



Clifton Rugby

WINGS CRUSADERS

**ALEX
KILBANE**

IN FOCUS

**PRESIDENTS
WELCOME**

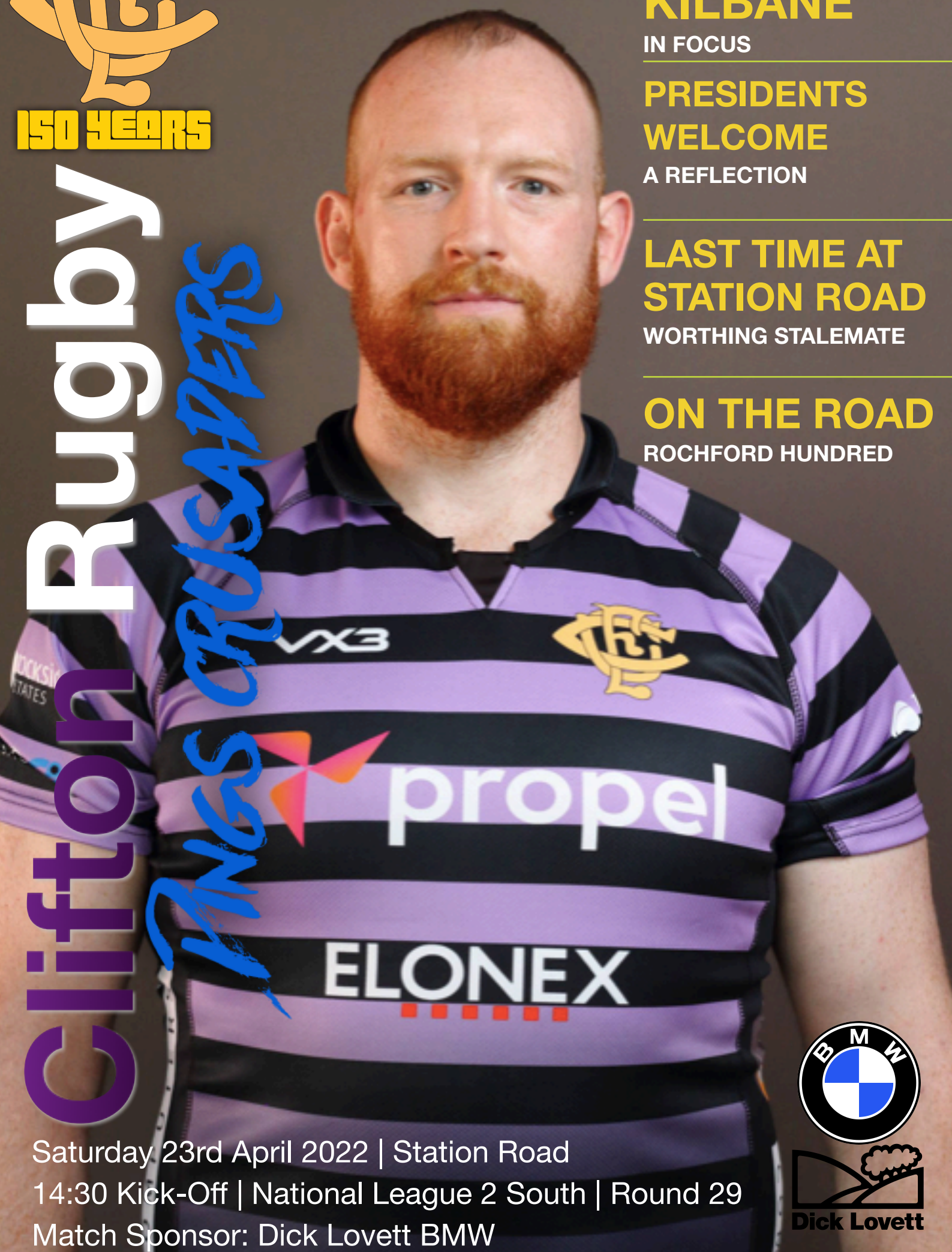
A REFLECTION

**LAST TIME AT
STATION ROAD**

WORTHING STALEMATE

ON THE ROAD

ROCHFORD HUNDRED



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14:30 Kick-Off | National League 2 South | Round 29
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COACH'S CORNER

“IT’S ALWAYS TIGHT; FORM GOES OUT THE WINDOW”

Dear All,

Here we are, welcome to the final home match of a long, attritional and ultimately one of the most successful seasons the club has seen. It is appropriate today that as we draw to a close our home campaign, we welcome our cross town rivals Dings. They have been flying lately and today it is going to be a huge battle. It's always tight, like last time, form goes out the window and with familiar faces on both sides, I'm sure the boys will enjoy a great day.

The league, as tight as it has been, looks to be nearing a conclusion where we see one side promoted to National 1. Anything can happen, we are still mathematically in the hunt, but the squad is focussed on finishing the season in the best possible fashion.

It has been a season of unknowns, huge highs and crushing last minute lows. There have been many “what ifs”: OA's, Henley and Redruth spring to mind. But also, huge moments of resilience and seeing what this young squad is made of. Guernsey away, Hinckley away and not to mention our

fightback last time at home where the boys really dragged themselves back into the game after being 19 points down after 12 minutes.

We've done some great things, we have unearthed some gems and we have continued to work tirelessly to give the club a great platform from which to build on.

The core goal once the season ends is to maintain our consistency and keep our squad together. We have already achieved 90% of that. This is a group of exceptional players, on a journey and one which we are determined to keep pushing, evolving and giving the club something to be proud of. This season has been for the players, but also, for the countless people that have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make it happen.

We hope today is a fitting tribute to this seasons efforts and we couldn't wish for better opposition and competition today.

Enjoy the day

Salts.





IN FOCUS: ALEX KILBANE

“AK” has continued to thrive since his return to the squad after injury. A versatile full back or winger, Kilbane has continued to bring the energy both on and off the field as the season has progressed. One of the most popular players in the squad, his footwork and ability to create something out of nothing has been crucial to Clifton’s push for promotion this season.



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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



Today we welcome the players, officials and supporters from Dings, who have travelled across town from Frenchay where they play in the palatial Shaftesbury Park. The venue is named after the great philanthropist whose charity played a large part in the evolution of rugby in the Dings area of Bristol bringing respect, self esteem and enjoyment to many young men. The first recorded match between Clifton and Dings is I believe December 28th 1901.

Before Christmas Clifton narrowly defeated Dings in a very close encounter and a hard fought match is expected today and Ding's recent run of good form will be in the minds of the Clifton coaches and players as a further chapter of the "Battle of Bristol" takes place.

Last week we ventured to sunny Southend on Sea and played Rochford 100 and with our hosts

plagued by injuries it was mostly one way traffic. However records were broken with a hat trick of hat tricks namely Max Woodward (four tries), Fin Sharp and Tom Wilson, also our 150th try in amongst those scores. With the reorganisation of the leagues it is unlikely we will visit Rochford next year but we enjoyed their hospitality and friendship.

We welcome Dick Lovett as our sponsors today and we thank Simon Quarrie of the Clifton Sausage for his continuous support by donating our "man of the match awards" over many seasons.

Today we welcome former first team captain and joint founder of the junior section, Ian Elvin who is travelling from up north to be with us. Also former first team prop Harry Dicks.

At the recent Bury St Edmunds match a local young lady, Daisy Cole, organised a raffle and collection in

order to assist with the cost (£3,000) to attend the World Scouting Jamboree in South Korea next year. She raised £560 and thanked everyone who took part in the raffle.

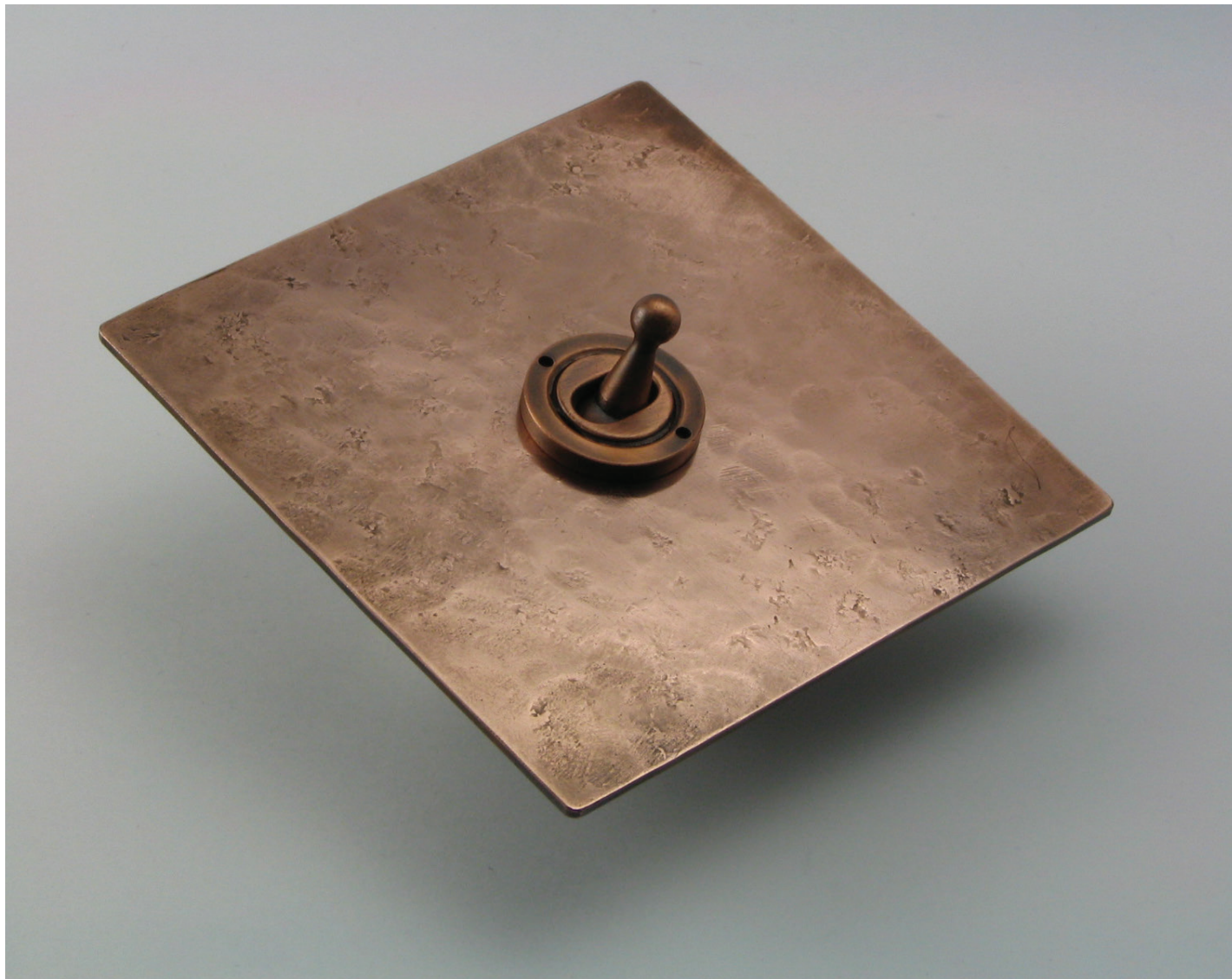
Today is the final home league match of the season and whatever the result today this is by far our most successful season at this level, over 1000 points (a first) 150 tries and a ten match consecutive winning run achieved for the first time. So I congratulate all the players and Head Coach Matt Salter, ably assisted by Mike Barber, Luke Cozens, Paul Finken and Joe Rymell (S&C). Also Danielle Hand for keeping the boys on the pitch and Ray Watkins Team Manager.

Next week we are away to Barnstaple where the John Budd Cup will be at stake, maybe see some of you there. Enjoy your rugby

John Raine
President
Clifton RFC

Bromleighs

Anything else is a compromise



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RUGBY CLUB**

EST. 1872



CLIFTON BOYS ON INTERNATIONAL DUTY

Paddy Pearce & James Haliwell continued to state their international credentials with their involvement in the U18 Six Nations. Both boys are set to continue their involvement with Bristol Bears next season and will no doubt be pulling on the Lavender & Black shirt once again like current 1st X George Taylor.

Blake Boyland is also currently on duty with England 7's in Canada following his involvement in Singapore. Blake, a Clifton junior and former Bears scrum half, recently played against Worthing before his call up to the England core 7's squad.



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LAST TIME AT HOME

CLIFTON 31 - 31 WORTHING RAIDERS

Both these teams accepted before kick off that their promotion chances are now very slight and would depend upon both Esher and Redruth slipping up in the run in. This third versus fourth place fixture had more than pride at stake.

Head coaches Matt Salter at Clifton and Worthing's Jordan Turner-Hall with mutual respect for each other and in favour of high tempo rugby will reflect on narrow defeats during the season and approached this game with thorough preparation and desire to win..

Ultimately the spoils were shared with five tries and three conversions for each team leaving both coaches with degrees of frustration. Salter was disappointed with his team's mistakes particularly in the opening quarter when loose passing and missed tackles allowed Worthing to open up a nineteen point lead. Turner-Hall because his boys did not build on their lead.

Clifton emerged from a stern half time team talk and had much more determination to see themselves in the lead in the closing stages only for Worthing to snatch the draw as the final whistle was imminent.

Worthing prop Dan Sargent had a fine game in the loose and completed his hat trick of tries which included his team's opening score after three minutes and their final try in the closing moments.



Poor Clifton defence let in fly half Kieran Leeming before a run by winger Curtis Barnes found Sargent on hand. Matt Mclean added three conversions

The power of the Clifton pack started to click with number eight Brad Talbot and the strength of prop Alex Giltrow leading to tries to narrow the gap. Luke Cozens converted both efforts.





Second row Liam Perkins put the Sussex men further ahead but Clifton were now making fewer errors and flanker Dan Broady latched on to a catch and drive to score and again narrow the gap.

Wales Under 20 fly half Jac Lloyd joined the fray and a charged down kick bounced well for Alex Howman to run in with Lloyd converting to bring the scores level.

Excitement for the crowd with some feisty exchanges on the pitch with Clifton holding more territorial advantage but Worthing broke away for Sargent to score yet again and open up a five point lead.

Clifton were not done and centre Zak Hamid proudly wearing the 13 shirt once worn by his father was at the end of strong play to bring the scores level with the gusting wind blowing the conversion off course.



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2021/22 FIXTURES

4/09/21	Barnstaple (H)
11/09/21	Leicester Lions (A)
18/09/21	Barnes (H)
25/09/21	Henley Hawks (A)
2/10/21	Hinckley (H)
9/10/21	Redruth (A)
16/10/21	Old Albanians (H)
23/10/21	Westcliff (H)
30/10/21	Esher (A)
13/11/21	Guernsey (H)
20/11/21	Bury St Edmunds (A)
27/11/21	Canterbury (H)
4/12/21	Worthing (A)
11/12/21	Rochford Hundred (H)
18/12/21	Dings Crusaders (A)
8/01/22	Leicester Lions (H)
15/01/22	Barnes (A)
22/01/22	Henley Hawks (H)
29/01/22	Hinckley (A)
12/02/22	Redruth (H)
19/02/22	Old Albanians (A)
26/02/22	Westcliff (A)
5/03/22	Esher (H)
12/03/22	Guernsey (A)
26/03/22	Bury St Edmunds (H)
2/04/22	Canterbury (A)
9/04/22	Worthing (H)
16/04/22	Rochford Hundred (A)
23/04/22	Dings Crusaders (H)
30/04/22	Barnstaple (A)





LAST TIME ON THE ROAD

ROCHFORD 14 - 84 CLIFTON

Flanker Max Woodward led the Clifton try procession with a hat trick to give their hosts a real trouncing on an afternoon ideally suited to running rugby

The visitors showed no ill reactions to their long trek to Essex and holiday road traffic to come out of their traps and display their creative best in spreading the ball to dominate from the outset

Starting with three players from the Bristol Bears camp Jac Lloyd, Harry Ascherl and Tomas Gwilliam Clifton chose

to rest some key players. Lloyd at fly half initiated attacks at every opportunity and contributed ten conversions

It was soon apparent that the gap between the teams at the top of the table and those languishing towards the bottom is considerable

Fin Sharp, the league's second highest try scorer, followed Woodward's first try before Woodward added two more. Winger Alex Kilbane completed their first half scoring.

Rochford came to life and scored either side of the interval before it became all one way

traffic with Sharp adding two further tries Captain Tom Wilson and centre Zak Ward both crossing twice as well with a further Woodward contribution to complete their huge total.

Clifton showed their very best running rugby but recognised that next Saturday's Bristol derby fixture against Dings Crusaders will be a totally different proposition with a large crowd expected at Cribbs Causeway with a 1430 kick off.



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MATCH CENTRE



W-W-W-W-L



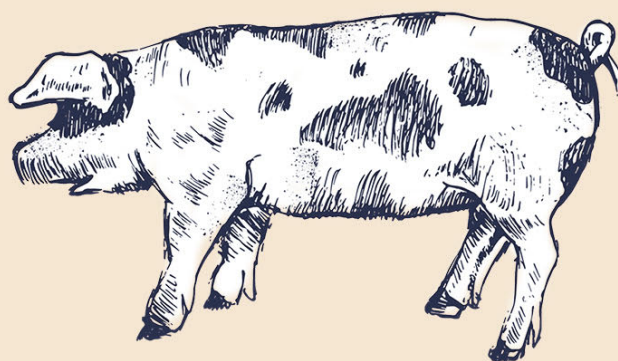
CLIFTON RUGBY		DINGS CRUSADERS	
ALEX HOWMAN	15	HARRY TOVEY	
ALEX KILBANE	14	HARRY ROWSON	
ZAK HAMID	13	MATTY SMITH	
HARRY ASCHERL	12	LUKE ARSCOTT	
FIN SHARP	11	TOM FOOT	
LUKE COZENS	10	OLLIE MILNER	
MITCH SPENCER	9	TOM KNIGHT	
BRAD TALBOT	8	JAKE HOLCOME	
MAX WOODWARD	7	LEWIS BEER	
TOM WILSON ©	6	CHRIS ROVERY	
HENRY HARPER	5	DANNY HODGE	
JOE OWEN	4	OLLY BILTON	
ALEX GILTROW	3	GEORGE KLOSKA	
NICK SELWAY	2	TOM ANDERSON	
CAHRLIE BULLIMORE	1	DREW TURNER	
REPLACEMENTS			
RICKY CANO	16	CHARLIE RICE	
TOMOS GWILLIAM	17	LIAM APPLETON	
DAN BROADY	18	NICK ENGLISH	
ZAK WARD	19	HUGO HARBISON	
JAC LLOYD	20	SAM SLADE	

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NATIONAL LEAGUE 2 SOUTH

Club	Pld	W	D	L	Points
 Esher	28	23	1	4	117
 Redruth	28	23	1	4	113
 Clifton	28	21	1	6	109
 Worthing	28	19	1	8	105
 Leicester Lions	27	18	0	9	92
 Henley	28	15	3	10	84
 Bury St Edmunds	28	15	2	11	81
 Dings	28	13	1	14	77
 Guernsey	26	13	0	13	69
 O Albanian	28	12	0	16	67
 Barnes	28	9	5	14	61
 Hinckley	27	9	0	18	57
 Canterbury	27	10	1	16	55
 Rochford Hundred	27	7	0	20	41
 Barnstaple	28	4	0	24	18
 Westcliff	28	2	0	26	14



ROUND 29 FIXTURES

CLIFTON V DINGS CRUSADERS
 ESHER V WORTHING
 GUERNSEY V CANTERBURY
 HENLEY V BARNES
 HINCKLEY V LEICESTER LIONS
 OLD ALBANIANS V BSE
 REDRUTH V BARNSTAPLE
 WESTCLIFF V ROCHFORD



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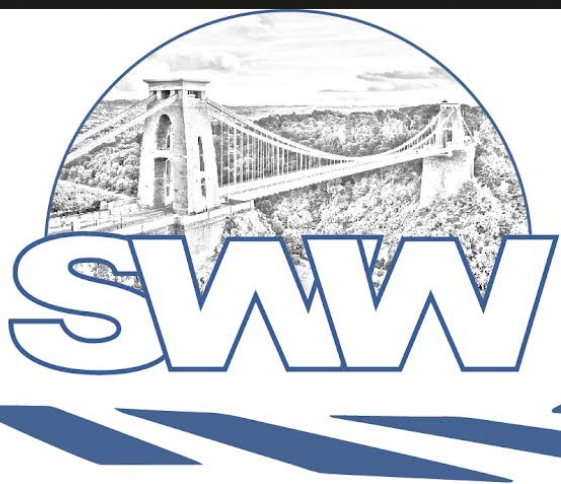
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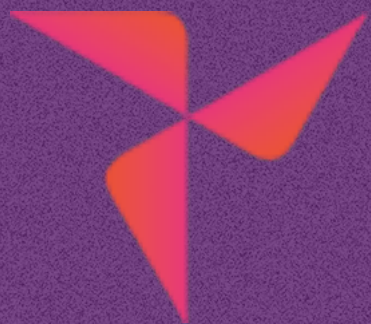
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