

STONEYGATE FOOTBALL CLUB

THE MIGHTY GATE SINCE 1888

ISSUE NO 1, SPRING 2019



SO HOW DID WE GET HERE ...?

September 2013, Stonegate takes the field at its new home, Uppingham Community College, for what is to become the start of a new chapter in the life of the 131-year-old Club.

The 2013/14 season saw a fixture list of friendly matches against teams such as Market Harborough, Coalville, Loughborough. That first season was all about building a new home in Uppingham and to continue the great work that had gone before at Gate, making sure the Club survived the move from Covert Lane to Rutland. It was a successful season, winning the majority of fixtures and recruiting new players from the local area along the way. The 2013/14 season culminated with the 1st XV winning the President's Cup Final against Shepshed.

The next season 2014/15 Stonegate 1st XV entered Leicestershire Merit League C which gave Gate stability and presence on the Leicestershire rugby scene once again. A consolidation season, establishing the Club in the league system once more. For a second year running, Gate 1st XV won the President's Cup Final, this time playing against Shepshed at Market Harborough RFC. A League and Cup double!

Since that final in 2015, Stonegate 1st Team has gone from strength to strength. In Leicestershire Merit B league, Gate has found its feet amongst Clubs such as; Aylestone Athletic, Coalville, Belgrave and Hinckley. Each season the aim is to continue recruiting from the local Uppingham area, improving on the previous season's results and aiming for silverware in the President's Cup.

At the start of the 2017/18 season Gate 1st XV took a huge step forward in appointing former player, Matt Isherwood as full time 1st Team Coach. Matt's contribution since then has had a huge impact on the team, bringing structure, an improved skill set and better organisation both at training and during game time.

Gate won its third President's Cup last season and came fourth in the league. This season Gate has gone one step further by completing the League and Cup double in Leicestershire Merit B, which has seen the team promoted to Leicestershire's top Merit A League for the 2019/20 season.

As is the nature of junior rugby today, there have been many players which have contributed to Gate's current success and position today. The 1st XV normally picks from over an extended squad of fifty plus per season, there are still eleven players who played in the first game at Uppingham Community College playing today, providing a core of players for us to continue building on locally.

The traditions of Stonegate FC of playing attractive attacking rugby, coupled with a great social scene as a result of the shared comradeship remain strong. We look forward to seeing you at Uppingham Community College and in The Vaults for some beer and snuff afterwards.



BREAKING NEWS ...

STONEYGATE 1ST XV WIN LEAGUE AND CUP DOUBLE !

THE WEBSITE WWW.STONEYGATEFC.CO.UK IS BEING UPDATED OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS PLEASE VISIT THE "MEMBER DETAILS" TAB TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT DETAILS

STONEYGATE RFC MINI SECTION

In the September of 2012, a few players and former players embarked on reviving the Junior Section of this great Leicestershire club. With a coaching team almost out numbering players we launched the minis section, basing ourselves in Hallaton, Leicestershire. With a clubhouse, posts, car parking, a ridge and furrow outfield and a pub a short distance away this was going to be 'HOME' for the next three years.

For our first minis fixture, we travelled to Oakham. The weather was pretty atrocious and thank you to all the children and hardy parents who turned up. We had all the age groups in action from U6 who had a training session to through to the Under 7, 8 & 9s who were in action against their Oakham counterparts.

As our first competitive fixture and considering the weather, they all did themselves, and the Club, proud. Below is the U7 in 2012, who have become the U13 age group in 2018.

We remained at Hallaton until the end of the 2014/15 season. We had c100 children across U6-10 age groups, space was running short especially when hosting home matches and with a ridge and furrow outfield it wasn't conducive to mini rugby. We took the decision to move to Uppingham and join the senior set up.

This has proven to be a great move for the mini/juniors – more space, changing rooms and a kitchen for those all-important post-match hot dogs! The only thing that is missing is a club house that we can call 'HOME'. However, small steps at a time, have meant we now have U6-U14 age groups on a Sunday morning at UCC. We even have the benefit of a bacon roll wagon that comes up most weeks.

The pioneer age groups of U12-14 have struggled at times with numbers, not least as players move to private school and can't commit to the strains of



training etc at weekends. This has led us to think laterally to ensure players remain in this fantastic sport by working with other local clubs where player numbers aren't great either e.g. Oundle/Stoneygate have a joint U14 team who have played together for the last two years. This year's U13s are working closely with Melton RFC.

Our current fixtures see us play the likes of Melton, Oakham, Kettering, Market Harborough, Vipers, Lutterworth and Peterborough to name a few. We compete in the Leicestershire cup competitions, where baring one or two clubs, we hold our own and often surprise the larger clubs who thought 'they would never see the red and white hoops again'.



EVENTS

Our first 'trip' as a section was to see the Leicester Tigers at the end of October 2012. This included a 'training' session for 30 children in the morning and tickets to the Tigers to see them defeat the Ospreys in the European cup. The highlight for all was the half time lap of honour around the pitch in front of 20,000 spectators.

We have repeated this a number of times since, with most of the age group to date having been involved in providing the 'Guard of Honour' to the Tigers as they run on to the pitch. We even had Fred Tuilagi coming up and run a training session for the U10 this season.



U7 at Loughborough Festival 2017/18



U9 at County Cup 2017/18

TOURS

This is such an important part of any rugby player's career, young or old. A number of age groups have toured to places like Grimsby, Norwich and York. Some with parents and some without, but memories and friendships forged for life – just as you, the reader, remember.

OUTLOOK

We have a growing reputation as Club, both on the playing/coaching side, but more importantly extolling the core values of rugby amongst the children:

TEAMWORK
RESPECT
ENJOYMENT
DISCIPLINE
SPORTSMANSHIP

Goals for the next few years – a Colts team in 2021, Girls Rugby, create a home to be proud of, and continue the development of age group rugby in the Uppingham area.

If you haven't come to see the next generation on a Sunday morning, then please do – the Cardinal Red and White Hooped shirts are a pleasure to watch. It's an open invitation, so please get in touch.



U11 tour to Norwich 2017

VOLUNTEERS

We are indebted to the time and effort that many put into running this section, whether coaching week in week out, fixtures, cooking hot dogs, ordering kit, child welfare, transporting kids around the county etc. With changing legislation and bureaucracy it is no small task for our volunteers to keep things ticking over – a huge thanks to them all. We are now moving into the realms of mid-week training for the older age groups which places a further reliance on the volunteers. It is an important offer to build the relationships with the school in offering extra-curricular activities and developing rugby at the school.

Above all, the parents play a huge part in turning up at a bleak school ground, no shelter, no 'heart' and limited chance to socialise before, during or after training. We are in no doubt that the new club facility will be hugely beneficial to our continued rise to produce a Colts team in 2021 and then into providing 1st XV players.

Contacts: Marcus Roberts, mdhroberts@gmail.com or 07807 999 187



CLUB HISTORY ... DID YOU KNOW?

When you pull on the red and white shirt of Stoneygate you are representing one of the oldest clubs in Leicestershire with the proudest of traditions. Founded in 1888, Stoneygate has a reputation in the Midlands for playing exciting attacking rugby with an unrivalled social life previously through Hops, Balls and Tours. We continue to build on these fine traditions, both on the pitch, in The Vaults and on Tour.



STONEYGATE FC 1904-05



THE ED FARMER MEMORIAL MATCH (UNDERS & OVERS)

On Saturday 22nd December 2018, two teams carefully selected from good Stoneygate stock, loosely divided by those 25 and under, and those 25 and over contested for the Ed Farmer Memorial Trophy, kindly provided by the Furber Family in memory of Barry Furber. The match was preceded by an exhibition match from our flourishing Junior Section, and followed by a great night reminiscing in The Vaults. A narrow win for The Overs, but this annual fixture has fast become a day not to be missed providing you don't have a lot to do the next day!



DEVELOPMENT NEWS

The Committee continues to work hard to obtain the necessary permissions for the club approved plans to construct a joint facility at Uppingham Community College. Good progress is being made and we will keep you informed as and when the permissions are achieved.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FRIDAY JUNE
14

STONEYGATE SUMMER BALL
@ The Falcon

SOLD OUT

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER
27

STONEYGATE GOLF DAY

@ Rothley Park Golf Club. Details from Peter Kinder (Peter.Kinder@angloadhesives.co.uk)

For a full fixture list, visit our website: stoneygatefc.co.uk/fixtures

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