



LEAGUE
NATIONAL 2
East

Programme

£2

Rochford Hundred Rugby Football Club

Versus

Westcliff RFC



Saturday 10th September 2022 Kick Off 3.00pm



SARACENS
PARTNER CLUB

Referee - Phil Russell *4th Official* - Tigan Renshaw

Assistant Referees - Peter Caunt & Kevin Jones

Ball Persons - Under 16's *Mascots* - Under 10's, 11's & 12's

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Training nights

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Senior Ladies - Thursdays 7pm

Academy - Tuesdays & Thursdays 7pm

Youth (Boys and Girls) - Wednesdays 7pm

Minis (U6-U12) - Saturdays 9am

Little Rascals (2-6) - Saturdays 9am

Rochford Hundred Rugby Club - Telephone 01702 544021 - Website 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.

We now find ourselves, for the first time in our history, playing National League rugby in National 2 East, somewhere we hope to stay for a long time, being in the top 81 clubs in the country, and we can look back on 60 years of activity with considerable satisfaction

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Hi everyone

Well in the blink of an eye and after a long and very hot summer it gives way to the start of our home league campaign in our second ever season in National League rugby. I can't think of a better way to begin our home games with a big match against our local rivals Westcliff. Can I just take this opportunity to welcome all the Westcliff supporters here today and I hope you have an enjoyable day, but I also hope you will not mind me saying that it is not too enjoyable. Last season it was honours even between us and I just know today's game will be very keenly contested and may be the best team win.

I just hope it is Rochford Hundred as they try to back up last week's fantastic start to the season with a very impressive away win at Tonbridge Juddians.

I would also like to congratulate James Evans in his new role as Chairman of Westcliff and having known him for many years I am certain he will do a fantastic job for Westcliff.

Rain, does anyone really remember that? So, our pitch is rock hard, but I fully understand and totally support Danny's decision to play. As usual the RFU have passed the buck to community clubs as they do not have the balls to make tough decisions. I honestly believe that the people at the very top of the RFU do not care a stuff about us, whether we exist or not.

Talking about existing, we are going through some very tough times at the Club, just as I guess many of you are at home, what with rising energy costs. We are and will be doing everything we can to drive down our energy usage whilst our energy costs seem to rise daily.

However, we will continue onwards and upwards and I am very pleased to welcome today's pre match meal Sponsor, Pall Mall Consulting Group Limited which is owned by Jason Paul. His team go into clients in London and around the world building IT applications covering areas such as banking, commodities, and renewable energy. Welcome Jason and your guests today and thank you again for being today's pre match sponsor.

A big thank you goes to all our sponsors for their generosity and support, your backing is vital to the continuing success of the club, and it is much appreciated. I would also like to thank all the bar staff, kitchen team, coaching teams,

weekday working party and all the wonderful volunteers who work tirelessly for our Club, thanks you.

We have a much-changed team from last season with some players having left the club and some players with long term injuries. So, today's team sees many players making their home debut and we wish them well.

I expect today's game to be very keenly contested and I fully expect both sets of supporters to get behind their team and you can all be as vocal as you want to. BUT please do respect the opposition, let's not have any soccer behaviour at today's game. Let's all be quiet when someone is kicking for goal, let's have no abuse of the officials in any way for any calls you think are wrong, let's not abuse any players for any reason and let's also be friendly towards each other, not matter who we are supporting. Rugby is the best team sport in the world bar none and let us all be an example for good but noisy support.

Thanks for attending today.

Ray Stephenson

ROCHFORD HUNDRED RUGBY CLUB
- Chairman





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Rochford Hundred Rugby Club

LEAGUE LUNCHES

- 10th September 2022 v **WESTCLIFF**
24th September 2022 v **WORTHING**
15th October 2022 v **SEVENOAKS**
5th November 2022 v **BURY ST EDMUNDS**
26th November 2022 v **GUERNSEY**
10th December 2022 v **NORTH WALSHAM**
7th January 2023 v **BLACKHEATH**
21st January 2023 v **DORKING**
18th February v **BARNES**
25th February 2023 v **CANTERBURY**
11th March 2023 v **OLD ALBANIAN**
1st April 2023 v **HENLEY**
22nd April 2023 v **TONBRIDGE JUDDIAN**

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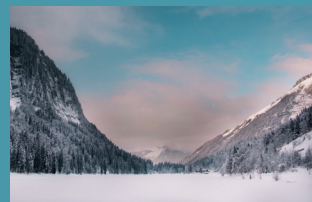
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COACHES CORNER

Firstly, a warm welcome to everyone including our neighbours Westcliff today.

I am sure everyone has enjoyed the Summer off but excited that the season has rolled back around. We are obviously coming off a fantastic result last week which would have definitely surprised a few people, especially considering the number of experienced players we had missing. But adversity often makes teams stronger, and I believe that was the case for us last week. The energy and effort that the players put in was unmatched and TJs couldn't live with the pressure we put them under. What was also pleasing was how effective we were with the ball, and to score 4 tries and leave with 5 points was the perfect start we were looking for.

We also welcomed 7 club or National League debuts last week to all players under the age of 22 which really shows the direction we are going in and hopefully building a squad for the not just the present but for the future as well. So, congratulations to Tauren Henwood, Ewan Richmond, Kyle Johnson, Seth Mokuolu, Nathan Lockwood, Joe Moran and Caley Gray on your debuts and excellent performances last week.

Unfortunately, we are missing 3 of that squad from last week but we do welcome back Mark Ikhifa and captain Sonny Gay. Mark helped us out for a game or 2 last season whilst at University but hasn't played properly for us since 2018 when he was just 17/18 years old and for any of you that remember him will be glad he is back because he is an exceptionally talented youngster. And I am sure most people will know Sonny and will be as equally excited as we are to welcome him back. Not just a

leader in what he says but a leader in how he plays and to have him back out there will be a huge lift for us.

With regards to Westcliff, we know what to expect, they are a close-knit team that are very difficult to play against and will work hard for each other and defend for their lives. They also have a couple of players with a bit of X Factor in their backline, and none more so than their captain Banny, so we will have to contain him if we want to contain Westcliff. But overall, I expect this to not just be a physical game but a game whereby both teams try and play a bit and put on a show for the supporters.

Enjoy the game.

Danny Cleare

ROCHFORD HUNDRED RUGBY CLUB
- Head Coach



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ROCHFORD HUNDRED

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13	Kyle Johnson	Ian Brown
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RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

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6	Alex Hatton
7	Ollie Walker
8	Mason Nicholls
9	Henry Marrant
10	Brad Robbins
11	Ethan Tyler
12	Jack Hogarth
13	Greg Bannister
14	Fin Doyle
15	Ross Gladdish
	<i>Substitutes</i>
16	Callum Lynch
17	Alex Linscer
18	George Maloney
19	Matt Barrell
20	Daley Aremu

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Rochford Hundred Squad 2022/23

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 Laura Bailey 1st XV Physiotherapist	 Andrew Livett 1st XV Physiotherapist	 George Phelps-Knights 1st XV Analysis	 Tigan Renshaw 4th Official	 Graham Pratt 1st XV Registrar	 Craig Hinde 1st XV Videographer	 Bill Smith 1st XV Videographer	 Russell Shepherd 1st XV Photographer

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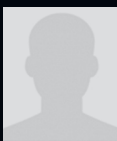
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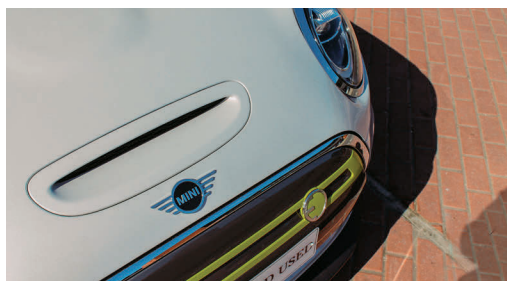
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VISITORS INFORMATION



The club was founded in 1922 as the Old Westcliffians RFC, for the benefit of the old boys of the recently-formed Westcliff High School for Boys. The first president was H.G. Williams MA, the first school headmaster, who was an avid Welsh rugby fanatic. The club led a nomadic existence in its early years, playing at a variety of grounds, but by the outbreak of the war was running three sides, mainly against Essex clubs, London Old Boys clubs and the second fifteens of established First Class clubs such as Wasps, Saracens, Harlequins, Rosslyn Park and London Welsh.

In 1954, having previously used rooms in a variety of Public Houses in Old Leigh, the club became proud owners of "The Gables" – a former dance school on the A13 London Road, which was to be its home for the next thirty years. Around this time, the club joined forces with their neighbours from Southend RFC to host the annual Southend Easter Rugby Festival, which for many years was the biggest such festival in the world.

In the early sixties, with recruits from the school dropping, the club went semi-open, enabling players from outside the area to join, and the club went fully open a few years later, although many playing members are still old boys. The club continued to play high-standard rugby against the better Essex sides, running six teams and being particularly successful on the sevens field, winning the Essex Sevens six years out of seven between 1964 and 1970, as well as several other tournaments.

In 1984, the club relocated to Aviation Way, enjoying surroundings which were then certainly amongst the best in the South East of England. At this stage, the club was running seven senior sides and all appeared rosy.

The arrival of the leagues saw the club initially in London Three North East, where it stayed until the mid-nineties, having changed its name to Westcliff RFC in 1989. The mid-nineties saw a fall in fortunes, with successive relegations and league restructuring finding us languishing in Eastern Counties Division Two South. The rebirth was, however, just round the corner. The club has always had an excellent youth policy, and today must be counted as one of, if not the best youth and mini set up in Essex. The success of the youth has dramatically been transferred to the senior teams, with regularly at least fifteen of the first team squad of eighteen on match days having risen through youth and mini ranks. From the start of the millennium, the club enjoyed five promotions, culminating in finishing as Champions of London One North in 2011, losing only one match all season. Thus the club entered the National Divisions for the first time, finishing a creditable tenth the first season before finding the increased demands too heavy to contend with in 2013. We refused to be downhearted by this, however, and bounced back at the first attempt, winning the London One North championship for the second time in four seasons. We then enjoyed five seasons at Level 5, twice surviving by the skin of our teeth and, more pleasingly, gaining promotion to the National Leagues for the first time. This has proved something of a baptism by fire, and was further disrupted by the Covid pandemic. During our three seasons at this level, we can at least boast victories over the likes of Redruth, Old Albanian and Esher – sides we wouldn't even have dreamt of playing twenty years ago. We are renowned for fast, exciting and entertaining rugby, with a young side who have learned quickly. Success has not been confined to the first team – the second (Lions) third (Rhinos) and, when they were still running, the fourth (Bulldoga) and fifth (Honey Badgers) fifteens are and were on numerous occasions champions of their respective merit tables, often winning the end of season cups for good measure. The Colts and Junior sides have many times been county cup winners champions at their respective age levels and the future is bright. The club has recently reformed its ladies' team, the Lionesses, who have won back to back promotions, and caters for children right down to under five, the Lioncubs.

With the expansion of Southend Airport, we are in the process of moving to bespoke new premises and pitches a short distance away from our current base in Aviation Way, with the move provisionally planned for 2019. This will once again afford us some of the best facilities in the South-East of England and provide a perfect precursor to our centenary celebrations in 2022.

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