

News (match reports below):

Stafford Railway scrums up with local club

Saturday 6th December 2008



Pictured is (Left to right) Abi Maguire (Junior Girls Member U15's), Carla Lund (Ladies XV Captain), Mike Heenan (chief executive of Stafford Railway Building Society), Jez Price (Thirds XV Captain) and Harry Price (Junior Under 7's player).

STAFFORD RAILWAY BUILDING SOCIETY is proud to announce its three year sponsorship of Stafford Rugby Union Football Club. The local Building Society will see its name up in lights as it sponsors the rugby club's pitch boards at the ground. Mike Heenan, chief executive of Stafford Railway Building Society, said: "We're keen to support local clubs and are looking forward to seeing our name up on the boards when we visit the ground. The club is an integral part of the community that has members of all ages and all levels." Mark Carter, Honorary Secretary for Stafford RUFC, said: "Our club relies on local support so we're extremely grateful for the Society's contribution. Anyone who hasn't been to the ground should bring their friends and family along to support their local team.". Stafford RUFC has 900 members and runs four men's teams, a ladies team and a junior membership of 300.

Match Reports:

Dixonians 7-19 Stafford XV

Saturday 6th December 2008

Midlands 3 West (North) League Result

Stafford 1st XV got their season back on track with a deserved victory at Dixonians on Saturday. The Newport Road side had lost three of their last four games coming into a trip against a side that beat them twice last year. Stafford started the game in determined mood, and dominated right from the kick-off on a difficult, muddy pitch. Playing with the high-tempo style that had been missing in previous weeks, chances soon came the way of the visitors. They went ahead after a flowing move

saw Jonny Duncan allow James Wilkinson to burst through the Dixonians tackles for a 7-0 lead. The pressure continued from Stafford and with the forwards winning clean ball the backs were given a platform from which to perform on. They soon doubled their lead when Simon Gurden found a gap in the opposition defence for the second try of the game. The back three of Stafford were looking dangerous every time they got the ball, and it wasn't long before winger Ross Donovan chipped over the back-line before racing through for his first try of the season. With a healthy 19-0 lead at half time, the Newport Road side knew that more of the same in the second half would give them a comfortable victory.

Dixonians came out after the break with a point to prove and looked more aggressive in their play. Neither side had total control in the early stages, but it was the home team who broke through with a clever pass out of the tackle - closing the gap to 19-7. Dixonians then had their best spell of the game, having plenty of possession as they looked to add to their solitary try. Stafford, however, were defending with resolve. Despite being without their first choice second-row, the Castlefields club were putting in big hits up front, with the new pairing of Sam Anslow and Richard Whatling making life difficult for their opponents in both the line-outs and scrums. Whenever Dixonians got close to the try-line they were met by strong tackles and powerful rucking. Both sides had half chances towards the end but the score remained the same, as Stafford gained a valuable two points.

After seeing two different types of performance from his side, Graham MacDonald was pleased with both the result and the style of the victory. With half of the season gone, Stafford lie fifth in the table.

Stafford Development XV 11-10 Bloxwich

Saturday 6th December 2008

Friendly Result

No Match Report.

Dixonians 44-5 Stafford 3rd XV

Saturday 6th December 2008

Friendly Result

Despite the score line this was not as one sided as the result might suggest. The thirds made the long journey for this match knowing that they were playing a side a level above but made an entertaining game of it regardless. The whole game was an end to end affair, the difference being Dixonians ability to apply the finishing touch of a score. The tackling from Stafford was excellent, but Dixonians just had the edge in the way they created overlaps from rucks and mauls, showing a little naivety in the Newport Road sides defence work. As the match went on and the pitch turned into a swamp, the home side made the most of the conditions and ran up the score. Regardless of the final outcome the players who traveled, gave a good account of themselves. Jez Barber got the Stafford try, which capped his usual fine display, and the younger players stepped up to the mark as did the regulars. Jez Price, Thirds Captain added "This was not a case of lacking talent individually but more a case of lacking cohesion as a team".

Stafford travel to Wolverhampton next week for a Staffordshire Cup Clash! Development XV host

whilst 3rd XV travel away to Leek. Vets XV travel to Cannock and Colts XV entertain Walsall at Castlefields.