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FROM THE PRESIDENT: RLJONES

We welcome Rams to Silver Leys today. They have always been a very strong side and have been pushing for promotion to the

Championship for several years now. They sit top of the league with a perfect record this season – 5 wins from 5, with a try bonus point in every match.

A strong performance on the road at Sedgley Park last Saturday saw us return to winning ways, and 5 points on the road was just reward for the work that Tom and the guys have been putting in. Today will undoubtedly be a step up, but at this level, any team can beat any other.

Mantle Space are today's Match Day Sponsors, and it is always great to have Guy and Jamie Baker join us. Our Man of the Match sponsors are Menor Services, with Andrew and Gemma Menzies, who have been every present this season in the multiple volunteer roles they are currently filling at the Club

We are also joined by the ever present Three Willows & Ace of Lanes, and the almost every present Nockolds, hosted today by Pete Dodd – Family Law.

As ever, we remain indebted to all our sponsors for the support they give us. Thank you all.

Today we also welcome our Vice Presidents. We are rightly proud of our army of volunteers and to be made a Vice President is a recognition of years of service to the Club and Rugby in Bishop's Stortford. We thank you all and hope you enjoy your day.

It is a busy time at the Club over the next fortnight. Tomorrow, our Women's team have their first home match of the season against Braintree. They always appreciate the support they receive, and I would encourage you to come along and watch if you have the chance.

Our annual Club Quiz is taking place next Friday and Dee Compton has been working tirelessly – again – to organise this year's edition. At time of writing, there were still tables available, so do contact Dee if you would like to enter a team for what is always a great fun evening.

And next Sunday we turn the Club over to the Minis who are hosting their annual festival. This will be the 13th year of the BSRFC Minis festival and, having been involved in the organisation for the first few years, it is great to see the event still going strong.

For the last few years, the responsibility for organising the festival has fallen on the Under 9 age group and I wish them every success with this year's event and am looking forward to watching the next generation enjoy their day.

Have a great day everyone, and I will see you pitch side.







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TOM COLEMAN: HEAD COACH



What a brilliant away win it was last weekend in Manchester. The players really demonstrated a lot of character and executed the

game plan very well, so huge credit must go to them for that. Sedgley is not an easy ground to play at and we completely dominated them from the first whistle and showed we can control games at this level.

Today will be a completely different test and one that we are really excited about. We've known Rams for a long time now and they have such a good blueprint of what they are, and they deserve a huge amount of credit for that. They've recruited very well once again and have clearly had another very positive start to the campaign. Seb and his coaches have done a fantastic job since they've been together and they will certainly be the benchmark again, I have no doubt about that.

For us, it's a great challenge and another opportunity to beat a really good side and find our own level of consistency which to this point has alluded us.

I must give a lot of credit to the players especially with the amount of injuries we have already

had to deal with. As I've mentioned before, it happens to every team (some more than others!) and you have to remain positive in the tough moments and keep going. I think the players have done that really well and will grow week on week, as our last performance showed.

I'm asked quite frequently about certain players and when they will be returning, so here is a list of where we are currently at;

Nick Hankin - season over Dan Cole - season over Charlie Reynolds-West - return Nov/Dec Josh Stannard - return November Jake Morris - return March Dan Powell - return mid Oct Isaac Bell - return mid Oct Sam Johnson - return imminent

I hope you enjoy the day and get behind the players to try and make it a special victory to remember.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support, especially all our brilliant sponsors.

COYB.

THE COACHING STAFF

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







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This week we feature some of **Emma Cox's** favourite shots from our recent game against Leicester Lions.

















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COLTS: DAVE MCFIE



This new season sees our Colts embark on another challenge to win League and Cups to emulate the success of Colts teams of previous

years. There is a squad of 62 players this season and game time to all players may well prove to be the biggest obstacle to cross. Many clubs are now down to squads of only 1 Colts team and are generally too weak to play our A team but sometimes prove a little too strong for our B team and certainly way too strong for our potential C team.

Many of the squad attend schools and colleges in and around the town but there is a group of almost 10 who have gone onto Harrow, Felsted and Oaklands college to further their A level studies. Game time at the club for these boys is limited in the first Autumn term especially, but we hope to have them fully involved after the Christmas break. Although, with many schools now playing in 10's and 7's after Christmas plus the lure of the many England Lambs training sessions we may well not see much of these boys at all. Hopefully they will still remain active within the club but the longer they don't play at the club the more likely it is we will not see them again. 5 senior men's teams in the club. With many of the boys choosing to not go to university straight away or at all, means we now regularly see at least 8-10 players from the past 3 years play in either the Blues or the Mitres which is reassuring for the future of Bishop's Stortford senior men's rugby.

The Colts coaches have largely remained the same for the past few seasons, but we are glad to have a specialist backs coach in the form of club stalwart, ex 1st XV captain and ex Blues coach Stuart Haslam bringing new ideas and enthusiasm to the group in his own effervescent way! His knowledge and playing experience makes him a very useful asset to the Colts coaches and players alike.

Sadly, as I write this on Monday morning I have to report the Colts have exited the National cup after a narrow loss 34-33 to Rochford hundred. Some very bizarre and extremely frustrating refereeing decisions went against us yesterday in Rochford and we are out, therefore we are now left to concentrate on the HML leagues and County Cups for both our Colts teams. With full squads of players available and withy a spot of good luck we should see the success continue.

On a more positive note. it is extremely pleasing to now have seen Colts players, from the past three seasons. plav in every senior team in the club. Murrav Davidson's appearance in a 1st XV league game last season meant that Colts. from the past three seasons, have represented all





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TODAT. OPPONENTS



The club now known today as Rams was founded as Old Redingensians in 1924 by former pupils of Reading School.

Home games were played initially at two locations in Reading and nearby Caversham until a more permanent home was found at Emmer Green in 1927.

In 1948 Reading Borough Council purchased the Emmer Green ground for development and the switch was made to their present home at Old Bath Road in the village of Sonning to the east of Reading.

With a lack of former pupils joining from Reading School, it became difficult to field three XVs and the club became open in 1968. The following year "Old" was dropped from the title.

The nickname "Rams" was adopted to reflect the club's connection with Reading and the animal featuring in the town's coat of arms.

The club won promotion into National 2 South in 2015 and our first encounter with them on 12th December that year resulted in a 27-15 away win to us. In the return fixture in 2016 we won very convincingly 53-5.

The following season (2016/2017) in our promotion to Division 1 season we also won both games but in both instances by small margins. The scores were 25-24 at Old Bath Road in December and by 36-33 at home in the April. Rams finished the season 6th in National 2 South.

In the 2017/2018 season Rams finished third and in 2018 /2019 they were the runaway champions of National 2 South amassing a hugely impressive 139 points and losing only twice all season.

In May 2018 the club had formally changed its name to Rams RFC.

We played them again in the curtailed season of 2019/2020 after their promotion to National 1. Rams won 35-31 at their ground and we won 21-11 at Stortford. Rams were in third place when this season finished early due to Covid. In the 2021/22 season we lost both games against Rams with a narrow home 19-21 home defeat and Rams winning 17-5 at their place. Rams finished sixth in the league after a promising early start to the season.

In 2022/23 we again lost both games against Rams. They had a very convincing 40-10 win at Silver Leys in September and a 26-14 win at their place in January 2023. Rams finished second in the league to Cambridge on points difference and missed out on promotion.

Last season it was much the same story as we lost 10-26 in October at Rams and lost 14-26 at home in February.

Rams again finished second in the league, this time missing out on promotion to Chinnor by 12 points, Chinnor finished the season strongly and Rams finished the season poorly by their standards giving up the chase for promotion.

Rams Rugby run five adult men's teams and a Women's XV. Their youth and mini sections are among the biggest in the area with approximately 400 boys and girls.



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WOMEN & GIRLS: KATE HAWKINS

So what's new with our women's section for the 24/25 season?

New season means new players!!



We have been very lucky in the recruitment of Kyle McDonald new coach for the women's section who has joined us after formerly coaching at Epping, who coached an almost undefeated side last season and is proving to be a great addition to the coaching team.

The coaching team consists of Kyle McDonald, Tom Brady who we managed to convince to stay on for another season along with Dave Walker and Imogen Spanton.

We have spent a lot of time recruiting and we have had





an influx of brand new and experienced players meaning that we are now looking at a squad of almost 40 players meaning that the dream of a 2nd XV is almost in sight.

We sadly had our first league game postponed due to the opposition not being able to field a team proving how much numbers are key, we did however manage to arrange a friendly away at Aylesbury and the squad certainly put in a shift in and walked away with 10-40 win!

Our first league match is at home against Braintree on Sunday 13th October, so please do head down to cheer the team on!

So what else have we been doing?

We continue with our sponsors Nockolds and Charterhouse to whom we are extremely grateful.

We also as in line with the 23/24 season have our individual player sponsors and as we have so many new members you may have noticed the blank space on the wall in the clubhouse is awaiting out first players sponsor board in line with the 1st XV, watch this space!

If you're interested in sponsoring a player for the 24/25 season, please email **womenandgirlsadmin@bsrfc.co.uk**

So, if you're searching for more than just a sport, consider BSRFC's Women's rugby.

Just remember, all you need is a willingness to learn, laugh, and redefine the game, one ruck at a time.

If you wish to become involved or for any further information. Please email me - **Kate Hawkins** at **ladieschair@bsrfc.co.uk**

Kate Hawkins Chair of Women and Girls

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NATIONAL 1: REGULTS, FIXTURES, TABLE

Results from 5th October 2024

HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM
Blackheath	40 - 5	Darlington Mowden Park
Rosslyn Park	44 - 26	Esher
Richmond	31 - 27	Sale FC
Rotherham	45 - 19	Dings Crusaders
Rams	54 - 29	Leicester Lions
Sedgley Park	12 - 27	Bishop's Stortford
Plymouth Albion	35 - 15	Birmingham Moseley

Fixtures for 12th October 2024

HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM
Dings Crusaders	VS	Richmond
Sale FC	VS	Rosslyn Park
Birmingham Moseley	VS	Sedgley Park
Bishop's Stortford	VS	Rams
Esher	VS	Darlington Mowden Park
Leicester Lion	VS	Rotherham
Plymouth Albion	VS	Blackheath

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1 TABLE											
Team	Р	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	TBP	LBP	Points	Adj.
Rams	5	5	0	0	215	101	114	5	0	25	0
Richmond	5	5	0	0	183	90	93	3	0	23	0
Rotherham	5	4	0	1	186	108	78	3	1	20	0
Birmingham Moseley	5	4	0	1	139	89	50	3	0	19	0
Plymouth Albion	5	3	0	2	154	131	23	4	1	17	0
Blackheath	5	3	0	2	144	105	39	3	0	15	0
Sale FC	5	3	0	2	100	123	-23	2	1	15	0
Rosslyn Park	5	2	0	3	154	123	31	2	1	11	0
Bishop's Stortford	5	2	0	3	107	130	-23	2	0	10	0
Dings	5	2	0	3	141	169	-28	2	0	10	0
Sedgley Park	5	1	0	4	129	124	5	1	2	7	0
Leicester Lions	5	1	0	4	99	161	-62	2	1	7	0
Esher	5	0	0	5	110	252	-142	2	0	2	0
Darlington Mowden Park	5	0	0	5	65	220	-155	1	0	1	0



- 1 Toby hill
- 2 Alex Rayment
- 3 Henry Peck
- 4 Hamish Ferguson
- 5 Harry Charter
- 6 Harrison Langworthy
- 7 Ollie Jones
- 8 Will Rogers (c)
- 9 Chris Bolton
- 10 Mike Cooke
- 11 Alex Gilham
- 12 Austin Pope
- 13 Jack Biard
- 14 Tom Mills
- 15 David Hayes

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 Ollie Moffitt
- 17 Tristan Smith
- 18 Frazier Kiff
- **19** Reggie Hammick
- 20 Charlie Briers

Head Coach: Tom Coleman

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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- 2 Max Hayman (c)
- 3 James Baker
- 4 Nile Dacres
- 5 Harry Stone
- 6 James Mcrae
- 7 Tom Vooght
- 8 Robbie Stapley
- 9 Ollie Cole
- 10 Fraser Honey
- 11 Tomek Pozniak
- 12 Rowan Grundy
- 13 Axel Kalling-Smith
- 14 Solo Radianirova
- 15 Zach Clow

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 Ant Marris
- 17 Ryan Lomas
- 18 Morgan Macrae
- **19** Drew Humberstone
- 20 Ollie Hodgson

Director of Rugby: Seb Reynolds

Forwards Coach: Owen Root

Defence Coach: Danny Batty

Backs Coach: Harry Stapleton

Team Manager Daryl Watson

Strength & Conditioning Coach: Joe Southwell

Scrum Coach: Glyn Mosses

Medical Team: Dan Michael Alana Crago Craig Nightingale

REFEREE: Matt Sharpe

ASSISTANT REFEREE 1: Michael Maple

ASSISTANT REFEREE 2: Ben McNamara

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MATCH REPORT: JOHN ALLANSON

Sedgley Park Tigers 12 Bishop's Stortford 1st XV 27

The home side was given every opportunity to start on the front foot, with the first

4 penalties going their way in the opening 10 minutes, but Stortford's aggressive line speed and tackling neutralised any threat. Stortford were much more effective in possession, using two successive penalties of their own to take them to a 5m lineout, from which a powerful driving maul drove Alex Rayment over the line for an opening try. Mike Cooke's conversion attempt went narrowly wide, though he was successful with an even more difficult kick after 30 minutes. when Will Rogers touched down from another successful 5m lineout drill. In the meantime, frequent penalties and occasional handling errors by both sides had made for a bit of a stop-start game, though Stortford generally enjoyed a clear edge. With 35 minutes gone, Cooke stretched the lead to 15 points with a goal from just inside the Tigers' half, after one of many tackle penalties awarded. The home side never gave up and countered aggressively, as half-time beckoned and it took a great cover tackle From Austin Pope on the Stortford line to dislodge the ball for a

establish a commanding lead, but momentum was soon lost, when an attacking lineout was lost and was followed by two penalty concessions in guick succession to give the home side a 5m lineout. Stortford's forwards defended the initial drive well, but an unconverted try was scored by Tigers on 50 minutes, after a couple more phases, with a long, hail-Mary pass bouncing into the left wing's hands. With the breeze in their favour and playing with a greater sense of urgency, the home side came much more into the game and took full advantage of two more successive penalties to set up another 5m lineout with 60 minutes gone and, once again, were able to crash over for a try a couple of phases later, with the conversion added this time. A breakdown penalty in Stortford's favour, straight from the restart set up an attacking lineout and, although the resultant driving maul was stopped short of the line, this was at the cost of a yellow card for a home player for side entry and Tristan Smith was able to crash over from the resultant further lineout. Cooke's conversion attempt bounced out off the far post. That was the end of the scoring, but the visitors had to resist some more concerted pressure, ending up with 14 men, after Oli Moffitt was vellow-carded for team offences inside their 22.

knock-on to prevent a Tigers try.

Stortford started the second period strongly and. after Tom Mills won a welliudaed box kick to set up position well inside home territory, Charlie Briers was able to snipe over from the base of a try-line ruck inside the fortv second minute. Cooke converted to



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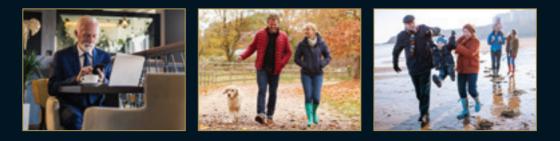
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IN THE SPOTLIGHT: CHRIS BOLTON

Chris made his 50th appearance for Stortford last week in the game with Sedgley Park, many congratulations.

Last season he was selected for all 1st XV fixtures, starting for 15 games and on the bench for 11, this was Chris' second season at Stortford. This season, his third, he has been appointed as one of the two vice-captains with Ollie Jones, Chris has established himself as the club's number one scrumhalf.

During the 2022/23 season and last season he shared the scrum half role with Connor Lloyd, following Connor's departure, it appears he will be sharing the role with Charlie Briers, one of this season's new signings.

Scrum-half is a very specialist role, it always makes sense to have a second scrumhalf on the bench, if the starting scrum half gets injured then it is easy to replace them with another player with the same set of skills. Over the two past seasons Stortford have successfully operated a rota system for the scrum-half position, one scrum half starting and being replaced usually around the fifty-minute mark during the second half of the match. This has the advantage of the second scrumhalf getting meaningful game time, reducing the risk of injury to the starting scrumhalf by reducing his game time. It is arguable that Chris may not have gone through last season injury free to achieve his 100% appearance record if this rotation system had not been in operation. Another advantage of this rotation for Stortford is that they have traditionally played a fast open style of rugby by bringing on a fresh scrumhalf during the second half of the game, it helps to rejuvenate the side's performance.

It is interesting that although the Springboks will regularly name six out of their seven international substitutes as forwards (the Bomb Squad) the seventh substitute is usually a scrumhalf. This tactic will only work if the play and the approach of both scrum halves are complimentary with each other. In Chris Stortford have a scrum half with the full set of all round skills for the position which means the ability to pass accurately and swiftly, to box kick effectively and to break from the base of the scrum when there is the opportunity. Stortford's style of play requires the scrum half to be able to set a fast pace for the team to maintain the side's attacking momentum which Chris has proved himself capable of during his two seasons at Stortford.

Chris teaches Games and Maths at Campion School, Hornchurch, he also runs Bolt Coaching providing rugby skill sessions during school holidays for U5 to U13 boys and girls at BSRFC. There can be no better playing position for teaching rugby skill sessions than scrum half who are always natural organisers on the field and possess the full range of rugby skills. Chris has even been able to goal kick successfully for Stortford in emergencies.

Chris has been sponsored by GRS Group for all three of his seasons at Stortford, their support is very much appreciated.



CLUB STORTFORD



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,

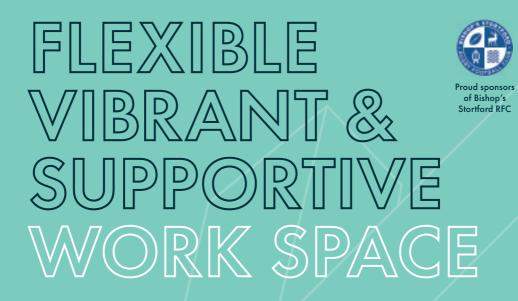
Russell Cattell and others from the club. Many members have worked tirelessly both at the forefront and behind the scenes throughout the last 13 years and we want that to continue. At our recent AGM **Charlie Dunsford** and **Jamie Baker** were duly elected to take up the ongoing challenge as the New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



The Oval Club was formed in 1998 by some Bishop's Stortford Rugby Football Club members who wanted

to find a way of raising funds to improve the playing facilities of the Club with the mission statement:

'To contribute towards promoting the highest possible standard of rugby throughout Bishop's Stortford Rugby Football Club'

The Oval Club is an autonomous body and entirely independent of the Rugby Club's operations. None of the Committee members hold a position or appointment in the Rugby Club's infrastructure. The Oval Club does not seek to influence decisions of the Rugby Club. It responds to requests for financial assistance for projects which have been approved by the Rugby Club's Executive Committee and which fall within its mission statement.

Funds are raised by monthly contributions from the Members two thirds of which are set aside for Rugby Club projects with the other third reserved for social events for Members.

To date The Oval Club has raised over a quarter of a million pounds with the Rugby Club receiving more than £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 Steven Wasley - Secretary John Power - Treasurer John Robinson Mark Caulfield Mark Smith Keen to discuss your needs Here's my mobile number A drink in the pub Just popping in to say hi We're not estate agents. We're friends.



BISHOP'S STORTFORD

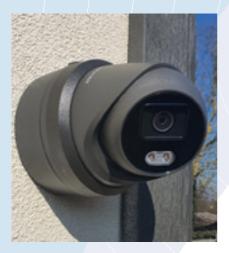
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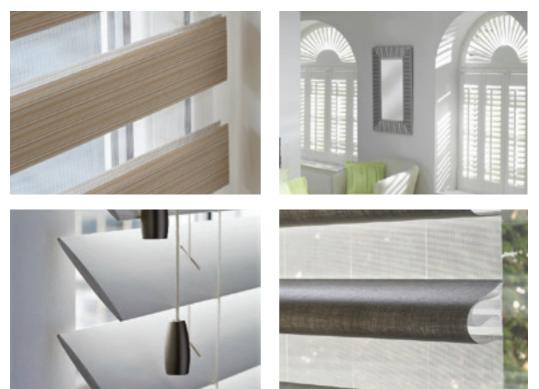
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their jerseys.

They have been an established law firm in Stortford since 1913, the firm was founded by Herbert Stanley Tee, it predates the founding of Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club by eight years. Both Tees and the club have grown with the town, and both have a well-established presence in Stortford.

One similarity between Tees and BSRFC is they

both have strong family connections, Tees having a tradition of fathers and brothers in the firm (hence Tee becoming Tees) and BSRFC fathers and brothers having played for the club and holding long family associations with the club.

It would have been almost possible to field a reasonable Stortford team from the Coleman, Banks, Winter, Ayrton, Aldam and Caulfield brothers.

Ever since Tees was established it has regarded one of its aims to integrate closely with the local community and has always had strong connections with the sporting clubs in the town. Tees involvement with the cricket club goes back to when the founder's sons and their sons played for Bishop's Stortford Cricket Club, there are also strong links with Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club and Bishop's Stortford Tennis Club.

OFF THE PITCH: TEES

Tees also provide legal advice to Bishops' Stortford Football Club and have always had both a strong playing presence and representation at Bishop's Stortford Golf Club. It could be argued that if Bishop's Stortford were to develop a community-based ice hockey side that Tees would be willing to get involved with that sport as well. Tees has a very strong and praiseworthy commitment to the local sporting community; they feel strongly that the ethos of their firm and the rugby club are very well matched. The club's commitment to the development of BSRFC as a community rugby club that runs sides for all age groups and gender is one of the key reasons Tees support the club.





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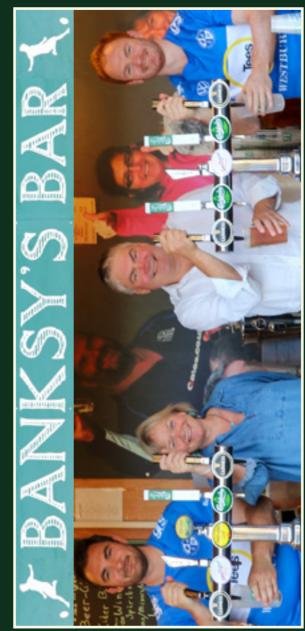






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