



MATCHDAY PROGRAMME NATIONAL LEAGUE 2 EAST



- MATCHDAY FEATURES:**
- WOOLY'S WISDOM
 - PEARL'S WISDOM
 - PLAYER PROFILES
 - BOWMAN'S BLOG



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Images: Dave Purday

**SEVENOAKS v WESTCLIFF
SATURDAY 22 APRIL 2023**



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WELCOME TO KNOLE PADDOCK

HOME OF SEVENOAKS RUGBY FROM OUR PRESIDENT, MIKE WOOLDRIDGE



Golly – welcome as always for hopefully a lucky 13th time this season ... it somehow feels longer but never a chore at home. It is always a pleasure to host at our Paddock – the oppo, our sponsors, visitors and our one club of supporters. I know how much the support means to Adam's squad and please give it your all today.

It has, without doubt, been a challenging season as we expected at this level – our first time in national league rugby was always going to be thus. The physicality and quality of players has been at a different level and I, for one, believe our team has shown they are more than capable at competing at this level – I have said it a few times, whilst it's not a great accolade, we do have the highest number of losing bonus points. That will not be enough today as we must win to guarantee remaining in the league. We cannot bank on the neighbourliness of TJs – v – Rochford away.

It is a pleasure to welcome Westcliff, who hosted us on the first game of the season on 3 September – some 7 plus months ago. Whilst their results have not been as they would have hoped, they have always competed throughout and I am sure it will be no different today. They were great company at theirs and hopefully we

will return the favour. More on our visitors from our Pearl of Wisdom later in the programme.

I am pleased to welcome four sponsors today, namely Moore Kingston Smith, Sutton Winson, Kims Hospital and Tarmac. We hope you enjoy all we have to offer on and off the pitch. Your support is so important to us from our first team to our miniest of minis and every man, woman, girl and boy in between. We are a community club and it means so much to us.

We also have the wonderful Finlay family today, celebrating all that the late Alan did for our club for so many years. We are indebted to Alan and delighted to welcome his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren today.

We also mark the end of two extremely exceptional terms of service on the Committee in Hon Sec Andy Nicholls and our Chairman, who needs no introduction, Trevor. Thanks is not enough and there will be more on both of them at our club dinner on 5 May.

A heartfelt thanks to you all for this season and let's hopefully end it in style.

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Sevenoaks Rugby Club currently runs three senior sides. The First XV plays in National League 2 East, the Second XV play in the Counties 2 Kent League, and the Third XV in the Invicta League.

New players of all standards are welcome to a club that prides itself on a friendly and inclusive atmosphere.

NATIONAL LEAGUE 2 EAST LEAGUE POSITIONS 2022/23 TO DATE

#	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1	Blackheath	25	22	0	3	1027	353	674	19	2	109
2	Barnes	25	19	0	6	836	437	399	19	3	98
3	Dorking	25	17	1	7	882	516	366	18	5	93
4	Worthing	25	17	0	8	872	653	219	18	2	88
5	Henley	25	17	0	8	709	561	148	14	4	86
6	Bury St Edmunds	25	17	0	8	751	589	162	15	2	85
7	Old Albanians	25	14	1	10	730	611	119	17	2	77
8	Tonbridge Juddians	25	14	0	11	654	565	89	12	2	70
9	Guernsey	25	9	1	15	690	693	-3	13	5	56
10	Canterbury	25	8	0	17	619	760	-141	12	3	47
11	North Walsham	25	8	0	17	577	864	-287	8	2	42
12	Sevenoaks	25	5	2	18	489	716	-227	8	7	39
13	Rochford Hundred	25	5	1	19	486	942	-456	12	4	38
14	Westcliff	25	0	0	25	354	1416	-1062	4	2	1

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A WARM WELCOME TO WESTCLIFF RFC

It is a comparatively short distance between the rugby clubs of Sevenoaks and Westcliff-on-Sea, and there have been many trips through the tunnel by our junior sides as well as, in recent seasons, senior team pre-season friendly fixtures.

However, this is our first regular season meeting since September 1978.

Founded 101 years ago in 1922, Old Westcliffians RFC provided a strong community-based home for former pupils of Westcliff GS who wanted to continue playing after leaving school.

Similar to many Old Boys clubs, Old Westcliffians went "open" in the early 90s and changed their name to Westcliff. So, especially as this is probably the initial visit for many involved, we extend a warm welcome to all Westcliff RFC representatives.

They started in the Essex divisions and took a while to progress. However, the change of name and becoming an "open" club gave lift-off. Four promotions in seven seasons propelled them up the pyramid to level 6 at the end of 07/08. Further promotions, combined with the odd relegation, eventually

took the club to the elevated heights of the National Leagues in 18/19. It has been tough going since then and this time round the mountain has been just too high for the men in maroon and orange to climb.

As we all know our own status in Level 4 will be decided this afternoon. This is no end-of-season final match jamboree. We have work to do and Westcliff would dearly love a final flourish to end a difficult season on a high note.

There is at least one match-day aspect that both our clubs can be acknowledged to be a cut above the rest. The word is that the Westcliff President has given some pretty inspiring after-lunch speeches recently. Our own Pres is pretty damn good at that too, including when eloquently replying to one or two other somewhat rambling orations of recent vintage. While there is naturally huge interest and concentration on playing matters, both Sevenoaks and Westcliff members are indeed fortunate to have strong Presidents, Chairmen and full Committees to guide our clubs through turbulent times on and off the pitch.

HOWARD PEARL

OTHER NATIONAL LEAGUE 2 EAST DIVISION MATCHES BEING PLAYED TODAY:

Bury St Edmunds v Henley, Canterbury v North Walsham, Dorking v Blackheath, Old Albanian v Guernsey, Rochford Hundred v Tonbridge Juddian, Worthing v Barnes



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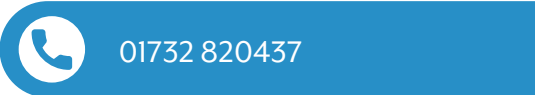
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SATURDAY 22 APRIL 2023 - 3.00 PM KICK OFF

NATIONAL LEAGUE 2 EAST



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	AARON THOMSON * Handy Experts	2	HOOKER	2	TEDDY MOSS
	TOM SIMMONS * Bicycle London	3	T/H PROP	3	SEB FISHER
	TOMMY MORRIS * Rob Pearl and Willows Birds of Prey	4	LOCK	4	TOM EINCHCOMB
	AIDON HIGGINS * Charles Harris	5	LOCK	5	JAMES WEBSTER
	FRED RICHARDSON * Martin Carmichael	6	B/S FLANKER	6	ALEX EINCHCOMB
	MATT MCREA * Moore Kingston Smith	7	O/S FLANKER	7	ALEX HATTON
	SEAN DERRICK (C) * Evoque, Will Rosier & Mark Reay	8	No. 8	8	MASON NICHOLLS
	CONOR GANLEY * The Kings Head Inn, Billingshurst	16	REPLACEMENTS	17	JAKE BAUSO
	CHARLIE NAISMITH * Scott Sedgwick	17	REFEREE: BEN SIMPSON from RFU National Panel & Gloucester Society Assistant Referee 1: PAUL CLAYTON Assistant Referee 2: JOHN DURKIN Fourth Official: GLENN WALTHAM	18	LACHLAN DOYLE
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PLAYER PROFILE EXTRA!

For our last game of the season we have added two special Player Profiles to honour a couple of Mighty Oaks. Former SRFC players Chairman Trevor Nicholson and Honorary Secretary Andy Nicholls are standing down from their Management Team roles after many years of fantastic service to the Club.

Trevor became Chairman in the 2013/14 season having previously served as Chairman of Senior Rugby a number of years beforehand. He has been at the helm of the development of the One Club philosophy, three incredible promotions and the transition to National League Rugby, to name a few. Andy joined the Committee way back in 2007 and is the longest serving official in the modern era. He has been a steadfast guide throughout his 16 years, even carrying on when he moved to Australia for work some years ago.

Thank you Trev and Andy for your incredible service and enjoy your 'retirement'!

Name: TREVOR NICHOLSON

Occupation: Online Gallery proprietor (www.100artists.co.uk)

Position: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

First joined Oaks: 1979

Previous clubs:

Bodmin, Cornwall and Old Kilcullen, Co. Kildare, Ireland

Greatest moment in an Oaks shirt: scoring injury time winning try for the Acorns vs TW in Vets cup semi final

Worst moment in an Oaks shirt: Paul Smart missing promotion-winning conversion at

Park House - we had champagne on ice...

Most admired Oaks player: Tommy Kelly and the current 1st XV pack for the same reason - guts

Why I love playing for SRFC: SRFC is fiercely ambitious but doesn't take itself too seriously. We've always had fun, especially on tour. It is a rare and beautiful love - you never forget people you played rugby with

Favourite Internationals: Andy Ripley, Jo Marler

Favourite dinner party guests: Ricky Gervais, Robin Williams

Non sporting hero: Winston Churchill - if we had a single politician with anything like his intelligence, charisma and courage, the world would look very different today



TREVOR NICHOLSON

Name: ANDY NICHOLLS

Occupation: Director – Policing & Justice Solutions

Position: Openside Flanker

First joined Oaks: 1999

Previous clubs: Wigston (now Leicester Lions), Nuneaton

Greatest moment in an Oaks shirt: The Richard Langhorn charity game vs Harlequins Gents in 2003

Worst moment in an Oaks shirt: relegation

in my retirement season – think it was 2004?

Most admired Oaks player: impossible to choose just one

Why I love playing for SRFC: being offered a glass of Sauv Blanc and a cheese board, courtesy of the Front Row back seat picnic, on the coach back from the first away game. A very different experience from the Midlands... SRFC is such a welcoming club and close enough to walk home after a game!

Favourite International player: Michael Jones - my inspiration for how to play No 7

Favourite dinner party guests: friends & family

Non sporting hero: Ernest Shackleton – he was brave enough to turn back from his lifetime's ambition to save the lives of his team



ANDY NICHOLLS

Images & text: Hils Everitt

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Bowman's Matchday Blog

Images: Dave Purday

22 APRIL 2023



It's been a long tough year for the First XV, debuting in National 2 East. We have certainly learned a great deal, and next season we will be a stronger outfit as a result. The big question of course is 'in which league will that be?'

For the final game of the season this Saturday we are at home, playing the already relegated Westcliff. Last week's Oak's defeat at Tonbridge Juddians, along with Rochford picking up two losing bonus points at North Walsham leaves the situation this weekend very clear. An Oaks win of any kind against the visiting Essex team will guarantee twelfth position in the table and safety for next year; and relegate Rochford. Anything less and it will require a nervy monitoring of the Rochford game versus TJs. So, our destiny is in our own hands.

We must of course put all of that out of our minds and focus on the game, and each individual job needing to be done within it. We have spoken this week about the need for both intensity and precision in execution, the

latter missing at TJs last weekend. It would be a massive mistake to underestimate Westcliff because of their league position; they have some very good players and have shown in recent weeks they are capable of putting points on the board.

There will be plenty of time during the off-season to review our performance over the 26 games. For now the boys and coaching staff are committed to giving everything to secure the victory we require. We also need to tuned into how the game is being managed by the officials, something we have struggled with in recent matches.

So here is my last Paddock rallying cry of the year..... please get down to the ground in big numbers and cheer the boys on. It helps enormously!

Thank you in advance and we look forward to a great game of rugby on Saturday.

COYO – Adam

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PLAYER PROFILES

Our final installment for the season features a player who has been at the club since he was born and a far more recent recruit who is yet another who has joined from local rivals. Both this week's Mighty Oaks play in the back row for the 1st XV and both list their mums as their heroes and share the same favourite Oaks player.

First is **Fred Richardson**, a huge character who came to SRFC as a mere babe whose parents are Julian, a former esteemed player, and Pippa, an omnipresent supporter for many years. Then we have **Ryan Hackett**, who arrived at the end of the 2019/20 season as another recruit from Westcombe Park.

Name: FRED RICHARDSON

Occupation: Sports Coach

Position: Blind Side Flanker, No 8

First joined Oaks: U6s 2003, although I was in the clubhouse soon after birth

Previous clubs: I had a two-year stint at Old Leodiansians in Leeds

Greatest moment in an Oaks shirt: all those sweet promotions

Worst moment in an Oaks shirt: losing the U17 National Cup Final

Most admired Oaks player: Scott 'The Plumb' Sedgewick

Why I love playing for SRFC: being a part of this ridiculous bunch of blokes

Favourite

International player: Ellis Genge

Favourite dinner

party guests: just me and Morgan Wallen

Non sporting hero: my mother



Name: RYAN HACKETT

Occupation: Plumber/Heating Engineer

Position: Blind Side Flanker, No 8

First joined Oaks: 2020 just before the first Covid lockdown

Previous clubs: Westcombe Park

Greatest moment in an Oaks shirt: it is probably my first Man of the Match against Brighton, and I even managed to get a meat pie

Worst moment in an Oaks shirt: I don't think I have one just yet. Although it could be James Fotheringham injuring my knee in training...

Most admired Oaks player: Scotty Sedgewick - I love that guy, - and the Simmo twins!

Why I love playing for SRFC: because Jack Curnow makes it such a warm and wonderful place

Favourite International player: I don't really have one, but if pushed it would probably be Johnny Wilkinson

Favourite dinner party guests: Ricky Gervais, Jimmy Carr, Donald Trump, Tyson Fury and Joe Rogan

Non sporting hero: my mum



Images & text: Hils Everitt

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