



# the **blinds**ide

Official Newsletter of SRUFC

November 2017 Issue 2



Designed by:

Printed by:



## What's Inside?

*Get Involved!*

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*I Love Rugby*

--

*Allianz Achievements*

--

*Junior Vs Senior*

--

*Upcoming Fixtures*

--

*And Much More*

## Super Sunday!

On a weekend that saw all three of Bourne's senior sides defeated by Ashford, it was the youngsters of the club that came up trumps. From superb performances by minis teams at the Medway Festival in the morning, to an afternoon in which the juniors were undefeated to Maidstone, including two big wins and a draw. Cue a wet and murky Sunday

morning; with club gazebos in tow the under 8s, 9s, 10s and 11s rocked up to the annual Medway Festival. Up went the gazebos and under went the parents as the weather seemed set to stay, but the egg-chasing gods must have been looking down - the rain letting up the moment the rugby began. And what rugby it was! Ada Wilson's under 8s found

themselves scoring for fun and playing a wonderful team game. The recent change in RFU policy meant that there would be no winners or losers but that didn't stop every player from putting in 100% and giving performances to make their coach very proud.

To the under 9s and a festival outing that would see them play their first competitive full-contact matches. It was a cagey start but they soon

[Continue to page 2...](#)

## Hayden's Maiden Hour



Read on page 4...



Continued from page 1

found their stride, carding wins, losses and draws in equal measure. Great tackling performances from Harvey Hamilton and Reuben Linch earned them a share of the Player of the Tournament award, while topping the try-scoring ranks were Jacob Thompson and Joshua Ingram. An overall excellent display that Coach Tombs was very impressed by.

Sittingbourne's under 10s - The Stingers - were fielding two teams in this year's tournament and looking to showcase their new-found rucking skills. There were some seasoned festival players and some festival newbies, but all pulled on the Bourne shirt and played as hard as they could. The first matches saw some bumps and scrapes among the team but they all picked themselves up and dusted themselves off and carried on with business for the day.

The dulcet tones of Mark could be heard echoing around the ground, drowning out the opposition coaches with the cry of "RUCK OVER!!"

The day saw some hard won tries set up by all players, proving that the Stingers are

developing into an excellent team. Coaches Mark, Pete and Ed were incredibly proud of their ever-improving squad.



To round off this mega day at Medway, the under 11s team of Paul Prett (or Moose, as he shall be named in editions to come) put in a sterling effort amid a difficult pool. Coming up against the likes of Old Alleynians, Blackheath and Maidstone, as well as the hosts themselves, Bourne started and finished superbly and found top gear in their final game against Blackheath. An awesome way to bring and end to a wonderful representation at Medway.

"It makes me very proud to see the success of our mini and midi teams at this weekend's festival. Well played all!" said Chairman, Roger.

"The future of our rugby club certainly looks very positive with such talent, teamwork and enthusiasm. Well done also to all the coaches and

those who assist them and, of course, all the parents who turn up every week to help and support our young players.

Thank you all for being a huge part of our club!"

Elsewhere, continuing this truly auspicious day for SRUFC, teams from the under 12s, 14s and 15/16s were visiting and hosting Maidstone. Clive Johnson's under 12s team put to bed any pressure brought on by the first game of their inaugural junior season and romped to a 45-20 away victory.

Dominant performances from Ben Johnson and Ethan Sharman at scrum-half and super tackling displays from second-rows Isaac Dane and Charlie Dunkin set the foundations, Dunkin even bagging himself a try. Strong front-row work at scrum time ensured plenty of possession, while the centre partnership of Aiden Demery

and man of the match Jake Connolly kept any attack at bay. In fact, it was outstanding work in every position that allowed the try-fest to continue. Braces from Harrison Hills, Patriks Supe and skipper for the day Ollie Trantum as well as a score for Dan Gibson put Bourne in a commanding position and the ever-committed Aston Baker put his body on the line to score a wonderful try in the corner. Fitness did show towards the end of the game as Maidstone ran in four of their own but Sittingbourne held on for an impressive nine tries to five victory.

Also at Maidstone, the under 14s claimed a second big win of the season in as many games, downing Maidstone 41-22 to follow up their 34-0 home win over Gravesend (75 points in two games - not bad!). Whilst, at The Grove, Bourne's under 15s and 16s combined to face the final Maidstone challenge of the day, earning themselves a creditable 12-all draw to ensure all of our promising junior teams remained undefeated.

## 11s Shine at Allianz

On Saturday 23rd September Sittingbourne's under 11s travelled to Allianz Park to play in a festival hosted by Saracens.

Bourne came up against some tough new teams that they hadn't played before including Tabard, Luton and Saracens Amateurs, as well as our old foes Thanet.

Scoring for the festival was done on a Saracens core values system instead of tries but the squad played some great rugby over the course of the day and did our club proud.

In the end we came a close 2nd with 80 points, behind

Saracens Amateurs who finished 1st with 82.

To celebrate a wonderful performance, the afternoon was spent watching Saracens beat Sale Sharks in their Aviva Premiership clash, after which Bourne-come-Sarries star Hayden Thompson-Stringer came out to meet and greet our youngsters. He even got to have a selfie with them!





# GET INVOLVED!

What can you do to help? Big plans for the future mean we need a big push! Every contribution is valuable, whether it's to the seniors, juniors, one team or one member – we are one club! If you have anything to offer, some spare time on your hands or would just like to get involved, please get in touch!

Can you:

- Assist a coach?
- Lend a hand in the kitchen?
- Become a club ambassador?
- Support a project?
- Take on a committee role?
- Help with the club shop?

Get in touch via email  
Contact Chris ([chris.nutley@smurfittkappa.co.uk](mailto:chris.nutley@smurfittkappa.co.uk))  
or Lucy ([lucygriffin@hotmail.com](mailto:lucygriffin@hotmail.com))

# Hayden's Maiden Hour



Well, it was almost an hour as Sittingbourne's very own Hayden Thompson-Stringer made his first Aviva Premiership start for Saracens against Worcester Warriors at the Sixways Stadium.

Hayden, who was part of England's u20s World Cup winning squad in 2014, faced off against a fellow member - the sizeable opposition of Biyi Alo. He played 50 minutes in what proved to be a solid, if slightly disappointing, victory

for Sarries over a down-on-their-luck Worcester side - the visitors comfortably winning 25-3 but missing out on a try bonus point.

Throughout his performance Hayden scrummaged strongly and played well in the loose. He was good with ball in hand too as, not even 5 minutes into his debut league start, he almost clinched the first try of the game, but for a couple of metres. Running a great support line and taking an

offload from scrum-half Ben Spencer, he strode towards the posts, only to be cut down agonisingly short of the whitewash.

Hayden made his farewell in the 50th minute, subbing for England and Lions star Mako Vunipola and watched on as Sarries took the victory. Saracens' Head Coach, Mark McCall, said when asked about Hayden's performance "We were really pleased with Hayden Thompson-Stringer in

*the front-row. He is a converted back-row forward so to scrum the way he did was really pleasing."*

Hayden would appear to have taken a foothold in the Saracens 1XV setup this season, alongside names like Maro Itoje, Nathan Earle and Nick Iseikwe who were all team mates in that fantastic World Cup win. So look out for him on TV or try and get yourself to a Saracens game this season and cheer him on!

## Five-Star Baker Rises to the Challenge

On the weekend that the 1st XV secured their first win of the season, so did Gary Miller's superb under 14s. Gravesend were the visitors to The Grove in what proved to be a morning to remember for SRUFC's youngsters. After some enforced changes Sittingbourne started extremely brightly and with some strong forward work followed by great passing, the ball found its way to Ben Baker to score a first try in the corner. This seemed to be the theme in the first half, excellent forward work and great ball carries from Cameron Stockdale, Ethan Rotter and Brodon Rogers allowed the back line to move the ball

wide at every opportunity, resulting in another two tries for Baker who completed a mouth-watering hat-trick. Some superb individual work from a clearance kick served up number four, Baker fielding the punt and slicing through the opposition to score again, Jack Miller converted the try for 22-0.

Sittingbourne's dominance continued to show in the second half with some fantastic defensive work from Bradley Duffield, Dillon Ross and Jack Miller as Gravesend's attempts to break through remained futile. Another wonderful piece of skill from Baker resulted in the fifth try of his awesome morning. A final

score of the game came through the hardworking forwards, some great rucking and phase play allowed Cameron Stockdale an unmissable opportunity to get over the line to round off an excellent individual

performance. Miller converted to put the icing on top of the cake, dishing up a final score of 34-0 and bringing an end to an outstanding performance from the entire team.

**Below:**

Miller dives for possession



# I Love Rugby with Jamie Stevens



Welcome to 'I Love Rugby', The Blindsides newest feature. Once every two months I will put on my detectives coat and uncover the facts you never knew you wanted to know about SRUFC's senior players. For this edition, I had the pleasure of interviewing long-time 1st XV player, former captain and self-proclaimed 'man of all positions'; Chris Nanson.

## Which position do you play?

"I think nature's kind of made its mind up for me, so hooker I guess."

## What is your nickname?

"Chunk"

## What has been your favourite rugby moment?

"I've had a lot of bangs to the head so I don't remember much, but playing with my two brothers (pictured) is always nice. Especially the Kent 2

game away to Old Askeans a couple of years ago when we all scored in the same game."

## Who is your favourite rugby player?

"If he wasn't Welsh it would be Scott Gibbs because I used to be a fat centre too. But given that he is Welsh, I think it would have to be Lawrence Dallaglio, aside from his commentary. He is the worst pundit ever! The only man that makes me want to put my TV on mute."

## Favourite food?

"Everything! .... but especially Haribos" (Chunk is regularly spotted with a bag on the go in the 1st team changing room).

## How about music?

"I like a bit of boy band music, I'm not going to lie. It's always gotta be Five! How can you not love a bit of Abz,

Scott, Sean, J and Ritch!?"

*I'm not even joking .... I love Five!"*

## Favourite movie?

"I'm a proper film buff, I love films! But if I had to pick one it would be the 1986 Animated Transformers (the Hasbro Version)"

## What team do you support?

"Harlequins"

## Who is the best player you've ever played with?

"Trussy, 100%!" (Scott Truss, who has played, captained and coached Bourne's senior sides).

## And against?

"Probably the two Akinluyi brothers for Old Olavians. The one that played number 8 took a switch pass back that absolutely destroyed me." (In fact, it was the brother that played on the wing that went on to play for Northampton Saints and captain

his national team of Nigeria)

## And finally, Why do you Love Rugby?

"Because I'm too fat too play any other sports!"



Chris Nanson (right) with brothers Bob (or Tank, left) and Andrew (or Roo, centre) at Allianz Park.

## Talia Makes County Debut

Natalia Faik joined SRUFC as an under 7; coached, at the time, by Gary Miller and Stuart Kirk. As she developed, and with some additional coaching, she soon found her way into her favoured position of scrum-half (the ideal place to boss all the boys around!) All of Talia's talent and hard work eventually culminated in her clearing house at the under 11s end-of-season presentation night where she claimed both the Coaches' and Players' player of the year awards.

Sadly, the chapter of her rugby life with Bourne had to come to an end the following year as there was no girls' team to move into. She moved

on to play for Aylesford Bulls. Natalia is now playing for their under 15s side, which enabled her to trial for the Kent team at the start of this season. After successfully progressing through two stages of trials she was selected to play in the back-row.

Kent's first game was against Hertfordshire, with Natalia selected in the starting 15 and, after a very strong performance, the team won 39-28 - a superb result for a proud Faik family on Talia's debut. A huge congratulations to her from all of us at Sittingbourne! Talia has two remaining games to play for Kent before Christmas.



## Tag Festival the Best Yet

On the 5th of October The Grove played host to a schools tag rugby festival for years five and six pupils. Organised by George Catlin, and with the help of plenty of willing volunteers, the festival was attended by some 31 teams coming from 24 different schools.

Teams played in six groups and, although the overall format was non-competitive, in line with RFU rules, the standard of rugby was high with some exciting matches. All the players were presented with medals by our Chairman, Roger and the Sheppey and Sittingbourne School Games Organiser, Melanie Tsangarides who though that the turnout was "fantastic".

George would like to thank every volunteer that helped to make the day such a success and hopes that this festival will encourage more and more youngsters to come and join SRUFC.

George is also still welcoming anyone interested in becoming a Schools Ambassador, please email [georgecatlin@hotmail.com](mailto:georgecatlin@hotmail.com) or call 07835487436 if you would like to get involved.

**Participating schools:** Bapchild and Tonge, Borden, Bredgar, Eastchurch, Elliot Park, Grove Park, Halfway Houses, Hartlip, Holywell, Kemsley, Milton Court, Minster, Minterne, Queenborough, Regis Manor, Rose Street, South Avenue, St Edward's, St George's, St Peter's, Westlands, West Minster, Ospringe, Bysing Wood



# Ada's 8s take Superb Bronze



On November 5th, Ada Wilson's under 8s team took part in a Saracens Core Values tag tournament made up of some 30 teams from across the South East. Scored on criteria such as work rate and honesty, the small team of nine performed brilliantly and rallied to a score worthy of

third position - third position out of 30 teams spanning from London to Brighton - some achievement! The rugby was great and the spirit even greater, summed up by the support of Evie Johnson, who despite being injured and unable to play, still cheered her team on at Allianz Park. She can

be seen, right, giving some pointers to coach Ada. "Bourne's under 8s did our club proud and our little team of nine players managed to come third. As their coach I am very proud! I know the future is going to be left in good hands." [Adrian Wilson]



## JNR vs SNR

### JNR vs SNR

Name: Isaac Dane



Team:..... u12s  
 Position:..... Lock  
 Passing:..... 74  
 Tackling:..... 92  
 Strength:..... 85  
 Communication:..... 3

# VS

### JNR vs SNR

Name: Dean Marsh 'Jodie'



Team:..... 1st XV  
 Position:..... Lock  
 Passing:..... 74  
 Tackling:..... 88  
 Strength:..... 93  
 T-shirt Tightness:..... 100

	<b>Mini</b>	<b>U12</b>	<b>U13</b>	<b>U14</b>	<b>U15</b>	<b>U16</b>
<b>19/11/17</b>	Thanet (a)	Thanet (h)	Training (h)	Deal (h)	Thanet (h)	Deal (h)
<b>26/11/17</b>	Ashford (h)	EK Waterfall 1 @ Medway (a)	EK Waterfall 1 @ Medway (a)	Thanet (h)	Gillingham Anchorians (a)	Thanet (h)
<b>03/12/17</b>	Ashford (a)	Gravesend (a)	Gravesend (a)	Ash (a)	Training (h)	Training (h)
<b>10/12/17</b>	Training (h)	Training (h)	Kent Waterfall 1 (tbc)	Training (h)	Gravesend (a)	Gravesend (a)
<b>17/12/17</b>		Training (h)	Training (h)	Aylesford (h)	Cranbrook Kent Cup 4 (a)	Deal Kent Cup 4 (h)
	CHRISTMAS BREAK	CHRISTMAS BREAK	CHRISTMAS BREAK	CHRISTMAS BREAK	CHRISTMAS BREAK	CHRISTMAS BREAK
	CHRISTMAS BREAK	CHRISTMAS BREAK	CHRISTMAS BREAK	CHRISTMAS BREAK	CHRISTMAS BREAK	CHRISTMAS BREAK
<b>07/01/18</b>	Training (h)	Training (h)	Kent Waterfall 2 (tbc)	Kent Cup KO (tbc)	Ashford Kent Cup 5 (h)	Old Colfeians Kent Cup 5 (a)
<b>14/01/18</b>	Thanet (h)	Kent Waterfall 1 (tbc)	Training (h)	Training (h)	Training (h)	Kent Cup QF (tbc)

	1xv	2xv	3xv
18/11/17	Old Wimbledonians - Cup (a)		
25/11/17	New Ash Green (h)	Tonbridge Juddians (a)	Deal & Betteshanger (a)
02/12/17			
09/12/17	Southwark Lancers (a)	Tunbridge Wells (a)	Thanet Wanderers (h)
16/12/17	Gillingham Anchorians (h)	Whitstable (h)	
	CHRISTMAS BREAK	CHRISTMAS BREAK	CHRISTMAS BREAK
06/01/18	Old Gravesendians (a)	Cranbrook (h)	Folkestone (a)
13/01/18	Ashford (h)	Ashford (a)	Ashford (a)



	<b>1xv</b>	<b>2xv</b>	<b>3xv</b>
<b>09/09/17</b>	Vigo (h) L 31 - 32	Vigo II (h) L 7 - 26	
<b>16/09/17</b>	Gillingham Anchorians (a) L 46 - 7	Whitstable II (a) L 45 - 5	
<b>23/09/17</b>	Old Gravesendians (h) W 24 - 15	Cranbrook II (a) L 37 - 12	Folkestone III (h) HWO
<b>30/09/17</b>	Ashford (a) L 38 - 3	Ashford II (h) L 21 - 26	Ashford III (h) L 12 - 34
<b>07/10/17</b>	HSBC (h) W 38 - 13	Canterbury IV (a) L 27 - 20	Canterbury V (a) L 51 - 26
<b>14/10/17</b>	Old Blues - Cup (h) HWO		Dover III (a) P - P
<b>21/10/17</b>	RBS (a) L 41 - 38	Leigh (h) L 24 - 27	
<b>28/10/17</b>	Cranbrook (h) L 14 - 46	Weaving (a) L 27 - 10	Ash (a) HWO

# Nodge's Ones to Watch

Written by Neil Hodkinson

There have been some great performances in the early part of the season, particularly from the youngsters stepping up to senior level this year. But here are a few standouts from what we've seen so far;

"Jake Jeffery put himself into early 1st team selection thanks to his hard work in pre season training and has continued to rack up appearances early on. Playing his first season as a senior at the age of 17 he has already bagged a few tries for the 1s and 2s and will certainly improve as the season goes on."

"Orestas (known simply as Olly) has really started to show great promise in the second row and at number 8 after starting life as a centre. He has come on a long way since his 2nd team backs appearances and when on form can really create havoc for the opposing teams' defence."

"Jamie Stevens has also made a leap forward this season, cementing his position as a 1st team centre. He has a good engine, runs with aggression in attack and his defence is strong. His eye for a mascot however is sadly lacking, with early results proving them rather ineffective so far."

# Home Tournament Success

Written by Paul Prett - Moose

Sittingbourne minis held their third East Kent Tournament early on this season at the Grove. Eleven clubs brought their under 11's teams and put on a fantastic day of rugby for the onlooking parents, coaches and supporters. The day began with a minute of silence in memory of Alex 'Poly' Politowicz following his sad passing.

The Tournament kicked off and Sittingbourne played Thanet first, the second time the teams have met in festivals this season. Bourne played really well with good defence in the first half, then hit another gear in the

second half, showing how good they are in attacking play and securing a win. Sittingbourne's second game was against a strong Ashford outfit. The game was end to end from start to finish, Bourne suffering a narrow loss at the final whistle.

The last game was against Canterbury, another close game with some great rugby played by both teams. This time Bourne ended on the right side of a close scoring game, showing great skill as well as character.

I would like to thank all the parents and supporters who turned out to watch the kids play. Hosting a festival like this has many benefits. Aside from the lack of traveling across the county on a Sunday morning, it also raises our profile as a rugby club and brings in the revenue we need to continue progressing, but would not be possible without all of the volunteers - from car parking attendants to kitchen help. So thank you all for investing in our club!



*Back In Time - c1985*

# Dance of the Flaming A

Written by Garry Hodkinson and Phil Whymark

For this edition of 'Back in Time' we take a trip back to a period somewhere in the mid-to-late 80s. Be warned that if you are of a particularly innocent disposition it may be ill-advised to continue...

But continue we shall, to the arrival of two Sittingbourne senior teams away to Deal. A 1st and 3rd team game scheduled, the Bourne teams rocked up at the North Deal Recreation Ground alongside the railway line, ready for their weekly fill of beer and rugby. The 3rd team had turned up with a weapon - former Judo Olympian Martin Clark who was going to fill in at prop ... 'was' being the key word as Deal could only muster a sorry six players for their 3rd team and the game was abandoned. The 1st team game went ahead however, with the 3s in very vocal support, and they took the win. Meanwhile, Deal's six-strong 3rd team decided to drink and play darts in their clubhouse instead.

By the time everyone had showered and changed and found themselves also in the clubhouse, the Deal lads had drunk so much that darts were flying around the bar; sticking in the ceiling, in the wall, the floor, anywhere but the dartboard. It was quickly decided that the worst of the darts players should be stripped of his clothes and his wrists and ankles tied so all he could do was hop. A length of cotton was also attached to him, in a way that made it rather easy for the protagonists of this story to persuade his movements (we'll leave that to the imagination). Finally, our victim was shown a rolled up newspaper that was to be placed into an area that the title would suggest, the available end of said newspaper frayed in preparation for what would follow. The poor man was led, with the use of the aforementioned cotton, to the front of the clubhouse, alongside the train line and adjacent to a conveniently located level crossing. As luck would have it, up pulled a train full of passengers, watching on as a bucket of water was placed about 20 metres in front of the victim. Another of the six inebriated Deal-men stepped up with a lighter and proceeded to light the frayed end of the newspaper. The task had become all too clear. Passengers and players alike spectated as the man hopped toward the bucket (and the train) looking like an aeroplane that had been shot out of the sky with a trail of smoke billowing from his rear. Thankfully he made it, he swiftly sat himself in the bucket before the flames could reach the other end of the newspaper and he was relieved of all restraints, his clothes returned. All of this for throwing a bad dart? You wonder how many poor souls have fallen victim to such a wicked tradition. But just what did they call this strange ritual at Deal? If you hadn't worked out what the 'A' in this story's title stands for - I'm sure you can now.

# Thank You for Your Support

Thanks to the efforts of you, the members of SRUFC, we have managed to sign plenty of letters in support of the Wises Lane development, surpassing the target set to us by Quinn Estates. We now sit in wait for the decision that could change our future, but your fantastic efforts will only increase the likelihood of Bourne getting the new home it deserves. Thank you so much for all your support and keep an eye out for more details as they come ...

## You can still shop in time for Christmas!

There's still time to get your kit and blazers before Christmas.

Visit [www.srucf.com/shop](http://www.srucf.com/shop) and get kit orders in before December 3rd to guarantee delivery in time for the holidays.

To purchase your blazer contact Clive ([cjohnson134@btinternet.com](mailto:cjohnson134@btinternet.com)) for details on size, price and how to order.



SAT 24 MARCH 2018 | LONDON STADIUM



**EARLY BIRD OFFER | 25% OFF ALL TICKETS**

#PROUDTOBE

**Get in quick! There is one pair of Gold Standard Tickets to Saracens vs Quins to be won. £2 is all it takes to enter! Contact Ada Wilson ([adrianwilson24@sky.com](mailto:adrianwilson24@sky.com)) or ask behind the bar at the club.**



### the blindside

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The BlindSide is designed by Creatif Graphics, published by Colour Factory on behalf of the Sittingbourne Rugby Union Football Club.  
Also available on the SRUFC website: [srucf.com](http://srucf.com)

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SRUFC WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING WHO GENEROUSLY SUPPORT OUR CLUB:





*"Poly will be remembered as one of the most funny, inappropriate and caring men the club has produced. He was known not only by a generation, not only by a group. He truly was a club man - known and loved by all. He had the ability to light up any situation, just by being himself. There were no pretences about Poly and that was a special quality. He had a huge depth of character, as well as the funny inappropriate side we will remember the caring, passionate and clever aspects he held too. To say there was never a dull moment is an understatement - a few always turned into a session. He was generous, not only with the jagers, but with his time. He made an effort with every friendship and that is why we all miss him dearly!"*

Chris Nutley - Club Captain

#LazyLover

#ThatsMyBoy

#£80Chinese

#ChooChoo

#Hayley

#WardrobeFail

#Bucket

#AP12

#PartyStarted

#Happens



In loving memory  
**Alexander 'Poly' Politowicz**

4 July 1985 - 11 October 2017