



# SEDGLEY TIGERS

2023 - 2024





# THIS WEEK ON INSTA



nca rugby



# WELCOME TO PARK LANE RAMS RUGBY



SEDGLEY PARK 2022/23 PLAYING SQUAD. A MAGNIFICENT EFFORT BY ALL ON AN OUTSTANDING SEASON LAST TIME OUT.

On behalf of all the committee and all the playing and support staff, it's a privilege to welcome everyone including our new friends from Rams Rugby, Reading to Park Lane today. This will be Rams first visit to Park Lane. Hope you enjoy your day with us today.





# FIXTURES 2023-2024

## NATIONAL 1



**H**

Round 1 - 02.09.23  
Richmond

**A**

Round 2 - 09.09.23  
Birmingham Moseley

**H**

Round 3 - 16.09.23  
RAMS

**H**

Round 4 - 23.09.23  
Chinnor

**A**

Round 5 - 30.09.23  
Rosslyn Park

**H**

Round 6 - 07.10.23  
Taunton

**A**

Round 7 - 14.10.23  
Bishop Stortford

**H**

Round 8 - 04.11.23  
Leicester Lions

**A**

Round 9 - 11.11.23  
Darlington MP

**H**

Round 10 - 18.11.23  
Sale FC

**A**

Round 11 - 25.11.23  
Cinderford

**H**

Round 12 - 02.12.23  
Blackheath

**A**

Round 13 - 9.12.23  
Plymouth Albion

**H**

Round 14 - 16.12.23  
Birmingham Moseley

**A**

Round 15 - 13.01.24  
RAMS

**A**

Round 16 - 20.01.24  
Chinnor

**H**

Round 17 - 27.01.24  
Rosslyn Park

**A**

Round 18 - 10.02.24  
Taunton

**H**

Round 19 - 17.02.24  
Bishop Stortford

**A**

Round 20 - 24.02.24  
Leicester Lions

**H**

Round 21 - 09.03.24  
Darlington. MP

**A**

Round 22 - 16.03.24  
Sale FC

**H**

Round 23 - 23.03.24  
Cinderford

**A**

Round 24 - 06.04.24  
Blackheath

**H**

Round 25 - 13.04.24  
Plymouth Albion

**A**

Round 26 - 27.04.24  
Richmond

**\*Dates are subject to change**



# TEAM SHEET



## TEAM LINEUPS



P	NAME	SPONSOR	P	NAME
15	Andy REILLY	CASTLE CLOTHING	15	Zach CLOW
14	Rhys HENDERSON	BRENDAN HENDERSON	14	Jak ROSSITER
13	Nathan POPE	BURY BUSINESS LODGE	13	Ellis JONES
12	Matt RILEY (c)	GBC COMMUNICATIONS	12	Andy HUMBERSTONE
11	Jamie HARRISON	OASIS F. MANAGEMENT	11	Axel KALLING-SMITH
10	Warren SEALS	BEGBIES TRAYNOR LLP	10	Frazer HONEY
9	Jacob TANSEY	MADE FOR MORE	9	Ed HOARDLEY
8	Tom AILES	FINELY TUNED	8	Niall KIDD
7	Lewis BRADLEY	STERLING SOLUTIONS	7	Max HAYMAN
6	Mark GOODMAN	BURY BUSINESS LODGE	6	James BAKER
5	Oscar CROWE	BRENDAN HENDERSON	5	Conor STAPLEY
4	Bob BIRTWELL	FIELDING PORTER SOLICITORS	4	Dan SWAIN
3	Danny RYLANCE	GREENDAY UPVC	3	Josh COLLIS
2	Danny MAHER	DIRECT CONST. RECRUITMENT	2	James MCRAE
1	John BLANCHARD	URMSTON SCAFFOLDING	1	Robert STAPLEY

## SUBSTITUTES

16	Patrice BELL	H.H. SMITH BUILDERS	16	Ant MARRIS
17	Adam MALLINSON	MALLOFIX SPORTS THERAPY	17	Paulie ENGLEZOS
18	Will CONNOR	H.H. SMITH BUILDERS	18	Ben ATKINS
19	Ollie GLASSE	PICOW ENGINEERING	19	Henry BIRD
20	George BORDILL	DECIPHER CONSULTING	20	Ollie MONYE

## OFFICIALS

Referee | Tim Allatt Asst. Referee 1 | Jason Garrick Asst. Referee 2 | Jason Garrick



# WELCOME TO PARK LANE

## RAMS RUGBY



Man Mountain. John Blanchard had a huge performance last week against Birmingham Moseley.

On behalf of the committee and all the playing and support staff, it is a privilege to welcome everyone today, especially our new first time visitors Rams Rugby Football Club to Park Lane.

So, we welcome Rams Rugby Football Club to Park Lane for their first league game against us. However, we have played Rams before at Priory Park, Macclesfield, in a four-way pre-season tournament featuring 'the Macc Lads' and Rams obviously, plus ourselves and Caldy.

The more you read about Rams, the more you understand why this is a club on the move and heading, well and truly, in an upward direction. Whether it's their on-field exploits, player recruitment' playing style,

player recruitment' playing style, the detail to the pre-season preparation with a tough impressive pre-season or the off-field exploits. These include fantastic facilities and one of the best and a very highly informative media team bringing both the club and National League One rugby brilliant, comprehensive and balanced coverage. There are lots to be impressed with and certainly lots to aspire to. WOW!

Last season saw Rams just miss out on promotion being pipped by our old friends from Cambridge in the last game of the season. Two difficult away defeats at the hands of Sale FC and Plymouth Albion spoilt a perfect season.

Whoever you talk to in the league, Rams are given the title, the 'the ones to watch', 'the one to beat', 'the team who really want it' and that that's all levels and all aspects of the club. They had a very impressive pre-season, which ended on a tour to Ireland to compete against some top-quality Irish Clubs. This quality preparation has a good early return for Rams with two good wins in their first two games of the season against Birmingham Moseley and Bishops Stortford, meaning they sit on top of the table and setting up this top of the table clash today at Park Lane.

Rams are a very good mix of powerful quick aggressive forwards with a very good sharp cutting edge in the backs with Alex Kalling Smith and



# WELCOME TO PARK LANE

## RAMS RUGBY

and Nwachukwu Moyne a couple of the ones to watch for.

This will be a great match up today with two teams giving there all. I can't wait.

If you want to catch up with all things Rams Rugby, pre-season review, last season's playing statistics, 'ones to watch' and previous games then you can find it in the article 'Spotlight on Rams Rugby Football Club' later in this on-line programme.

Also, later in this programme we have the regular National League One Week 3 Review.

OK, that is enough on our visitors for today so let's catch up with all things Sedgley Park.



MA Man on a mission. Rhys Henderson causing chaos against Birmingham Moseley last weekend.

## TIGER'S INDIAN SUMMER

How about that for timing? The sun comes out and so does Sedge, with some breathtaking rugby and some jaw dropping performances without the ball.

The season kicked off against Richmond FC, last season's relegated Championship club and one of the firm favourites for a quick return as National League One Champions. It certainly looked that way as Richmond took to the task early on and it was not long before Mark Bright had them on their way on 17 minutes. With a mixture of some very impressive tactical kicking and very good front foot rugby Richmond certainly dominated that first half. Big hearts and a well organised defence kept the score down to a halftime 10-21 advantage to Richmond, with Rhys Henderson getting Sedge's first try of the season. A change of tactics and the introduction of Danny Maher for the second period saw a total reversal of fortunes as Sedge started to play the quick interchange ball in hand rugby that had Richmond's defence struggling to defend against. Points soon followed with Andy Riley going over on 44 minutes and then Danny Maher on 57 minutes bringing the score to 22-21. Advantage Sedge. Richmond dug deep and came back into the game with a try on 62 minutes and when Bob Birtwell was yellow-carded the visitors quickly took advantage and on 71 minutes when



# WELCOME TO PARK LANE

## RAMS RUGBY

Ntinga Mpiko went over for a try to what looked like a good start to the season for Richmond, as the score stood at 22–31.



Breaking away. Danny Maher had a brilliant game against Richmond in the opening fixture

Fortunately, the last two tries were not converted. Chance? A slim one. You bet. We should know better, as the never say die spirit Sedge came to the fore again in a last 6–minute whirlwind as Danny Maher went over in the 78th minutes, after continual battering on the Richmond line. Warren Seals converted the try.

Still time and into the last play a penalty was awarded to Sedge, Not an easy kick and a highly pressurized one. Thank goodness the coolest dude in the ground was Warren Seals who knocked the penalty over for a very noisy outburst for the penalty attempt and final whistle.

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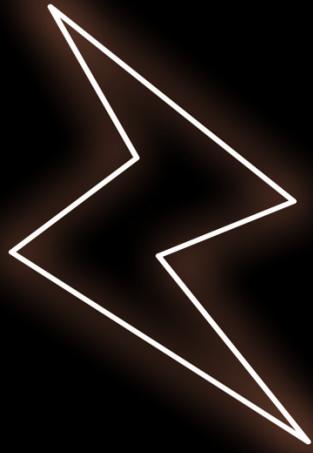
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Keeping his cool. Warren Seals instant Karma. Instant fans favourite.



# WELCOME TO PARK LANE



## RAMS RUGBY

### RE-WRITING HISTORY

Last week we travelled Birmingham Moseley, and we were very honoured and fortunate to be the club Moseley (I will use the original for this) started their 150th year anniversary. This is a club history honour and a story of recent times of escaping a near miss financial meltdown. Probably one of the greatest efforts by all the club (Players and members) of all time. This is a beacon of rugby in England. Here is to the next 150 years.

I don't want to go off at tangent or even come across small, but I have been challenged many times this week by Sedgley Park members / supporters who found my online halftime and fulltime assessments of the game hard to swallow as opposed to the official Moseley (Website) match report they had read. The conclusion and in summary of that report was Sedge were lucky winners having a breakaway try and scoring the winning points and running away with the game when Moseley were down to 13 men. (Hold that thought). Sadly, I cannot answer what lay behind the report, but the summary did not reflect the game at all. This was a game of differing styles. Sedge's all round game, gave the home team difficulties right from the off and Moseley struggled to contain the quick

multi-faceted game plan for large periods.

Two converted tries from winger Jamie Harrison and full back Andy Riley on 10 and 25 minutes with a penalty from Warren Seals put Sedge firmly in the driving seat. A try from the home side by Will Safe following some good forward possession on 36 minutes got Mossley on the score board and set the way for them get even more points. Halftime 7-17.

The start of the second forty was all Moseley and in that third quarter Moseley showed how good their forward play is with a breathtaking period culminating in a try for Joe Foreman on 55 minutes. Their blood up and Sedge were now down to 14 after Jamie Harrison was yellow carded on 62 minutes.

Did things look a little bleak for Sedge. Not at all. Down to 14, the introduction of inspirational Matt Riley was a master stroke as Sedge took the game right back at Moseley and on 66 minutes it was that man Matt Riley over for try number three. It was all Sedge now with Moseley losing a bit of discipline and Warren Seals taking advantage with a couple of penalties. This was the critical stage of the game, and the game was won here when down to 14. This wasn't game plans or anything else. This was down to great team spirit, emphasized graciously by Moseley's head coach after the game.





# WELCOME TO PARK LANE

Moseley did get a converted try on 74 minutes, but this was the last hurrah for the home side as Sedge upped the pressure and camped out in the oppositions 22. Under pressure Moseley gave up a penalty try and with a yellow card 77 minutes and went down to 14 men, More pressure came onto the home side and another Moseley player saw a technical yellow card on 79 minutes. The final word with the game over came from Danny Rylance in the 80th minute. It was great day and we had a great time with the Birmingham Moseley supporters pre and post-match. Happy 150th birthday once again.

## ...AND FINALLY

Talking about 150th birthdays may I take this opportunity to send regards to MC Eddie Aldred on his birthday. It's not been a great week for Eddie and his country of birth, Scotland but no doubt he will enjoying his day today.

Once again welcome to Park Lane one and all. I hope you enjoy the game today and don't forget whatever the result and whatever the colours you wear why not join us the club house for the traditional pint and good craic after the game.

All the best

ST





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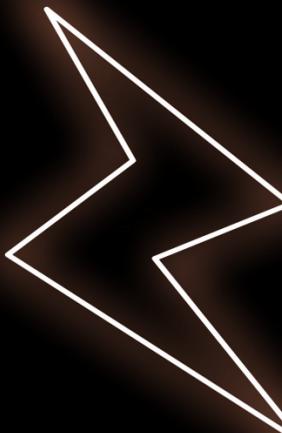
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# SPOTLIGHT ON RAMS



Rams breaking Free. Try time for Rams last Friday against Chinnor

## THE STORY SO FAR

The more you read about Rams, the more you understand why this is a club on the move and heading, well and truly, in an upward direction. Whether it's their on-field exploits, player recruitment' playing style, the detail to the pre-season preparation with a tough impressive pre-season or the off-field exploits. These include fantastic facilities and one of the best and a very highly informative media team bringing both the club and National

League One rugby brilliant, comprehensive and balanced coverage. There are lots to be impressed with and certainly lots to aspire to. WOW! Last season saw Rams just miss out on promotion being pipped by our old friends from Cambridge in the last game of the season. Two difficult away defeats at the hands of Sale FC and Plymouth Albion spoil a perfect season.

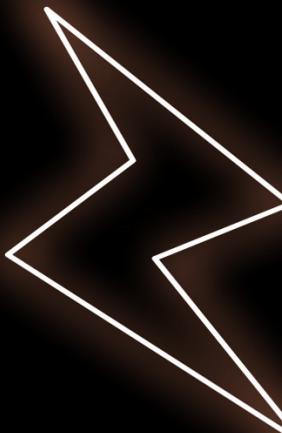
Whoever you talk to in the league, Rams are given the title, the 'the ones to watch', 'the one to beat', 'the team who really want it' and that that's all levels and all aspects of the club.

This will be a real tough test today at Park Lane for Sedge. It is a measure of where we are and what we need to do to progress.

We have met Rams once before never in the league but at Priory Park, Macclesfield in a four-way pre-season tournament featuring 'the Macc Lads'



# SPOTLIGHT ON RAMS



and Rams obviously, plus ourselves and Caldy. Not sure what the results were but I'm positive Caldy finished winless!!!!

Anyway, back to today. Following a very tough pre-season set of games with two very tough fixtures over in Ireland. This set up the first home game against Moseley and with a pretty comprehensive win 50-36.

Last Friday saw Rams second home game against Chinnor and this was for a long period was in the balance with a

a great performance from Chinnor. However, the top draw pre-season preparation by the Rams started to kick in and this additional strength and conditioning was the main difference as Rams pulled away and went top of the league with a 29-19 win.

It is a great pleasure on welcoming Rams here today even though it might just be a short first time and last time visit. Rams on a mission methinks. The very best of luck in that ambition

## 2022/23 LAST 6 RESULTS

04-03-23	Rams Rugby 52 - 24 Leeds Tykes	<b>WON</b>
11-03-23	Plymouth Albion 27 - 24 Rams Rugby	<b>LOST</b>
25-03-12	Rams Rugby 59 - 21 Taunton Titans	<b>WON</b>
01-04-23	Sale FC 35 - 12 Rams Rugby	<b>LOST</b>
15-04-23	Rams Rugby 38 - 28 Cinderford	<b>WON</b>
22-04-23	Esher 19 - 33 Rams Rugby	<b>WON</b>

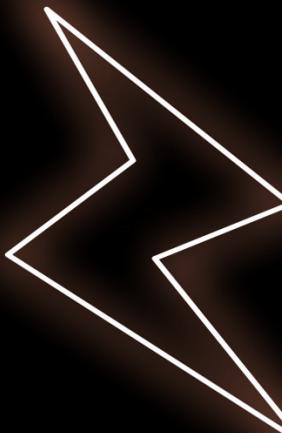
## 2023/24 LAST TWO RESULTS

02-09-23	Rams Rugby 50 - 36 Birmingham Moseley	<b>WON</b>
08-09-23	Rams Rugby 29 - 19 Chinnor	<b>WON</b>

#	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1	Rams	2	2	0	0	79	55	24	2	0	10
2	Sedgley Park	2	2	0	0	76	52	24	2	0	10
3	Rossllyn Park	2	2	0	0	70	60	10	2	0	10
4	Cinderford	2	2	0	0	53	45	8	0	0	8
5	Plymouth Albion	2	1	0	1	90	68	22	2	1	7
6	Bishop's Stortford	2	1	0	1	59	57	2	2	1	7
7	Blackheath	2	1	0	1	63	64	-1	1	1	6
8	Chinnor	2	1	0	1	41	39	2	1	0	5



# SPOTLIGHT ON RAMS



## TOP TRY SCORERS

Ben Atkins, Forward	2 Tries 10 Points
Alex Kalling Smith, Outside Centre	2 Tries 10 Points
Nwachukwu Moyne, Winger	2 Tries 10 Points



Nwachukwu Moyne

## TOP POINTS SCORER

Fraser Honey, Fly Half	55 Points
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Ben Atkins



Alex Kailling Smith



Fraser Honey

## 2023/24 PRE-SEASON RESULTS

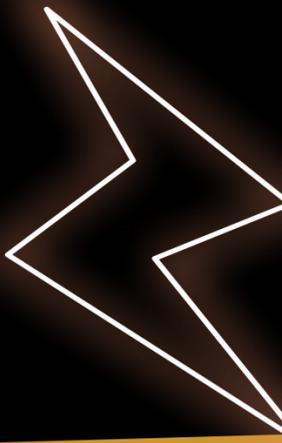
Rams Rugby	33 – 12	Bracknell:
Rams Rugby	33 – 19	Aberavon:
Lansdowne	17 – 7	Rams Rugby:
Cork Constitution	24 – 12	Rams Rugby:

## 2023/24 NEXT 6 GAMES

16-09-23	Sedgley Park   14:30 Rams Rugby
23-09-23	Rams Rugby 15:00 Rosslyn Park
30-09-23	Taunton Titans 15:00 Rams Rugby
07-10-23	Rams Rugby 15:00 Bishop's Stortford
14-10-23	Leicester Lions 14:00 Rams Rugby
04-11-23	Rams Rugby 15:00 Darlington Mowden Park



# SPOTLIGHT ON RAMS



The Only Way is up. Rams putting a early marker for promotion against Moseley

## RAMS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB HISTORY

The club was founded as Old Redingensians in 1924 by former pupils of Reading School. The first game was a 26–8 victory away to Newbury Grammar School on October 4.

Home games were played at Morgan Road and Liebenrood Road in Reading for a couple of seasons until a ground was rented at Gosbrook Road, Caversham.

Meanwhile plans were being made for a more permanent home at Emmer Green, where a new ground was opened on October 1 1927 by FH Stokes, the first England rugby captain.

The nineteen-and-a-half acres provided two pitches, a cricket square plus grazing for cattle and by the following season ORs were fielding three sides on a regular basis.

Fixtures resumed after the war and the Reading Borough Council purchased the Emmer Green ground for development in 1948 for around £5000.

A switch was made to the present Old Bath Road, Sonning site – future RFU president Dennis Easby among others being instrumental in the purchase. With a lack of former pupils joining from Reading School, it became difficult to field three XVs and the club became open in 1968. The following year "Old" was dropped from the title.

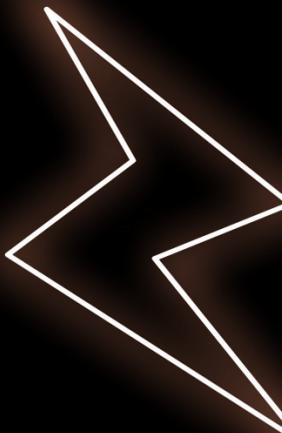
A milestone in the club's history came in October 1973 when a new £22,000 clubhouse was opened by RFU president Mickey Steele–Bodger. Another big step forward was the formation of the junior section by Peter Evans. This continues to provide a steady stream of talent to the senior sides, home grown products Spike Chandler (932) and Jez Flynn (100) at present heading the all–time league points and try lists.

In 1987 the Gwyn Francis Room, a lounge area overlooking the first team pitch, was added to the clubhouse. Francis, a former Welsh international and master at Reading School, had been a great supporter of the club.

The same year the English League system was introduced and initially helped Redingensians. They won promotion from the Southern Counties League in their inaugural season but the spell in South West 2 was short–lived. A slide down the leagues to Berks Dorset & Wilts 1 ensued, before a mini–revival with promotion to Southern Counties South (1997–8) and South West 2 East (2000–1) where the stay lasted just one season.



# SPOTLIGHT ON RAMS



However, a change of fortune came about thanks to players coming through from a flourishing junior section. A young side gained promotion from Southern Counties North and Southwest 2 East in successive seasons (2005–6) and (2006–7).

This meant the club reached Southwest 1 (now National 3 South West) – the highest level in their history. They have maintained this status with some degree of comfort, finishing a record-breaking 2011–2 season in a best third place.

Last season Rams finished second in National League One just missing out to promotion to Cambridge on the last day of the season.

The nickname “Rams” was adopted to reflect the club’s connection with Reading, the animal featuring in the town’s coat of arms. The club changed its name to Rams RFC in May 2018 with the formal approval of the RFU.

Rams Rugby run five adult teams and the youth section is among the biggest in the area with approximately over 500 boys and girls playing on Sundays. The club fields sides at every age group from Under 6 to Colts.

Enjoy the game. It going to be a cracker

All the best  
ST





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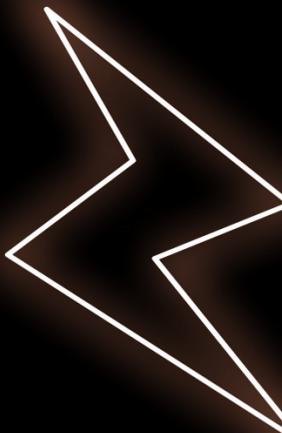
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# THE CHAIRMAN



Can I extend a warm welcome to everyone, at last, for the 2023–2024 Season, in our return to Level 3 after a 10-year absence. I would especially like to welcome the players, officials and supporters of our opponents today, Rams, who have made the long trip up from Reading, for their first visit to Park Lane. I hope you enjoy your day, with some typical northern hospitality. May you enjoy our hospitality and friendship and have a quiet drink with us in the bar afterwards, irrespective of the result. I think we approach this season with a feeling of optimism and excitement, with the new league and new opposition to experience. We also have the introduction of the new “low Tackle” law, which I think is initially going to cause confusion amongst Players, Coaches, Referees and spectators alike, whilst ultimately making our game safer for the players.

We started our pre-season with a win against Hull Ionians, followed by a win at Llandudno and a creditable draw against Championship side Caldy.

We started the League campaign with a tight win against Richmond at home and a great away win at Birmingham Moseley. We currently sit second in the League behind today’s visitors RAMS

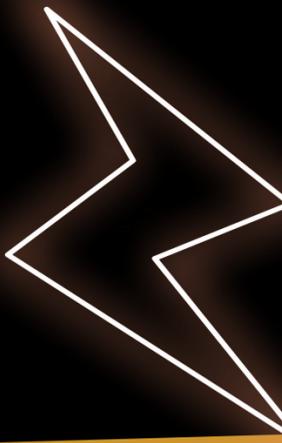
As this is our second home game of the Season, it is my duty to say thank you to our Volunteers for the magnificent work they have done in getting the Club ready for the new season. If I tried to thank everyone personally, this would be a very long piece and I am sure I would miss someone. I am going to try and thank groups.

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to all our sponsors. Without your continued support we could really not run this club.





# THE CHAIRMAN



The 1st XV sponsors are most visible and I would like to make special mention of Sterling Solutions, HHSmiths and Regency Factors all of which provide massive support to the Club. However, every sponsor is vital and we have many, both at 1st XV level and throughout the club. You know who you are and many are in the programme here. Thank you all very much from all of us here at the club.

Looking at the club, firstly, I owe a massive thanks to the Board of Directors (Executive Committee) who have worked tirelessly to ensure the Club stayed afloat during the pandemic and as we came out of this in a healthy financial position. This summer has been a very busy time as we have made ourselves ready for our journey back into Level 3. Increased funding has been necessary and a small team have been working tirelessly to talk to sponsors and increase income.

We are also in the process of splitting the operation of the Club into 3 Sections, to allow us to apply for charitable status. This has necessitated changing banking and accounting provisions. A lot of work for another small group of volunteers.

On this second home game, I would like to thank the Coaches of the 1st XV squad for the getting our group of players into the best shape to hopefully play the exciting rugby we watched all last season. We know this season is going to be a huge challenge, but I am sure the lads will be up for it. Scott Barrow, Johnny Rodham, Dave Livesey, Steve Hazzelby, Steve Briers and Guy Lovgreen, please take a bow.

Thanks also to Steve Kaye and all the Ball-boys and Ball-girls.

The 3s and 4s had a difficult season last year, with a number of players retiring or moving to pastures new. This led to a complete restructuring of Senior Rugby outside the 1st XV squad. Scott Barrow was made Director of Rugby Development at the Club, last December, and we are already seeing the fruits of the work he has put in.

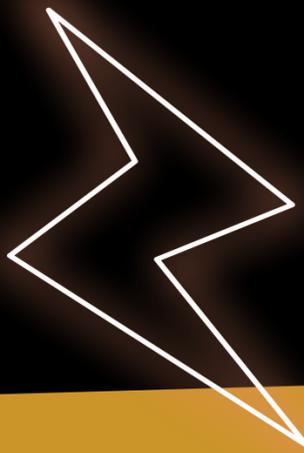
Jason Routh was brought in as Manager of the 3s and 4s, with the help of Juan Crous and a small team of Players and Coaches. They are slowly turning things around. We wish them all the best this season.

Unfortunately, players do get injured. However, the players are ably supported by a great team of Physios and rehab professionals, headed by Al Munroe. They provide matchday support for the 1st XV, 2nd XV and Youth Sections as well as rehab support for all players. We also have the services of our Club Doctors Jimmy Stuart and Ronan McGivney on 1st XV Saturdays.





# THE CHAIRMAN



It would not be possible to play any of this without the support of our Ground Team and Facilities Maintenance volunteers. With great sadness, we lost the mainstay of our Ground Team, Rory Gildae, last summer. These are massive boots to fill. The pitches have been dressed, seeded and fertilised and with the recent rain, the grass is growing very well.

With the help of Tony Stevens and a group of Volunteers (even your Chairman learned how to drive a tractor!!), we installed some additional drainage on the Road end of Pitch 3, which was prone to holding water. This is now complete and the grass is growing

The club owes a massive thank you to those who have helped keeping the Grounds and Facilities in tip-top order. Hopefully we will see the benefits of this over the winter months.

The Youth Section have recovered superbly from the pandemic and are going from strength to strength, thanks to the hard work of their committee. Paul Cihlar took over from Dave Wild as Chairman and has the support of Colette Stevens, Shelley Wharmby, Tony Stevens and Roger Berry. Tracy Lumer replaced Shelley Wharmby, during last season, as Safeguarding Officer. However, the thanks should be spread around all the Team Managers, Coaches, Volunteers and Parents who make Wednesdays and Sundays such great events. This can be a thankless task in the depths of a dark winter evening, but thankless it is not now. A big thank you to you all and all the very best for the new Season.

As part of our drive to cut costs and improve our green credentials, Air Source Heat Pumps were installed last summer and are operating superbly. A big thanks are due to Paul Egan, who installed them, and Viridor, who part funded them.

We are totally blessed in having great staff in our Bar and Catering Teams. John Grundy and Ellen Ferry have done brilliant jobs for several years now and both the Bar and Catering made record profits last year. They have been ably supported by our brilliant Bar and Catering staff, many of whom have come through the club. We are always in need of new staff, however, so if anyone is interested, please contact me.

Finally, we would like to thank you, the members and supporters, for continuing to support the Club. If I have forgotten anyone, please accept my apologies and my thanks for all you have done.

Anyway, enough of looking back. It is time to look forward and get ready for the game today. See you all there and in the bar afterwards.

Steve Ward, Chairman  
Chairman@sprufc.co.uk or 07891-637616





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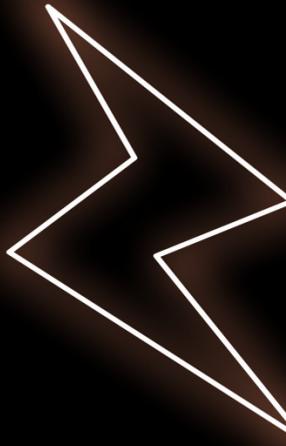
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# DAVE'S DIARY



## *Dave's Diary...*

Two weeks into the season, I have not seen a live game, yet. I was unwell on the opening day, when we played Richmond. I do not recommend following matches on social media, but it all ended in smiles, not tears. And relief. Huge relief, remembering what happened to Hull, last season.

With the second round of fixtures designated as Derby Day, I might have hoped to travel, but South Birmingham is a bit further than your usual local derby, though closer than Darlington, which would have been the only viable alternative. Sedge could have played Sale, of course, but that would have left Mowden Park with a 200 mile trip for their 'derby'. With Sedge 2s also away, I could have gone to Wharfedale v Rotherham, probably would have, but for it being the opening weekend of the World Cup.

Likewise, our Colts on the Sunday were also away, at Stockport, a ground with few happy memories for me, down the years. I should have gone, as our lads won 55-0, following on from their 26-7 victory over Waterloo in week one. The boys are at home this Sunday afternoon, when Penrith make the long journey down the M6. I will see plenty of this

team, no doubt. The season is a long one.

Sedgley 2s began their season in the NOWIRUL Cotton Traders Premier League with a 59-3 win against Anselmians. Last week, they drew 28-28 at Lymm, whose first team are now in National 2, for the first time, I'm pretty sure [ST will correct me, if necessary]. Lymm have done quite well so far, I suppose, with two narrow home defeats, against Wharfedale and Huddersfield, but this Saturday they face the daunting trip to Rotherham.



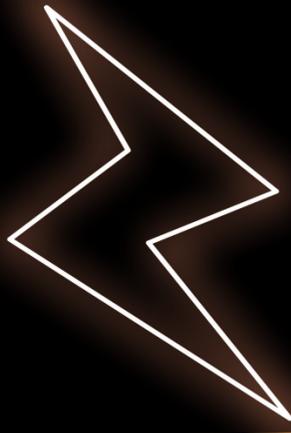
In a similar position, one level higher, Sedgley managed to scramble that win against Richmond, then went one better by scoring five tries at Moseley. I take the point of the home team reporter, that there was an early interception try, then two more scores late in the game, but 44 points away from home will have got us noticed, at least.

So, we've dipped our toe into the unknown waters of National 1, and so far, so good. No bites yet, but no doubt there will be a crocodile lurking somewhere.

Meanwhile, over in France, the worst England side since the days of John Scott and Maurice Colclough (look them up) has begun with an unlikely win, despite losing Tom Curry to a red card very early in the game.



# DAVE'S DIARY



Explain something to me. If two players clash heads, i.e Curry's head hits Mallia's, and Mallia's head hits Curry's, how does the ref/TMO decide which is the guilty player?

Is it axiomatic that the ball carrier is always innocent? And the other guy always guilty? Even though the situation is complicated, with several other players competing for possession, in a confused melee of bodies?



No doubt, some judgment will have been reached, between me writing this and you reading it, but what happened to common sense and empathy? Even the dirtiest player doesn't attack an opponent with his face.

Perhaps the spin-off was the improved England performance, or maybe they would have played well anyway. Now, at least, I am looking forward to the rest of the tournament. With the deeply flawed seeding of teams, anything could happen, but whoever beats South Africa will win it, I think.

Finally, I note that our old friends Caldy played Leicester at Welford Road last Saturday, watched by 13,000 people. Truth is indeed stranger than fiction.

Have a good day today,  
Dave





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# COACH'S TALK

On Saturday we were on the road in our first away game in National One. Our opponents were the experienced Birmingham Mosley, a team who had played for many seasons in the championship and national one. They had lost the week before but we knew that this would be a huge challenge at their home ground in front of a big partisan crowd and a very hot day which made playing extremely difficult. We had prepared well in training and spirits were high after the great performance the week before against Richmond. We started the game strongly playing with pace and momentum looking to move their big forwards around at every opportunity. A lovely line break from No 8 Tom Ailes was finished off by flying winger Jamie Harrison who touched down on the left. Fly half Warren Seales added the conversion and we were 7-0 up after 8 minutes.



Seven minutes later Warren added a penalty and we had extended the leads to 10-0. We were now playing with confidence testing the Moseley defence every time we had the ball creating many line breaks some of which we possibly should have finished off. Moseley looked to hit back but an interception by full back Andy Riley saw him sprint 80 metres and touch down to give us our second try. Warren again added the difficult conversion and we were now 17-0 up with fifteen minutes of the half to go. Moseley did come back with a well worked driving try from their forwards but we went into the break with a well deserved 17-7 lead and in a very good place. The one disappointment of this thrilling half is that we gave away too many silly penalties which gave the home team possession and territory. We started the second half just as well as the first and it was on the 49th minute that Warren added his second penalty to further extend our lead to 20-7.



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# SEDGLEY MEDIA TEAM

*Few words from Vinny Morley*



Welcome to Park Lane. Whether you are new to a Tigers game, a returning fan, or a Richmond supporter, I hope you enjoy the experience at Sedgley Park this afternoon.

For returning fans, especially from last season, you may notice a bit more hustle and bustle in regard to our matchday social media team. This campaign I have been joined by Joe Barnes-Taylor and Tom Markham, two Manchester Metropolitan University graduates with a keen interest in sports broadcasting. Joe and Tom will be the faces of Sedge's match day output over the coming months.

The Sedge Media Team's mission is to increase the profile of rugby in our area as well as promote the Tigers and Sedgley Park RUFC with what we have to offer on and off the pitch on a game day, and more.

Over the past couple of seasons post-match interviews have been with Sedge players and officials. We will now be looking to get both teams points of view and giving the viewer/listener balanced thoughts on what happened during the match. You may have caught Joe's interview of Graham Steadman the Hull Ionians Head Coach and Tigers' Greg Morgan across our social media platforms a couple of weeks ago as an example of this.

The team will continue to provide Tigers match updates throughout the season to our local radio station Roch Valley Radio, an affiliation that now enters a third season. With our main local football team Bury FC returning to Gigg Lane and all the publicity that has been generated around that, match updates from Sedge's games to RVR during Shakers matches should reach a larger audience than in the previous two seasons and generate extra interest in rugby.

We will also focus on building our output to engage Tigers fans whether they live around the corner or around the world by looking at ways to innovate using the technology we have available. The team hope to be in a position to provide full audio match commentary from Park Lane within a couple of months with the ultimate target of video streaming a live match by the end of the season.

Social media may not be for all but it's a good cost-effective way of connecting with rugby supporters and encouraging new fans or players, mums and dads, boys and girls, to maybe head along and see what's on offer. The team posts to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter on the main Sedgley Tigers pages and we have our own Sedge Media Team page on TikTok for some background videos @sedgemediateam If you have not already done so, why not give us a follow. Remember a 'like' or a 'share' of one of our posts may be just enough to encourage someone to take up the sport!



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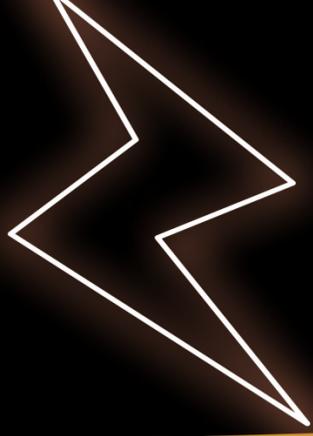
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# COACH'S TALK



Then came the moment of the match, when captain Matt Riley came off the bench, ran onto a pop pass, to dissect the Moseley defence and run 50 metres to touch down in the bottom left hand corner. Warren added the conversion and we had a 27-7 lead going into the last fifteen minutes. Warren added his third penalty of the afternoon to further extend the lead and to leave the home team shell shocked. Moseley did come back with two converted tries of their own but there was no stopping this Tigers team. A fourth and bonus point penalty try was awarded after Moseley had infringed on their line and the game was finished off by new prop Danny Rylance, who barged over to give us our fifth converted try of the afternoon. The game finished a well deserved 44-21 bonus point win, a wonderful start to the new season in National 1.

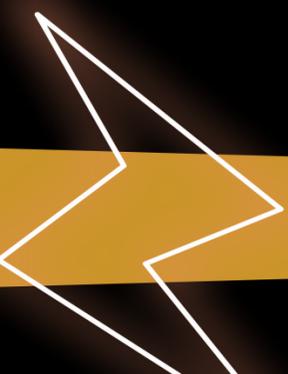
The effort and commitment by the whole squad on a sweltering hot day was unbelievable.

Everyone gave their all but special mention to loose head prop John Blanchard who was the star man for his 80 minutes of unflinching play.

This Saturday we are home to Rams who are joint top with us winning 2/2. Another great encounter at Park Lane so come and support this wonderful Tigers team.

Cheers,

Hazz





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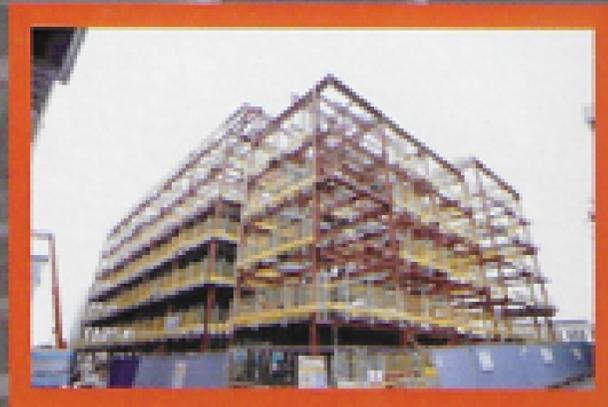
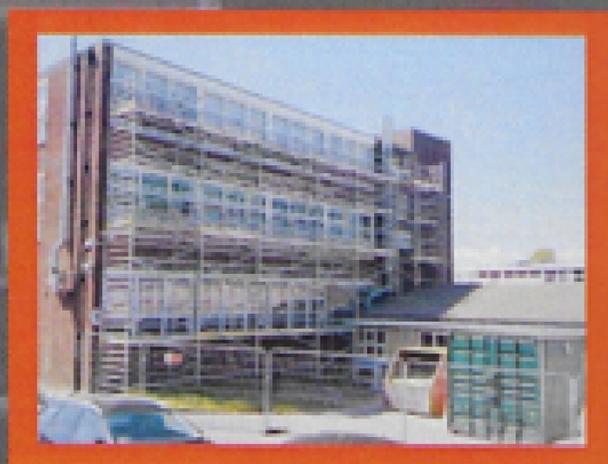
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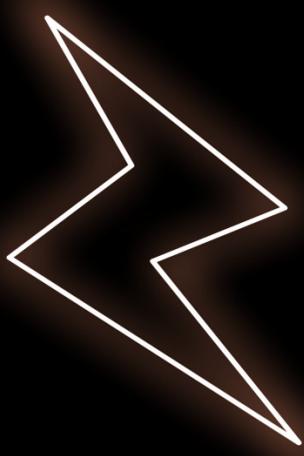
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# SEDGLEY PARK LADIES TEAM



*Lucy // Acting Captain // Ladies Team*

Amidst the rolling hills of Sedgley Park, a team of strong and spirited women are preparing for a remarkable journey. With the upcoming season in the Inner Warrior League on the horizon, the Sedgley Park Ladies Team is extending an open invitation to Women of all ages and abilities to join them. In the heart of this picturesque setting, a unique opportunity awaits. The ladies of Sedgley Park gather to chase their passion on the rugby field. The call to unleash their inner warriors echoes through the air, a rallying cry to those who seek to forge their destiny on the green battleground. With September approaching, The Sedgley Park Ladies Team is poised for a season that promises thrilling battles, unwavering camaraderie, and unforgettable memories. This is not just a team; it's a sisterhood united by a shared love for the sport and an unyielding determination to conquer challenges together



No matter your background—whether you're a seasoned rugby pro or taking your first steps onto the field—there's a place for you here. Every Sunday, training starts at 11am until 12pm, and every Monday at 7pm until 8pm the field at Park Lane comes alive with the energy of dedicated women honing their skills, pushing their limits, and building lasting friendships. The journey ahead is not just about rugby—it's about empowerment, growth, and writing a chapter of life's story that will be cherished forever. Sedgley Park Ladies beckons, inviting you to become part of their narrative, to seize the opportunity, and to embrace the thrill of the game. Will you answer the call? Join the Sedgley Park Ladies Team.





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# NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE REVIEW

## AND SO, IT BEGINS

Well, it has been just over 10 years since I wrote my last National League One Review and although the majority of the clubs we will meet this season are returning old friends or fleeting 'ships in the night' in the case of Chinnor RFC. We met in that incredible National Two North / South Play-off game at their place which we narrowly lost. They were incredible hosts that day and it will be great to have them here at Park Lane this season.

That just leaves just three clubs that we have not met and that is Rams RFC (although we did have a brief pre-season games against them some years ago), Bishops Stortford and Taunton Titans RFC. We look forward, with great anticipation, to meeting them both over the course of the season.

In fact it goes without saying, the whole club are really excited about the new season ahead, not just re-acquainting ourselves with old friends, but as a club seeing how we measure up playing our brand of rugby at the higher level. I just cannot wait.

Normally here we look at the league 'who's in form', and who wins the team of the week, the results and fixtures of the previous week and the fixtures that week with a highlight feature of the game of the week.

That would be difficult to undertake this week, considering not a ball has been thrown or been tactically kicked. So below is a quick look at the opposition ahead this season and to re-acquaint ourselves with some familiar foes.



## BLACKHEATH FC

Ground: Well Hall, Kidbrooke Lane, London SE38BU

Colours: Black and Red Hoops

Previous Games: Sincere old friends.

We at Sedge remember well the first encounter with them back in 1998/99 season when we met them in the National Cup. This game put Sedge on the National map and shone a light on our 'rise up' the structures after a great 21-22 victory at 'The Rec'. As hosts they were very warm and welcoming pre-game and incredible in defeat post-game. The memory lives long with all at Sedge, and we had 8 more wonderful fixtures at National Level 1. Last season: National League Two East Champions PLD26: PTS 114: WIN 23: LOSS 3:

Pre-season Games: Bury St Edmunds 36 – 33 Blackheath: Blackheath 31 – 12 Barnes: Canterbury 54 – 21 Blackheath:





# NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE REVIEW



## BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY RUGBY

Ground: Billesley Common, Yardley Wood Road, Billesley, Birmingham, B130HN

Colours: Black and Red Hoops

Previous Games: We have met Moseley 6 times when they were just that club title, and this was back in the Championship. Always tough even games and no doubt they will be huge tussles again.

Last season: National League 1: 9th: PLD26: PTS 62: WIN 10: DRAWN 2: LOST 14:

Pre-season Games:

Birmingham Moseley 43 – 7 Luctonians:  
Birmingham Moseley 28 – 24 Darlington Mowden Park.

Birmingham Moseley 24–68 Coventry Rugby:



## BISHOPS STORTFORD RFC

Ground: Silver Leys, Hadham Road, Bishops Stortford, CM232QE

Colours: Blue and White Hoops

Previous Games: We have never met Bishops Stortford at any level although I have vague memory of a fixture against them. However, this cannot be verified. I blame the G&Ts.

Last season: National League 1: 6th: PLD26: PTS 77: WIN 13: DRAWN 1: LOST 12:

Pre-season Games:

Worthing Raiders 10 – 52 Bishops Stortford: Old Albanians – Bishops Stortford: Bishop Stortford – Shelford



## CHINNOR RFC

Ground: Rectory Pavilion, Kingsey Road, Thame. OX93JL

Colours: Black and White Hoops

Previous Games: Our only game against Chinnor was in the National League Two play-off game in 2018/29 Season. Unfortunately, we lost the game that day. However, they were brilliant hosts pre- and post-match, and we sincerely look forward to the traditional home and away fixture.

Last season: National League 1: 8th: PLD26: PTS 71: WIN 12: DRAWN:1 LOST 13:

Pre-season Games:

Chinnor 67 – 12 Wimbledon:  
Cambridge 19 – 33 Chinnor:





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# NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE REVIEW



## TAUNTON TITANS RFC

Ground: Veritas Park, Hyde Lane,  
Bathpool, Taunton: TA2 8BU  
Colours: Black with Red and Blue Trim  
Previous Games: This is another club  
we have never met as a league fixture.  
We are very much looking forward  
heading to the south west this autumn.  
Last season: National League 1: 11th:  
PLD26: PTS 57: WIN 9: LOST 17:  
Pre-season Games:  
Taunton Titans – Cardiff Met University



## DARLINGTON MOWDEN PARK RFC

Ground: The Darlington Arena,  
Neasham Road, Darlington. DL21DL  
Colours: Blue and White Hoops and  
Black Trim  
Previous Games: We first met DMP in a  
National cup game at Park Lane which  
was more like a battle on the day  
which DMP won. In League fixtures we  
have met them twice in National  
League Two North. That season DMP  
were promoted but were without  
doubt the most outstanding team in  
the league. I would go further to say  
that they gave one of the best  
performances I have seen at Park Lane,  
including the likes of Wasps,  
Harlequins, Northampton Saints, Bristol,  
and Exeter Chief's games whilst in the

Championship. It was an absolutely  
breathtaking fast, hard running, tight  
game of rugby. Very much looking  
forward to renewing this fixture. If it  
was anything like the first at Park Lane.  
Get your tickets now for the game.  
Last season: National League 1: 9th:  
PLD26: PTS 114: WIN 23: LOST 3:  
Pre-season Games: Birmingham  
Moseley 28 – 24 Darlington Mowden  
Park: Darlington



## LEICESTER LIONS RFC

Ground: Westleigh Park, Lutterworth  
Road, Blaby LE8 4DY  
Colours: Purple and White Hoops, Black  
Trim  
Previous Games: We have met the  
Lions in 10 fixtures all in National Two  
North with the majority games  
favouring Sedgley in the outcome. The  
timing of the re-structuring at National  
Level Two was perfect for Lions as  
Leicester Lions were without doubt the  
outstanding team last season in  
National League Two West. A bit of a  
dark horse this season. Watch this  
space.  
Last season: National League Two  
West Champions PLD26: PTS 122: WIN  
25: LOSS 1:  
Pre-season Games: Coventry 33-21  
Leicester Lions: Leicester Lions 45 v 12  
Hinkley:



# NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE REVIEW



## PLYMOUTH ALBION RFC

Ground: Brickfields Recreation Ground, Damerel Close, Plymouth. PL14NE

Colours: White Green and Red Hoops

Previous Games: We first met Albion back in 2001-02 season at level 3. It was blip for Albion that season to be at that level and they bounced back to Level 2 as Champions. These first two encounters were tough indeed. We then met them on a regular basis for 10 fixtures from 2005 to 2009 at level 2, The Championship. The encounters were still tough but we had our moments. Bizarrely one season in this period this fixture was our New Years game. We had to travel. The FDR were not the brightest organisation at the time for the promotion of rugby!!!!

Last season: National League 1: 5th:  
PLD26: PTS 78: WIN 14: LOST 12:  
Pre-season Games: Cornish Pirates 45-5 Plymouth Albion: Plymouth Albion 7 - 31 Cornish Pirates:



## RAMS RFC

Ground: Old Bath Road, Sonning, Reading. RG46TQ

Colours: Dark Blue and Light Blue

Previous Games: We have never met Rams in any form of league Rugby. We did however meet them in a pre-season tournament at Priory Park,

Macclesfield in a 4 x 20-minute match which also included Caldý.

Last season: National League 1: 2nd:  
PLD26: PTS 114: WIN 22: LOST 4:

Pre-season Games: Rams 33 - 12

Bracknell: Rams 33 - 19 Aberavon:

Lansdowne 17 - 7 Rams: Cork

Constitution 24 - 12 Rams:



## RICHMOND RUGBY

Ground: Richmond Athletic Ground, Twickenham Road, Richmond, London. TW92FS

Colours: Old Gold, Red and Black Hoops

Previous Games: We first met Richmond Rugby at Park Lane on 22nd September, 2012 and we won that first encounter 37-17. This was the period of Sedge's demise or realignment period from its heady days in the Championship back to ultimately National League Two North. Richmond on the other hand were on an upward trajectory having had a bit of demise and re-alignment themselves, having been demoted to the bottom of the pyramid by a once tougher governing body.

You had to pinch yourself on that first home game of 2012/13 season at Park Lane. Here was this true bastion of elite club rugby in England here at little old Park Lane. Here was a not so long-ago Premiership juggernaut. For all the big hitters that had graced Park Lane during our Championship days none had the bigger impact on the professional game than Richmond.



# NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE REVIEW

To cap off that first game, we won! it was a very bright highlight in a season which turned out to be a relegation year for Sedge, whereas the 'Old Gold' would go on to get promoted back to the Championship.

I reflect then as I do today on the spirit and tenacity of the Richmond Club. In all the club's history and glory pre-leagues, and its impact as a winner in those formative years of professional rugby era. For me surely the club's finest hour was that march back to the top. Outstanding.

To establish a progressive and dynamic club ethos of mini to first team pathway for all. For establishing a brilliant platform for the development of girls and ladies' rugby.

That's quite a bit of legacy building. Impressive? You bet.

Last season: Championship: Relegated: PLD22: PTS 23: WIN 3: DRAWN 1: LOST 18:

Pre-season Games: Neath RFC 14 – 31  
Richmond Rugby: Richmond Rugby 7–50  
Jersey Reds



## ROSSLYN PARK FC

Ground: The Rock, Roehampton, Upper Tooting, London. SW155JA

Colours: Red and White Hoops, Blue Trim

Previous Games: We have met Rosslyn Park on many occasions in fact 12 fixtures and all at level 3 National One status. The early games, when Sedge were in the ascendancy, favoured Tigers whilst the latter tended to go the opposite way.

I have two very fond memories of the 'The Rock' the home of Rosslyn Park. The first was when Sedgley Park Club stalwart, Alan 'Two Bob' Taylor acted as conductor in chief encouraging the whole main stand at the Rock to sing happy birthday to me on my 50th.

Embarrassing but appreciated.

Secondly, our very own Bro! Geoff Roberts experiencing Rosslyn Park gourmet burgers for the first time and buying, himself and me one, handing over a £20.00 note. On receiving no change his face was a picture!!! My turn for the burgers this this season me thinks.

Last season: National League 1: 5th:  
PLD25: PTS 83: WIN 16: LOST 9:

Pre-season Games: Rosslyn Park 69–14  
Tonbridge Juddians



## SALE FC

Ground: Heywood Road, Sale. M33 3WB

Colours: Blue and White Hoops

Previous Games: Since their welcome re-introduction back to the leagues, we have met Sale FC 6 times. Always a favourite ground to visit. Our Local derby has always lived up to the occasion with some great clashes and close fought games. Heywood Road a proper rugby ground. I can't wait for this game.

Last season: National League 1: 9th:  
PLD26: PTS 114: WIN 23: LOST 3:

Pre-season Games: Sale 12–14 Caldy:  
Fylde 14 – 10 Sale: Hawick 35 – 19 Sale



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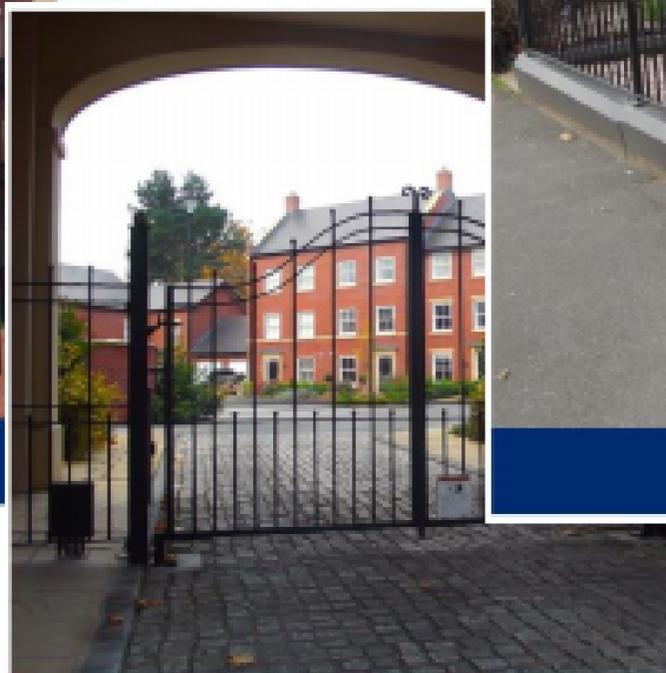
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# NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE REVIEW - WEEK 3

## WEEK TWO | ROUND UP:

Birmingham Moseley	21 (0) – 44 (5)
Blackheath	27 (1) – 31 (5)
Cinderford	23 (4) – 17 (1)
Plymouth Albion	54 (5) – 29 (1)
Rams Rugby	29 (5) – 19 (0)
Richmond	24 (1) – 31 (5)
Sale FC	21(1) – 28 (4)

Sedgley Park
Bishop's Stortford
Leicester Lions
Taunton Titans
Chinnor
Rosslyn Park
Darlington Mowden Park

## TEAM OF THE WEEK Rams Rugby



Out of the blocks. Rams set the early pace with two great wins from two.

OK I know it is very early days, but Rams Rugby are the real deal, and two opening home game wins has them on top of the pile ahead of Sedgley Park. Both teams meet at Park Lane today in a huge early season clash.

Rosslyn Park are in third place as they had a good win all London battle when they travelled over to the RAG the home of Richmond. A five try haul on the road is a good return with a brace by Parks winger Charles Walker setting them up nicely for a home game against Birmingham Moseley this week. Cinderford in fourth place had a tough afternoon against fellow new boys to the league this season Leicester Lions. Always a tough place to go to Dockham Road so Lions will look back

on this as a good first time outing at this level. In the battle of the Southwest fifth place Plymouth Albion had a good, impressive home win against Taunton Titans. I have a feeling that Albion will pushing as a title contender this season.



Albion pounding the Titans line in last weekends South West collision.

In sixth place Bishops Stortford travelled to Wes Hall the home of Blackheath and had a bonus point win with a four try haul with tries either side of the half. Club though would not lie down and with the impressive Tom Ffitch nearly amassing all of Clubs points with a try and conversion followed by 5 penalties to keep the pressure on Bishops Stortford. Finally in the battle of the north Darlington Mowden Park had a brilliant away win at Heywood Road against Sale FC. Not many will travel to Heywood and come away with all the points this season. Great away day for DMP.



# NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE REVIEW - WEEK 3

## THIS WEEKS GAMES, WEEK: 3

Leicester Lions	14:00 Blackheath
Sedgley Park	14:30 Rams
Bishop's Stortford	15:00 Plymouth Albion
Chinnor	15:00 Sale FC
Darlington MP	15:00 Cinderford
Rosslyn Park	15:00 Birmingham Moseley
Taunton Titans	15:00 Richmond

## GAME OF THE WEEK 3

### Bishops Stortford v Plymouth Albion

I know everyone who knows anything about the game will say the mouth-watering game will be here at Park Lane today, however I am going against that logic and look at the game at Silver Leys the home of Bishop Stortford. These are two very impressive outfits going head-to-head. Once the euphoria of the opening weeks settles down and as the weeks ahead the league starts to firm up with the real runners and riders both Bishops Stortford and the impressive Plymouth Albion will be firmly in the mix. I think today's game between these two will be a huge game and massive tussle.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE 1 Top Points Scorer



### Warren Seals, Sedgley Park Fly Half, 29 Points

Tom Ffitch, Blackheath, Fly Half	28 Points
Joe Winfield, Cinderford, Fly Half	28 Points
Francisco Diaz Dart, Taunton Titans, Fly Half:	27 Points
Joshua Ree, Darlington Mowden Park, Fly Half:	23 Points
Thomas Putt, Plymouth Albion, Full Back:	21 Points
Daniel Lewis, Leicester Lions, Fly Half:	20 Points
Joshua Amadi, Rosslyn Park, Winger:	15 Points
Jack Daly, Blackheath, Scrum Half:	15 Points
Charles Walker, Rosslyn Park:	15 Points
Thomas Jack Wilstead, Rosslyn Park, Winger:	15 Points
Connor Lloyd, Bishops Stortford, Scrum Half:	13 Points
Fraser Honey, Rams Rugby, Fly Half:	12 Points
Tighe Maxwell-Whiteley, Birmingham Moseley, Fly Half:	12 Points



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# TRYIT RUGBY



Tryit Rugby is a dynamic rugby business that has forged a successful partnership with Lancashire RFU, with the shared mission of promoting rugby among children and fostering the growth of mini and junior rugby sections. Operating from the premises of Sedgley RUFC, Tryit Rugby has taken on the essential role of aiding in the recruitment efforts for the club's mini and junior rugby section.

One of the cornerstones of Tryit Rugby's approach is its collaboration with the College of Rugby, a strategic partnership aimed at nurturing the development of young coaches. These aspiring coaches undergo specialized training through the College of Rugby, with the ultimate goal of funneling their expertise back into Tryit Rugby's initiatives. This interlinked network ensures a continuous cycle of growth, skill enhancement, and knowledge within the rugby community.

Tryit Rugby's multifaceted approach to recruitment encompasses various avenues. The business uses school programs funded by the club or Lancashire RFU, which not only introduces children to rugby but also strengthens ties between local educational institutions and the sport. Moreover, Tryit Rugby's innovative rugby camps and coaching services provide an opportunity for kids to engage with the sport in a fun and instructive environment.

By focusing on both grassroots engagement and coach development, Tryit Rugby is contributing significantly to the expansion of mini and junior rugby sections. Its collaboration with Lancashire RFU and Sedgley RUFC, as well as its partnership with the College of Rugby, showcases the organization's commitment to building a robust rugby ecosystem that benefits young players, coaches, and the sport as a whole. Through its initiatives and dedicated efforts, Tryit Rugby is playing a pivotal role in shaping the future of rugby in Lancashire !





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