



NATIONAL
LEAGUE
South



Rochford Hundred Rugby Football Club

Versus

Westcliff RFC



Saturday 18th December 2021 Kick Off 3.00pm



SARACENS
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Rochford Hundred Rugby Club - Telephone 01702 544021 - Website www.rochfordrugby.com

Chairmans Welcome

Can I start by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sorry I can't be with you today, but I know Mike will look after you all. This is the one game I really wanted to see but family come first, so here I am on a family Christmas holiday. (I am not sure my daughters would agree though that family comes before rugby, but they don't understand!).

Anyway, a very warm welcome today to Westcliff. We go back right to our founding in 1962 when Old Westcliffians, as they were then, agreed to play one of our first games against them to help get us started. Over the years since then we have had many good 'battles' against them at all levels from 1st Team to minis. We all loved going for a drink and something to eat at the Gables before they moved to their new clubhouse. Now they have moved again to spanking new clubhouse with fantastic pitches. They are actually closer to Rochford town centre than we are. Maybe they should think of changing their name! How about West Rochford? LOL.

For many years I think we all (reluctantly) accepted that Southend were the top rugby side at 1st team level for many years until their star waned. Westcliff then surged ahead of both us and they have been 'top dog' for several seasons now. This season we have joined them at the top table, and we hope very much to stay here. I ask all Rochford supporters to take no notice of the league table that sees Westcliff firmly routed at the bottom of the table that shows played 14, lost 14 and a points difference of minus 620.

This is a local derby, the biggest local derby in the National Leagues, as our two clubs are the closest to each other than any other teams in the National Leagues, and anyone who thinks Westcliff are just turning up to be thrashed by Rochford then you are severely mistaken. They will very much be up for this game and any complacency on our part will be punished. However, our players are just as keen, if not more, to win today and I am very confident they will do so. But it will be far from easy.

Rochford Hundred is a very friendly club and that incredible feeling of positivity and togetherness is why we all play and support Rochford Hundred and rugby

in general, it is part of our rugby DNA and I hope we never lose sight of that on and off the pitch. That has been demonstrated today because weeks of planning to make today run as smoothly as possible has seen over 44 volunteers from across the whole club come together today to give their time freely to help make the day a success both on and off the field of play. Thanks also today to all our hard-working paid staff in whatever capacity you are employed.

So today, come rain, come shine, lets raise a glass to that collective indomitable rugby spirit, and keep it shining brightly.

We will hopefully have our biggest crowd of the season here so please really get behind the team today and make as much noise whether you are supporting Rochford or Westcliff. However, please also show respect to both teams and most importantly the officials.

Have a great day, onwards and upwards.

Ray Stephenson

ROCHFORD HUNDRED RUGBY CLUB
- Chairman



Rochford Hundred Rugby Club

LEAGUE LUNCHESES

18th December 2021 v **WESTCLIFF**

15th January 2022 v **BURY ST EDMUNDS**

29th January 2022 v **WORTHING**

12th February 2022 v **OLD ALBANIAN**

26th February 2022 v **BARNSTABLE**

12th March 2022 v **BARNES**

2nd April 2022 v **HINCKLEY**

16th April 2022 v **CLIFTON**

30th April 2022 v **ESHER**

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8:30am - 11:15am

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James Kellard
Forwards Coach



Alex Brown
Scrum Coach



James Tirrell
Specialist/Skills Coach



Luke Brewster
Head of Strength & Conditioning



Jon Branch
1st XV Physiotherapist



Paul Head
Head Of Rugby



Adam Faherty
1st XV Manager



Graham Pratt
1st XV Registrar



George Phelps-Knight
1st XV Videographer



Redmond Newbury
Harts Head Coach



Simon Watkins
4th Official

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Coaches Corner

Firstly I'd like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and hope everyone remains safe in these difficult times.

To hear so many people have booked onto the lunch and support the boys is a massive boost and I can't wait to see the atmosphere for today's game. There is also music and a DJ on after the game so please stick around and have a drink with the players if you can as I know they'd like to show their appreciation to you guys as well.

But here we are, the game most supporters would have looked out for first when the fixtures came out in the summer. And today brings a huge amount of excitement as the 2 premier teams in Essex lock horns for the first time in a number of years and I am sure it is going to be a hell of a game. I have watched a number of Westcliff games over the last few weeks and despite their results they do have a grit about them and teams are taking a while before breaking them down so despite their league position we are under no illusion this will be a difficult game and will pose a number of challenges.

We ourselves feel we have finally settled into this league and feel we are competitive and can be a match for anyone when we are at full strength. We are still miles off where we wish to be and there is still loads more potential in this young squad of players but that only adds to the excitement for us moving forward. This week we have had a number of players returning that missed last week in Clifton and that will certainly make the selection for this game more difficult,

but it is a good problem to have.

And working with the group this week there is a real energy and excitement for this fixture and I am sure it will not disappoint.

Lastly I just want to sign off the year thanking everyone at the club who has helped and contributed in some way to getting this club to where it is today. So much goes on behind the scenes and there are so many volunteers that dedicate their time to making sure this club is run the right way and it is hugely appreciated by myself and all my players. So thank you, enjoy your Christmas and more importantly enjoy the game.

Danny Cleare

ROCHFORD HUNDRED RUGBY CLUB
- Head Coach



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ROCHFORD HUNDRED

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14	Will Ferrier	No Sponsor
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17	Jordan Dyer	No Sponsor
18	Mac Duaibe	Vince Brown
19	Ricki Gould	Matt Stewart
20	George Elliott	Ian Brown

Today's Lunch Sponsor



AWAY TEAM SQUAD

WESTCLIFF

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

No.	Name
1	Charlie Brown
2	Teddy Moss
3	Ewan Binneman
4	George Anderson-Brown
5	James Scogings
6	Ben Dane
7	Ed Johnson
8	Sam Reynolds
9	Brad Comber
10	Reece Whiting
11	Seyi Ajeigbe
12	Jack Longhurst
13	Jack Hogarth
14	Tyler Ford
15	Greg Bannister

Substitutes

16	Baily Glen
17	Lachlan Doyle
18	Rory Lane
19	Eric Miller
20	George Willsher

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18th December

New Years Eve Party

Friday

31st December

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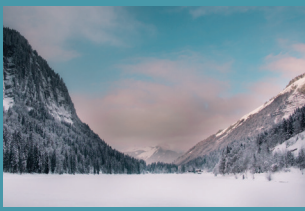
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Rochford Hundred Rugby Club

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 January 1962 at the Bull Inn 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 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.

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 a number of players from Rayleigh Secondary Modern School (now Fitzwimarc) and Sweyne School. Indeed David Allen (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. Regrettably, Peter died recently in America, where he had been living for many years.

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 and 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.

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 both 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.

The pitches in those early days at Magnolia Road were frankly dreadful but over the years there has been considerable work on them and they are now adequate for the task, if not perfect. 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.

Our youth section has gone from strength to strength and provides players for our 1st XV and other club teams. In fact our current 1st XV is almost entirely made up of former youth players. We have a ladies and girls section which is unusual among Essex Clubs. The club is currently playing in National League 2 South and we can look back on 60 years of activity with considerable satisfaction.

Rochford Hundred Rugby Club - Telephone 01702 544021 - Website www.rochfordrugby.com

Acknowledgments

Rochford Hundred Rugby Football Club members wish to thank all of our friends who have supported us through the years and this coming season.

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