



**NATIONAL
LEAGUE 2
East**



Rochford Hundred Rugby Football Club

Versus

Old Albanian RFC



Saturday 11th March 2023 Kick Off 3.00pm



**SARACENS
PARTNER CLUB**

Referee - Mike Lamb

4th Official - Tigan Renshaw

Assistant Referees - Matthew Shepherd & Kevin Jones

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THE RUGBY PARK - MAGNOLIA ROAD - HAWKWELL - ESSEX - SS4 3AD



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Training nights

Senior Men - Tuesdays & Thursdays 7pm

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

Hello everyone,

Today we welcome Old Albanians to Magnolia Road in what we hope will be a game of end-to-end rugby with Rochford Hundred RFC coming out on top, unless of course you are here today supporting Old Albanians. With a major injury crisis now upon us just getting a team on the pitch is a challenge right now but for those who have been taking the pitch for Rochford Hundred you cannot fault their commitment to the cause. We know today will be another tough test, but we also know on our day we are more than good enough to win, let's just hope today is our day.

I am very pleased to welcome back today's Match Day Sponsors, Silver City Estates. Steve and Nick Johnson have been strong supporters of Rochford Hundred for some years now and we really appreciate their ongoing support. The objective of Silver City Estates is to continue to grow in the residential development market while maintaining their company ethos of delivering a high-quality home and one which they, as the developer, are proud of and one in which the buyer will always be happy with.

Also, today we have another match day sponsor and that is Simon Wakefield and his 'Greensward former pupils brigade', all 20 of them. Many of you have attended previous gatherings and it is just great to see you all gain, have a great day.

Lastly, today is our very first 'Valuing our volunteers' lunch. All volunteers from across the club were invited to attend today's lunch and it is just great to see so many of you here today. We know some could not make it for various reasons, but it is still fantastic to see so many of our volunteers here today. You give up so much time and effort to support the club in whatever role

you hold is really appreciated and this is a small way of us showing our appreciation for all the hard work you put in. I know for some of you this is your first time at a pre match lunch, I hope it will not be your last, as you are always welcome.

Rugby is the best team sport you can play or watch. The majority of people watching today will be wanting Rochford to win. Whoever you want to win, please support your team as loudly as you want to BUT please do respect players from both teams and especially the match officials.

Have a great time at Magnolia Road today and thanks for coming. Don't forget to stay behind after the game to watch us (England) beat France straight after the end of our match.

Ray Stephenson

ROCHFORD HUNDRED RUGBY CLUB
- Chairman





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Rochford Hundred Rugby Club

LEAGUE LUNCHES

11th March 2023

v **OLD ALBANIAN**

18th March 2023

v **DORKING**

1st April 2023

v **HENLEY**

22nd April 2023

v **TONBRIDGE JUDDIAN**

All members and friends are invited to attend any of the sponsored lunches at a cost of **£25.00** per head.

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VISITORS INFORMATION



St Albans School, founded in 948AD and the second oldest school in the country behind Kings School, Canterbury, was the birthplace in 1924 of OARFC. A group of former pupils with an urge to continue playing rugby together began the club and acquired as a first pavilion a timber World War One barrack hut.

As the last century progressed a ground in north St Albans, known as Beech Bottom, was acquired and in the nineteen fifties a group of OAs including architects and builders constructed a homely pavilion entirely from their own resources. This housed the OA rugby, cricket and shooting clubs; later a groundsman's cottage was added to the site.

Around its fiftieth anniversary, the rugby club became fully open to all comers, ran six sides and enjoyed fixtures with other clubs in Hertfordshire, Essex, Beds, Bucks and London of similar size and standing. In the days before leagues it was customary to play clubs who offered a fixture with every team in the club, three saying at home and three away, which alternated year on year.

Around the time of the first Rugby World Cup in 1987 the first league structure was formed and, based on a good showing in the previous season's Herts President's Cup, OAs found themselves in London League II but struggled to maintain that standard being relegated a couple of seasons later to League III. The next few seasons saw an attritional revival culminating in promotion in 2002 (of which more later) to London I.

In the season prior to this the club spent a nomadic year playing on the school playing fields and at other venues as Beech Bottom was sold to developers anxious to realise their new asset. This sale allowed the club to pair up with the school and move to Cheapside Farm, previously purchased by the school on Harpenden Road, St Albans.

OAs celebrated this move by gaining promotion to London I in their first season of occupancy. After five seasons of finishing gradually higher and higher in the London I table, the 2010/2011 season saw the club consolidate this by winning promotion to National League 2 South in an exciting and close play-off with Old Patesians from Cheltenham in front of a large and boisterous crowd. The 15-0 result also crowned OAs as the top old boys club in England.

Inspired by a fifth position out of sixteen clubs in NL2 South in the 2010/11 season and coached by Director of Rugby James Shanahan and his team, the following season saw OAs celebrate a nineteen-match-winning run from October to April by clinching the League Championship and automatic promotion to National League I. This positioned the club among the top forty clubs in England.

If that was not good enough, OAs finished fifth in their first season of National League I, placing it as the 29th club in the country. The 2013/2014 season proved to be a tougher assignment and the club finished with a mid-table position in NL I.

Relegation followed in 2014/2015 after an up and down season marred at the last by a points deduction for a technical registration matter. No sooner down than up again as OAs stormed through National League 2 South, ending up second and achieving promotion back to League I for the 2016/17 season by virtue of a 24-0 win in the play-off against Sedgley Park Tigers.

The 2016/17 season was marred by injuries – at times barely half of the squad was available for selection – the retirement of some long-established players and the announcement that Head Coach James Shanahan would leave at the season's end for Blackheath to be replaced by Gavin Hogg. The club ended up in 9th position in NL I.

Faced with a number of player departures, plus some difficulties with player availabilities, OAs had a forgettable start to the 2017/18 season and lacked the momentum to stay in NL I despite a fine rally during March and April which all but saved them from relegation to National League 2 South.

Following two modest seasons both in results and performance the club faces a third season in National League 2 South with a third coach in four seasons in the wake of the Spring 2020 Coronavirus, which curtailed all activity after the visit of Westcliff on 7th March.

COACHES CORNER

Good afternoon all, and a warm welcome to Old Albanian RFC to Magnolia Road.

Last week saw us travel away to Bury St Edmunds, in a match that we started really well, and was the dominant team for the opening 10 minutes, but frustratingly we worked ourselves into a position for 3-4 opportunities to score and didn't take any of them. Bury then seemed to kick themselves into gear and scored a few lovely long-range tries through their dangerous backs and before you know it we were 24-0 down at half time and we really shouldn't have been.

The start of the second half was all Bury for the first 10 minutes and then we fought our way back into the game and had a proper go and made a number of line breaks, but the last pass just wasn't sticking until about the 70th minute where Charlie Owens scored his first senior try for the club which was nice a moment for him.

Unfortunately I think we really rued our early missed opportunities because if we went 12 or 14-0 up early doors and had our tails up then you wonder could we have got at least something out the game, but we can't take anything away from Bury because they are a class team and have one of the most dangerous set of backs in the league and they are arguably the best counter attacking team in the league that can score from anywhere, and they really exposed our defensive frailties at times.

Today's opponents, Old Albanians, are another really tough outfit and a solid team, with a long history within the National Leagues. They have a strong Saracens link, so get some excellent academy players from them to bolster their team, so it's going to be another massive challenge. But a challenge we must overcome if we want to stay in this league.

When we last played Canterbury in our last home match, the crowd were absolutely fantastic and played a massive part in getting the team over the line for the much needed win, so a big thank you to you all and please get behind the team again today.

Injuries continue to hamper our season, we have been really unfortunate, but I can't thank the players that have got off that physio bench week in and out and put that black shirt on and given it all they have got, with many playing through that pain barrier.

The same thank you to all of the club volunteers that are at the lunch today, they are the backbone of every club, and we couldn't function without you.

Enjoy the game.

Danny Cleave

ROCHFORD HUNDRED RUGBY CLUB
- Head Coach



HOME TEAM SQUAD

ROCHFORD HUNDRED

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

No.	Name	Sponsor
1	Joe Moran	No Sponsor
2	Rob Gardner	Vince Brown
3	Najee Mundicha	Simon Wakefield
4	Patrick Jennings	Bassett Building
5	Chris Shields	No Sponsor
6	Rory Gray	No Sponsor
7	Paul Bradley	Three Pears Racing
8	Mac Duaibe (<i>Vice Captain</i>)	Vince Brown
9	Ewan Richmond	Peter Jay
10	Tauren Henwood	Nick Jay
11	Seth Mokuolu	No Sponsor
12	Sam Cappaert	No Sponsor
13	Mark Ikhifa	Danjan Sports
14	Kyle Johnson	Ian Brown
15	Chris Dudman (<i>Captain</i>)	No Sponsor
<i>Substitutes</i>		
16	Caley Gray	No Sponsor
17	Harry Phelps-Knights	No Sponsor
18	Taylor Randall	No Sponsor
19	David Rufai	Optimal Roofing Solutions
20	Jake Spivey	No Sponsor

Today's Lunch Sponsor



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AWAY TEAM SQUAD

OLD ALBANIAN

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

No.	Name
1	Not Supplied
2	Not Supplied
3	Not Supplied
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
19	Not Supplied
20	Not Supplied

Rochford Hundred Upcoming Events

END OF SEASON AWARDS DINNER

with Chris Robshaw

Friday 19th May

7pm til late

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Today's Lunch Sponsor





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
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LEAGUE & TODAY'S FIXTURES

LEAGUE TABLE

Club	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	PD	TBP	LBP	Points	Adj
 Blackheath	20	18	0	2	800	279	521	16	2	90	0
 Worthing	21	15	0	6	746	522	224	16	2	78	0
 Barnes	20	14	0	6	647	374	273	15	3	74	0
 Dorking	20	13	1	6	689	420	269	14	4	72	0
 Bury St Edmunds	20	14	0	6	635	483	152	13	2	71	0
 Henley	20	12	0	8	565	452	113	11	4	63	0
 O Albanian	20	12	0	8	547	483	64	14	0	62	0
 Tonbridge Juddians	21	12	0	9	563	455	108	11	2	61	0
 Guernsey	21	8	1	12	571	553	18	10	4	48	0
 Canterbury	21	7	0	14	522	640	-118	10	3	41	0
 Sevenoaks	20	4	2	14	398	588	-190	7	6	33	0
 Rochford Hundred	20	5	0	15	362	782	-420	9	2	31	0
 North Walsham	20	6	0	14	446	666	-220	5	1	30	0
 Westcliff	20	0	0	20	267	1061	-794	2	2	-1	-5

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Saturday 11th March 2023

Time	Match	Venue
15:00	Barnes v Westcliff	Queen Elizabeth Way
15:00	Blackheath v Tonbridge Juddian	Well Hall
15:00	Canterbury v Bury St Edmunds	The Marine Travel Ground
15:00	Dorking v Henley	The Big Field
15:00	Rochford Hundred v O Albanian	The Rugby Park
15:00	Sevenoaks v Guernsey	Knole Paddock
15:00	Worthing v North Walsham	The Rugby Park

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STAFF & COACHES



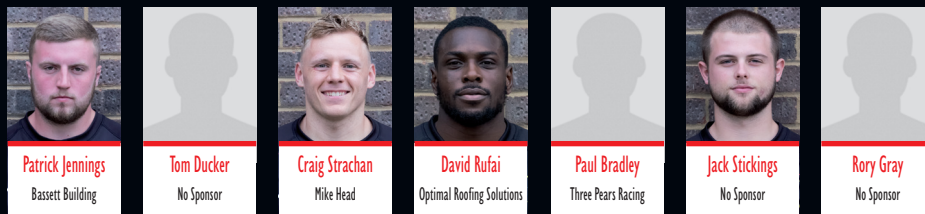
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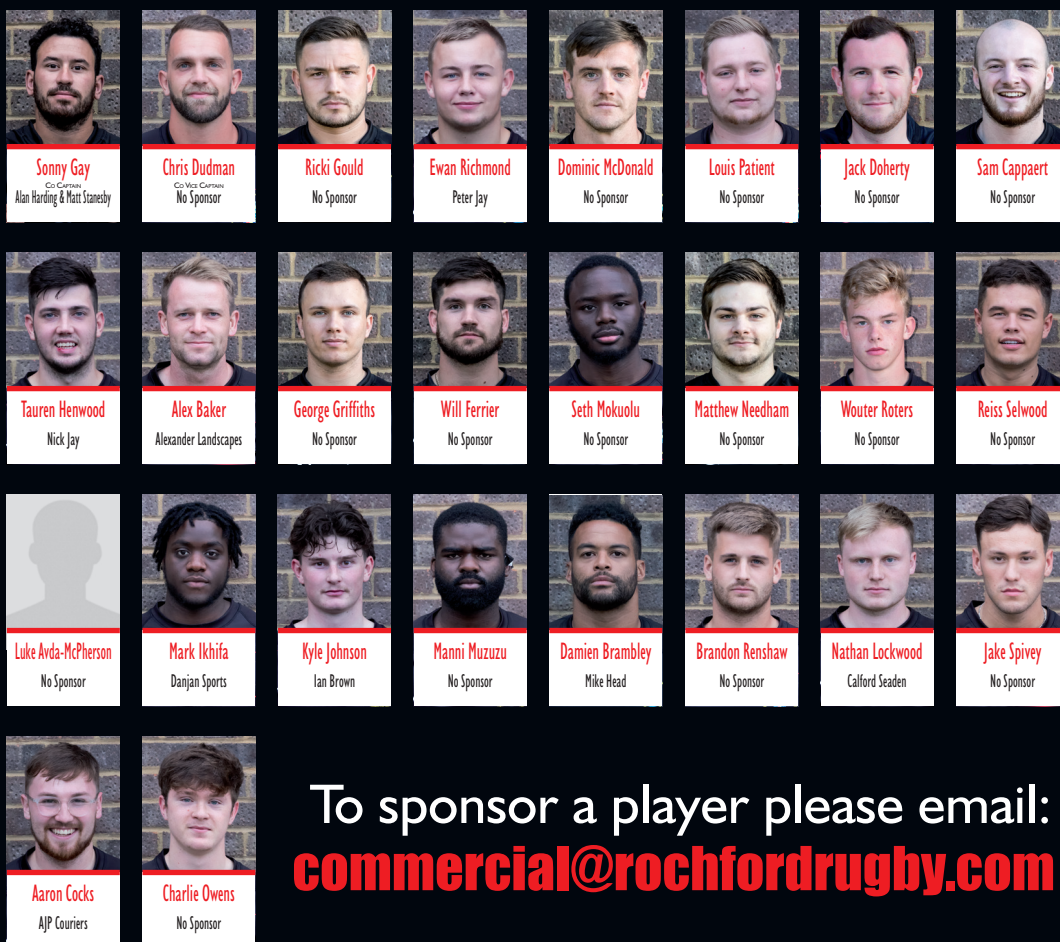
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Rochford Hundred Squad 2022/23

FORWARDS CONTINUED *(sponsors under each name)*



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