

# The Swan

November 2018

**There's more to life than rugby!**

**Off the pitch its been a busy month for the club.**

## Remembrance Sunday

We usually attend this event but this year being the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW1 was a much bigger event.



The day began with the unveiling of the Swanley Silhouettes, one for each of the fallen from Swanley.



Coach George Morris and President John Aitkenhead assisted with the unveiling along with various dignitaries and family members. In future years the silhouettes will be added to in order to commemorate the fallen from other conflicts.

From here we joined the procession to the War Memorial to lay our wreath and pay our respects.



Forever grateful for their service and their sacrifice.

## Tree Planting



On Saturday, November 24th 2018, Swanley Wildlife & Nature (SWAN) group volunteers and local uniformed groups in conjunction with Swanley Town Council, planted over 600 tree whips, provided by the Woodland Trust, on just under an acre of land in Swanley Park.

The hope is that within ten to fifteen years a mixed wood is created both for the benefit of wildlife and people in the park to enjoy. The existing natural paths across the area will be retained with the planting strategically placed to work around the



**SWANLEY**  
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

paths. The new woodland area will be named and dedicated to the relatives' loved ones.



Home Start are a wonderful local charity doing a marvellous job on an absolute shoe string to bring help to local families in need. As we drift towards December and thoughts of Christmas this was our chance to give something back to the community. We know how lucky we are, how much support we get from the locals so this is the very least we can do.

We have undertaken to provide presents for the children of 10 families and a token present for their parents. The players and club members have been absolutely brilliant in taking on this challenge as have some of our friends and sponsors.

Anything over and above what we have committed to provide will be passed on for Home Start to use.

We don't know who these families are, but we wish them all a Happy Christmas and the very best for 2019.

## Ups & Downs (back to rugby)

A mixed month with only the 2 fixtures; away to Erith which resulted in a pleasant 43-0 win and a not so pleasant trip to Old Alleynians which resulted in a 45-5 loss.

## Match Centre

### Erith V Swanley

So this week we travelled to Erith who can be found loitering at the foot of the table having a dreadful season, and the Swans hoping to stop the rot and the losing streak of games. Traffic problems didn't help Coach Morris' nerves as he was found by the gate panicking that he only had 12 players. Eventually they all arrived.

From the start swans make good progress through a good catch and driving maul. Possession was lost, and game of ping pong rugby ensued for the next

few minutes. This led to a line out and clean ball and the Swans trademark missed move through the backs enabled Nathan to break through and score the game's first try. Duly converted by Stuart whose kicking has been superb all season.

Immediate pressure by the Swans from restart through the backs where we clearly showed our intention to run the ball as opposed to Erith who at this stage relied heavily on kicks to make territory. When they did move it through the backs they were made to think twice by a huge hit from Jack Nash. However, as the game progressed the Swans slipped into their old habit of conceding penalties at the break down which enabled Erith to produce periods of sustained pressure. That said our defence was solid. Erith came closest to scoring when a missed tackle on the wing led to a break and a try saving tackle by Owen – Mr. Reliable!

The game fell into a pattern of continued pressure by the Swans and was largely being played in the Erith half. It was now Erith's turn to give away penalties which eventually led to a Swans line out in a good attacking position. The line out won but once again Erith infringed at the breakdown. A tap and go by Jamie, fed through Hatley released newly returned Daddy Meehan to run in under the posts. Kick converted and 14-0. The Swans look good value for money at this point.

After the restart a nice jinking run from Yatesie back to the pack released Meehan to break 40 meters straight down the middle of the pitch. Despite the cries of go on Alan which quickly lead to just cries of Alan (as per the comedy sketch) he just didn't have the legs to finish it off and was tackled.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alp\\_Uljvi5o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alp_Uljvi5o)

Quick ball through the recycle and Stuart – **blinkers** – Tate takes it up – ignores the two man overlap and runs into Erith's last man standing. The ensuing melee results in a scrum to the Swans. From the scrum a failed miss pass from the 10 puts Phil under pressure but a great driving run makes good ground to puts us in middle of pitch outside their 22. Possession retained and Cheesecake runs into brick wall. Another phase and Jamie spins the ball wide – good hands through the backs finds the ball arriving in the hands of Ant. He decides to take on the entire team but possession is retained. Stuart does his normal break off the back and this



time avoids last man standing and puts it under the posts – converted and its 21-0.

Restart – good take and run by Jack that was very impressive until he tossed the ball up in the air to nobody. We could be much further ahead without the errors. And there were more to come.

Erith broke around the blind side on one of their rare lets run it through the backs adventures and made a useful 30 to 40 yards until another excellent tackle from Owen thwarted their efforts. From here we did our best to help them score. A sliced kick by Hately – knocked forward equalled chaos and we gave away a penalty – Erith put us under pressure playing it through their one or two big lumps – making good ground despite solid tackling by the Swans. Another penalty to Erith from which they tap and go, are tackled and turned over but another penalty conceded.

Erith kick to touch and the pressure fades when line out ball is not straight. Eventually we break out of defence when Tate breaks from stolen ball but ignores cries of left, left, left and passes right straight to an Erith player. L and R labels for his hands as well as his boots for next week.

The half ends with a period of sustained pressure from Erith and an injury to Nathan. 21-0 to the Swans.

Second half starts with Lee Crook on the wing and Phil Butler moves to outside centre.

A break by Owen and Phil delivers the ball to Tom Harvey Jones who spins out of two tackles – passes to Ant in clear try scoring position but he knocks on. Scrum down. We win the ball and a perfectly executed move through the backs puts Butler in for a try. Conversion missed. 26-0.

Stuart and Ant combine well from restart to make quick ground only for ball to be fumbled and another try scoring opportunity wasted. That said we are playing good rugby now and piling the pressure onto Erith. Once again Erith concede a penalty at the break down. Jamie taps and goes and we put the ball wide. The pattern of the game is that whenever we do go wide they can't cope and Owen scores. A very good conversion from out wide takes us to 33-0.

From here Erith start to reform and put in a good effort to get on the score sheet. Repeated penalties by Swans enable Erith to make ground but excellent defending allows us to clear our lines without conceding. Coach George gets very excited about the defence.

A Great rip from Ant enables progress down the pitch which ends with a line out to Erith 10 metres out. Erith clear to 22 and we have a lineout. Hayden Cook, fresh from 2 hours on the m25 substitutes Cheese who has survived his return from injury with a good 60 minute stint.

Eventually Erith clear the ball and we are back in our own half. Not for long. An excellent break and combination of passes between Hately and Yates push us down the pitch but an unfortunate forward pass by Lee brings us to a halt. Almost but not quite. The resultant scrum leads to another attack through the backs with Yates crossing the line but held up to miss out on the try.

From the scrum on 5 metre line Tate breaks from back of scrum to go over.

Good effort but conversion missed. 38-0.

Erith haven't given up and attempt to play their way up the pitch but the ball goes loose. Yatesie fly hacks up the pitch and Phil picks up and runs in the try from 40 metres. No one was going to catch him. Ant does his best Jonny Wilkinson impression and tries to drop kick the conversion from in front of the posts – Plonker!

43 – 0.

As the game drew to a close Tom was substituted by Ben Quennell to make his debut for the Swans. Well done Ben – great to have you on board. Another landmark was Chris completed his first full game. You know when he's on the pitch with his direct, straight running through and over the opposition. Seems to like a bit of contact!

Conclusion: an excellent whole team performance producing good possession from the forwards allowing the backs to exploit the space created. Discipline was better this week. Well done lads. Lets get to training for the next 2 Tuesdays so we are ready for Old Alleynians on the 17th.

Man of the Match: Everyone



Dave of the Day: Jack Nash

Rambo: Paul Hately

## Fixtures

Sat 01, 14:00 Away Sidcup IV

Sat 08, 14:00 Away Charlton Park III

## Old Alleynians V vs Swanley

No match report from this one I'm afraid. Having been overwhelmed by the response to my request for a match reporter I am still sifting the applications. Yeah right.

However, what we do know is this.

- We didn't travel well. Its an awful place to go involving the dreaded south circular.
- They were young, fit and fast – we weren't.
- We didn't have any England under 20s in our side – where we going wrong eh!

So excuses done we move onto Sidcup next.

## Club News

Watch out for the December issue of Sevenoaks Sports magazine – out next week. This will be featuring our very own super-model Captain Ant on the front cover with other local sports people.

## League Table

http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/swanleyrfc/teams/185079/league-table?table=division-44146

Mail Basic Inbox | 1st Team - Swanley RFC

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### Bishops Finger

Filter By Season

#	Team	Pt	HW	HD	HL	AW	AD	AL	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts	Adj	Recent Form
1.	Shooters Hill I	7	3	0	0	1	0	3	4	0	3	215	100	115	20	4	W W L W L
2.	Old Alleynian V	5	2	0	0	2	1	0	4	1	0	166	53	113	19	0	W W W D W
3.	Beccehamian III	7	2	0	3	2	0	0	4	0	3	113	131	-18	19	3	W L W W W
4.	Westcombe Park III	6	1	1	1	2	0	1	3	1	2	101	132	-31	17	2	L W L D W
5.	Beckenham V	6	3	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	3	127	131	-4	16	4	L W L W L
6.	Swanley I	7	2	0	1	1	0	3	3	0	4	133	152	-19	16	4	L W L L L
7.	Sidcup IV	6	3	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	3	156	85	71	15	3	L L W W W
8.	Charlton Park III	6	1	0	1	2	0	2	3	0	3	165	156	9	14	2	L W L L W
9.	Erith I	7	2	0	2	0	0	3	2	0	5	48	214	-166	14	6	W L L L W
10.	HSBC II	7	2	0	2	0	0	3	2	0	5	149	219	-70	12	4	L W L W L

ADJUSTMENTS

16:47 26/11/2018