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MARK MCCRAITH DRIVES HIMSELF FORWARD TO SCORE THE FIRST TRY TO BISHOP’S STORTFORD.

THE CHANGING ROLE OF THE 1ST XV CAPTAIN
QUALITIES FOR LEADERSHIP & CHANGES IN TECHNOLOGY

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Welcome once again everyone to Silver Leys particularly the Players, Officials and supporters of Canterbury Rugby Club along with everyone associated with our Man of the Match sponsors Price Bailey.

The last two weeks have been something of a roller coaster ride for our 1st XV. The low was defeat by the narrowest of margins 29-30, last time out here against Cinderford. What made it all the more disappointing was that whilst we were never truly comfortable, we led 29-11 early in the second half. But thereafter it was all Cinderford as we struggled to regain any kind of foothold in the game. We withheld relentless pressure right up until the dying moments but credit to our visitors who ultimately, I believe deserved to take the spoils back to the Forest of Dean.

The high only came after the final kick of last week’s top of the table clash in South London against Old Elthamians. With a dozen games still to be played the result was never going to be definitive but after the Cinderford set back we knew that we really needed to get something out of the game. That though seemed highly unlikely when in the 79th minute the 14 men of OE’s crossed our line for the first time in the game to take a one point lead! Nevertheless Our guys didn’t waiver and having regained possession from the kick off steadily worked their way up field until being awarded a penalty about 25 metres out but dead central. Up stepped Banksy, with some of us not daring to watch. Cool as you like he slotted it, we cheered, the ref blew time and we cheered again! 16-14 Victory. Phew!

OE’s were understandably devastated. They had played short-handed since the 2nd minute of the game when their tighthead got red carded but for most of the 2nd half you wouldn’t have known it! So today for a change it would be great to see us put in the commanding 2nd half performance! That though will be easier said than done against a Canterbury side that have captured some significant scalps already this season. You will of course recall that they beat us 38-34 at their place back in October and since then have also recorded notable victories against Chinnor and away at Redingensians & Redruth! Any team that can travel down there and come away with the full 5 points deserves respect. Sounds to me that we’re in for another thriller!

For our Blues though progress has been far more serene. Three wins on the trot – Bury St Eds 20-10, Cinderford 26-0 & last Saturday at OE’s 17-3 and as a result they now sit 4th in Zoo Shield Div. 1 Today they host Cambridge.

Our Mitres (3rd XV) have struggled for games in recent weeks but have a ‘big one’ today as they host league leaders Tring.

Our Chindits are on an unbeaten run that stretches back to October and are 2nd in their merit table but don’t have a fixture today. Finally but by no means least our Abbotts are 3rd in their league having won only slightly fewer games than they’ve lost. Today they host Hitchin.

Good luck to all our senior teams.

Whichever game of the four you choose to watch I hope you have a great day with us here at Silver Leys. COYB!

Perry Oliver
President
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D.O.R SAYS

It was a great result against Old Elthamians, and I’m just really proud of the lads – they worked so hard to get the win.

We always knew it was going to be a hard game and in the first half if we are honest we should have turned our pressure in more points and then perhaps we wouldn’t have had the nail bitter finish we did!

We’ve had a few too many close games like that now. We’ve got to be more Scrooge-like with the ball and ruthless in attack.

I believe we have more to give as a group and continue to learn from every game, we will take each game as it comes otherwise you will be bitten.

Canterbury have been a form side this season and were rightly victors in our fixture earlier in the season, we know that we’ll have to be at our best for 80 + minutes this afternoon.

We are all hugely appreciative of the support we get both home and away and last weekend was magnificent, it makes a big difference to hear you all cheering the team on and being the 16th man. Please keep it up!!

Enjoy the game

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A Brief History of Canterbury RFC
Founded in 1929 Canterbury is the first ever East Kent club to achieve National League status. Times have certainly changed from when the founding fathers, many of them involved with agriculture, first took their post-match pints and pies in a local pub and played on a hired pitch. Modern players might even envy them in that the season rarely started in earnest before October when all the fruit picking in the area was over and farmer/rugby players could start thinking about a free Saturday afternoon. The club runs five senior sides, a ladies team and a full range of junior teams.

Community Commitment
The club’s commitment to its community responsibilities continues to grow. One of the major achievements has been the successful establishment of a Wheelchair Rugby section. In the space if just eighteen months its members achieved a place in the national competitions. The club was rewarded in the 2015 RFU Presidents Awards when named as winner of the Community Engagement category, following success the previous year when Canterbury won the Best Managed Club accolade.

Result 1st October 2016
Canterbury 38 Bishop’s Stortford 1st XV 34
What was described as a “lack lustre” performance by Bishop’s Stortford. Leading 13 – 20 at half time, Stortford were unable to press home any advantage.

Happier times came from the previous home encounter in October 2015 which Stortford won 48 – 13.

RESULTS OF THE LAST FIVE GAMES
03 Dec 2016 Barnes 8 38 Canterbury
03 Dec 2016 Redingensians Rams 24 25 Bishop’s Stortford
10 Dec 2016 Canterbury 31 15 Bury St. Edmunds
10 Dec 2016 Bishop’s Stortford 38 7 Exmouth
17 Dec 2016 Old Elthamians 18 14 Canterbury
17 Dec 2016 Bury St. Edmunds 16 33 Bishop’s Stortford
07 Jan 2017 Canterbury 38 32 Barnstable
07 Jan 2017 Bishop’s Stortford 29 30 Cinderford
14 Jan 2017 Canterbury 26 42 Clifton
14 Jan 2017 Old Elthamians 14 16 Bishop’s Stortford

If this proves anything it is only that similar sets of results against Old Elthamians and Bury St Edmunds could be as close as the first game at Canterbury – there again it might not!
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Julie North
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In the previous programme one of the identified major reasons for change in the role of 1st XV Captain was the arrival of the league structures. What Mike Sidey (Captain 1977/78 – 1979/1980) recognised in saying nowadays ‘there was more at stake with league promotion and relegation.’ If this is a ‘cause’ the ‘effects’ on player skill levels, commitment and preparation both for individuals and as a team is evidenced by a much clearer priority to-day than they might have been 40 years ago when a proportion of leadership time was taken up on administrative duties.

Tom Coleman (Captain 2011/12 – ) presents a view of to-days influences; firstly the players fitness levels in speed, strength and stamina are much higher. Pre season training sees to much of this and squad players are expected to not only keep these levels but to build on them. Technology more readily available now with matches recorded allows subsequent analysis of strengths, weaknesses and preferences of the opposition to structure both attack and defence. This means that the coaches can prepare game plans and take the analysis into account on team selection.

This provides Tom with the full breadth of match preparation : As one of the Coaching Team he is directly involved with analysis of the opposition’s game plan. With that knowledge of the opposition’s strengths and weaknesses and those of his own team players as Captain selection of the best team on the day. As Team Captain he is also in a position to adjust the game plan using Expansive, Tight or Tactical Kicking tactics.

Rugby borrows terminology from that of military planning and so to when looking at the role of leaders. One of the earliest writers on Military strategy, Sun Tsu (544 – 496 BC some 2,500 years ago) writes:

- Know thy self, know they enemy
- Invincibility lies in the defence – the possibility of victory in attack
THE CHANGING ROLE OF 1ST XV CAPTAIN

LEADERSHIP: INVINCIBILITY – IMAGINATIVE – INFLUENCING

- Do the basics better than the competition
- Getting selection right to create a dynamic culture.
- Discover what will motivate individuals both positive and negative and focus the communication around those factors; reassign team members resistant to change
- Clarity: with clear roles, clear boundaries then everyone in the team has a very clear understanding of what is expected of them and what they are expected to do.
- Belief is fundamental to success and winning becomes contagious, the best training, the best kit, the best support, the best structure leads to that belief and winning becomes reality. Make the team feel valued.
- Make sure you select the very best available
- Understand how to win and then work back. Leadership, therefore, comprises

PEOPLE ELEMENTS: Know yourself, know the strengths and weaknesses of each member of the team, Lead by example, Communicate clearly.

TASK ELEMENTS: Use the technology available, set the goals and determine strategies to achieve them and determine what additional resources may be needed.

Albert Einstein once said: “Imagination is more important than knowledge” and if the qualities of Leadership include:

Wisdom  Knowledge  Imagination
Credibility  Vision  Courage
Tranquility  Self-disciplined  Inventive
Visionary  Adaptable  Flexible

Supporters of Bishop’s Stortford, who week in – week out follow the fortunes of the Club, would say that the team’s strengths are built on a solid defence which is quickly turned into attack with open, attacking, running, recycling, and handling rugby often in difficult conditions and confidence in support runners which has attracted the growing numbers on the touchline.

Several of this season opponents, however have suggested that strength lies in the forwards. The Club has also been proud of the proportion of 1st XV who have come through the Mini & Youth system

Would achieving promotion lead to a change in the style of play? Would recruitment of 1st XV Squad need to look beyond the home grown? How could this be managed? Are questions that only need to be answered at the time but do the laws of leadership fall in favour of Nature or Nurture? How do we implement succession planning? Who determines the next Captain? Questions that are even challenging the England Rugby and Cricket Teams.

What is certain is that good leaders “Lead by Example” and “Influence” others to follow a given direction.

The second “Catalyst for Change” in the role of 1st XV Captain over the past 40 Years is Technology. Technology by its very nature changes and changes rapidly. Improvements in Recording and being able to visually analyse and play back match information is likely to be just the same. Not just video recording or GPS tracking systems but diet, nutrition, fitness measurement will impact or influence performance of teams and individuals. Parkinson’s Law states that “work expands to fill the time available for its completion,” and that a sufficiently large bureaucracy will generate enough internal work to keep itself ‘busy’ and so justify its continued existence without commensurate output. (Cyril Northcote Parkinson (1909-93))

So as a number of tasks of the Captaincy of the 1970’s have been reassigned, today’s Captain is expected to take on different roles.

More on these areas next time.
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I would like to offer a warm welcome to today’s opponents, Canterbury, who, you may remember, just beat us at their place in a high scoring game that we should really have won. They also only lost by 4 points in their game away against OEs in mid-December and so have clearly found some form that has seen them move up to 6th in the League, which means that we are most likely in for yet another tough game this afternoon!

Having said that and has generally been the case, there are no easy games in National 2 South and, as we have seen in the last couple of weeks, the momentum can swing very quickly from one team to another. For the second game running, it was frustrating to watch our lead slowly pegged back and then overtaken in the second half last week, while we appeared to have no answer to the pressure OEs brought to bear. However, great credit has to go to the team for continuing to battle to the very end, literally, to sneak the win with the last kick of the game, which had a delicious irony attached to it given that is precisely what happened to us in the reverse fixture early in the season.

When the contest is so close, you hope that the final outcome is down solely to the players with no undue influence from the referee. Unfortunately, the recent changes to the tackle law that were brought in from this month, whilst well intentioned, run the risk of that becoming the case. I think that everyone was surprised that the change was introduced mid-season, giving very little time for officials, coaches and players alike to absorb and understand it fully, and adjust accordingly.

At International and Premiership levels, the referee has the benefit of two assistants, video replay and a TMO but even with all that there have been inconsistencies in Premiership games in the application of the new laws. At our level, the referee at least has the help of two assistants, to determine what happened and agree the appropriate outcome. Even then, however, events can happen so quickly and be open to interpretation that you fear that referees are going to err on the side of caution and issue cards to players.

Where the real problems are likely to occur is with lower sides, such as the Blues and below, as far as we are concerned, and in junior leagues with regard to other clubs, where the referee is on his or her own with only bench players running the line, if they are lucky, who will be of no help whatsoever. There is a danger of us all being impacted by the law of unintended consequences, as evidenced by a letter in a national newspaper last weekend in which the Chairman of a junior rugby club in Yorkshire was bemoaning the fact that their last two second team games had seen two red and 18 yellow cards, which was more than they saw in the whole of last season!

Who would want to be a referee in these circumstances, let alone a member of a county disciplinary committee who are going to be in for some long nights!

Yours in rugby
Colin Tilley
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Tackling local issues

Museum’s Turkish agent fees go on sale as site stalls as site

The future of one quarter of Bishop’s Old River Lane complex back on market goes on sale

By Sinead Holland

The £105m scheme, which was originally set to begin in 2012, was predicted to create 720 permanent jobs as well as 300 jobs during construction.
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Sitting above the door in the corridor in the Stokes Room Bar is a photograph of a lonely group comprising; Chris Davies, Andrew Gebhart, Dave Kirkness, Michael Claridge, Robbie Kerr, Dave Fuszard and Robbie Prior. I understand that there is one person missing from the group – John Murphy. Why is this group occupying such a lofty position?

A glance at the hairstyles will tell you that this was the late 1960’s/early 1970’s and in fact this is the Bishop’s Stortford side who had won the Hertfordshire 7 a-side Competition for the 1971/72 season. I understand that this was the first time that any Club had “done the double” of Presidents Cup and County 7’s since founded.

We beat Hawker Siddeley 28 – 0 in the first round, Old Hertfordians 16 – 12 in the second. A quarter final win over Letchworth followed by a 26 – 10 win against Bacavians.

“I just remember how hard fought most of the games had been against our old county foes. Said Robbie Prior who played in all the games.

”I certainly remember how well our captain Dave Fuszard had played - his cover tackling was immense and saved us on several occasions. He was considered to be a playmaker but his defensive play on the day was outstanding.”

So four games and then the final where Stortford came up against old rivals Fullerians

“"The final was really intense as you could imagine from the score line. Then into sudden death. We created a scoring situation and Tubby was over the line, but he seemed to hesitate for an eternity before touching the ball down, we were all screaming at him to Touch down, all we needed was the score, he was obviously thinking about going under the posts!!”

Graham Springham a regular 1st XV wing but this day in the role of supporter shares the same memory. Stortford very much the underdogs on the day against one of the top County Clubs at the time carried the non partisan support. I’m told that Tubby’s version is likely to be different!

“I think this must have been one of the last times Tubby played for Stortford as the next season he went
off to Bedford to give it a go in the ‘Big Time’. In fact he did rather well.

He did of course return to play and coach for us many years later.” Said Robert

“This was only the second time we had ever won the Herts Sevens, previous winners in 1965. I think our trusted trustee and former president Peter Scarlett was involved in that one! We then had to wait another 14 years before we were next to win under the guidance of Gordon Cambell in 1986.”

In the previous programme mention is made of the importance of the 1971/72 season when Charlie Abrams having moved from Harlequins to Bishop’s Stortford brought a new regime which was to mark a change in direction for the Club.

Many thanks to Robert Prior and Robbie Kerr for sharing some of their memories and to Robert for the images – no matter how grainy!

If you have any stories from the past years especially if there is any supporting memorabilia and are happy to share it please do let us know.
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After last week’s loss ‘at the death’ and the similar outcome to our home fixture against OEs back in September, there was more than an element of balance being restored, as this game was won by Stortford with the final kick of the match. Having said that, the home side, who had dominated the second half, despite playing with only 14 men would have been understandably desperately disappointed to have victory snatched from them. OEs’ 14 men performed heroically in their second half comeback, with replacement flyhalf, Will Robinson, a recent recruit with considerable Championship experience pulling the strings and it took colossal determination and ultimately great nerve from Stortford to snatch this huge victory.

OEs had an uphill battle when, with barely 2 minutes of this top of the table clash gone, their tighthead prop, Aston Bevans-Royston was red carded for a head butt and, for the rest of the first half it looked as if they would be made to pay dearly. On 17 minutes, Stortford took the lead with an unconverted try, scored by Mark McCraith, dummying and forcing his way over close to a ruck, after Nick Hankin had made an excellent break to force a penalty near the home 22, which Tom Banks took quickly to almost reach the try line. The visitors were looking threatening now and could well have scored another three tries before the break with a bit of luck and a little more composure at crucial moments. As it was, though, they had to content themselves with a single score which, ironically came after 28 minutes, when Stortford were themselves down to 14 men, after winger, Ryan Hutler had been sin-binned for a clumsy collision, with an OEs player, who had jumped high in the air to field a well-judged box kick from Banks. The try was scored after 28 minutes by Sean Edwards, but was earned by the whole pack, who drove a lineout maul more than 22 metres to allow the prop
to touch down. The conversion attempt again went just wide and, with other chances going begging, the halftime scoreline was a mere 0-10, which certainly didn’t reflect the balance of play.

The second half, though was a very different affair, with Stortford squandering good early turnover ball and conceding an unnecessary penalty at a breakdown just outside their 22 after only 3 minutes of the half to allow OEs’ replacement flyhalf to get them on the scoreboard. This was cancelled out 5 minutes later, when Banks kicked a penalty won by Stortford’s hitherto dominant scrum, but the 14 home players then launched themselves into a series of concerted attacks, which were repelled with difficulty and never for long. A number of poor kicks didn’t help, but OEs were now reorganised and rejuvenated and Stortford, try as they might, could scarcely get out of their own half. Almost inevitably, penalties were conceded in the face of such concerted pressure, enabling OEs to kick two more goals and narrow their deficit to 3 points, with 15 minutes still to play. The first came after 15 minutes, when Stortford were penalised at a scrum, after personnel changes to both packs had produced a swing in fortunes in this area of the game. The second penalty arose after the home side repeated Stortford’s first half feat in driving a lineout maul over 20 metres, which was halted some 15 metres out only by collapsing the maul. At this stage, with OEs becoming ever more confident and Stortford looking increasingly nervous, the only question was, could the visitors hold on to their narrow lead, since it seemed unlikely that they could break out to score themselves. For more than 10 minutes, their determined defence held tight, but it was a turnover from a knock-on, as Stortford tried to run out of their 22 that finally proved their undoing, as quick ball along the line left an overlap on the left, which, despite a tremendous effort by Banks to get in a last ditch cover tackle, saw winger, Dom Lespierre dive in for a try in the corner. The very difficult conversion attempt fell short but, with only a couple of minutes left on the clock, the home side was in the lead for the first time in the whole match.

Now, with nothing to lose, the visitors cast their nerves aside and threw themselves onto the attack through many phases - a feat which had eluded them since halftime - and were eventually rewarded with a penalty for a breakdown offence some 35 metres out. Although in front of the posts, it needed a true strike into the breeze - a far from easy proposition, with the whole match hanging on it. The large crowd held its breath and Tom Banks, undaunted, stepped up to thump the ball through the posts, clearing the bar by only a few feet. With no time for a restart, the final whistle went, as Stortford’s players and the large contingent of traveling supporters heaved a huge collective sigh of relief.

Things went rather more smoothly on the neighbouring pitch, where Stortford’s Blues produced one of their best performances of the season to gain a convincing win over OEs’ second team. Impressive wins also by the 4ths and 5ths completed a clean sweep for the Club’s teams.
# Results Grid

## National League 2 South

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Barnes</th>
<th>B'stple</th>
<th>BuryStE</th>
<th>C'bury</th>
<th>Chinnor</th>
<th>C'ford</th>
<th>Clifton</th>
<th>Exm'th</th>
<th>HenleyH</th>
<th>LInishWG</th>
<th>O.Elth's</th>
<th>Red.Rams</th>
<th>RedRuth</th>
<th>Taunton</th>
<th>Worthing</th>
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1ST HALF OF SEASON | RETURN FIXTURES 2ND HALF OF SEASON
### Results Saturday 14 January 2017

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### Fixtures Saturday 21 January 2017

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### National League 2 South

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JACK SCANTELBURY 19
SAM COLEMAN 20

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ANDY ROGERS
CHRIS LANSDOWNE PHYSIO
WILL GARVEY
JONATHAN
JONES
20
K YAN
BRAITHWAITE
19
LOGAN
WOODBRIDGE
18
ROYCE
CADMAN
17
JIM
GREEN
16
GUY
HILTON
14
JONATHAN
MURRAY
13
WILL
FARRIS
12
TOM
BEST
10
SAM
ROGERS
6
JAMIE
STEPHENS
8
MCCORMICK-HUSTON
7
HUGH
AARON
COOPER
1
TOM
ROGERS
2
TOM
BURNS (C)
5
Glynn
EDWARDS
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEAL</th>
<th>ORDERS UNDER 100 PORTIONS PRICE PER PORTION</th>
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I must begin by thanking Andy for passing 'coaches corner' over to me this week, especially as my coaching days have long since passed. However, as my mug shot still appears in the column, I guess I should take my turn, and as every coach will always say—especially when he's run out of his own words - a different voice is always good to hear.

I haven't coached at first team level now for at least 3 years (some might say a lot longer than that!), when I was superseded by my son, Tom, as backs coach. It took me some time to get over being sacked for my son, and it took me at least couple of more hours to accept that he was actually quite a bit better than me, a fact that I'm immensely proud of. I guess Longy must have felt a little guilty, so he offered me the 'role' of filling in team sheets and making substitutions (sorry, that should read interchanges!). Being the sad b----d that I undoubtedly am, I jumped at the opportunity to remain in the dugout and look moderately important. Besides, I just couldn't give up my earpiece on a Saturday! Oh, how I admire how Longy keeps his cool during the game, with his measured responses to virtually every incident, and his running commentary at the breakdown! Although, I seriously do admire how he bins all the controversial stuff that may have gone on, to always deliver positive half time and full time team talks.

However, I strongly suspect Longy had a different motive for keeping me on. For who would buy him a beer after the game, and even more importantly, who would drink red wine with him on the long coach trips home from the West country? It must be said though, that I do still enjoy the team time. I'm always interested in new players, especially how they integrate themselves into the team, both on the field and socially, and I feel a great sense of pride when one of our own home grown youngsters makes it into the mix. Our current coaching team is, without doubt, the strongest the club has ever had, and the benefits they bring to the club as a whole, and not just the first team, are there for everyone to see. Marcus is doing a fantastic job with the mini and youth sections, and again I feel very proud that someone who has come right through the club has matured into a fine coach and is still heavily involved, having just retired as a player. The same can be said of Gilly. The expertise and dedication he brings to his S and C sessions are the same attributes he displayed as a player, and are perfect for the boys. Re: Dec! Rob Faiers (another local ex !st teamer) has done a tremendous job in refining The Blues into an excellent outfit, and completing the team is Danny, who drives the van!!

Today's visitors are Canterbury, who will prove another difficult team to beat, especially as they proved too strong for us down at their patch earlier in the season. However, we do have a great chance to build on our hard earned victory over O.E's last week, and to consolidate our position as league leaders. You can rest assured that the coaching staff will have emphasised the need to turn the pressure of being leaders into a positive, and to thrive on it. Longy came to the farm shooting yesterday. Let's hope our sights remain firmly set, and that we're accurate in gunning down Canterbury today!
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Strong Cinderford pack, although outscrummaged in the second half, dominate possession and territory to grind out a last minute win, overturning a 29-11 deficit in the last 35 minutes.

Stortford were caught cold at the start of the game and were 5 points down within 3 minutes, when Cinderford’s left wing, Harry Robinson touched down in the corner. Matt Tomlinson forced his way over from close range, after Sam Winter had made a lot of ground, with a powerful crossfield run to level the scores. The visitors then took a 3 point lead, when Stortford were penalised at a scrum under their own posts. The lead changed again through a second try to Tomlinson. Tom Banks kicked the goal when the Cinderford prop was yellow-carded for an illegal shoulder charge offence, but his side showed great determination and considerable organisation to see out the 10 minutes’ sin bin period without conceding further. James Moffat kicked a penalty, after Stortford collapsed a driving maul to narrow the deficit to 4 points. As time in the first half was running out, the home backs, who had looked threatening on a number of occasions, launched a final attack and a perfectly judged chip kick from Coleman was fielded on the full by Will Simmonds, the fullback rounded his opposite number and beat the cover defence for pace to touch down under the posts. Banks’ conversion took the score at the break to 22-11.

The halftime scoreline was perhaps a little flattering to the home side, but the try of the match only 5 minutes into the second period, scored by Jimmy Rea provided further reward for their skilful and ambitious backs play. A line out was run right, where two quick switch passes in succession saw the winger in under the posts.

This looked for all the world like a decisive lead, but Cinderford proceeded to dominate possession and territory for the rest of the match. A phase of hard driving runs eventually produced a try for Porter barrelling over from short range, after an attempted clearance kick from behind Stortford’s line was charged down. Moffat kicked a good conversion. This score clearly lifted the visitors and they naturally persisted in their limited, but very effective power driving game, bringing out the best in Stortford’s defence, but eventually even that started to wilt, allowing replacement scrumhalf, Jimmy Williams to dive over for an unconverted try in the corner.

Stortford had to put in a stint of heroic defending, but it was no surprise when, after Tom Banks had been yellow-carded for an offence at a breakdown on their own line, with normal time running out, it was Porter again, who crashed over for his side’s fourth try. With a converted try needed, Stortford stuck to their defensive guns, repelling the first couple of drives, but eventually conceding close to the posts. The conversion still needed some kicking under the tense circumstances, but Moffat made no mistake to take his side into a one point lead. Stortford launched a last desperate assault, flinging the ball to and fro among their backs but, with their scrumhalf in the bin and Cinderford determined not to let their hard-earned lead slip, they were able to force a turnover to end the game.
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Delighted to support BSRFC
YOUR TREASURER NEEDS YOU

We talk a lot about a “One Club Ethos” and yet here we are with THREE Clubs within BSRFC ;-) The 100 Club, The Oval Club and Club Stortford.

Each exists for the same purpose – raising additional funds, but each has their own priorities. The 100 Club has been around the longest where the member donates on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis to be entered into a monthly draw of £100 and an annual draw of £1,000.

The Oval Club and Club Stortford are introduced below and you will note how each have their own priorities when it comes to supporting areas within the Club.

Which are you a member of? Apart from helping with Club Finances the Oval Club and Club Stortford provide a social environment for meeting like minded people and fulfilling the one purpose - BSRFC

CLUB STORTFORD

Now in its fourth season, Club Stortford was set up by a small working party, to support the 1stXV squad after promotion to National League Rugby in 2013/14. Our aim is “to ensure Bishop’s Stortford RFC has a sustainable future in National League Rugby and continues to nurture home grown talent.”

Working in conjunction with the 1stXV coaching team, CS provides funding for various expenditure beyond the financial resources of the main club. These are specific to the first team squad, and include items such as strength and conditioning, video analysis of matches, equipment, travel and overnight stays for long distance away fixtures.

Director of Rugby, Andy Long, has reiterated on a number of occasions the importance he attaches to the financial support given by Club Stortford. Quite simply, without it's support, the team would not be able to perform at such currently high levels. Two third place finishes, together with a second place play off in the last three seasons is an outstanding achievement. Club Stortford currently has 30 likeminded members, all willing to provide the necessary funds to allow the club to continue to play at the current level.

These are either individual, corporate or syndicate members, enjoying various benefits associated with their membership.

We continue to look for new members, to allow us to broaden and deepen the extent of our support. We would urge you to consider joining Club Stortford. If you are interested and would like further information, please contact our secretary, Russell Cattell 07778 101988, or our chairman Neil Parker 07860 300080.
In 1998 some Rugby Club members got together to try to find a way of raising funds to help the Club. Several schemes were discussed but ultimately The Oval Club was founded with the aim ‘To contribute towards promoting the highest possible standard of rugby throughout Bishop’s Stortford Rugby Football Club’. A committee of five was formed and it was decided that The Oval Club should be autonomous and entirely independent of the Rugby Club’s financial and administrative operations. It communicates with the Rugby Club through one person who channels all requests for financial assistance to The Oval Club with the full knowledge of the Rugby Club’s Executive Committee.

From The Oval Club’s fund two thirds of the income are donated to specific projects that the Rugby Club wants to undertake and the other third is reserved for a members’ fund to provide social occasions as a means of payback. A principle that The Oval Club has always stood by is that it will endeavour to provide funds for one-off projects and not regular requirements that should be undertaken through the budget of the Rugby Club. It has been instrumental in providing funds to start projects such as the drainage and floodlighting of the back pitches, improvement and maintenance of all playing surfaces, supporting Youth and Mini through, tours, kit and additional playing facilities and refurbishing changing room showers. Without this starter outside funding would not have been forthcoming. The Oval Club has raised over £204,000 of which the Rugby Club has received in excess of £130,000 for its projects. On the social side of The Oval Club members have enjoyed several events each year provided by their fund.

The membership has remained around 70 and any would-be members are invited to join by contacting John Robinson, the Secretary.

It can be seen that The Oval Club has played a considerable part in providing much needed funds for the Rugby Club to provide facilities to help it enhance its reputation within the rugby community at large and possibly without these funds the Rugby Club would have been poorly placed to achieve the results and standards it seeks.
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£13 Concessions | £52 Family

Wed 25 Jan | 8pm | £22

Fri 10 Feb | 7.30pm | £15

Mon 13 Feb | 2pm | £10
£9.50 Concessions | £36 Family

Sat 25 Feb | 7.30pm | £16

Thu 2 Mar | 7.30pm | £22

28 April & 27 January | 7pm
£12 | £15 on the door

rhodesbishopsstortford.org.uk
TELL THE WIFE – GIRLFRIEND – SISTER
Bishop’s Stortford Rugby Club set up their ladies team in November 2016 and are looking for more players. They have now been selected by the RFU to host an area event “Meet your Inner Warrior”. To encourage more women to take up rugby. The BISHOP’S STORTFORD RFC Warrior Camp is a commitment free taster session teaching participants key introductory skills and drills for rugby, with help on hand every step of the way. The Tatster session is on Tuesday 24 January 7 – 9pm followed by a drink and chat in the clubhouse. All people need to take part are a pair of trainers and their usual workout gear.

It is said that Hannah Gallagher the England flanker and former Bishop’s Stortford mini player (sister to Mike) will be attending. A session on tackling this week was described as awesome!

To sign up for the BISHOP’S STORTFORD RFC Warrior Camp, go to www.EnglandRugby.com/InnerWarrior.

THE 6 NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP
The 6 Nations Championship kicks off on the 4th February and the first 2 week coincide with home fixtures for Bishop’s Stortford 1st XV. First week against Barnstaple and the second against Worthing. In the Barnstaple and Worthing programmes look out for “The 6 Nations Debate”.

A ‘panel’ of 6 has been selected from as many sections of the Club as we could which range from Mini, Youth, 1st XV and Wrinklies who could represent the different nations:

- Andy Long – England
- Michael Reynolds – Ireland
- Callum Davidson – Scotland
- Richard Evans – Wales
- Pier Dotta – Italy
- Froggy – France

Having selected the national sides, identified players to look out for and contrasted relative strengths and match results predicted.

There will also be a guess the aggregate score for the President’s Charity.
BISHOP’S STORTFORD RFC
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For further information including function rates please contact: Sian Wilde. bsrfcbookings1@gmail.com or mobile 07484520278.
BISHOP’S STORTFORD RFC

CLUB SHOP

Club Shop Opening Times:
Saturday: 12 noon - Kick off Time (1st XV Match days only)
Sunday: 9am - 1pm

For more information please see the club website:
www.bsrfc.co.uk or contact
Bob Winnington on: 07988 646 384

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Bishop’s Stortford Rugby Club exists to promote community participation in healthy recreation and we have in excess of 1600 members doing just that every week, with at least 50% actually playing the game.

When the Rugby World Cup came to town more than 500 of us, young and old took part in a continuous 8 hour touch rugby match. It was all kicked off by 4 teams of Wrinklies most of whom, were carrying some form of rugby or age related impediment but significantly they were all still able to take to the field supported by nothing more than a knee bandage!

It’s all too easy to forget though, while we’re busy enjoying ourselves here at the rugby club, indulging to a lesser or greater degree in ‘healthy recreation’, that there are those for whom this level of activity is an unachievable goal.

Ellie Darby is a local teenager who has a muscle wasting neuromuscular condition called Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 2. She also has very fragile bones. Ellie used to be able to stand but not walk but as she grows the impact of her condition becomes greater, she now relies upon her powered wheelchair to support her to sit and move around.

Like any 16 year old Ellie craves her independence but is of course hugely reliant upon her parents and carers. There is however an accessory for her wheelchair that electronically rotates the seat meaning she could change her seating position on her own & it’s something she would really love to own!

Everything we raise will be donated to Ellie’s Trust fund for the purchase of the correct equipment.

Ellie and her parents continue to receive an enormous amount of support from a National charity called The Annabelle Rose Foundation for Spinal Muscular Atrophy & they have requested that 10% of all monies donated to ‘Ellie’s Fund’ is directed to that cause.

The accessory costs in the region of £2000 & this is I believe a realistic target for us, collectively as One Club, to raise this season and in doing so having a positive impact on Ellie’s life.

I promise it won’t be every week but please give generously when asked and together, the members and supporters of Bishop’s Stortford Rugby Club, can make a real difference to life of this fantastic young lady.

Thank you
Perry Oliver
President
As part of the Club’s ethos ‘to be a strong and successful rugby club united from senior to mini’s, trusted and valued by our community’ the BSRFC Director of Rugby, Andy Long and 1st XV Captain Tom Coleman, provide an insight for the “Mini & Junior” Members into what goes on behind the scenes as the 1st XV Players prepare for a National League 2 Match.

The day kicks off with a Q&A in the 1st XV Changing Room, followed by Training, Games & Warm Up Sessions with the Coaches and Players and also includes them providing the “Players Tunnel” alongside the “Blazer’d Brigade” to welcome both the opposition and the 1st XV onto the pitch before the game and culminates with Post Match Photos alongside the Players.
Why not join Bishop’s Stortford Rugby Club?

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