



## *Stafford Rugby Club*

# *Match Report*

### **Stafford XV 10–38 Lordswood Dixonians**

*26<sup>th</sup> September 2009*

#### League Fixture

Stafford 1st XV's losing streak continued as they got put to the sword by a clinical Dixonians side last Saturday. Despite being a fairly even game in terms of possession, it was the away side's finishing that proved the difference as they remain top of the Midlands 2 West (North) division. On a warm day for rugby, Stafford started off the better side with their forwards piling on the pressure in the scrum. But in what was to become the story of the match, a quick Dixonians turn-over led to a breakaway try on the left wing, as Stafford found themselves 7-0 down. The home team were still creating chances in the early stages but let themselves down with the try-line in sight. Again, they were punished by the visitors when another good backs move gave them their second try. A sin-bin for the Stafford full-back meant they played the rest of the half with 14 men. Dixonians extended their lead with a penalty before Stafford finally got on the board with Tim Woolman kicking over three points. With the score at 17-3 at half time, Stafford were by no means out of the game and looked to score early on after the break. But they again paid the price for not finishing as Dixonians found another overlap on the outside to take the score to 24-3. The score saw Stafford heads drop and though the front-row were still dominating the scrum, the standard of tackling fell as the heat began to take its toll. Another Woolman penalty gave them brief hope, but two quick scores for the visitors – one straight off the restart – put the game well out of reach for Stafford. The Newport Road outfit then roused themselves for the final ten minutes, setting camp in the Dixonians 22 as they searched for that elusive try. Dixonians did everything to keep Stafford at bay, including having two players sin-binned, but they were not to be denied as a driving maul was set up off a line out and flanker Matt Rowley dropped over the line for the try. Despite getting the final score of the game, the overall result disappointed Stafford and their coach Graham MacDonald. 'We ran out of ideas, but that was the best the forwards have played all season,' he said afterwards. 'I can't understand how we have 50 percent possession and still end up losing by about 30 points. I don't think we are far off a result. Stafford's next game sees them travel to Lichfield next Saturday, as they hope to kick-start their season.

**Stafford Development XV 14–15 Walsall**

26<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Fixture

## ***No Match Report.***

**Stafford Third XV – Lost– Burntwood (Score Not Received)**

26<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Fixture

## ***No Match Report.***

**Stafford Veterans XV 70–0 Linley & Kidsgrove**

26<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Fixture

Stafford ran 12 tries past a luckless Linley thirds to win in convincing style 70–0. Virtually all the points came from an impressive back line led by John Das Gupta who bagged himself 4 tries in the process. Matt Smith, Chris Low and Neil Williams all scored 2 tries apiece and Scott Raine playing in the unfamiliar centre role was instrumental in making massive holes in the Linley defence to set up several of the tries and convert a couple himself. Linley were always in the frame in the forward exchanges but simply couldn't cope with the running lines and the pace of the Stafford back division. Anyone keen to get involved with rugby who is a veteran or who has not played for a while should contact Bob Hobbs on 07925 380 837 or Stafford RUFC on 01785 211241 or go to our website to find out further details.

Stafford XV face Staffordshire University on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 (KO1830hrs) at Castlefields then Stafford XV and Thirds XV travel to Lichfield on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2009 whilst Development XV and Vets XV entertain Lichfield at home.