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Rochford Hundred Rugby Football Club

Versus

Bury St Edmunds RFC



Saturday 5th November 2022 Kick Off 3.00pm



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4th Official - Tigan Renshaw

Assistant Referees - Paul Clayton & Steve Milligan

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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

Good afternoon everyone.

Firstly, thank you all very much for attending today.

This Presidents Lunch will be the last Presidents Lunch for Mike Drinkwater as our President. Mike has been our President since 1996 and when he steps down at the next AGM he will served as President for some 27 years.

He joined the club in the summer of 1962, in the season after its formation, playing at centre for all the senior sides until he was 30, and then, seeing the light, reverting to prop for over 10 years until he hung up his boots. Mike served in various positions within the club, most notably Chairman from 1983 until 1996 and now as President.

Mike is also an Honorary Life Member of Essex County RFU having served as the Essex County RFU Rep on the Eastern Counties Management Committee from 1990 and the Essex and Eastern Counties RFU Council Representative from 1995 until 2006 when Ivor Smith took over. He was also Essex County RFU Honorary Secretary from 1986 until 2004, and Essex County RFU President from 2006 until 2008.

One of the highlights of his career was his role as RFU Council member, a volunteer job he loved doing. During this time he successfully proposed the separation of Essex County RFU from Eastern Counties RFU at the RFU AGM on the 3rd July 2003.

To commemorate Mike's service to the RFU he was made a Distinguished Member of RFU in 2006.

So Mike will remain as President until the next AGM, but today, at his last Presidents Lunch as President, we thank Mike on behalf of our great club for service and dedication to Rochford Hundred Rugby Football Club and to the wider rugby community. Essex RFU are represented here today with Essex President, Nick Bracken, Essex Chairman, Simon Wakefield and Essex Hon Sec, Ivor Smith all here to pass on their thanks on behalf of Essex to Mike.

As I said earlier, a very warm welcome to all those attending today. To all VP's of any description, whether this is your first pre match lunch or you are a regular attendee, a very special welcome. We hold Presidents Lunches once a season and it will be great to see you all again at next seasons Presidents Lunch.

Today we host Bury St Edmunds and we hope the 7 Bury members enjoy the day with us, plus any other travelling Bury support not at the lunch. Given our brewery who supply all

our beer are Greene King and Greene King as based in Bury St Edmunds we are very pleased to have Greene King as our match day sponsors. We are very pleased to be involved with Greene King and are appreciative of the support the give our Club.

Today also a group of lads from Hockley are also gathering to remember a big man in many ways, Les Baker, who sadly passed away recently. Our thoughts are with you his friends and his family.

So, today's game. As usual in this league it seems anyone one team, can, on the day, beat anyone else. Who saw Old Albanians beating Blackheath and so the 'strange' results continue. Can we beat Bury today, of course we can. Can Bury beat Rochford today, well of course they can as well. All I know for sure is that both teams will be going all out for the win. So, whoever you support, please support your team as loud and vocally as you want to, but as usual, a reminder to respect players from both teams and to always respect the match officials, even if they do get it wrong.

Have a great day at Rochford and thanks again for coming.

Ray Stephenson

ROCHFORD HUNDRED RUGBY CLUB
- Chairman





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Rochford Hundred Rugby Club

LEAGUE LUNCHESES

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**

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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COACHES CORNER

Good afternoon everyone and a warm welcome to Bury.

Last week saw us play a really close encounter with Canterbury in a game we were frustrated to lose. We did a lot of the hard work in the first half going up the hill and into the wind and 10-0 down wasn't a bad result considering the elements, although we did feel we left some points out there as some of our attack was brilliant at times.

The second half however we never really got going until late, but we still put ourselves in a good position to win the game after scoring two quick tries with 15 minutes to play. And at 17-12 down but having all the momentum and the hill and wind I honestly thought we'd go onto the win the game. Disappointingly though our discipline cost us, and we soon lost that momentum and Canterbury went on to score 2 soft scores to put the game out of sight.

Wins are hard to come by in this league and we know we must be better in terms of discipline and game management if we want to get more victories and move up the table. What was really pleasing from last week was seeing Damien Brambley back in action and scoring 2 tries and looking dangerous throughout.

Today is a massive game for us, as a win puts us back amongst the mid-table teams, but a loss does slightly detach us from the group, so we are fully aware a positive performance and result is important. Bury are an impressive

team with a big pack and a skilful back line that love moving the ball wide, so our defence will have to be well organised and abrasive if we want to stop them. Bury have had some good results this season, particularly their wins away at Dorking and Henley. This does suggest they are a team that travels well and can pick up points away and are not so reliant on home comforts.

Us on the other hand are a team that thrives more at home in front of a big crowd that gets behind us. This therefore has all the ingredients for a cracking game.

Enjoy the game.

Danny Cleave

ROCHFORD HUNDRED RUGBY CLUB
- Head Coach



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ROCHFORD HUNDRED

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AWAY TEAM SQUAD

BURY ST EDMUNDS

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

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1	Toby Hill
2	Fin McCartney
3	Ben Cooper
4	Rob Conquest
5	Craig Stevenson
6	Matt Burseley (<i>Captain</i>)
7	Shaquille Meyers
8	Ruaraidh Williams
9	Will Christie
10	Charlie Reed
11	Mike Stanway
12	Samir Kharbouch
13	Dave Attfield
14	Louis Martin
15	Will Affleck
	<i>Substitutes</i>
16	Callum Jeffery
17	Lewis Jeffery
18	George Griggs-Pettitt
19	Yasin Browne
20	George Hardy

**Rochford Hundred
Upcoming Events**

**END OF
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DINNER**

Friday 5th May

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Chris Robshaw

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If you are willing to donate some time, please email:

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The Rochford Hundred 200 Club has just been relaunched to become the Rochford Hundred 250 Club. This is a great way to support your club with all profits going into supporting the growth and progress of your community rugby club. We draw 6 lucky winners every month with the prize money increasing for the December draw. If we can reach the 250 figure we will then increase the monthly prize money. Each number will cost you £5 per month and if you email janebrew@yahoo.co.uk Fred will happily arrange for you to pay and give you your numbers. You can have as many as you like.



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