



Stafford Rugby Club

sponsored by



Match Reports

Wolverhampton 15–6 Stafford XV

31st October 2009

Midlands West 2 (North) League Fixture

Stafford XV again failed to turn pressure into points as they were defeated 15–6 to Wolverhampton last Saturday. Though despite dominating much of the game and even leading in the second half, Stafford still can't find the win that will kick-start their season. The result leaves them second from bottom in the Midlands West (North) 2 league, and without a point from six games.

The match started with the hosts being pinned back in their own half as Stafford looked to get an early try and boost their confidence. The visitors were looking to exploit Wolverhampton's weakness in the back-line, and Stuart Lewis made some powerful runs from centre to put his side in excellent positions. But for the second match running Stafford couldn't get over the try line, while they also missed two kicking opportunities to go ahead. As the first-half wore on, both teams started giving away more penalties and it was soon fourteen men each as the referee sin-binned one forward from either side. It was then that Wolverhampton broke the deadlock, going 3–0 up with a penalty which proved to be the last kick of the half. Stafford's acting coach and club captain Ben Ryder simply told Stafford to keep playing like they did in the first twenty minutes, and they would soon take control of the game.

The second-half started much like the first as Stafford had the bulk of possession went to the visitors. Their pressure was soon rewarded as Tom Hodgkinson slotted over a kick to draw his side level. Wolverhampton had chances, but kept relieving Stafford by giving away penalties and Hodgkinson nudged his side ahead with a long-range strike. Their lead didn't last long as one of Wolverhampton's kicks behind finally came off, leaving their winger free to take the score to 10–6 in their favour. Urged on by the home crowd, Wolverhampton had their tails up and extended their lead when the scrum-half exposed a huge gap on the blind side to run clean through again. Stafford's heads visibly dropped and they went down to 14 men again as they lost their discipline towards the end of the

game. The match turned scrappy as the Newport Road side tried anything and everything to find their way back into the game. The score remained 15–6 to secure Wolverhampton's third win of the season. Stafford couldn't be faulted for effort, but their inability to score when their dominating again cost them dear. Stafford host Stourbridge Lions next Saturday hoping to make it seventh time lucky.

Stafford Development XV 8–13 Wolverhampton

31st October 2009

Staffordshire 2nd Team League Fixture

No Match Report.

Stafford Third XV 14–31 Macclesfield (Vets)

31st October 2009

Friendly Fixture

The thirds came up against an experienced and well drilled side this week but have their own lack of confidence and concentration to blame for the loss. Macclesfield opened the scoring early in the first half and added to the score not long after before the home side woke up and started to play. Niall McLean made several good breaks from full back and it was a lay off from one of these that saw skipper Jez Price open the scoring for Stafford. After that the thirds picked up and made a real fight of it, going in 7–10 down at half time.

The second half saw the home side bombard the visitors with some excellent running rugby and were unlucky not to add to the tally. Then came the lack of concentration which saw Macclesfield run in three tries in quick succession to end Stafford's hopes of a fight back. Jez Price did, however, end the contest with his second try, picking up a loose ball to outpace the defence from 30 yards out.

Stafford Veterans XV 14–24 Trentham

31st October 2009

Stafford Merit Table C North League Fixture

No Match Report.

Continued...

TAKE A SHORT BREAK FROM THE BANGS OUTSIDE
 Watch a **BIG BANG** on our **BIG SCREEN**, inside!



LEICESTER TIGERS

PRESENTS

VS



SA RUGBY

Leicester vs South Africa
 LIVE ON OUR BIG SCREEN!
 Coverage Starts at 1900hrs - 6th November 2009
 Stafford RUFC, The County Ground, Castlefields, Newport Road, Stafford, ST16 1BG

Stafford opens its doors for the Leicester Tigers vs South Africa game showing on its big screen on Friday 6th November 2009.



PRESENTS

BONFIRE EXTRAVAGANZA
 Saturday 7th November 2009

LIVE ON OUR PITCH...
Stafford vs Stourbridge Lions
 KO 1430hrs

LIVE ON OUR BIG SCREEN...
England vs Australia
 KO 1430hrs






AND IN THE EVENING...

**STAFFORD RUGBY CLUB
 GRAND BONFIRE
 SATURDAY
 7TH NOVEMBER 2009**

**GATES OPEN 5 PM
 FIRE LIT 7 PM
 FIREWORKS 8 PM
 FAMILY £10**
 No Unaccompanied Children

HOG ROAST
 BBQ
 HOT FOOD
 LICENSED BAR
 SOFT DRINKS
 FUN FAIR

On Saturday 7th November 2009, Castlefields is open for a full day of Rugby and Socialising with Stafford XV face Stourbridge Lions on the pitch whilst on our Big Screen is the first of the Autumn Internationals with England facing Australia. Elsewhere, Thirds XV travel to Trentham and Vets XV travel to Rugeley. In the Evening, Stafford RUFC presents their Annual Grand Bonfire Night with Gates opening at 5pm.