

# The Swan

## Welcome Back

September 2018

The long hot summer is over, and we are poised to start a new season, full of enthusiasm and hope. This year sees us competing in the Kent Metropolitan League – Bishops Finger, following the success of finishing second in the Kent Rural.

## Swanley Town Council to the Rescue !

The summer wasn't without its drama, when courtesy of some local hooligans the entire pitch was burned through an act of arson. Support from the rugby fraternity was immediate with offers of pitches from Westcombe Park, Erith, Bexley and even Sheppey. Thanks to you all.

Kent RFU were quick on the scene with a full and detailed report and plan for the pitch and Swanley Town Council swung into action to save the day.

An excellent new pitch has been created at Swanley Rec whilst the restoration work is completed at Swanley Park.

A huge thank you to all concerned for helping to keep our rugby in Swanley.

## Match Centre

### Met Police Hayes 0 – Swanley RFC 26

Pre-season has seen just the one friendly.

In this edition Fozzie, Bonsi and Ernie make debut, the Walderslade Warrior returns from Canada and Tatey has issues judging length.

It took Swanley a good twenty minutes, two disallowed tries and some decent clean ball to score the first try of the afternoon. MP Hayes showed class, grit in defence and dominated the breakdown to frustrate. Whilst they competed upfront, they struggled to contain a pacey backline (except Yatesy) out wide.



Stuart Tate in the 8 shirt provided the much needed relief with a run off the base of a ruck and thanks to some summer coaching he kindly added the conversion too.

Soon after Nathan 'Ernie' Earnshaw registered his first try for the club, scooping up a loose ball and skinning a number of defenders to dive over the try line.

After oranges MP Hayes were more involved in the game than ever and enjoyed a hefty amount of possession. Every time Swanley won it back it seemed a penalty was given away and the ball returned to the cops. Frustration grew among the players and in steps Ant 'Walderslade Warrior' Sumbler to make his contribution of the afternoon. Fresh from a peaceful wander around lakes in Canada, Sumbler was found guilty of picking on the scrum half and was duly sent to the naughty corner to think about what he had done.

It was a dark period for Swanley. Especially for none other than our own Ant 'Hugs' Pittock, whose life must have flashed before his eyes. Hugs looked almost certain to score in the corner, when the Met No.8 from out of nowhere put in an absolute peach of hit to knock poor old Hugs into touch. Better luck next time Hugs. Credit where it is due, Hugs took it on the chin and carried on playing. The same couldn't be said for the MP Hayes second row, who squealed like a stuck pig when he was beautifully placed on his backside by scrumhalf Hatley. The referee had sympathy, it was all a bit embarrassing really. Whatever happened to the good old dump tackle?



Once back up to full compliment Swanley dug deep and managed to put in a decent spell of phases with the pack functioning as a unit. Swanley should have had another try when in the oppositions '22 with a hefty overlap. However Tatey in his wisdom decide to perform the chip n chase. It is widely accepted in the club that only Yatesy has the skill to perform such a feat as Tatey's 'chip' not only cleared the dead ball line, but the trees behind it! Unlucky Stu, perhaps another summer of coaching for you?



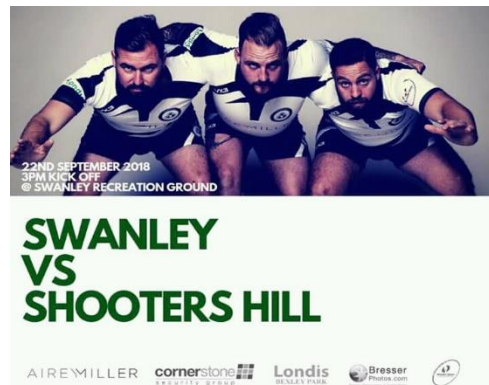
The remaining tries came in quick succession, Jack Nash did well to draw his man and pop to fly half James Yates leaving only one man to beat. Captain Fantastic missed the conversion. The last try came as result of great work by the pack to suck in the Met Police defence, the ball found James Yates again who ran (reports are he even looked quick) over pretty much unopposed.

Special mentions to Tom 'Bonsi' Mason our young front row starlet who had a great senior rugby debut and more than holding his own. Paul 'Fozzie' Foster announced his presence with absolute monster tackles from the restarts and earned the first Gladiator award of the season. A fine debut also from Nathan 'Ernie' Earnshaw who not only scored but pulled off some impressive covering tackles.

I think it would be unfair not to mention Stu Tate, who despite his horrible chip and chase had an incredibly industrious game and pulled off a number of turnovers. Also a mention to Ant Sumbler who made a tackle with his magic scrumcap.

Man of the match went to Paul Hatley. Nobody knows why, we can only assume he was the last possible player to give it to or Coach Morris was watching a different game.

Next week, first league game against Shooters Hill at our new ground. Please come and support your local club!



## Club News & Events

### Youth



*A few of our youth sporting their new shirts sponsored by SGN*

### New Kit

The new kit looks fantastic. Many thanks to our sponsors:

- Airey Miller
- Cornerstone
- Londis
- Bresser Photography



## More New Sponsors

We are pleased to welcome Carroll Carpets and The Cotton Mill as the latest club sponsors:



Carroll Carpets, a family run, local business located in Swanley, specialise in the supply and installation of carpets and flooring in domestic or commercial properties throughout Kent and the surrounding areas.



Combining the best in British micro pub hospitality with individuality, character and quirky charm, The Cotton Mill stands proudly on Station Approach at the heart of leafy, suburban Swanley.

## Fitness Training

We are now running fitness sessions on a Friday night in Swanley Park.

These are open to everyone of all abilities and are of course free.

These are run by club members and can be as gentle or as hard as you like depending on your ability.



**7pm @ Swanley Park  
every Friday**

## Tour News

After this years successful trip to Bath the club will be venturing further afield next year.



The 2019 TOURNAMENT will be held on Sat 4th May & Sun 5th May.

Majorca Beach Rugby Tournament offers some cracking games played on 8 pitches with thousands of people watching the event over the weekend.

