



REGIONAL 1  
South  
East



# Rochford Hundred Rugby Football Club

*Versus*

# Hertford RFC



**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023 Kick Off 2.30pm**



SARACENS  
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*Referee* - James Maby

*Ball Boys* - Under 14's

*Mascots* - Under 8's

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## Training nights

Senior Men - Tuesdays & Thursdays 7pm

Senior Ladies - Thursdays 7.30pm

Academy - Tuesdays & Thursdays 7pm

Inclusive Rugby (Men) - Mondays 7pm

Youth (Boys and Girls) - Wednesdays 7pm

Minis (U6-U12) - Saturdays 9am

Little Rascals (2-6) - Saturdays 9am

Mixed Ability Rugby (Youth) - Alternate Saturdays 9.30am

Rochford Hundred Rugby Club - Telephone 01702 544021 - Website [www.rochfordrugby.com](http://www.rochfordrugby.com)

# Rochford Hundred Rugby Club

Welcome to Rochford Hundred Rugby Club

## Our Club History

Rochford Hundred was the brainchild of John Roden and Ernie Mills and was first discussed in November 1961 when the two met at the White Hart in Hawkwell. John had played at Ilford Wanderers and Ernie was an Old Tottonian, so both were keen to play on their own doorstep. The inaugural meeting was held on the 4th of January 1962 at the Bull Inn, Hawkwell, and was attended by a small group. The club now needed a ground and the assistance of County Councillor, later Alderman, Bill Wright was sought. He was appointed Chairman of the Club and very quickly secured the use of Rocheway School which had been closed due to its proximity to Southend airport.

This of course gave the club changing rooms and rugby pitches immediately. To get players, an advert was placed in the Southend Pictorial and no less than 45 replies were received. Old Westcliffians had seen the advert and invited the new committee to a beer and cheese evening at the Gables. From this Rochford secured a fixture and an introduction to the London fixture Exchange. The first fixture was in fact against Billericay and not Old Westcliffians however. The name of the club had been suggested by John Roden after he saw a poster by Rochford Hundred Licensed Victuallers Association in the White Hart. Rochford Hundred was after all the name of the district.

The club also managed to secure a clubhouse in the car park of the Horse & Groom thanks to Mrs Innell, the licensee, and quickly set to work to make it ready for use for season 1962/63, although it was in use from March 1962.

It is worth noting that the first games were played in March and April 1962 and that Bob Light was captain. Bob was Head of PE at the local comprehensive school and brought along many pupils from the school

to play for Rochford.

In Season 1962/63 the club fielded 2 senior teams and a Colts team which is remarkable for a first full season. It is recorded that over 70 fixtures were arranged for this first season. Tony Davies was the 1st XV captain in this season. The Colts team was made up of several players from Rochford Comprehensive School (now King Edmund), Rayleigh Secondary Modern School (now Fitzwimarc) and Sweyne School. Indeed David Allen (founder of DHL and then a 16-year-old) remembers being at one of the formation meetings at the Bull when he was still at school.

The first few years were not particularly successful, but things changed when the likes of Mike Treasure came onto the scene. He was captain in 1965/66 and 1966/67 and was our first full Essex cap. His team went unbeaten for 18 months and were one of the highest scoring teams in the country. He was fortunate in having players of the calibre of Peter Coster, who was a great centre.

With playing success there came a desire to move to our own ground and in 1968 Jim Sowter, who used to write a column in the local press, printed a story that the club wished to purchase a field in the Rochford district big enough for pitches and a clubhouse. He received a letter from the lady secretary of Southend Manor Football club stating that they had an option on 10 acres of land in Magnolia Road. They were unable to raise the money to proceed and suggested that we might like to take over the option. Jim arranged a meeting between her, and Ernie Mills. Ernie liked what he saw and took up the option. The land cost £3,200 and the purchase was completed in March 1969. The Rugby Football Union provided a loan of £2,100 towards the purchase.

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# Rochford Hundred Rugby Club

The lengthy process of obtaining finance, building the clubhouse, and preparing the pitches could now be started. In September 1970 a grant of £5,592 was offered by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and this was supplemented by grants and loans from the Essex Playing Fields Association and the National Playing Fields Association. In July 1971 the Club gave the go-ahead to Muggleton's to start building based on an estimated cost of £11,320 of which we had raised only £8,000. The clubhouse was officially opened by Dickie Jeeps in April 1974 when the 1st XV played against a strong Eastern Counties XV.

In 1971/72, when Malcolm Fleming was captain, there were two memorable games in the Essex Senior Cup. The first game was against Old Bancroftians when Dickie Kent, who played scrum half for England, and Howard Waller, who was a renowned sevens player for Richmond, were in the Bancroft side. Rochford won 21-6 in a tremendous match and demonstrated that they had joined the top echelons of Essex rugby. The next round was against Barking Park Modern Old Boys at Rocheway, and a pulsating match was finally won by Barking 14-12. To those who were present these were two of the finest matches played by Rochford at that time.

The pitches in those early days at Magnolia Road were frankly dreadful but over the years there has been considerable work done on them and the 1st XV pitch is now one of the best plating surfaces in Essex. In the late 1980's and early 1990's the clubhouse was expanded substantially with new changing rooms a gym and a new clubroom and kitchen. Floodlights were also installed to the top pitch.

Our youth section started in 1991 has gone from strength to strength and provides players for our 1st XV and other club teams. In past seasons our Mens 1st XV has been almost entirely made up of former youth players and we have a strong, growing ladies' team, the Rochford Hundred Vixens together with a girl's section.

The Mens 1st XV played a lot of its rugby from the turn of the century in the London Leagues, dropping up and down from London 1 to London 3. Around this time the Essex Senior Cup was the major trophy to win and up until 1999 Rochford had never won it. In that year we reached the final and played Basildon at Westcliff in front of huge crowd, Rochford were triumphant that day to record their first ever win of the Essex Senior Cup. After that we reached many Essex Senior and Intermediate Cup Finals, winning them a further 6 times, before the Cup lost some of its glamour, and we are now too high in the league structure to be able to compete in the competition.

In 2017 the Mens 1st XV were playing in London 2 North East when we decided to have a concerted push for promotion. The team then went on an incredible journey to take the title by storm without losing a single league game, gaining a bonus point in every one of them, and knocking up 1280 points in the process. Promotion to London 1 North gave us stronger opposition, but we remained unbeaten for the whole season again, repeating gaining a bonus point in every match, and scoring 1480 points. The London Premier League saw us play at the highest level that the club had ever played at before but gave us our 3rd promotion as Champions in consecutive years. Starting our season again unbeaten and with full bonus points, with that run finally came to an end after 54 matches across 3 seasons.

Covid put an early end to this season, and the RFU league algorithm confirmed us as champions, with Guernsey runners up. Our tremendous performance and win away at Guernsey being the pivotal decider in the league placing, and the fact we only lost 2 matches during the whole season too.

Following two fantastic years as one of the top 81 clubs in the country, playing National 2 rugby for the first time in our history, relegation unfortunately happened at the end of the 2022/23 season by a narrow margin, and we are now playing in Regional 1 South East, renewing some old rivalries, and we can look back on over 60 years of activity with considerable satisfaction.

# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

## Good Afternoon All,

A warm welcome to Hertford RFC to Magnolia Road for first encounter since 2019.

What a fantastic win for our lads at Westcliff last weekend, following hopefully a small blip in our last home match against Tring, something I'm sure Danny and the team will be looking to put right today too.

Lots of teams across the whole club are now back in full flow of training and matches, with numbers increasing across all sections of the club.

Being able to field 3 regular full senior mens sides, and with some friendlies already planned for the Rams for this season, is a massive plus for the club and not many other clubs in Essex can do that.

Unfortunately, in last week's 1st XV match against Westcliff, Nathan Lockwood suffered a double fracture of his leg and had to undergo surgery earlier this week. I, and everyone else at the club wish him well in his recovery and hope to see him back playing soon.

A big thank you to the organisers, from the bar, kitchen and grounds people, to

make the lunch, match and afterwards for the England match perfect.

A big shout out to our U8's, your mascots today. Also a thank you to our U14's, our ball boys for today.

Please have a great day and please remember to be respectful to both teams and the Match officials.

Regards

*Martin Renshaw*

ROCHFORD HUNDRED RUGBY CLUB  
- Chairman



# CHRISTMAS *Party* NIGHTS

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We hope you're feeling lucky because our evening entertainment will be a fabulous casino, complete with props, decor and various playing tables!

#### **DATES:**

**FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER  
SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER**

**FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER  
SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER**

**FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER  
SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER**

**TO MAKE A BOOKING PLEASE CONTACT US:**

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BOOKING**

**T&C'S APPLY**

# Rochford Hundred Rugby Club

## LEAGUE LUNCHES

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023 v **HERTFORD**

14<sup>th</sup> October 2023 v **SHELFORD**

4<sup>th</sup> November 2023 v **SUDBURY**

18<sup>th</sup> November 2023 v **LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY**

16<sup>th</sup> December 2023 v **WESTCLIFF**

13<sup>th</sup> January 2024 v **BEDFORD ATHLETIC**

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 v **HARPENDEN**

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 v **COLCHESTER**

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 v **OUNDLE**

6<sup>th</sup> April 2024 v **OLD NORTHAMPTONIANS**

All members and friends are invited to attend any of the sponsored lunches.

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# VISITORS INFORMATION



The Club, originally known as Old Hertfordians RFC was founded in 1932 by a group of enthusiasts from Hertford Grammar School who had been introduced to the game at school in 1928. With just fifteen playing members and a subscription of 2/6d (£0.12.5p) they played four games that season, winning 3 but being heavily defeated by the School XV

Between 1932 and 1949 the club had a nomadic existence using six different grounds. In that first season the schools facilities were used, but the following year, basing itself at the Reindeer pub on Port Hill, the Club had use of a pitch on Hartham Common. From there it moved in 1935 to a ground by the sewage works at Rye House, the scene of the notorious plot on the life of King Charles II. Three years later came the last pre-war move to Ware Road, Hoddesdon.

While at Rye House a pavillion had been purchased for £30 and this was proudly and carefully transported to the Ware Road site in 1938.

On reforming after the War in 1946 there was both good and bad news. The Ware Road pitch had been ploughed up but the club was £25 better off with the sale of the pavillion. That year the Club made use of the recreation ground in Station Road, Broxbourne, the only problem being that a public right of way ran across the pitch and every Saturday afternoon an old lady would wander across the ground pushing a pram in which she collected firewood. A sympathetic referee would arrange for half time to coincide with her visit but otherwise she was quite oblivious to what was going on around her.

In 1948 came the penultimate move further down Station Road to a constantly flooded nettle strewn pitch beside the River Lea. In 1949 the current site at Hoe Lane, Ware was purchased from McMullens for £825. What had been grazing land was turned into two pitches. Inevitably the early games were not so much a question of playing rugby but more a question of going through the motions!

At Hoe Lane two huts were erected at a cost of £550 and in 1953 a small pavillion was built on the front of the huts and was dedicated as a memorial to the Old Boys killed in the War. The present clubhouse was built in 1966 and six years later, with the non-old boys now a significant minority within the Club the decision was made to change the name to Hertford RFC.

## THE PRESENT TIME

Since the advent of professionalism in rugby football, many clubs seem uncertain as to what can be realistically achieved and in what direction their ambitions lie. No such uncertainty exists at Hertford.

We are committed to achieve a level of management and professional coaching necessary to sustain our position as the largest Rugby Club in Hertfordshire, and to offer comprehensive facilities to junior and senior players alike.

Just a few years ago Hertford Rugby Football Club aspired to play amateur rugby in London League 1, an essential ambition if we were to provide a high level of competitive rugby and retain the best of our progressing young players. We achieved that ambition in 2001 / 2002. In 2002 / 2003 - our first season in London 1, Hertford RFC came 3rd in the League and also won the prestigious Powergen Intermediate Cup at Twickenham.

In 2004 we gained promotion to National league 3 South by beating Cinderford in the playoffs.

The Director of Rugby oversees 5 senior sides, which include the first team squad, the development squad colts and three social sides including veterans. The First XV coach is a professional appointment and together with the First XV manager regard the National Leagues and Herts County Cup Competitions as of paramount importance to the success of the season. They are coached to play open entertaining rugby supervised by a travelling Sports Therapist.

The Second XV compete in the Canterbury Shield and the Lambs Cup and and the Third, Forth, Fifth and 6th teams compete in Hertfordshire Leagues.

The Academy is coached and managed with particular emphasis on the progression of young players into senior sides. The club coach is a professional appointment who co-ordinates the coaching of all senior and junior sides.

Hertford Rugby Football Club first team players are never far from the threshold of County rugby. Over thirty players from Hertford have represented Hertfordshire totalling over 250 caps.

Hertford Academy are of particular significance to our club. The colts compete in the National Cup, Hertfordshire County Cup and Hertfordshire Colts seven-a-side. The policy of Hertford Rugby Football Club to include the Colts in our development squad underlines our objective that former Colts should be well represented in our First XV.

All new players at every level are warmly welcomed. Training commences in July each year on Tuesday and Thursday evenings

## YOUTH AND MINI RUGBY

The Club Youth and Mini sections run a total of eleven very enthusiastic and successful age group squads. On Sundays, the pitches at Hoe Lane field teams from the Youth Section - Under 13's to Under 18's and Mini Section - Under 7's to Under 12's. So on what is most peoples day of rest you will find up to 600 youngsters and many, many mums, dads, brothers and sisters purposely involved on the pitches of Hoe Lane and elsewhere. All age groups have qualified RFU coaches and many senior club players also lend a hand with coaching the youngsters.

Both junior sections are very successful. A full fixture list of league matches and friendlies are provided throughout the season. The teams also compete in rugby festivals around the country, the Mini section holding it's own Floodlit Festival, County Cup competitions and tours in the UK and abroad too. We promote a high profile on safety with match fixtures and events at Hoe Lane being covered by professional first aiders.

Our over-riding principle is that rugby is a game for fun and to make friends; it is not so much the winning or the losing that is important but the PLAYING. This is especially so with young people who should be encouraged to enjoy themselves, to win with modesty and lose with dignity, so that after the game the fun continues and friendships are created. All the family are welcome and invited to take part.

We pride ourselves in having a Club where everyone is welcome, young and old, male and female and social events throughout the year reflect this. In its early years the club developed a reputation for hospitality and this has continued right up to the present and clubs from all over the United Kingdom and the world have visited Hoe Lane to play and sample the tremendous welcome and entertainment always meted out to visitors.

That is just a brief insight into what we were and what we are. But don't take our word for it. Come and see for yourself!

# COACHES CORNER

Welcome to everyone, I hope the supporters are still enjoying the 5 points away at our neighbours last week. I think it has been pretty well documented the adversity we've been facing since Pre-Season with the number of backs we've had suffer with some mid-long term injuries. It hasn't been easy especially changing the way we want to play over the last couple of weeks which has contradicted how we approached preseason.

It was fair to say during our preseason games that our backs looked electric and well settled, looking to play from deep and score from anywhere. Unfortunately, due to key injuries we have had to ask players to play that haven't had a minute of training this summer to play, and we've had to ask players to play out of position which is far from ideal.

That being said, it made it even more pleasing to dominate Westcliff on their home patch, and special credit must go to our pack that beat them up upfront. I mean we're hypercritical so we come away knowing that we left 4-5 stonewall tries out there, and the score could have been a lot more flattering, however you can't get more than a 5-0 win, so regardless we considered it job done, and we move onto the next one.

Hertford will pose a different threat, by all accounts they have a pretty big pack themselves, so the game will definitely be more competitive in that area this week. Hertford, despite the early league position are certainly not a bottom half team, and traditionally are always at the higher end of the table and have even played Nat 2. They are an excellently well-run club that thrives through all their age groups, they also have excellent links to schools and colleges, and is a proper rugby area. So, despite their troubles last year, and slow start this year, I have no doubt they'll be more than a handful today.

Finally, I just want to wish Nathan Lockwood all the best after his horrific leg break last week. We've been in touch with Nathan and the surgery went well and he is on the road to recovery looking forward to getting back as soon as possible. Nathan epitomises what this club should be about. He has come through the age groups, crafted his trade in the 3's a few years back and has worked his way up playing numerous 2nd team games and has constantly pushed for a first team place. Nathan has excellent standards, is a proper team player, and will be sorely missed by the players and coaches this season. So speedy recovery Nathan and best wishes.

Enjoy the Game

*Danny Cleave*

ROCHFORD HUNDRED RUGBY CLUB  
- Head Coach



# HOME TEAM SQUAD

## ROCHFORD HUNDRED

### RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

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1	Harry Phelps-Knights	John Phelps
2	Rob Gardner	Vince Brown
3	Aston Bevans-Royston ( <i>Captain</i> )	Gareth Ashton
4	Redmond Newberry	No Sponsor
5	Ben Thomas	T J Cottis Transport Ltd
6	James Vogel	No Sponsor
7	Rory Gray	No Sponsor
8	James Vogel	No Sponsor
9	Craig Strachan	John Drinkwater
10	Chris Dudman ( <i>Vice Captain</i> )	T J Cottis Transport Ltd
11	Seth Mokuolu	No Sponsor
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13	Tauren Henwood	Simon Wakefield
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<i>Substitutes</i>		
16	Tommy Justice	No Sponsor
17	Kieron Scutt	No Sponsor
18	Joe Moran	No Sponsor

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# AWAY TEAM SQUAD

## HERTFORD

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

No.	Name
1	Cameron Rastall
2	Josh Hewitt
3	Matt Frere
4	Sonny Swift
5	Joe Tracy
6	Alex Banna
7	Tom Meller
8	Dom Merrett
9	David Hale
10	Louis Kendrick
11	Hugo Creasey
12	Harry Cavlan
13	Arun Johal
14	Joe Robinson
15	Hem Johal
	<i>Substitutes</i>
16	William McKenna
17	Alex Kay
18	Josh Rudling

**Rochford Hundred  
Upcoming Events**

**NEXT  
1<sup>ST</sup> XV HOME  
MATCH**

**Saturday  
14<sup>th</sup> October vs  
SHELFORD**

**3pm Kick Off**

To sponsor a lunch or match ball email:

**[commercial@rochfordrugby.com](mailto:commercial@rochfordrugby.com)**

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# Rochford Hundred Squad 2023/24

## STAFF & COACHES



**Daniel Cleare**  
DIRECTOR OF  
SENIOR RUGBY



**Aston Bevans-Royston**  
FORWARDS  
COACH



**Mark Billings**  
ACADEMY DIRECTOR  
& 1st XV BACKS COACH



**Luke Brewster**  
HEAD OF STRENGTH  
& CONDITIONING



**Redmond Newbury**  
ASSISTANT FORWARDS  
COACH



**James Tirrell**  
SPECIALIST / SKILLS  
COACH



**Adam Faherty**  
1st XV  
MANAGER



**Laura Bailey**  
1st XV  
PHYSIOTHERAPIST



**Andrew Livett**  
1st XV  
PHYSIOTHERAPIST



**George Phelps-Knights**  
1st XV  
ANALYSIS



**Bill Smith**  
1ST XV VIDEOGRAPHER  
Safe Fire Protection Ltd



**Josh Phelps-Knights**  
HARTS  
HEAD COACH



**Calum Brackett**  
ACADEMY  
HEAD COACH

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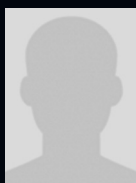
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**Joe Moran**  
(Loose Head Prop)  
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**Fraser Murphy**  
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**Charlie Hopkins**  
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# Rochford Hundred Squad 2023/24

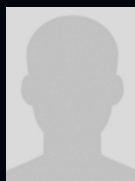
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John Phelps



**Josh Phelps-Knights**  
(Tight Head Prop)  
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**George Phelps-Knights**  
(Tight Head Prop)  
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**Ben Thomas**  
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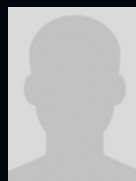
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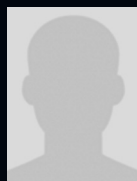
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# Rochford Hundred Squad 2023/24

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