	5	401	344	57	7	1	40	0
Sedgley Park	12	8	0	4	333	339	-6	5	1	38	0
Birmingham Moseley	12	7	0	5	308	300	8	3	3	34	0
Richmond	12	5	0	7	343	357	-14	8	4	32	0
Darlington Mowden Park	13	6	0	7	286	326	-40	5	2	31	0
Bishop's Stortford	13	5	0	8	315	370	-55	7	3	30	0
Cinderford	13	6	0	7	273	375	-102	2	1	27	0
Blackheath	12	5	0	7	289	285	4	4	3	27	0
Sale FC	13	5	0	8	259	292	-33	3	3	26	0
Taunton	13	2	0	11	364	482	-118	10	3	21	0
Leicester Lions	13	3	0	10	247	387	-140	3	3	18	0

BISHOP'S STORTFORD

BI UF AND WHITE



- 1 Toby Hill
- 2 Alex Rayment
- 3 Henry Peck
- 4 Fraizer Kiff
- 5 Alex Wardell
- 6 Harrison Langworthy
- 7 Luis Ball
- 8 Will Rogers (c)
- 9 Connor Lloyd
- 10 Matt Riddington
- 11 Chris Smith
- 12 Austin Pope
- 13 Jack Biard
- 14 Alex Gilham
- 15 Dan Powell

REPLACEMENTS

- **16** Luke Bury
- 17 Jevaughn Warren
- 18 Harry Charter
- **19** Toby Tierney
- 20 Chris Bolton

Head Coach:

Marcus Cattell

Forwards Coaches:

Rob Faiers Cameron Boon

Blues Lead Coach & Forwards Coach:

Ian Simpson

Attack & Backs Coach:

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- 10 Mark Cooke
- 11 Leo Fielding
- 12 Markus Burcham
- 13 Sam Hill
- 14 Alex Noot
- 15 Jake Hennessey

REPLACEMENTS

- **16** Alex Witchell
- 17 Archie Holland
- 18 Tom Everard
- 19 Chris Bell
- 20 Matt Dalrymple

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Sale FC 8 Bishop's Stortford 1st XV 7

Stortford started aggressively and were clearly up for the expected battle against a Sale side, whose league position gives a false impression of the strength of their squad. Intermittent rain combined with the strong wind to make running rugby very challenging but both teams managed to produce some impressive handling, which was neutralised by strong defence by both sides. Despite playing into the strong wind, Stortford dominated possession and territory for most of the first half. The pack went particularly well, edging the scrums and with generally well-controlled lineouts. Early pressure forced a number of penalties from a home team under pressure and one of these led to a 5 metre lineout, from which it looked as if the pack had driven over for an opening try after 7 minutes. The initially blind-sided referee, however, adjudged the ball to have been held up over the line. Two more penalties in quick succession allowed Stortford to take a shot at goal, but Connor Lloyd's effort. unfortunately drifted wide on the wind. The visitors maintained the pressure but were held out again by stout Sale defence, despite some good handling from side to side, which threatened to put each of the wingers away in turn. Eventually, though, two more penalties were won and a bout of afters. following the second saw the home fullback yellow-carded. Unfortunately for Stortford, Sale's defence held tight and, despite being a man short, finally managed to show some attacking threat themselves with some good, multi-phase play in the difficult conditions. making a rare incursion into Stortford's half. They were able, as a result to create two penalty goal opportunities for themselves and the half finished with James Robins converting the second, as the final act of a prolonged injury period, allowed to run well beyond the pitchside clock.

The balance of play in the second period was much more even, as front row changes on



both sides switched the edge in the scrums in Sale's favour and the home side were able to mount some seriously threatening attacks, two in particular foundering at the death as, first a scoring pass was thrown behind an unmarked right wing and then the ball was knocked on, as a Sale forward reached out his arm over the line. Stortford's defence regathered and, when home No 8, Jake Barron was red-carded after a long consultation between referee and assistant, following a goal-line fracas, the pendulum seemed to swing back towards the visitors. With their pack, though retaining its supremacy, Sale clawed their way back and they took ruthless advantage of a favourable penalty decision made against a Stortford scrum, which, unusually, was moving forward, to press into the opposition 22, where neat interplay from the base of a 5 metre scrum brought an unconverted try out wide on the right. Now with only 10 minutes left on the clock and out of even bonus point range, Stortford had to dig really deep. Skipper, James Ayrton once again led from the front, soon scoring a tremendous try, spinning out of a first tackle to plunge through the next on the left wing. Matt Riddington converted brilliantly from close to touch to narrow the points deficit to one, but, despite more pressure from the visitors. Sale were able to hold out, with the referee - much to the visitors' disappointment - blowing up the instant the pitchside clock went to zero in contrast to the extended end of the first period.



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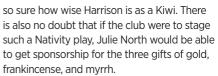
The Boys from Down Under

At the end of last month Stortford players Will Rodgers from Brisbane, Australia, and Harrison Langworthy from Canterbury, New Zealand were joined by Liam Lord who is also from the Brisbane area.

Will and Harrison are in their second seasons at Stortford and have fitted in really well at the club. Now these two have been joined by Liam around the Christmas time of the year it is maybe not too much of a stretch to compare them to the three Wise Men in the Christmas Nativity story. All three have had to travel long distances, all three are visiting a strange land, all three have technically come from the East but have reached Stortford not by camel and not by following a star but by jet and under coach Marcus' direction and guidance.

If Stortford rugby club were to put on a Nativity play, the three would certainly be a very popular choice by the ladies in the club to play the three Wise Men. There is also no doubt they would be more than willing to dress up in

robes and turbans and would make three very impressive Wise Men. but the two Aussies are not



Surprisingly there had been camel trains in Australia in the late nineteenth century and the present "Ghan" tourist train in the desert between Alice Springs and Darwin is reputedly named after the Afghan camel drivers that once operated the camel trains in the area. It would be very unlikely that Stortford would be able to get live camels for our three Wise Men but Will says there are now lots of feral camels in Australia from those original earlier imported camels, there is also Australian camel racing and Australia now exports camels to Saudi Arabia for camel meat.



The editorial team for the program thought it would be a great idea to feature our three overseas imports in the Blackheath program as it is the last match before the Christmas holidays and Christmas is traditionally the time of the year for meeting up with family. After the Blackheath game there is a long mid-season break from rugby and training until the next game against Plymouth on 13 January in the New Year. The club itself is also closed down at this time and everybody except our three imports will be able to spend time with their families. The three overseas boys will have make do with calling home to talk with their families on Xmas morning.

Now our Australians and Kiwi are not going to have to be put up in a stable in Stortford but they will certainly be missing the normal comforts of home back in Australia and New Zealand. Everyone in the UK imagines that the Christmas holidays in Australia is one big barbecue on the beach in the sunshine. This would definitely be true for Will and Liam

in Brisbane with its Gold Coast and in New Zealand the "beach" is also considered the "go to" destination over Christmas. Will also says there is lots of seafood at Xmas but certainly no need for warm Xmas jumpers.



In New Zealand there is a famous tree that blooms around Christmas time and is called a pohutukawa tree with bright red crimson flowers which Harrison says is the New Zealand Christmas tree. There is also a Maori version of the "Twelve days of Christmas" called a "Pukeko in a Ponga tree", though we're not sure if Harrison knows all the words of this song?

So, thanks to Will and Harrison for their efforts to date and thanks in anticipation to Liam for his future contribution to the second half of this season.

Will Rogers is sponsored by **Sofa Design**, Liam Lord by **Hammond Developments**, and Harrison Langworthy by **Coleman's Farm** (Mick is very relieved his farm has not been approached to provide camels for a possible club nativity play).



Correction from last match program.

Reece Lane said in his player profile that one of his highlights was winning away at Richmond Saxons but following the Blues first home win against Richmond Saxons that put the Blues above them in the league he would now like that win to be recorded as his career highlight.



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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

League Rugby in 2013/14.

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.



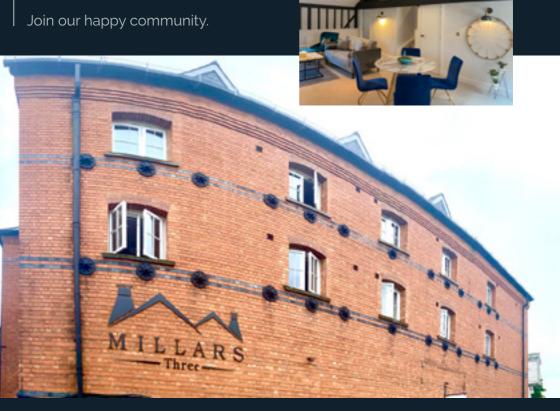
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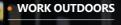




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The Oval Club was formed in 1998 by some Bishop's Stortford Rugby Football Club members who wanted to find a way of raising funds to improve the playing facilities of the Club with the mission statement:



'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 £200,000.

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 of all sections and members of the Club, including Senior Sides, Ladies & Girls, Colts, Youth, Mini and Touch Rugby

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 Mark Smith

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Business body blasts shake-up of parking fees

Sinead Corr sinead-corr@stortfordindie.co.uk

The voice of the town centre trader has condemned East Herts Counciplans to increase parking charges in Bishop's Stortford by up to 54%. This evening (Wednesday), Clir Tim Hoskin the discounty

Tim Hoskin, the district council executive member for environmenta executive member for environmenta sustainability, will attempt to pust through a raft of rises at Apton Road Bassbow Lane and Elm Road car parks in return for a price cut at the unpopular and underused Northgate End multi-storey.

Bishop's Stortered Bur Development

Improvement District), which represents town centre traders, has held extensive talks with Clir Hoskin to try to persuade him to change the plans, but to no avail.

After his plans page 100

After his plans were made publilast Tuesday (December 5), the BH issued a blunt statement: "We appreciate the recent opportunity to engage in extensive discussions with Chr Tim Hoskin regarding parking within Bishop's Stortford

great detail the multiple challeng our businesses and residents a currently facing in accessing t town centre for work, essent services and leisure. "The report and proposal for a change in tariffs, scheduled for presentation at the council meeting on December 13, will not address these

"We believe it will adversely affect trading conditions, making it even tougher for businesses and further crippling them at an already challenging time."

Cllr Hoskin wants to increase all day charges at Apton Road am Basbow Lane by £1.30, from £5.20 to £6.50 – a hike or 25%:

For the hourly tariffs, charge would rise between 5% and 10% to the new prices: £4.60 (up 30p) for up to five hours; £2.70 (up 20p) for up to four hours; £2.80 (up 20p) for up to three hours; £2.10 (up 10p) for up to two hours; and £1.10 (up 10p) for up to two hours.

Road would cost drivers £4.20, up 6 (16.67%) from £3.60. The charge for to five hours rockets 54.17%, up £1.1 from £2.40 to £3.70.

nat rate, all-day charge on Sunday and public holidays would rise 10p 1 £1.60 (up 6.67%). No change is proposed to the free 30

tte sessions.

me prices at Northgate End e the 573 parking spaces,

continues on page 3



town centre for work, essential services and leisure.

Some prices at Northgate End where the 573 parking space continues on page.

creating amazing festive scenes on windows - including at the India office - using just snow spray cans from Poundland and tools such an expired credit card and toothpicks - full stoods.

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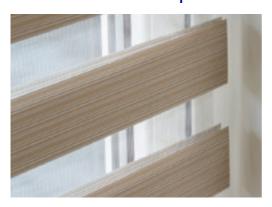
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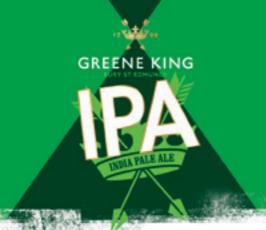








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The "Man of the Match

What links the following playing positions at Stortford? Two hookers, one prop, one back row, two centres and one winger.

The answer is that seven separate Stortford players in these positions have all won the "Man of the Match" award at Stortford home fixtures this season so the award has been truly shared around.

The sponsored "Man of the Match" awards have been awarded as follows:



The Bishops' Stortford "Man of the Match" is only awarded at home games to Stortford players and is selected and presented immediately after the match by the "Man of the Match" sponsor for the game with usually some informed guidance from the coaching staff. Immediately after the game and on the field is a good time to make the presentation as "after the game" everyone is "relaxed" and in true rugby tradition and sportsmanship all the tension of the game has dissipated as the two sides mingle together. The winning player and the sponsor are then generally photographed together in front of Banksy's Bar when the handover of the bottle of champagne award is made in front of the crowd at Banksy's Bar. The Banksy Bar crowd are never in a hurry to leave and always provide a suitable audience and atmosphere for the award.

This photo of the sponsor and the player winning the award then appears on the Club's Twitter/X account in the following week and you can easily guess the month of the year when the games have been held from the photo background!

Stortford have certainly not made any of the classic rugby "Man of the Match" faux pas such as an embarrassed Joe Launchbury being awarded "Man of the Match" after a supporters' twitter vote when England lost convincingly 33-13 to Australia in 2015 RWC group stages. In the same RWC Uruguay's Agustin Ormaechea was awarded Man of the Match by the TV commentators after scoring a late try for Uruquay against Fiji but then managed to get red carded and sent off for violent play before the end of the game.

This award started before Stortford were promoted to National One and has now become part of the Stortford end of match rituals and the award although for an individual player generally reflects the overall team effort as proved by the variety of players who have won it this season.



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