

# STONEYGATE FOOTBALL CLUB

THE MIGHTY GATE SINCE 1888

ISSUE NO 3, SPRING 2020



## SO HALF WAY THROUGH ...?

In September, Stoneygate 1st XV embarked on a new season in a new league, Leicestershire Merit A having been promoted from Leicestershire Merit B; where the team had experienced a number of seasons rebuilding both the squad depth and quality.

The Merit A League is made up mostly of 2nd XV's from Leicestershire's traditionally larger clubs as they cannot compete in the Midlands League's alongside their Club's 1st XV's. The playing standard and squad depth in Merit A is known to be strong and a great test for the aspiring Gate 1st XV.

The season started strongly with three wins from the first three games against Kettering 2nd VX, Loughborough 2nd XV and Syston 3rd XV. Although it was clear from the close results that it was going to be a tough season ahead for the mighty Gate. As the season headed into October, the Rugby World Cup was in full flow and Gate only played one game during the month, a home fixture against a strong Oadby Wyggs 2nd XV who imposed Gate's first defeat of the season.

Throughout November and leading up to Christmas, the senior team experienced mixed results as well as a postponed fixture due to a waterlogged pitch at Vipers. The first-half of the season finished with Gate sitting mid-table having played some excellent rugby against some tough opposition.

The final match of 2019 took place on Saturday 21st December and was contested between Gate's Over 25's vs the Club's Under 25's in the Ed Farmer Memorial Trophy. The next instalment in what has become a marquee fixture in the Club's calendar each season and a fantastic day to celebrate Ed's memory but also the great rugby being played at Stoneygate.

The match itself saw the Under 25's take a deserved victory in a close match that just 24 hours prior was in doubt due to the heavy rainfall experienced before Christmas. A huge thank you to the staff at Uppingham Community College for their efforts in preparing the pitch and also to Willie Carr for yet again organising a brilliant day for the Club.

The second-half of the season will bring further tests against strong opposition as well as a return to the Leicestershire President's Cup, which the 1st XV are the current holders – at the time of writing, no fixture dates are confirmed for this.

As ever, thank you for your support so far, this 2019/20 season – the whole squad greatly appreciates seeing and hearing you on the side-lines each week.



### BREAKING NEWS ...

THE RFU HAS ENDED THE 2019/2020 RUGBY SEASON IN ENGLAND

THE WEBSITE [WWW.STONEYGATEFC.CO.UK](http://WWW.STONEYGATEFC.CO.UK) IS BEING UPDATED AND WILL GO LIVE 11TH APRIL

PLEASE VISIT THE "MEMBERSHIP / UPDATE MY DETAILS" TAB TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT DETAILS



# STONEYGATE RFC MINI SECTION

The section continues to progress with age groups from u6 – u15 who all train or play matches on a Sunday morning, eight months of the year.

Teaching rugby's core values to the juniors is a massive part of our coaching ethos.

## SFC CORE VALUES

Core values which hold whichever side of the whitewash you are – rugby, above all else, should be FUN!

We should all be proud of the achievements to date, the hard work the volunteers put in week in & week out, come rain, sun and wind.

All those associated with the club in the past, present and future, should raise a glass and thank them as its the unseen work that makes the difference (just like a good Blind side!).

We have some super talented and enthusiastic youngsters coming through. Mention to the u10/11&12 age groups where the squads continually 'punch above their weight' (figuratively speaking of course!).

We held our fun day at the start of the season and then a further taster session for new players just after the world cup. Both were a great success and saw a number of new joiners across all the minis age groups.

Christmas saw the u11 & u12 play some fabulous hard-fought rugby between each other in a training session. It exemplified the passion these young players have for rugby and the squad they represent.

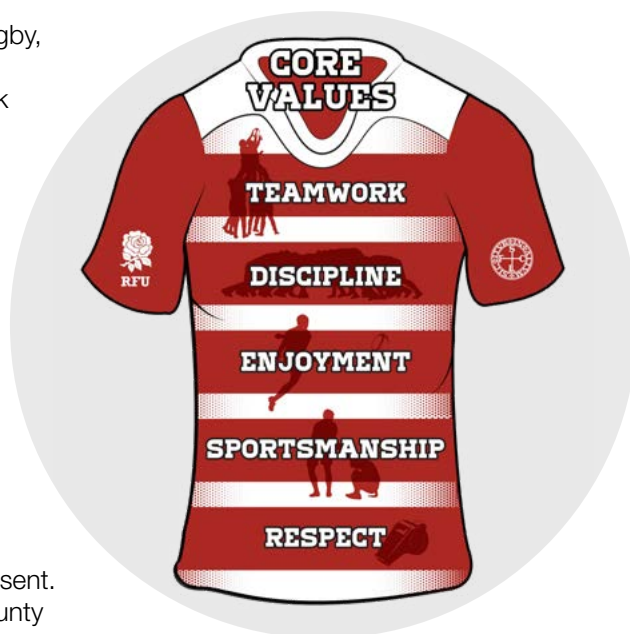
Looking towards the next part of the season we have the 9-12 county finals day to be held on 22 & 29th March.

U10 Prima Cup at Welford Rd – 26/4

U12 on tour to Harrogate

U9/11/14 on tour to Norfolk

U7&U8 TAG Festival 26/4



THE MIGHTY GATE SINCE 1888

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## SO MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO. UP THE GATE ...

### U6

The U6's continue to grow, and we now have a steady 16/18 players every week. Next season being the first season the players will be partaking in club matches, the U6's have been working hard on their passing and tackling and can't wait to represent the club next season!

### U8

U8's are developing well this season. In games they apply the skills they have learnt to defend well. They often claim enough tags to force a turn over. They have also won most of their games, showing that they can score as well as they defend. The squad of 16 includes players since U6 as well as new players during this season. They play well together and are developing into a great team. Many are very keen to start in U9's and begin tackling their opponents.

### U9

U9's are growing from strength to strength with over 20 players in the squad. The performances this season have been excellent with the majority of fixtures end in victories. The continued improvement in team play both in attack and defence has been most pleasing and bodes well for the rest of the season. The group have really adapted to tackling and 'show no fear' when playing against some physically bigger teams.

An end of season tour to Norfolk and taking part in the Norwich festival will be a good test for the players to round off what has been a fun season.

### U10

The U10's have had a phenomenal season to date. The outstanding performances have been in the Prima Cup (run by Leicester Tigers & Prima Solutions) which is a series of festivals held around the country to celebrate the true ethos of rugby's core values. Throughout the duration of these festivals the Tigers will be looking to identify clubs who demonstrate the teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship of the game under our event criteria in keeping with RFU Age Grade Regulations and guidelines.

They will be playing at Welford Road in the shield finals on 26th April after the Tigers home match. The first 'Gate team to play at Welford Road in a final since 1988!

### U11

The mighty U11's have so far had a great season winning almost all of our matches. We have 19 boys registered who all, week on week, come up, train hard and play some great rugby, and above all have fun being with mates in the mud! A tour to Norfolk in April where we will be in the Norwich RFC festival.



### U12

The U12's have a very strong squad of 24 players representing seven different local schools. We have continued our brilliant form from last season into this season and remain unbeaten, recently defeating local rivals Oakham and S&L from Corby. The players and parents are looking forward to our tour to Harrogate in April.

### U14

The squad of 20 have had a tough season so far playing some physically bigger and stronger teams, e.g. Stamford and Loughborough, but we have held our own. Whilst we have won two of nine matches, the squad have shown great camaraderie with good numbers at mid-week and weekend training. The recent victory over Vipers showed real belief in their abilities and bodes well for the remainder of the season.

We are looking forward to touring in Norfolk where we are playing North Walsham.

### U15

The squad play in the East Midlands League where there are fixtures against the likes of Rushden, Peterborough, Wellingborough, Brackley & St Neots. The team are currently in third place. The age group had a good run in the County Plate competition and narrowly lost to Coalville 14-7 in the semi-final. Biggest achievement is having played Oadby Wyggs three times now – September lost comfortably, December lost 25-15, January plate quarter-final won 41-12.

Coached by Ian Dunckley, Ed Dee and Andy Wagstaffe.

### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY  
10

ANNUAL PRESENTATION DAY

**POSTPONED**  
PLEASE MONITOR THE WEBSITE &  
FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES





# 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 1st XV 1986-87



BLAST FROM THE PAST

## UNDERS & OVERS 2019

The fourth annual competition for the Ed Farmer Memorial Trophy took place on the 21st December. Yet again this proved to be a great day out for good rugby, friendship, and socialising. In a departure from the norm the Unders stole the day, although there is a call for birth certificates to be produced next year. Huge thanks go to Willie Carr for organising and all of the events sponsors who make the day possible and such fun.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

**10-12**

**SALCOMBE SEVENS TOUR**

Details from Nigel Bromwich  
([Nigel@bromwichfinancial.co.uk](mailto:Nigel@bromwichfinancial.co.uk))

FRIDAY

JUNE

**19**

**SUMMER BALL**

@ The Falcon Uppingham  
Tables of 10. Details from Pip Herbert  
([p.herbert1@btinternet.com](mailto:p.herbert1@btinternet.com))

For a full fixture list, visit our website: [stoneygatfc.co.uk/fixtures](http://stoneygatfc.co.uk/fixtures)

### STONEYGATE FOOTBALL CLUB

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