

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD RFC

# STORTFORD

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**100th 1st XV**  
**APPEARANCE**



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# INTRODUCING OUR NEW CLUB PRESIDENT: AL JONES



Alasair 'Al' Jones has been appointed Club President, his second match day role for the Club. His first was acting as a “human dinner gong” announcing the start of the match day lunch to the assembled supporters and guests. It is fully expected that in his new role as President he will be equally effective, but hopefully a little quieter during the after-lunch speeches.

Al Jones, despite his Welsh surname, has strong Scottish connections and DNA tests have happily proved he has no Welsh blood. However, he does have to support Scotland in International rugby matches with England in honour of his father's origins in Stirlingshire. You also have to make sure you get the correct Scottish spelling of “Alasdair”.

Al was born and bred in Stortford and has been involved at the Club since his children started Under 6's in 2007. Al's GP wife, Sara brought the kids to their first session, after an appeal for parent coaches, Sara volunteered Al. Had she known what it would lead to, she may not have done so! Al went on to become the Mini's fixture secretary, continuing in this role even after his children had dropped out of playing.

When Peter Curtis decided to stand down as Vice-Chair of the Club in 2017, Colin Tilley talked Al into taking over, serving as both Vice Chair and Chairman of the Trading Company. Just before Covid, Al's mother became seriously ill and he had to step back from club duties as he was her nearest relative living locally, he needed to spend more time looking after her.

In 2021 he rejoined the Trading Company board, also becoming involved in the revival of the club's Social Committee. No prizes for guessing that he assisted Dave Macfie in starting “Burns Night” at the Club.

Al is looking forward to succeeding Len Lindop, the Club can expect a

different approach in the President's role in moving from Len to Al. Hopefully Al will not have to deal with last season's relegation concerns. Len was never happier in the President role than when he gave his last speech in his after-match Twitter interview at the end of the Cinderford game, when the threat of relegation had been safely avoided. Al also realises that he will do well to watch as many games at the Club as Len, who regularly attended matches at all the levels and age groups on Saturdays and Sundays.

Al admits he never played Rugby seriously. He claims he had the very rare physical combination of the body of a winger and the speed of a prop. Since being appointed President for this season however, he has a 100% winning record in the pre-season First XV games. The home win over Tonbridge Juddians and the great away win at Cambridge. It is pretty certain these wins will get a mention in his first after-lunch match address for the Leicester Lions home match.





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# TOM COLEMAN: HEAD COACH



I would like to start by welcoming everyone back to Silver Leys for what promises to be an exciting opening game of the season.

Pre season has gone very well and the players have been working really hard on improving all aspects of our game. We've had some really testing fixtures which is what you want from pre season, and we were able to learn a lot about the group both on and off the field and we've seen many positives so far and also a fair bit we can improve on.

Naturally people cannot wait to draw a line under pre season and make a start to the league fixtures, but it's been really important for our development as a group to spend lots of time on the training ground and get some good detail into our sessions and get the cohesion between the players right.

Today we face a tough opponent in Leicester Lions who I have no doubt will be a stronger team for overcoming their own struggles last season. We certainly won't be taking anything for granted and the players understand fully the challenge in front them.

Both teams I'm sure will have new signings involved in their squads, which I'm sure supporters of both sides will be very excited about. It's very important to start the season positively and we will be doing everything we can to ensure that happens.

Thank you to all of our sponsors for being incredibly supportive to the club and players and I would also like to mention all of the volunteers who have spent hours making sure the club is ready to host league rugby again.

Enjoy the game.

*Tom*

## THE COACHING STAFF

Left to right: Ryan Clarke, Cameron Boon, Tom Coleman, Rob Faiers, Jon Skelton, Ben Sheath.







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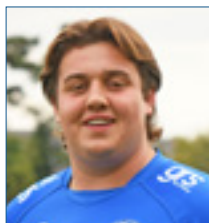
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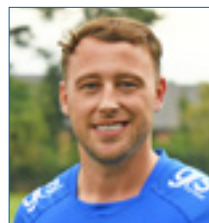
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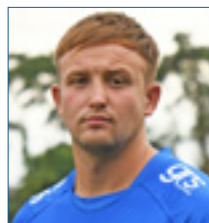
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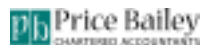
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# MITRES DEVELOPMENT SQUAD



The Mitres have now completed their three, pre-season matches which have been the perfect run in to the start of the league matches.

Our first fixture saw us face Welwyn first XV, who welcomed us with a full squad of 24 players. Unfortunately, we couldn't match their numbers and played with only 15, many of our squad members having gone up to play with the blues. Also, 5 of our boys that day, were 18yr olds playing their first senior match.

For much of the match, the lead passed between teams, but on the 76th minute, their final try took the score to 30-26 in their favour.

A fantastic effort and I was delighted with the new guys who stepped up. Much to work on, but a performance to be proud of!

Our second game was an away trip to Southwold, the transport for which was kindly paid for by The Oval club.

Another excellent, spirited performance, saw us come away victorious in some horrendous conditions, and against a far bigger and more

experienced team. Great friendships were forged on the trip, and as Charlie Dunsford always taught me 'a team that drinks well together, plays well together!'.

That certainly was the case against Shelford on the 31st of August. However, after much liaising with their coach in the run up to the game, where both teams were attempting to get a full team of U23's, we agreed to 'do whatever is necessary' to fill the last few spaces to achieve 15v15. What I hadn't counted on, was them recruiting several players from Cambridge 2's!!

The team we faced were simply too strong, and we went down by 4 tries.

The reality is, they were far better than most teams will be in our league and the way the boys conducted themselves, and improved week on week has been fantastic. With an average age during the 3 games of only 20.3, I'm really excited for the coming season!

Our first league game is the 14th Sept at home against the old neighbour, Hertford. Then we'll really know how good our pre-season has been!!





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# TODAY'S OPPONENTS



The Leicester Lions club was formed as a result of an amalgamation between two local clubs in 1998, being Westleigh RFC (established in 1904) and Wigston RFC (established in 1946).

They gained promotion to the National League structure from the Midlands Division in 2005 and survived their first season in National Two North finishing twelfth, then playing another ten seasons in National Two North before moving to National Two South in the 2021-22 season. Their highest league finish in National Two North had been third on three occasions.

At the end of the 2021-2022 rugby season, they were re-allocated from National Two South to the new National Division Two West. The Lions were then promoted to National Division One that season from the newly formed National Division Two West. They won twenty-five of the league games in the season with their only defeat being 15-19 at home to Dings Crusaders who finished second to the Lions in the league. They made a lot of trips that season from the English East Midlands down to the West Country.

Last season Leicester Lions finished 12th in National One with 54 points and 11 wins just two points below Stortford in 11th with 56 points and 10 wins both sides having been involved in the end of season relegation battle. However, Stortford did the double on the Lions winning in November 2023 in our first visit to Westleigh Park 29-36, in March 2024 winning at home 39-12. The Stortford home game was closer than the final score suggests but it was an important win for Stortford after our infamous visit to Chinnor. The Lions also beat Rams 26-24 at home last October, a win over Rams being something Stortford have not achieved for some time.

Notable former Lions who were also former Westleigh and Wigston players include England World

Cup winning captain Martin Johnson, England lock Louis Deacon, Tigers back-rower Brett Deacon and Gloucester/ England centre, Billy Twelvetrees.

The Lions have the full complement of senior, colts, juniors and minis plus of course a Ladies side.

Their home ground is at Westleigh Park in Blaby, South of the City of Leicester - and as the world's greatest band, Half Man Half Biscuit have pointed out - "Blaby's in Leicestershire!"

Ethan Godefroy  
(Captain)



# BSRFC JOCA

## What is JOCA?

JOCA was formed by Welwyn RFC after the passing of a couple of their members and something we are adopting after suffering our very sad and similar losses.

Every minute in the world, over 80 people die by suicide. That's over 80 sons, daughters, husbands, wives, brothers, sisters, fathers and mothers for every 80 minute game of rugby.

Partnering with JOCA (which stands for Just One Click Away) and Govox, BSRFC aims to destigmatize mental health & create awareness among our members to allow conversation without prejudice and in confidentiality.

Collectively as a community club, if we can support our wellbeing it may just save a life.

BSRFC has adopted this initiative with an internal volunteer welfare team of 5 "mental health first aiders" created to make this live and promote it as part of our one club ethos.

JOCA BSRFC is a platform to signpost anyone who needs advice or support to local professional services with a service directory in one place covering everything from addictions to terminal illness and everything in between.

This site will also have contact details to the Bishop's Stortford welfare team who will be available to offer support, guidance and a friendly ear should it be needed.

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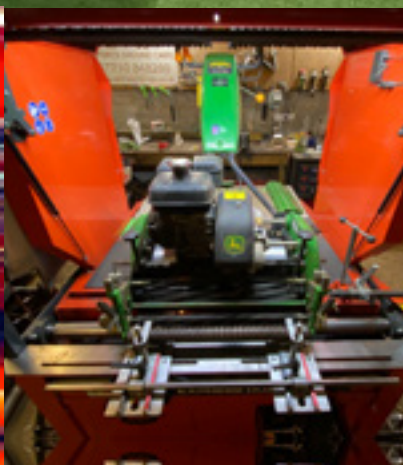
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# WOMEN & GIRLS YASMIN KNOTT



## Welcome to BSRFC Women's coaching team 2024/25

Meet the coaching team:

### HEAD COACH: Kyle McDonald

Kyle has recently joined us from Epping Upper Clapton, where he led them to NC1 in an almost undefeated 2023/24.



“The team’s commitment this pre-season has been outstanding from the start. Carly returned to lead some S&C sessions, which set a strong tone with great participation and energy. What truly stands out is how the players –

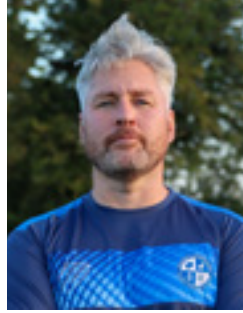
both returning and new – have embraced the adjustments we’ve made with such positive attitude and adaptability. We’ve built on last year’s progress and the improvement is evident in our structured play during conditioned games, both attack and defence. I’m really looking forward to seeing this amazing team continue to grow and develop.”

### ASSISTANT COACH: Tom Brady

Despite announcing that he was stepping down from coaching at the end of last season, Brady soon decided that was the wrong decision and will still be involved in the team.



“This season I’m really looking forward to building on last year’s performance and getting bigger crowds to come and support the team”.



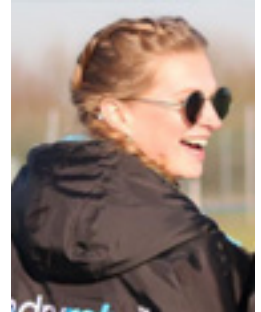
### ASSISTANT COACH: Dave Walker

Dave is no stranger to coaching the BSRFC Women’s team. Mainly working with the forwards, Dave will be further building the pack so they continue to dominate their notorious scrums.

“Having been involved with the team since it pretty much started, we’ve gone from having a small number of players with previous rugby experience, to having a solid core of quite experienced players. It’s great to see we’re still attracting players to the game, which is good for community rugby and means the club can offer something for everyone.”

### ASSISTANT COACH: Imogen Spanton

A long-time player in the team, Imogen will take on the challenge of coaching her teammates whilst recovering from injury – welcome to the coaching team, Spants!



“Being asked to make the transition from player to coach this season not only allows me to develop my own coaching skills, but ensures I’ll be even more involved during recovery. It’s an opportunity I’m so grateful for, and even though my role will be on the sidelines, I couldn’t be more excited for the season ahead.”

## Fancy giving the game a go?

Thinking of trying something new and joining the women’s team? We welcome women of all abilities and fitness levels! If you’d like a three-session trial period, get in touch with team manager, Kate Hawkins, or drop us a message on Instagram @bsrfcwomen.

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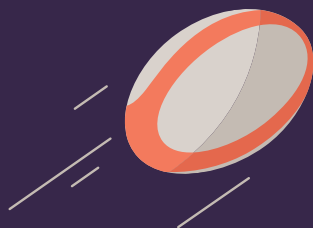
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# NATIONAL 1: RESULTS, FIXTURES, TABLE

## Fixtures for 7th September 2024

HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM
Blackheath	vs	Richmond
Rotherham	vs	Rosslyn Park
Rams	vs	Darlington Mowden Park
Sedgley Park	vs	Esher
Plymouth Albion	vs	Sale FC
Birmingham Moseley	vs	Dings Crusaders
<b>Bishop's Stortford</b>	<b>vs</b>	<b>Leicester Lions</b>

## Fixtures for 14th September 2024

HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM
Rosslyn Park	vs	Richmond
Leicester Lions	vs	Birmingham Moseley
Dings Crusaders	vs	Plymouth Albion
Sale FC	vs	Sedgley Park
Esher	vs	Rams
Darlington Mowden park	vs	Rotherham
<b>Bishop's Stortford</b>	<b>vs</b>	<b>Blackheath</b>

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1 TABLE											
Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	TBP	LBP	Points	Adj.
Esher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blackheath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plymouth Albion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sale FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birmingham Moseley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rosslyn Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Bishop's Stortford</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Leicester Lions</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Sedgley Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rams	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Darlington Mowden Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rotherham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Richmond	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



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BLUE AND WHITE

- 1 Toby Hill
- 2 Alex Rayment
- 3 Henry Peck
- 4 Hamish Ferguson
- 5 Frazier Kiff
- 6 Harrison Langworthy
- 7 Ollie Jones
- 8 Will Rogers (c)
- 9 Chris Bolton
- 10 Mike Cooke
- 11 Chris Smith
- 12 Austin Pope
- 13 Jack Biard
- 14 Josh Stannard
- 15 Nick Hankin

## REPLACEMENTS

- 16 Isaac Bell
- 17 Tristan Smith
- 18 Harry Charter
- 19 Charlie Briers
- 20 Dan Powell

**Head Coach:**

Tom Coleman

**Forwards Coaches:**

Cameron Boon

**Defence Coach & Blues Head Coach**

Ian Simpson

**Scrum & Throwing Coach:**

Rob Faiers

**Head Strength & Conditioning:**

Ben Sheath

**Lead Medical:**

Ryan Clarke

**Head Physio:**

Ryan Clark

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# LEICESTER LIONS

PURPLE AND BLACK

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- 2 Arthur Allen
- 3 Aaron Dawson (c)
- 4 Ben Cornwall
- 5 Ben Almond
- 6 Cam De Beer
- 7 Harry Palmer
- 8 Joey Britton
- 9 Jonny Weimann
- 10 Luke Bouchier
- 11 Jake Sterland
- 12 Charlie Davies
- 13 Aaron Pope
- 14 George Pearson
- 15 Joe Brock (vc)

## REPLACEMENTS

- 16 Liam Burrows
- 17 Chris Romano
- 18 Kieran Payne
- 19 Mack Welsh
- 20 Jack Edwards

### Head Coach/DOR

Gareth Collins

### Forwards Coach

George Richardson

### Assistant Coaches

Chris McAuley

Sam Lockwood

### Lead Therapist

Max Molyneaux

### Assistant Therapist

Holly Carver

### Kit/Social Media

George Lynch

### REFEREE:

**Jamie Parr**

### ASSISTANT REFEREE 1:

**Jack Sutton**

### ASSISTANT REFEREE 2:

**Andrew Green**

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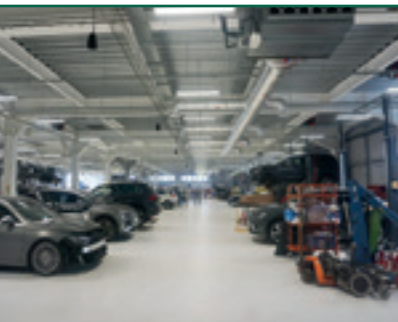
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# PRE-SEASON ROUND UP



Pre-season matches have gone pretty much as well as could have been hoped for - barring, almost inevitably, a couple of disappointing injuries.

The squad, made up mostly of players retained from last season, but bolstered by some key new recruits, settled fairly quickly and, after an initial half hour of slight ring- rustiness in the first game against Tonbridge Juddians, came through strongly to win by 63-21 against a very competitive opposition. Chris Smith and Alex Rayment both scored two tries, with further touchdowns from Will Rogers, Isaac Bell, Alex Gilham, Charlie Briers and Blues' Skipper, Reece Lane - possibly the most popular score of the game! All 9 tries were converted by flyhalves, Mike Cooke and David Hayes.

The second game, away at Championship side, Cambridge represented a clear step up, but

Stortford proved equal to the task, squeezing home 19-21, with a late try from Chris Bolton, adding to earlier ones from Jack Biard and Harrison Langworthy to seal an excellent victory. Once again, kicking from the tee was perfect. A young Blues side, also played Cambridge and had a tougher battle, losing 39- 0, but gave a good account of themselves, despite being heavily outgunned in the pack.

The final preseason match again saw the Blues in action - this time under lights at Shelford Firsts. Boosted by a couple of older First Team heads, needing game time, they played extremely well, notably putting the home side's dangerous runners under pressure time and again with an aggressive rush defence. Final scoreline was 12- 17 with Charlie Briers showing quick reactions and feet to score 2 first half tries and Tristan Smith sealing the win with his touchdown from a driving maul in the second period.



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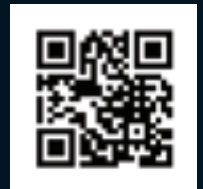
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# IN THE SPOTLIGHT: OLLIE JONES



In recent seasons it has been traditional to start the player profile

article in the first programme of the new season with the club Captain. However, this season there are strong reasons to break with tradition, Ollie Jones will be making his hundredth appearance for the 1st XV in the first game of the season. This is a major milestone for Ollie and with his appointment as one of the Vice Captains, the programme editorial staff are sure that Will Rogers, the new Club Captain will cede the first player profile to Ollie

Ollie's first appearances for the 1st XV were in 2016/2017 National Two season when the club won promotion to National One that season. Ollie featured in just four games that season with three appearances off the bench and one away start at number 8 against London Irish Wild Geese. Only one other player from the 2016/2017 promotion side is still playing for the 1st XV, he also now has over 100 appearances having achieved that record last season. (The serious Stortford supporters should be able to name this player).

Ollie featured in 21 games during the first season in National One (11 starts and 10 appearances off

the bench). Ollie was then still at the tender age of 23 for a back row forward in National One. In the seasons 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 he featured in just 9 games all off the bench with his appearances being limited by several strong back row forwards then available for selection at the club.



During the following three seasons, 2021 to 2024 after the aborted Covid season, he made a total of 65 appearances, 23 of those appearances last season of which just one being off the bench, reflecting his now firmly established back row status at Stortford.

Ollie has played in all three back row spots for Stortford, usually in the number 18 role on the bench where he can cover all three backrow positions. His preference is for the number 6 role as he regards his defence and tackling to be his main strengths. In the last couple of seasons, he has also been used successfully as a "back of the lineout jumper" getting fast lineout ball for attacking plays.

He scored a memorable try against Chinnor on Ladies Day back in April 2022 (John Allanson's write-up of the try is a classic and this match report is available on the website). The try was set-up by an outstanding reverse flick pass by Tom Lewis which John claims fooled most of the spectators as well as Chinnor and it even nearly fooled Ollie. It reflects well on Ollie's typical play for Stortford that he was backing up as always and was alert enough to hang onto the pass and score.

Ollie's appointment as one of the Vice Captains this season is in recognition of the contribution that he has made to Stortford rugby all through the age groups and also the example that his whole hearted style of play on the field makes to the team in Division One rugby.

Ollie has been sponsored by Smart Merchants for the last three seasons and will be sponsored again by them for this season.

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Did you know **Club Stortford** has raised over **£467,000** to help the 1st XV team over the last twelve seasons? Now in

our 13th 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. It was the brainchild of Charlie Dunsford, Russell Cattell and others from the club. Many members have worked tirelessly both at the forefront and behind the scenes throughout the last 13 years and we want that to continue. At our recent AGM **Charlie Dunsford** and **Jamie Baker** were duly elected to take up the ongoing challenge as the New President and New Secretary.



Club Stortford works closely with the 1st XV coaching team to provide funding for expenditure beyond the resources of the main club and our Mission Statement remains a simple one;

- **To ensure BSRFC continues our journey in National 1s League Rugby – this includes the 1st & Blues as one squad**
- **To cultivate new homegrown talent throughout the club drawing from the - minis - youth - colts - development squad.**

We continue to be on the hunt for new members who can help us to broaden the extent of our support for the squad. Both individual and corporate membership options are available, and come with exclusive Club Stortford ties, 2 x Club Stortford pre-match lunches, match reports after each league game and other perks like access to Six Nations and Autumn Internationals tickets. There will also be regular updates for Club Stortford Members from Tom Coleman, our new head coach. Alongside this, you'll get discounts to local restaurants like Zara. Get in touch with our secretary **Jamie Baker** on **07922 422 489** for more information or to join.

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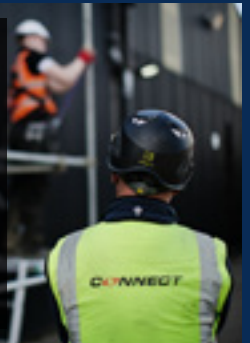


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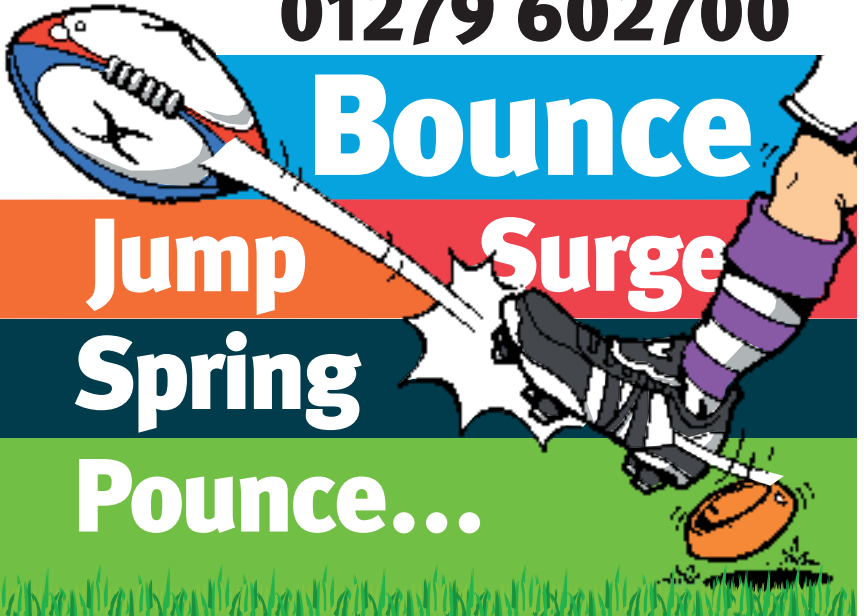
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The Oval Club was formed in 1998 by some Bishop's Stortford Rugby Football Club members who wanted to find a way of raising funds to improve the playing facilities of the Club with the mission statement:

**'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 £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 on-going budget requirements. Often these contributions have been made to the Club to enable it to secure grants from the Rugby Football Union and other sources.

**So far, major contributions have been made towards the cost of:**

- Flood lighting the main pitch,
- Floodlighting the back field pitches,
- Pitch repair and maintenance,
- Improvement of the playing surfaces, including the purchase of a verti-drainer,
- Drainage of the back field pitches,
- Rabbit fencing,

- Replacement of goal posts,
- Refurbishing the changing room showers,
- Purchase of physiotherapy equipment,
- Playing equipment and travel costs for all teams,
- Supporting youth and mini through tours, kit and additional playing facilities,
- Junior coaching courses.

**On the social side there are annual Members' events. Currently these are:**

- A self-supporting golf day at one of the local golf clubs,
- An Annual Dinner and Forum,
- First team home and away lunches.

Through its contributions The Oval Club plays a considerable part in helping the Rugby Club enhance its playing related facilities for the use 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**  
**Steven Wasley - Secretary**  
**John Power - Treasurer**  
**John Robinson**  
**Mark Caulfield**  
**Mark Smith**

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# Bishop's Stortford

## Independent

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### Aristocrat blaze was accidental, says senior fire officer

Paul Wincegar  
paul.wincegar@stortfordindep.co.uk

A fire at the vacant former Aristocrat fashion shop in Bishop's Stortford started accidentally, a senior fire officer has said.

More than 30 fire fighters were sent last Wednesday (August 29) to historic building The Chalety in Hadham Road, hours until earlier this summer of the high-end women's and men's clothing retailer.

Herts Fire and Rescue Service was called at 12.41pm. The first of six fire engines arrived at the scene at 12.47pm. Crews from Bishop's Stortford, Hertford, Chesshunt, Hodstock and two from Harlow, from Newnham, attended.

Police closed Hadham Road between its junctions with Bells Hill and with the Northgate End Link Road traffic lights, as well as the whole of North Street, for almost two hours. Assistant Chief Fire Officer Mick Barber told the *Indie*: "Crews located

a fire affecting the loft space and internal walls, and firefighters worked for around an hour-and-a-half to fight the fire from the inside and outside of the building.

"Fortunately nobody was hurt in the incident and we believe the fire started accidentally.

"I'd like to thank our colleagues at Essex County Fire and Rescue Service Harlow to help us tackle this fire quickly and effectively."

The *Indie* understands the fire was caused by workmen preparing the building for new tenants to open their business later this month, but that is likely to have to be put back.

On the *Indie*'s Facebook page, Data care customer Helen Kenny said: "We the guys working inside said they were having 'touch-ups' and one of them was burning off paint from the wood frames and it caught fire."

Holes appeared in the tiled roof of the left-hand side of the building, through which smoke billowed. Earlier this summer, Aristocrat went into voluntary liquidation

under new ownership after almost four decades in the town. It had debts totalling £88,187.

Brother and sister founders Lawrence Taylor and Janet March to Oliver Tookman, chief executive of the Aldrich Group Ltd, an owner-managed group of companies running independent fashion stores, including Robert Goddard, which has 30 shops stretching from Lincoln to Surrey. Mr Tookman is also a director of Robert Goddard Ltd.

Lawrence and Janet told the *Indie* in mid-July that news of the company's demise had come as a "total shock".

The siblings started Aristocrat in 1976 in Chingford, where they remained shop until 2013. At one point they employed 15 staff.

They moved into The Chalety in Florence Walk, during which time they accrued thousands of customers. They decided to sell because they were looking to scale back and retire.

Crews located a fire affecting the loft space and internal walls

Photo: Will Alderton, JJJ Media



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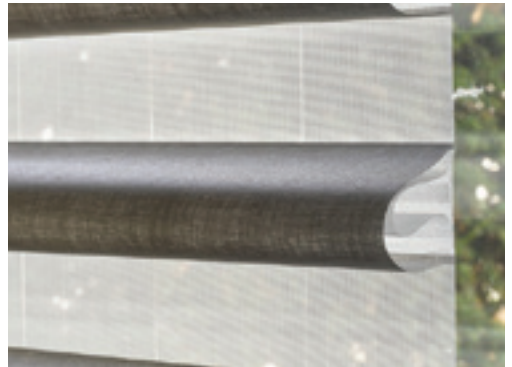
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# SOME OF VIKKI'S FAVOURITES



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During the pre-season home games in August the main spectator interest is looking at the new signings for the season and trying to gauge how the side will do in the coming season.

However, it is noticeable that at the end of the summer the 1st XV pitch always looks great thanks to Garson's professionalism, it is complemented by how neat and tidy the rest of the ground and clubhouse look in preparation for the new season.

This does not occur by accident. There are normally two annual summer volunteer working party days for painting and cleaning duties of both the ground and the clubhouse. There will always be wear and tear during the season so it is only the pre-season home games and the first September home games that this "maintenance" work can be fully appreciated before the full season and British winter weather starts to take effect on the ground and clubhouse appearance.

John Allanson has acted for many years now as the volunteer co-ordinator for the summer work parties. The regular volunteers are Tony and Suzi Rea, Karl and Sally Winter, Dave Walker, Paul Richardson, Peter Douglas, Peter Cross and Kate Hawkins, lately they have been joined by Becky and Martin Tompsett, Simon Wilson, John Ramus, Liam Love, Paul Simpson and Hugo Richardson. However, as the saying goes "you can never have

enough volunteers" so anyone else answering next summer's call will be warmly welcomed. (Please email John Allanson [allansonjohn19@gmail.com](mailto:allansonjohn19@gmail.com) if you can spare some time)

Obviously, there is still lots of tidying up work and regular maintenance work that has to be done through the season itself, again almost all of it by volunteers. John again oversees all of this, recently greatly helped by Mark Caufield. Monday mornings through the season are the big "clear-up" however, there are always "little jobs" cropping up.

The Club does employ professionals for pitch maintenance, plumbing, electrics and structural work but any other tidying up work is completed entirely by volunteers. This ranges from emptying bins, installing and removing advertising boards to clearing gutters and replacing broken toilet seats and always much shifting of furniture. As the Club continues to grow, the need for volunteer helpers can only increase.

The Director of Rugby often does obviously not usually cover clubhouse painting and decorating. However, several years ago, after serving on a summer working party helping with the painting of the clubhouse lobby, Andy Long was observed a few weeks later berating a hapless youngster for rubbing mud on "his" wall. His comment to John Allanson was "It is surprising how you notice things that impact the jobs you've done".





# FIREWORKS DISPLAY

**SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2024**

**GATES OPEN AT 5PM FIREWORKS AT 7PM**

**INDIVIDUAL TICKETS £8**

**FAMILY TICKETS (2 ADULTS + 2 CHILDREN) £21**

**ADDITIONAL CHILD TICKETS £5**

**FOR TICKETS PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE**

**NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD  
ON THE GATE ON THE NIGHT**



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# MATCH DAY EXPERIENCE

## 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 **Tom Coleman** along with Club captain **Will Rodgers** 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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# CLUB SHOP

## OPENING HOURS:

Wednesdays 7pm - 9pm

Saturdays  
(when there is a 1st XV home match)  
12pm - 3pm

Sundays 9am - 1pm

## ONLINE 24/7

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