



## Stafford Rugby Club

sponsored by



# Match Reports

**TIGERS IN THE COMMUNITY CASH BACK SCHEME** **BUY TICKETS BY 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2009 THRU' THE CLUB...**

**LEICESTER TIGERS** VS **SALE SHARKS**

**PLAYING ON**  
**27<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2009 – KO 14-00hrs**  
**AND STAFFORD RUFC GET FUND RAISING!**  
**VISIT RUGBY FIRST FOR THE DETAILS.**

### Stafford appoints new Director of Rugby

29<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Stafford Rugby Club are pleased to announce that Andy Lewis has taken the role of Director of Rugby at Castlefields. Lewis was in the R.A.F., and first played for Stafford as No. 8 in 1979, and in 1980 and 1981 was 1st XV Captain. His playing career included representing the R.A.F. and Combined Services, where he played at Twickenham. He left the Club to go to the Falklands War in 1982, and on his return from the Falklands, he was posted to R.A.F. Kinloss for several years. On his return to Stafford, he played for the Veterans' XV. His son, Stewart, plays Centre, and is a regular member of the current Stafford 1st XV. Lewis looks forward to taking to the reins of his new role and Club Chairman, Pete Hill commented “I am pleased he has accepted the position of Director of Rugby”.

Continued...

## **Stafford XV 14–10 Ashbourne**

28<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Midlands West 2 (NORTH) League Fixture

*Match sponsored by*



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Stafford XV came from behind to secure their first win of the season in a tense bottom of the table clash against Ashbourne last Saturday. The game was a meeting between the two teams without a point in the Midlands 2 West (North) division, and both sides knew defeat would leave them stranded at the bottom of the league. It was clear that both sets of players were lacking confidence early on, with handling errors dominating a frantic opening to the game. After an end to end opening period it was Ashbourne who settled first as they battled their way into the home side's half. Stafford looked dangerous on the break however, and it was only the lack of belief that was preventing them scoring from chances out wide. The Newport Road outfit then went down to 14 men when a Stafford forward got sin-binned for retaliation, handing Ashbourne the initiative. Despite some resolute Stafford defence, the visitors finally made the most of their advantage as Ashbourne went over from close range, exposing a gap on the blindside. The match remained tight right up until the break, with Stafford missing a chance to close the gap by a Tom Hodgkinson penalty. Only 5–0 down at half time, club captain Ben Ryder told his side that there was little to worry about and to keep battling to over-turn the deficit.

With the match now 15–a–side again the to and fro nature of the game continued, with neither side taking complete control of proceedings. The next score again went to Ashbourne as a loose kick gave them time and space to make a break down the right for their second try and a 10–0 lead. Stafford then found the spirit they had lacked in previous encounters to launch their comeback. A relentless onslaught from the forwards saw prop Tom May stretch over the line for a score.

The referee then made Hodgkinson's kick easier by awarding a penalty try under the posts following Ashbourne backchat. At 10–7 Stafford were back in the game and with fifteen minutes left more powerful forward play put them within inches of the line. Carl Williams finally finished the move, scoring in a similar position to May, putting Stafford 14–10 ahead. As soon as Ashbourne caught the restart though, the Castlefields club knew they would be in for a nerve-shredding final few minutes. Ashbourne had the ball for most of the final period and only a try-saving tackle from Jonny Watson-Jones prevented them snatching the win. As it was, Stafford managed to win the ball back, and ran the clock down before Matt Walklate kicked the ball into the next postcode, allowing his side to celebrate a long overdue win. There will be a much tougher challenge next week as Stafford face top of the league Aston Old Edwardians on 5th December.

Match Reports for Week Ending 29th November 2009

## Stoke on Trent 5–12 Stafford Development XV

28<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Staffordshire Second Team League Fixture

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

## Stafford Veterans XV 57–5 Ashbourne

28<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Staffordshire Merit Table C North League Fixture

The Vets won by playing wonderful running rugby. Winger Chris Low bagged four tries whilst Craig Davis scored two on the other win.



The poster features a central crest at the top with the text 'STAFFORD RUGBY' and 'THE RUGBY UNION'. Below the crest, the word 'PRESENTS' is written in red. Two rugby jerseys are shown: a black and yellow striped jersey on the left and a red and green striped jersey on the right, with 'VS' in red between them. The background is a dark field with orange and yellow flames. At the bottom, the text reads 'Stafford vs Aston Old Ed's' in large red letters, followed by 'Saturday 5th December 2009; KO 1415hrs' in smaller red letters. Below that, 'Match Sponsors:' is written in yellow, and 'Focale Ltd' is displayed in a blue box with white text.

Stafford XV host Aston Old Ed's and Thirds XV host Burntwood both at Castlefields on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

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**STAFFORD RUFC**

**DEADLINE - 3 DECEMBER 2009**

**SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER  
KICK-OFF 14:00**



**LEICESTER  
TIGERS**

**V**



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SHARKS**

**TIGERS  
IN THE  
COMMUNITY  
CASHBACK  
SCHEME**

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