



# **Rochford Hundred Rugby Club**

## Welcome to Rochford Hundred Rugby Club Dur Olub fiztury

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.

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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.

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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

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# **CHAIRMANS MESSAGE**

## Good afternoon everyone and a very warm welcome to Magnolia Road to our guests from Worthing Raiders.

We hope that our welcome off the pitch to Worthing Raiders will be as warm as the intensity we hope to bring to each and every game that we play on it.

After a great start to the season with two wins out of two we came unstuck last weekend against a very good Blackheath team. It will take a very good team indeed to beat them this season as they look to climb back to National I at their first attempt.

Unfortunately, we did pick up a few injuries, to add to our existing ones, but we should still have a strong, competitive squad to pick from.

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Worthing Raiders have had an indifferent start to the season, winning one game and losing two, but we know from last season that they are a very good team, and we will need to be at our best to beat them.

After the last two weekends, where the rugby community paid our respects to our late Queen, we return to concentrate on National League rugby.

We will be hoping for a strong performance from Rochford today so that we can begin to consolidate our position in this league. Having worked so hard to get here we do not wish to be relegated so every game is vitally important and as we know from last season there are no easy games, some maybe not as difficult as others, but all are still hard games to win.

So for all those supporting Rochford Hundred today please do not underestimate just how valuable your support, energy and positive noise is to the players on the pitch. You really do make a difference, so get behind Rochford Hundred today and give them as much vocal support as you can muster, but please do respect the Worthing players and most importantly, the match officials.

Thanks for coming today and lets hope for a great game of rugby.

Stephenson

ROCHFORD HUNDRED RUGBY CLUB - Chairman



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# **Rochford Hundred Rugby Club**

## LEAGUE LUNCHES

24<sup>th</sup> September 2022 v **WORTHING** 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022 v **SEVENOAKS** 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022 v **BURY ST EDMUNDS** 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022 v **GUERNSEY** 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022 v **NORTH WALSHAM** 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023 v **BLACKHEATH** 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023 v **BLACKHEATH** 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023 v **DORKING** 18<sup>th</sup> February v **BARNES** 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023 v **CANTERBURY** 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023 v **OLD ALBANIAN** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 v **HENLEY** 22<sup>nd</sup> 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. Book your seats through **Alan Gander hospitality@rochfordrugby.com** or **07768 441613**.

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## **COACHES CORNER**

Well last week was a very humbling experience against what will be the best team we'll face all season. Blackheath have recruited heavily with a number of ex Championship and National I players as well as some Saracen loan players, so competing against a team littered with quality was always going to be tough.

We were also unfortunate with the number of injuries we picked up on the day and had to play the last 20 minutes of the match with 13 men due to 7 injuries to players unable to continue. But that being said we were also disappointed with how we performed and felt we could have given a better account of ourselves.

We defended poorly and lacked energy and line speed and fell off far too many tackles. And when you give a team like Blackheath quick front foot ball they will punish you. There were however some positives that came from the game as we welcomed new boy Paul Bradley to the team who made his debut and put in a solid performance in difficult circumstances.

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This defeat has also been a reminder that we need to keep training hard and keep improving, and we had an excellent analysis session Tuesday to highlight some defensive flaws and fix some of the problems.

The beauty of rugby though is there is always next week, and the players are determined to put a performance in more representative of our ability. Worthing are a strong team and picked up their first win last week, so we know they'll be keen to back that up. But for us we are motivated to erase last week and try and create an aura and fortress at home whoever we play against. Last season Worthing did the double over us but both fixtures were competitive and today we are determined to be on the right side of the result this time.

As has been the case every game this season, we seem to be giving out new debuts and today we welcome Charlie Owens to the squad for his first team debut. Charlie is a home-grown talent that played his youth rugby here before going to Cardiff Met University, so I know it is a big honour for Charlie to play today and I hope you share my excitement for him. And at the age of 20 he brings the average age of this back line even lower, which is hard to believe when the average age of this set of backs being under 22 years old. And that includes with today's captain Chris Dudman who significantly brings it up at 29 years old. Chris is making his debut as captain today and fully deserves the responsibility. As you can see from my statement above Chris is by far the most experienced back we have, and he shows that every session with his professionalism, nurturing the young talent putting on pre sessions with players etc. I know Chris will take his responsibilities as captain seriously and will lead from the front and again please share in my congratulations for him.

Enjoy the game.

Ganny Cleave

ROCHFORD HUNDRED RUGBY CLUB - Head Coach



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# **HOME TEAM SQUAD**

## **ROCHFORD HUNDRED**

### RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

No.	Name
1	Joe Moran
2	Rob Gardner
3	Najee Mundicha
4	Chris Shields
5	Redmond Newberry
6	Craig Strachan
7	David Rufai
8	Mac Duaibe (Co Vice Captain)
9	Jake Spivey
10	Tauren Henwood
11	Seth Mokuolu
12	Chris Dudman (Co Vice Capta
13	Kyle Johnson
14	Mark Ikhifa
15	Charlie Owens
	Substitutes
16	Lewis Brunger
47	

17 Caley Gray

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- 18 Paul Bradley
- 19 Ewan Richmond
- 20 Nathan Lockwood

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# AWAY TEAM SQUAD

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# WORTHING

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

No Name 1 Ethan Clarke 2 Elliott Luke 3 Dan Sargent Δ lack Lake 5 Jonny Green 6 Rob Cuffe 7 Rob Ure Frank Taggart 8 Q Charlie Clare 10 Harrison Sims 11 lerome Rudder 12 Ben Waghorn 13 lack Forrest 14 lake Golding 15 Curtis Barnes Substitutes Tom Hatch 16 17 lackson Clark 18 loe Knight 19 lago Davies 20 Toby Kemp

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## Rochford Hundred Upcoming Events FIREWORKS

## FIREWORKS NIGHT

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November

## ENTRY IS ONE LARGE FIREWORK

- Club will be open from 6pm fireworks start at 7pm

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VOLUNTEER

As a community rugby club, we are always looking for more volunteers to help us run the club. We are the size of a small business run entirely by a very willing volunteer workforce, but we always need more help. If you have some time from only perhaps an hour a week to much more, we can find a worthwhile role for when you join our volunteer army.

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

### chairman@rochfordrugby.com

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 **janefrew@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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## **Rochford Hundred Squad 2022/23**

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## **STAFF & COACHES**



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# **VISITORS INFORMATION**



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### **HUMBLE BEGINNINGS IN THE SUMMER OF 1920**

A group of local men met at York House over their shared love of the sport and decided that this town needed a Rugby Football

Club. They formed the club on the 10th September 1920. They had no ground or equipment, they initially borrowed a field from a local farmer before moving to the Rotary Ground at Broadwater where the Cricketers Arms was used for changing. In the 1924-25 season the club moved to Rugby Road.

### 1927 AND ON THE WAY UP

In 1927 the club moved to a new ground at Castle Road just in time to play the first match of the 1927-28 season

### **CLUB COLOURS**

The original club colours were green and white stripes, which were also sported by Guildford. The choice of the present royal blue with chocolate and gold hoops was made in 1927. The scheme is an amalgamation of the colours of Dulwich, Mill Hill and Cranleigh where many of the team members had been to school.

### THE WAR YEARS

In 1939 the ground was closed and requisitioned for grazing, and later as a billet for Canadian troops. In 1946 the ground re-opened and the club played it's rugby there for the next 30 years. During the 1970's with the growth in Junior and Mini Rugby, it was apparent that we needed larger facilities.

### THE ROUNDSTONE LANE GROUND

In 1977 the club moved to it's present location in Angmering, and the ground was officially opened in 1979 by Dickie Jeeps the former England international and then Chairman of the sports council. We provide up to 6 pitches, and have two floodlit pitches with TV quality floodlighting on one of them. The clubhouse has recently been extended with the aid of a lottery grant, enabling us to establish Women's rugby, and add many new facilities.

### **OLD AZURIANS**

Ex-pupils of Worthing High School for Boys formed the Old Azurians Rugby Football Club in 1927. The name derives from the school magazine, known as "The Azurian", and sporting an azure cover. In the 1970's the club membership was opened up and they became known as the Azurians. In 1989 the Azurians amalgamated with Worthing RFC, which still benefits from an active number of OA's in its ranks.

### **CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**

From a farmers field near the seafront in 1920, Worthing RFC has progressed, and now offers first class rugby facilities, which have earned us the designation Centre of Excellence for Sussex Rugby.

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