



SEDGLEY TIGERS

2023 - 2024





WELCOME TO PARK LANE CHINNOR



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 Chinnor, Thame to Park Lane today. This will be Chinnor's 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 REILY	CASTLE CLOTHING	15	Will FEENEY
14	Rhys HENDERSON	BRENDAN HENDERSON	14	Joe BROWNING
13	Nathan POPE	BURY BUSINESS LODGE	13	Morgan PASSMAN
12	Oli GLASSE	PICOW ENGINEERING	12	James BOURTON
11	Will BRADLEY	KENMAC ASSOCIATES	11	Kieran GOSS
10	Warren SEALS	BEGBIES TRAYNOR LLP	10	Nick SMITH
9	Jacob TANSEY	MADE FOR MORE	9	Luke CARTER
8	George BORDILL	DECIPHER CONSULTING	8	George STOKES
7	Lewis BRADLEY	STERLING SOLUTIONS	7	Max CLEMENTSON
6	Mark GOODMAN	BURY BUSINESS LODGE	6	Alfie NORTH
5	Oscar CROWE	BRENDAN HENDERSON	5	Conor BROCKSCHMIDT
4	Bob BIRTWELL	FIELDING PORTER SOLICITORS	4	Shek SHERRIFF
3	Danny RYLANCE	GREENDAY UPVC	3	Josh MCNULTY
2	Danny MAHER	DIRECT CONST. RECRUITMENT	2	Alun WALKER
1	John BLANCHARD	URMSTON SCAFFOLDING	1	Keston LINES

SUBSTITUTES

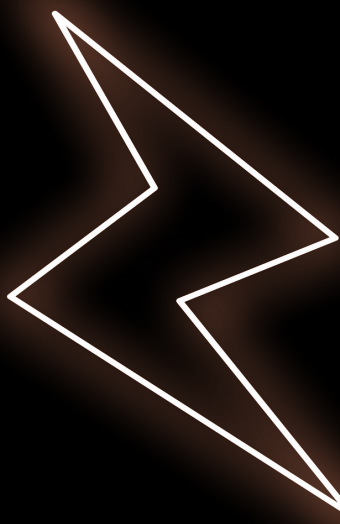
16	Patrice BELL	H.H. SMITH BUILDERS	16	Mark DARLINGTON
17	Adam MALLINSON	MALLOFIX SPORTS THERAPY	17	Rob HARDWICK
18	Austin DOWNHAM	KENMAC ASSOCIATES	18	Tom WOODWARD
19	Matt RILEY	GBC COMMUNICATIONS	19	Finn THEOBALD-THOMAS
20	Will CONNOR	H.H. SMITH BUILDERS	20	Jack WALSH

OFFICIALS

Referee | Callum Watson Asst. Referee 1 | Jack Moorhouse Asst. Referee 2 | Tudor Griffiths



WELCOME TO PARK LANE CHINNOR



Man on a mission. Danny Maher another top performance last week against Rams

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 Chinnor Rugby Football Club to Park Lane.

So, we welcome Chinnor Rugby Football Club to Park Lane for their first ever league game against us,. However, we have played Chinnor previously ,in a hard fought, very close National League Two North and South Playoff game at Chinnor on Saturday 5th of May 2018.

On that day the weather was absolutely red hot as was the rugby

as Chinnor got out of the blocks first edging a first half lead.

Sedge came right back into the game, getting the scoreline back to 40 – 31, but try as hard as we did we could not break the Chinnor defence, and the rest is history. A great day and Chinnor were brilliant hosts.

So just like buses, Chinnor like Rams are two back-to-back first time visitors to Park Lane and it's a great pleasure to have them here today. We go more into greater depth into Chinnor in the usual 'Spotlight on' article later in this online programme, however, we do have to highlight the exceptional and very impressive form they are in.

They are now replicating and extending the form they had at the end of last season when they lost only one of their last 6 games.

This season with two wins from two in their pre-season games, including a win against newly promoted to Championship Cambridge, closely followed by two wins out of three in the league campaign so far this season, this is very impressive form indeed. If you once again factor in who they have lost to this season, and that was last week's visitors to Park Lane Rams Rugby. With that type of form, you get the sense of how hard it will be today to get anything from the game today. However we do love a challenge at Sedge though.

Chinnor as a club were formed in 1962 so a relatively new club if you compare



WELCOME TO PARK LANE CHINNOR

them to other clubs in the structure. However, age means nothing and Chinnor or the 'Villagers' as is their nickname, have lost no time in not only putting a great all-inclusive club together but also a winning and successful club at all levels highlighted by their current first XV standings show.

They have the classic DNA of a strong modern rugby club, with a flag ship first XV playing at a high level in the structure being a beacon to all aspiring young rugby players within their area, giving them the option of good quality coaching to take a professional or if preferred a social pathway into rugby, whatever the preference. All this is undertaken within great club facilities and a 'one family' 'one Team' approach to all.

A commitment and belief we passionately share too.

With that in mind, I think it may be true to say there are two likeminded clubs on show today. We will see how much the comparison holds up once we get them into the bar. This game today without doubt will be a great match up, two teams giving there all. I sincerely can't wait.

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

regular National League One Week 4 Review.

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



True Grit. Bob Birtwell and Tom Ailes were in top form against Rams last week

A TOUGH DAY OUT AT PARK LANE

Last weeks home defeat and first home defeat for a very long time was more of measure of where we are and how far we have come and what we still must do. There have not been many occasions previously at Park Lane, and this will include league games against the likes of Harlequins, Northampton Saints, Exeter Chiefs, Bristol and so on, where you will see such a well organised aggressive



WELCOME TO PARK LANE CHINNOR

defence supported by a withering clinical counter punch as shown by Rams last week.

Rams in their display demonstrated why they just missed out last season and putting our guests to one side today, why Rams will be the most fancied team in the league to win it this season. Listening to the preparation Rams had gone to and had put in place to counter Sedge on their first visit to Park Lane last week says more about our trajectory and where we then to be taken with such seriousness. Back handed compliment and high praise indeed.

Playing up hill first the visitors absorbed an expected first 11 minutes of pressure as Sedge attacked the Rams line time and time again with the same conclusion each time. Nothing. Rams defence was like a wall standing firm but on that eleventh minute we saw the other side to the Rams game a brilliant set of backs who ran in a brilliant try finished by Edward Hoadley and converted by Fraser Honey.

Sedge went back on the offensive and if you looked solely at the first half statistics of our territory and possessions, it would suggest very strongly Sedge were in the ascendancy, but the stats are what they are, not facts, and the facts were we were blunted once again by great defence, forcing Tigers flyhalf Warren Seals into a policy of to take points when you can as he narrowed the score with 2 penalties.

As the game moved into the end of the second quarter another big breakout by Rams saw them up the field putting Sedge under pressure. Discipline was key, and it was unfortunate for the inspirational Tom Ailes to have to take a ten-minute sit down on a yellow card at this stage of the game. Rams needed no other motivation to take advantage of the resulting penalty which saw a kick into the Tigers corner. A great line out followed and from it after several phases, Rams loose-head Niall Kidd went over for the second try which was converted.

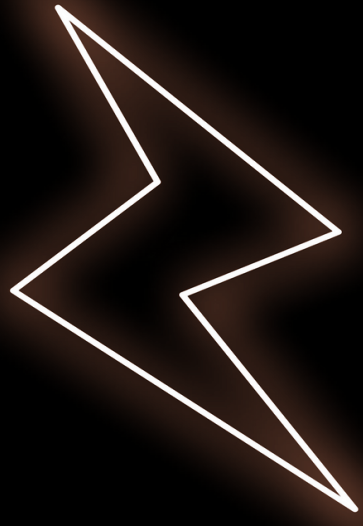
A penalty by Rams Fraser Honey ended the half: Sedgley Park 6 Rams 17.

Whatever was said at half time by Tigers coaching team had the desired effect as straight from the start of the second forty Sedge had their opening try of the game when Matt Riley went over, and Warren Seals converted. Unfortunately for this Tigers rally, Rams had the best response when 4 minutes after our opener, Rams once again turned defence into attack and were clinical and ruthless exploiting a Tigers mistake as Rams hooker Max Hayman went over for their third try and converted once again by Fraser Honey.

As Sedge tried to ring the changes, Rams chose to do some ringing themselves as 10 minutes after the third try, the bonus point try came on 65 minutes when Rams second row Daniel Swain went over for the fourth



WELCOME TO PARK LANE CHINNOR



try with Fraser Honey adding the extras.

Sedge once again dug deep and upped the ante and with the introduction of hooker Danny Maher we went from lateral play to direct rugby and on 72 minutes, he went over for Tigers second try which was converted by Warren Seals. Game on? Maybe a repeat of the opening Richmond game comeback. Could happen again?

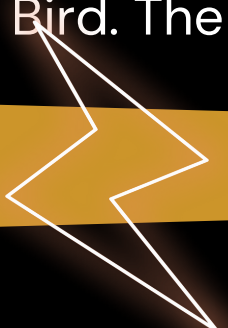
Sedge threw everything including the kitchen sink at Rams, but that defensive wall would not give ground. As we entered the dying embers of the game a Sedge breakout and race for the line saw a bizarre turn of events. With the line only 20 metres away and with a chasing tackler on his tail as well as one of the Tigers gasman in support the Tigers player chose to slow up to bring in the support player for what should have been a nailed on third try for Sedge. However, this tactic had the opposite effect. The Rams chasing defender got to Tigers ball carrier first and made a great tackle. The ball was lost and quickly thrown wide. It was kicked ahead and with Sedge now committed to numbers for the attack, with wrong numbers in the wrong places, we fell for the ultimate counter punch as Rams countered and ran the full length of the field to add the fifth and last try on 80 minutes by Henry Bird. The conversion was missed.

Sadly, had we ran in the last try the scoreline would have reflected the game better however I am biased! the fact remained however Rams are a very well organised outfit, and their win was well deserved. We sincerely wish them well for the season.

For Sedge it was lesson learned. Its all about small margins and when it mattered Rams were able to pick up on the slightest mistake and hurt. Overall, there was no disgrace in defeat. We did measure up in all departments which will be important today as we have to do it all again against a Chinnor side who pushed Rams hard recently.

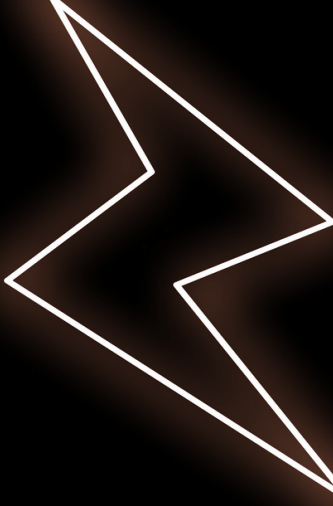
A MIGHTY BIG WIN

If you managed to get to last week's game early, you would have seen a rare occurrence. Last week Sedge's 'The Mighty Twos' took on Fylde twos in a curtain raiser league contest. Nothing new in that respect. Fylde and Sedge have for many seasons fielded some excellent teams at this level with some brilliant close encounters of wonderful running rugby. In the last few seasons both have had to bow down to the dominance in the league by Caldy. Nothing wrong with that.





WELCOME TO PARK LANE CHINNOR



The rare occurrence I refer too was the manner and size of the win inflicted on Fylde by the Mighty. We know the current second team is an exceptional squad and they have been good conveyor belt to support and improve the first XV.

The rare occurrence was the size and the enormity of the win with the final score; Sedgley Park 96 Fylde 19: The style of play was exceptional and there might have been other mitigating circumstance but however you hack it, this was an exceptional result.

I mention it not to gloat, far from it. But it does remind me of a point in the early noughties where we had another milestone result that changed the direction of our second team and the birth and legend of the mighty twos.

It was back at a time when our first team were taking all before them and on their way to the championship. We had a little nuisance of a game (it was perceived). A Sunday Lancashire Cup game (remember them) against Widnes away.

It was felt, quite rightly at the time, that we should play the full second team against a mixed first and seconds but a strong Widnes first XV. The result was a 0-96 win for Sedge, who to a man put in an unbelievable performance.

This was a turning point for that group of players and the launch pad of highly dominant period of Sedgley Park second XV, not only in the north west but the whole of the North of England.

AND FINALLY

Just like first time visitors to Park Lane Rams and Chinnor rugby two come together we also have the same situation on birthdays. In our last home game we had our very own match day MC Eddie Aldred missing the game as he was away for his birthday, although his son said he was nursing his pride of the abysmal failing of his county of birth that week.

His place as MC was taken by our very own Chairman Steve Ward whose birthday it is this week. We wish him well on whatever milestone he has reached. An amateur thespian of great note but no Bernard Manning on match day.

I find myself struggling to admit this but the return of Eddie this week back to his MC duties will be much cherished. I miss the badly timed jokes; wrong names of the visiting dignitaries being introduced or the clubs they represent and much more. So yes, welcome back Eddie!!!!

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 in the club house for the traditional pint and good craic after the game.

All the best
ST



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SPOTLIGHT ON CHINNOR



Chinnor on the front foot with their win against DMP on the opening day

THE STORY SO FAR

Can you believe it? We go years without meeting a new club then on two consecutive weekends we meet two. Just like buses, I hear you say. Actually, in Chinnor's case that is not quite true, as we have played them previously in a hard fought, very close, National League Two North and South Playoff at Chinnor, on Saturday 5th of May 2018.

The weather was absolutely red hot, as was the rugby, as Chinnor got out the blocks first edging a first half lead. Sedge came right back into the game getting the scoreline back to 40 – 31 but try as hard as we could, we could not break the Chinnor defence, and the rest is history.

A great day and Chinnor were brilliant hosts.

They come into this game having only lost one of their first three games and that was to high flying Rams, who only just beat Chinnor two weeks ago. Their pre-season had been exceptional, beating last seasons National One Champions, Cambridge 19–31. That is a great result.

However, if we look a bit deeper and look into their last 6 games from last season, they managed just to lose just one of those games and that was to the eventual champions. Yes, you guessed it Cambridge who won 17–19.

Last week Chinnor took our near neighbours, Sale FC, to the cleaners, with a big a home win for 'the Villagers' 35–0. The visit of Chinnor today will be bigger than the test we had last week, as here we have another real deal.

Tough game ahead. What did you expect this season!!!!



SPOTLIGHT ON CHINNOR



2023/24 NEXT 6 GAMES

23-09-23	Sedgley Park	14:30	Chinnor
30-09-23	Chinnor	15:00	Cinderford
07-10-23	Rosslyn Park	15:00	Chinnor
14-10-23	Chinnor	15:00	Blackheath
04-11-23	Taunton	15:00	Chinnor
11-04-23	Chinnor	15.00	Plymouth Albion

Flying High. Chinnor out leap the top of the league Rams recently

2022/23 LAST 6 RESULTS

04-03-23	Esher 22 - 24 Chinnor	WON
11-03-23	Chinnor 42 - 17 Leeds Tykes	WON
25-03-12	Chinnor 17 - 19 Cambridge	LOST
01-04-23	Chinnor 41 - 15 Hull Rugby	WON
15-04-23	Bishops Stortford 26 - 34 Chinnor	WON
22-04-23	Chinnor 38 - 29 Darlington Mowden Park	WON

2023/24 PRE-SEASON RESULTS

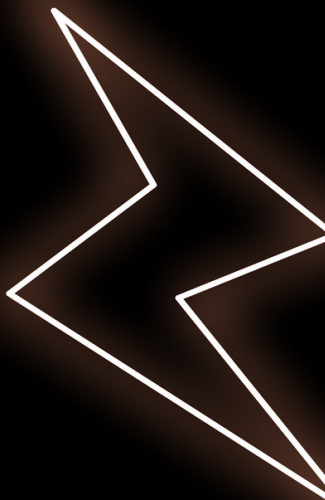
Chinnor 67 – 12 Wimbledon	WON
Cambridge 19 – 33 Chinnor	WON

2023/24 LAST THREE RESULTS

02-09-23	Chinnor 22 - 10 Darlington Mowden Park	WON
08-09-23	Rams Rugby 29 - 19 Chinnor	LOST
16-09-23	Chinnor 36 - 0 Sale FC	WON



SPOTLIGHT ON CHINNOR



TOP TRY SCORERS

Alun Walker, Hooker

3 Tries 15 Points

William Feeney, Fullback

2 Tries 10 Points

Keiran Goss, Winger

2 Tries 10 Points

TOP POINTS SCORER

James Bourton, Inside Centre

11 Points



Alun Walker



Keiran Goss



William Feeney



James Bourton



Turning up the pressure on last weeks big win against Sale FC



SPOTLIGHT ON CHINNOR



RAMS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB HISTORY

Chinnor RFC was formed in 1962, by Frank Angel, Cyril Perry and Marcus Cann, at 'the Bird in Hand' pub in Chinnor. They played their first game the following year. The 1970s saw the club expand to include junior and youth teams and in 1976 the club won the Oxfordshire Cup.

When the English league system started the club was placed in Bucks and Oxon Division 1 and have progressed through the Southern Counties section to gain promotion to the National Leagues in 2006; the youngest club to do so. The club gained a further promotion from National League 3 South West in 2012. During the 2016–17 National League 2 South season, the club achieved a record attendance at Kingsey Road of 1,580 during a top of the table clash against Bishop's Stortford. A game Chinnor won 27–25.

Full name	Chinnor Rugby Football Club
Union	RFU
Nickname(s)	The Villagers
Founded	1962; 61 years ago,
Region	Oxfordshire Rugby Football Union
Ground(s)	<u>Kingsey Road</u> , Thame (Capacity: 2,000)
Chairman	Nick Stainton
President	Simon Vickers
Director of Rugby	Nick Easter
Coach(es)	Craig Hampson, Tom Knibbs, Caolan Ryan, Daz Oliver
Captain(s)	George Grose
League(s)	National League 1

That's it for putting Chinnor under the Spotlight. I hope we know just a bit more about our visitors today.

Whatever your colours and whatever the final result. Enjoy the game. It is going to be a cracker.

All the best
ST

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Paul Volley



Tom Varndell



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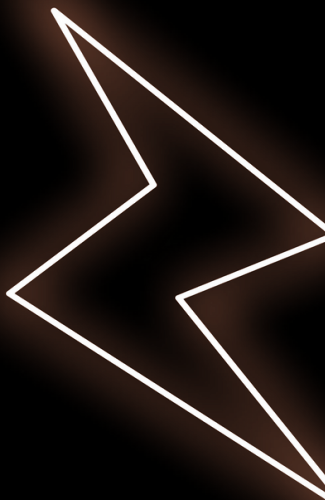
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THE CHAIRMAN



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, Cinnor, who have made the long trip up from Thame, Oxfordshire, 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, before losing to Rams last weekend.

We currently sit sixth in the League, with 2 wins out of 3, equal on points with today’s visitors and level on points.

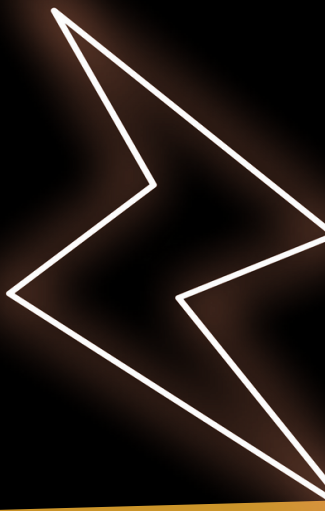
As this is our third home game of the Season, it is my duty to say thank you to our Volunteers for the magnificent work they have done in getting the Club ready for the new season. If I tried to thank everyone personally, this would be a very long piece and I am sure I would miss someone. I am going 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 third home game, I would like to thank the Coaches of the 1st XV squad for 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.

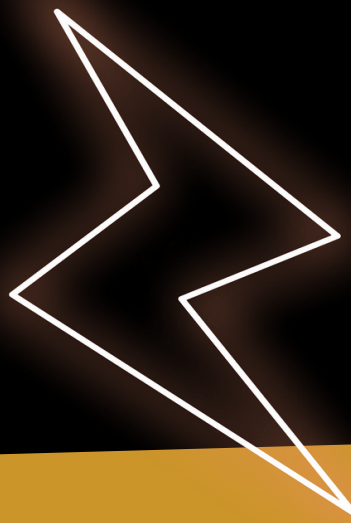
Jason Routh was brought in as Manager of the 3s and 4s, with the help of Juan Crous and a small team of Players and Coaches. They are slowly turning things around. We wish them all the best this season.

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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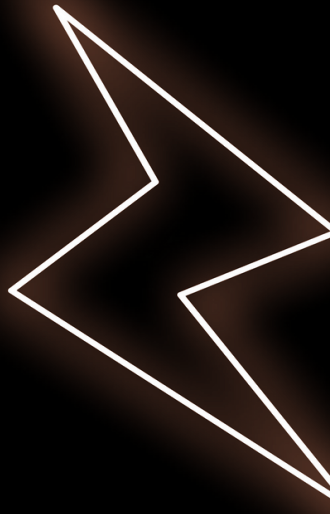
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DAVE'S DIARY



Last Sunday, I watched our Colts, here at Park Lane, against Penrith, and a fine game it was. I arrived a few minutes late, just in time to see Sedgley score a delicious try, a chip over the advancing backs, regathered on the full, and a lovely little backhand offload for the score.

First impression was of a tall, fit, athletic set of players, who handled confidently, from 1 to 15. Penrith were much the same. Sedgley got a seventy-metre interception try, and kicked a late penalty, to make it 17-0 at half-time. Penrith would come back strongly in the second half.

A Penrith try and a Sedgley penalty made it 20-7, but the momentum had changed. When the replacement Sedgley 9 put the ball in from the wrong side of a defensive scrum, Penrith accepted the gift to make it 20-14. However, another Sedgley penalty pushed the lead to 23-14, with time running out for the visitors.

Most sadly, one of the Penrith forwards now suffered what appeared to be a broken ankle, and the ref ended the game about two minutes early. So sad for the young man, whose season has been wrecked.

Painful memories for me of 1970, just about the same date in September. This Sunday, Sept 24th, Sedgley Colts play Sandbach at Park Lane, which promises to be a top game, and I intend to make this my main photo-shoot for the weekend, weather permitting.

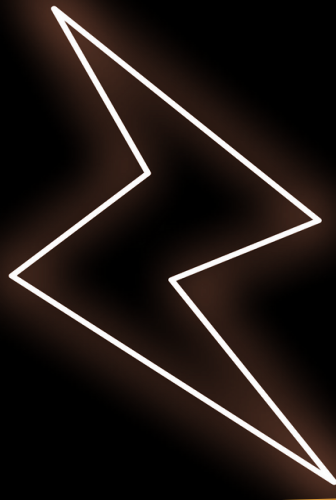
It was good to get the old Canon out again for the Rams game at Park Lane. I have been photographing cricket all summer and, as you can imagine, settings and techniques are rather different for rugby. A bit of head-scratching at first, but it soon came flooding back, and it was a good game to cover, with lovely even light (no sun) and lots of action.

Also last Saturday, at Park Lane, Sedgley 2s beat their Fylde counterparts 96-19. It is a terrific result, of course, but are there concerns about Fylde? Their 2s have already conceded a game to Macclesfield this season, and they lost 27-34 against Hoppers. Their 1st XV drew 26-26 at home against Sheffield Tigers, won 41-27 at Preston, and last Saturday beat newly promoted Billingham 32-26.

We all know how good Fylde were last year, as we slogged it out with them, toe to toe, over the whole season. They are one of the great clubs of Lancashire, and the North, and the game needs them to be strong. This weekend they are at Wharfedale, which is never an easy place to go if you're less than 100%. I watch with interest.



DAVE'S DIARY



The World Cup is providing some intriguing games, and some encouraging ones for those of us who want to see rugby football prosper. Uruguay put up a terrific show against France, and Portugal too, against Wales. It was no surprise that Fiji beat Australia.

Then came England. When the highlight of a match is an involuntary header by a prop, it doesn't say much for the performance. Dire watching, and the crowd booed them, but England are still in the tournament.

My final weekend viewing was Bath v Jersey on TNT, with the Islanders winning 34-10 in front of a good crowd at the Rec. I watched the recording without knowing the result. Ealing also beat Bristol, so the better Championship sides are doing okay against the World Cup weakened Prems.

Have a good day today,
Dave



Look at Dave's Photo Album online at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/forwarddefensive/albums/72177720311238737/with/53191576002/>



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SEDFGE MEDIA TEAM

Few words from Vinny Morley



Welcome to Park Lane. Whether you are new to a Tigers game, a returning fan, or a Chinnor 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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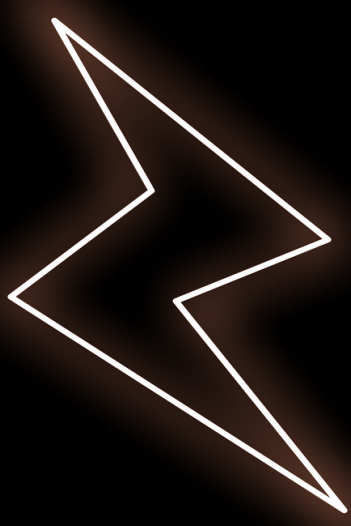
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SEDGLEY PARK LADIES TEAM



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 Caldry.

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.

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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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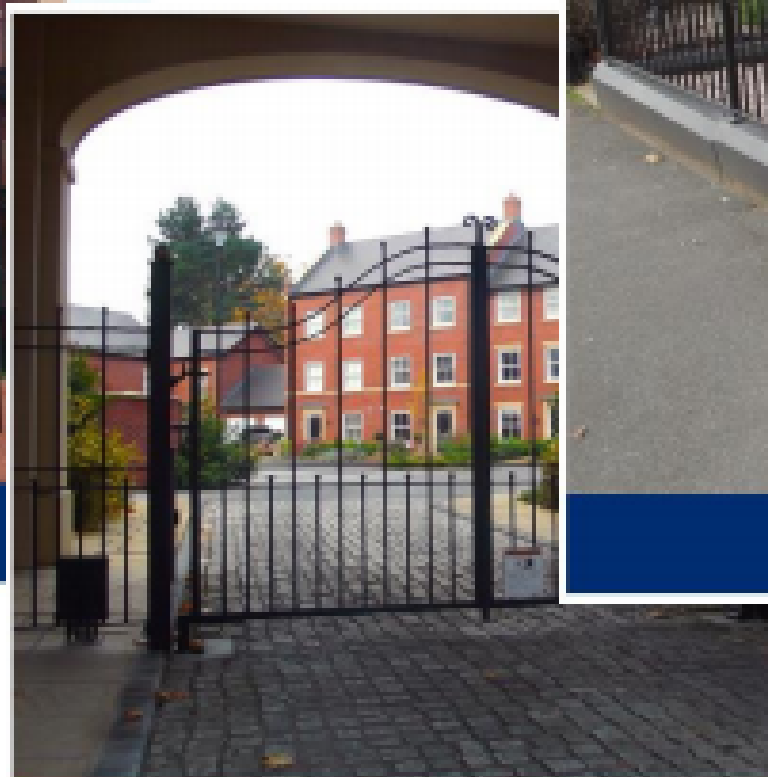
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NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE REVIEW - WEEK 4

WEEK TWO ROUND UP:

Leicester Lions	03 (0) – 34 (5)	Blackheath
Sedgley Park	20 (0) – 41 (5)	Rams
Bishop's Stortford	21 (1) – 24 (4)	Plymouth Albion
Chinnor	35 (5) – 0 (0)	Sale FC
Darlington Mowden Park	25 (4) – 20 (1)	Cinderford
Rosslyn Park	19 (1) – 24 (4)	Birmingham Moseley
Taunton Titans	14 (0) – 29 (5)	Richmond

TEAM OF THE WEEK Birmingham Moseley



The winner takes it all. The final score for Birmingham Moseley last week at Rosslyn Park

After a slow and hard start for Birmingham Moseley, last weekend saw them return to winning ways with a fantastic win on the road against highly fancied Rosslyn Park. Birmingham Moseley moved up to eleventh place in the league. This, I'm sure put the collective smiles back on Birmingham Moseley faces as they set themselves up to really enjoy their 150th of year for formation. Happy Birthday once again



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

WEEK 3 SUMMARY

OK. I know it is very early days, but **Rams Rugby** are very much the real deal, and three opening wins has them on top of the pile ahead of **Blackheath**. Rams put on a brilliant display against **Sedgley Park** last week who now move into sixth place.

Blackheath travelled to **Leicester Lions** and had a very comfortable away win, launching them into second place. Leicester Lions moved down to 12th.

In the 'game of the week 3' we highlighted the **Bishops Stortford v Plymouth Albion** game and what a game it turned out to be. A very tight affair saw the game change hands a few times. Plymouth Albion, though, handled the pressure and took a hard won away in to move into third place in the league. Bishops Stortford are in tenth place.

Elsewhere **Rosslyn Park** moved to fourth after a home defeat to Mossley. Chinnor, today's visitors to Park Lane move into sixth after a big win at home against Sale FC, who remain bottom of the pile. Darlington Mowden Park had a tight home game win against Cinderford which sees DMP in eighth place with Cinderford who stay one place ahead in seventh.



NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE REVIEW - WEEK 3

It was third time lucky for former Championship outfit and this seasons favourites for the title Richmond, who had a great win on the road against Taunton Titans. 'Mond' move into ninth place whilst Titans stay in thirteenth.

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

Blackheath v

Darlington Mowden Park

This may not be the top of the table game, but this will I feel will be the game of the week this week.

Blackheath have taken the return to this league by storm and will be eager to keep going the momentum that has taken them into second place in front of their own fans at Wes Hall.

Darlington Mowden Park know this league well and have been putting some good wins both on the road and at home in the last two games, to set themselves up for a snatch and grab visit 'in the smoke'. This should be a real good game. Watch this space.

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1

'HOTSHOTS'

Top Points Scorer



**Tom Ffitch, Blackheath
Fly Half, 39 Points**

Warren Seals, Sedgley Park, Fly Half	39 Points
Joe Winfield, Cinderford, Fly Half	38 Points
Joshua Ree, Darlington Mowden Park, Fly Half:	38 Points
Francisco Diaz Dart, Taunton Titans, Fly Half:	31 Points
Thomas Putt, Plymouth Albion, Full Back:	30 Points
Thomas Jack Wilstead, Rosslyn Park, Winger:	24 Points
Daniel Lewis, Leicester Lions, Fly Half:	23 Points
Fraser Honey, Rams Rugby, Fly Half:	23 Points
Tighe Maxwell-Whiteley, Birmingham Moseley, Fly Half:	21 Points



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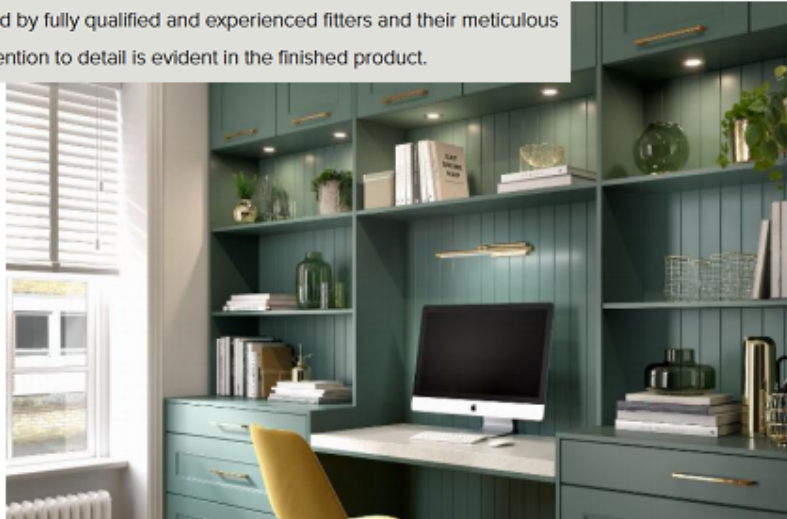
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Sam Cooper's Rightstyle is a family run business who have been designing and installing high quality, bespoke fitted furniture for over 25 years. Their extensive knowledge, professionalism and excellent customer care has ensured they are one of the leading designers of fitted furniture in the North West.

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Tiddlywinks Day Nursery

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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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England's Tom Curry suspended for two matches

Rugby World Cup 2023 - Highlights



Rugby World Cup Highlights: Pool D - Japan v Chile



Rugby World Cup Highlights: Pool D - England v Argentina



Rugby World Cup Highlights: Pool C - Australia v Georgia



Rugby World Cup Highlights: Pool A - Italy v Namibia

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