



REGIONAL 1  
South  
East



# Rochford Hundred Rugby Football Club

*Versus*

# Letchworth Garden City RFC



**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023** Kick Off **3.00pm**



SARACENS  
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*Referee* - Matthew Holmes

*Ball Boys* - Under 13's

*Mascots* - Under 11'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,

Welcome to our 5th home game which is sponsored by 'The Old Gits.'

Your mascots today come from the U11's and your ball boys are from the U13 boys.

Welcome to Letchworth Garden City RFC, who we haven't faced since the old London 1 North seasons between 2011-2013

KO today will be 3pm and as usual commentary by our compere Mark Childs.

The boys will of course be looking for a win today to break the run of bad luck. Let's get behind them and make a load of noise.

So last week was the first time the club have put out four senior men's teams for a few years and again we have four teams out today, with of course our 1st team at home, along with our 2nd team v Woodford 2s. Our 3s are away to Billericay and our Rams away to Old Cooperians. While many clubs struggling to recruit, this is great news.

Our Ladies were away last Sunday to Witham and came away with an outstanding win 0 – 75. The ladies are again away tomorrow to Sevenoaks, good luck Vixens.

Our Hawks have their first away game Sunday, against Colchester Kings, good luck lads.

Our youth and academy have been coming

away with great results lately and a full squad in every age group from 6 to academy that is impressive. Lots of work to be had to rebuild the girls section, so watch this space.

I am looking forward to Sunday when we will be away with our minis section to Burnham. Some of the talent I have seen in all the teams is fantastic and a credit to the kids, coaches and parents.

Have a great day today, please be respectful of our officials, players and each other.

Regards



ROCHFORD HUNDRED RUGBY CLUB  
- Chairman



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**T&C'S APPLY**

# Rochford Hundred Rugby Club

## LEAGUE LUNCHES

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**

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# VISITORS INFORMATION



## FORMATION

Though there are some suggestions that a rugby club may have existed in Letchworth Garden City before the First World War, no documentary proof has been found and it is not until 1924 that the first records exist of the game being played in the town. Letchworth Garden City Rugby Club itself was founded two years later in 1926 when a group of rugby followers, led by Arthur A Lamb, met at the offices of Bolton and Tabor in the Town Centre and declared that "no town could be complete without a rugby club" (a reference to the fact that the town itself was only just over 20 years old). Despite this apparently late start to the game (the town already had well established clubs in many other sports) Letchworth was one of the first rugby clubs to be formed in the area - local rival clubs in Hitchin, Royston and Stevenage not being formed until after the Second World War.

The first match was played against RAF Henlow (the airmen won), and the new club also played teams such as Luton, RAF

Duxford, Wellingborough and a BBC team which included the well-known broadcaster, Rex Alston. Home games were played on a pitch in Pixmore Avenue, loaned by Phoenix Car Company, and players changed in the nearby Balmoral Hotel. However, the club's history reports that "it was tough going. Letchworth had a shifting population and few rugby players stayed for long. There were some soccer converts who had a lot to learn: the lineouts were hopeless, there was no idea of loose play or binding tight, but they persevered. On the brighter side two founder members, M. Dent and R. Copley, were the first Letchworth players to play for the County."

The club's first permanent home was found in the club's second season (1926–27) when a ground was secured in Cashio Lane. Letchworth Grammar School opened in 1931, a rugby-playing school that boosted player numbers significantly. However, there was now competition for players as in 1934 one of the biggest companies in the town – the British Tabulating Machine Company (a fore-runner of ICL)

– created a team called The Tabulators. This created a great rivalry, but also split players between the two clubs (though they often worked together to help each other field teams). This period was not to last for long. The Second World War brought competitive rugby to an end, and after the war both clubs were struggling to survive – Letchworth had a bank balance of only 12s 5d (62p in modern money) in 1947, and in 1950 The Tabulators folded.

## A NEW HOME

However, this concentrated the game onto one club, which - as the game grew in popularity - began to thrive. By the 1950s the club had started to out-grow its ground, and the changing rooms it was borrowing from Norton Road Secondary Modern School were less suitable for the level of opposition the club was attracting. After a search by dedicated club members Glyn Carter and Bill Howells (formerly of Cardiff and a Welsh trialist) – aided and abetted by Arthur Lamb, Miles Tabor, Ralph Wagstaff, Gordon Imber and Gordon Collinson - a new home was found at Baldock Road. The club initially hired two pitches (later expanded) on land owned by the First Garden City Company in 1955, and on 15 September 1956 the club opened its first clubhouse, with its own bar and changing rooms.

This development was coupled with success on the field. In 1959–60 the 1st XV won 25 of its 28 games, drawing two more and only losing one – its best ever record. The clubhouse was expanded in 1963 to cope with the rate of growth, and in the following season a third pitch was added. By the mid-sixties the club was fielding six XV's, and international sides were visiting to play exhibition games, and in club recorded its largest ever win, 117–0 against Hawker-Siddeley in the Herts Presidents Cup.

## LEAGUE RUGBY, AND THE JUNIOR SECTION

From the 1970s rugby in local schools began to decline, affecting player numbers, so in the 1980s the club formed a junior and minis section. The club gained several successes in the President's Cup, bringing top level opposition such as Blackheath to Baldock Road for competitive fixtures in the Pilkington Cup, and with the arrival of leagues in the 1990s Letchworth briefly reached the heights of London North 2, but found themselves in London 4 by 1998.

Changes in the game and population at large meant that player numbers had fallen by the end of the 1990s, but the club could still field three XV's and by 2002 Letchworth were back in London 2, where they remained until promotion to Regional 1 South East in 2023.

# COACHES CORNER

Welcome to the game today in what I am sure will be a really competitive fixture.

Letchworth have a similar record to us and sit just above us in the league, so although it is early in the season it seems it is an important game, and a game we feel we must win to kick start our season.

Letchworth are a newly promoted side that run away with their league last year unbeaten and they have a few really dangerous players in their side particularly in the backs, so we look forward to that challenge.

Last week against Colchester was a tough day at the office and we were well beaten by the better side. It comes as no secret that we are in a tough spot at the moment with constantly having to name a new team every week with many many changes. It feels like the story of our season that we just cannot name a consistent side each week and that really has been a massive issue for us. So when playing against a team like Colchester who are absolutely flying at the moment then our inconsistencies really got exploited. But it was a nice day for Quinn Wadeson and Louis Chapman who made their debuts last week. They both fully deserved their call up, they

have been consistent trainers all season and have both really developed from week one until now, so congratulations to 2 Rochford lads that have come through the system.

A week is a long time in sport and hopefully we welcome back a few faces from injury and welcome back some of our more experienced players that can really bolster us in what is a must win game. Winning today going into the week off would be a huge confidence booster so please get behind the boys today and pull them over the line.

Enjoy the Game.

*Danny Cleave*

ROCHFORD HUNDRED RUGBY CLUB  
- Head Coach



# HOME TEAM SQUAD

## ROCHFORD HUNDRED

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<b>17</b>	Rory Gray	Nick Jay
<b>18</b>	Mark Billings	No Sponsor

Today's Lunch Sponsor



# AWAY TEAM SQUAD

## LETCWORTH GARDEN CITY

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

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4	Not Supplied
5	Not Supplied
6	Not Supplied
7	Not Supplied
8	Not Supplied
9	Not Supplied
10	Not Supplied
11	Not Supplied
12	Not Supplied
13	Not Supplied
14	Not Supplied
15	Not Supplied
	<i>Substitutes</i>
16	Not Supplied
17	Not Supplied
18	Not Supplied

**Rochford Hundred  
Upcoming Events**

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

**Saturday  
16<sup>th</sup> December  
VS  
Westcliff RFC**

**3pm Kick Off**

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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  
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**Josh Phelps-Knights**  
HARTS  
HEAD COACH



**Calum Brackett**  
ACADEMY  
HEAD COACH

## FORWARDS *(sponsors under each name)*



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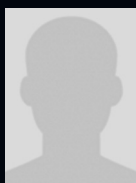
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# Rochford Hundred Squad 2023/24

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**Jake Collins**  
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**Paul Bradley**  
(Back Row)  
No Sponsor



**Craig Strachan**  
(Back Row)  
John Drinkwater



**James Vogel**  
(Back Row)  
Vogels Hair



**Rory Gray**  
(Back Row)  
Nick Jay



**Joshua Cavey**  
(Back Row)  
Ian Stokes & Alan Peacock



**Alex Harbrow**  
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**Jack Stickings**  
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# Rochford Hundred Squad 2023/24

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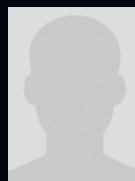
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