

STONEYGATE FOOTBALL CLUB



THE MIGHTY GATE SINCE 1888

ISSUE NO 4, AUTUMN 2021

RUGBY IS BACK ...

13 JULY the RFU announced that contact training can start from **19 JULY** and that the new season is set to start as 'normal' in September 2021.



What a relief, since Rugby stopped in March 2020 the club has been reacting in the pre-scribed way to all the advice coming from the RFU which has inevitably led to very few competitive matches and sporadic training for the Seniors, with the Juniors faring a little better. At the time when players could really do with the sporting game which offers them so much, it has been particularly hard for all, and

the loyalty and dedication of coaches who have trained all through the virus restrictions when permitted has been brilliant. As the Committee plans the new season with great anticipation, this update gives you a flavour of what has been going on since 2020, and our thanks to all those who have contributed in the interim. Roll on September!

James Walker, *Club President*

2020 HONOURS



Player of the Year, Connor Griggs

Player of the Year	Connor Griggs
Team of the Year	Under 10's
Young Player	Olly Ward
President's Salver	Willie Carr
Chairman's Plate	Cillian Brugha
Clubman	Werner Resslerer



Chairman's Plate



Team of the Year



President's Salver



Clubman



BREAKING NEWS ...

JUNIOR SEASON STARTS SEPTEMBER 5TH / 'PITCH UP FOR RUGBY' SEPTEMBER 12TH
VISIT THE CLUB WEBSITE WWW.STONEYGATEFC.CO.UK FOR UPDATES AND DETAILS

NEW PLAYERS WELCOME

At Stoneygate FC we have a thriving mini and junior section running training and matches for children from 5 to 16 years old in a fun and friendly atmosphere.

We have worked hard throughout the last 15 months to ensure that kids who want to play have a home at the Gate. A frustrating end to the 2019-20 season with Lockdown 1 was followed by a reorganisation of timings to ensure rugby could go ahead when the season started in September. All coaches had to abandon their usual methods and come up with fresh ideas for coaching as the RFU imposed strict rules on what was allowed. All did so with great success and it was a delight to see two large groups of children playing rugby across two Sunday morning sessions.

Lockdown 2 suspended rugby again, but on restarting the enthusiasm of the kids was undimmed. Lockdown 3 prevented the much awaited return of fixtures against other clubs, but by the last month of the season, extended to finish in May instead of the usual April, we were able to get back on to the pitch and play against other clubs.

The key attitude of the players, coaches and parents is that the pandemic hit us but it didn't break us. Time and again we came back up to UCC and ended the season with the minimum of having been able to keep everything going through a very difficult period.

We hope to welcome new players at all age groups and invite any child interested in rugby to come along and try it out. If you like, stick around, play a game and make some great friends.

Going forward a key issue is parental involvement. We need volunteers to help us with recruitment, first aid, social media, and coaches need help with team management. Please let your age group coach if you can help, even in a small way.



UP THE GATE

U6

This season we managed to have a good average turn of 14 children for each session and it has been a joy to watch them getting introduced to the game. Due to the shortened session we made the decision to concentrate the majority of the time getting the kids to enjoy themselves and learn through fun, all the games that we play with the children have aspects of the game that have part of the fundamentals of rugby hidden with



in them, whether this is ball carrying or passing to finding space there is positive signs that what they learn in the games we play we can easily transfer over to playing rugby with structure, the U6 Parents have been great at giving a hand to help reinforce the rules of play and to offer the little one encouragement. We have been impressed with what they learned in a short time and look forward to seeing what they can deliver in a full session. Well done the Under 6 Team.

U7

The U7s obviously had a fragmented year but there lots of smiling faces playing lots of good tag rugby. The main thing any club wants to see for kids of this age is happy kids running around with a rugby ball and we got plenty of that when we were allowed! Everyone is looking forward to moving up to U8s and hopefully being able to play some fixtures and wear the gate shirt with pride.

U8

There are low numbers in the U8 age group but with hopes numbers post pandemic will improve the age group trained along with the U7s, and did so with a smile.



U9

The U9's have managed to make the most out of this last season, focusing on open space play to replace the lack of contact and polishing individual skills such as passing and handling. We are certainly looking forward to the new season and hoping to play some matches with the neighbouring clubs.

U10

For a very fragmented season the U10's have been brilliant keeping a high level of enthusiasm and focus during training sessions. The squad and stayed together and worked hard at learning new skills and playing as a team. This has been rewarded by two excellent performances in matches towards the end of the season. In both matches victories were achieved with some great team tries and solid defensive walls. Congratulations to all the players for their commitment and drive to improve throughout the season.

U11

The pandemic has caused the U11s to miss a lot of rugby, including playing a match in the Prima Cup final at Welford Road in front a full Welford Road before a Tigers match. This fell victim to the pandemic, along with regular fixtures. However, the U11s continued to develop their skills at training sessions when they were possible, and at the end of the season produced excellent performances against Leicester Forest and Melton with their desire to move the ball around and score tries from anywhere being evident. The season was capped off with an appearance at Welford Road (behind closed doors) for a training session on the main pitch and a match against Tamworth under the Ready for Rugby rules, which were unfamiliar but fun. The match was a friendly with both sides being awarded trophies for their efforts in the Cup the previous season. Well done to all for their dedication over a very difficult period and for creating some special memories.

U12

Funny old season this season, what we can all say is that the squad stuck together, faces came and went and some came back again! A small squad of 15 but a huge squad in terms of tenacity, physicality, energy and togetherness. This shone through in the very physical



matches we played in May against Oundle, Melton and Stewarts & Lloyds. We finished the season with the Land Rover Cup competition organised by Leicester Tigers and played at Brooksby College. We played Old Laurentians, Oakham and Loughborough under Ready 4 Rugby rules. Great fun on a warm day and tested the teams skills and speed to adapt to new rules. Looking forward to a full season starting in September and proper scrums and mauling!

U13

Stoneygate u13s once restrictions allowed returned to training Thursday evenings and Sundays mornings with a regular turnout of 29 players supported by a group of 6 coaches. The team continues to play an exciting brand fast, aggressive rugby and have developed a wonderful team spirit. We concluded the season with away games against Newark, Leics Lions, Ashby, Peterborough and Melton Mowbray home and away. And to round the season off the parents and players curry evening in Uppingham was a great success. Thanks to Stephen and Will for sorting the bar bill.

U14

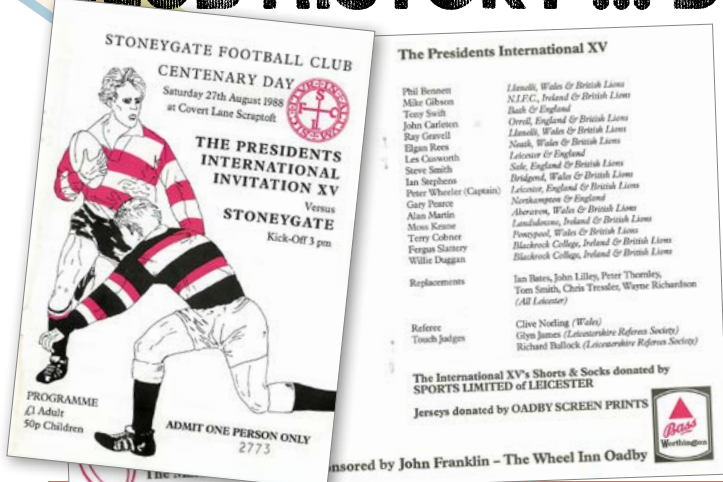
A lack of players has meant that Gate is unable to field an U14 side, but the solid base provided to those in the age group over several years meant they were able to play up a year for the U15s proving that even where numbers are low Gate can still provide rugby for all.

U15

It has been a difficult season for the U15s with only short windows to play touch rugby (although 47 tries in a match against Ashby must some sort of record!). The introduction of Thursday evening training and to meet some of the senior players who train at the same time was a great confidence boost and an opportunity for them to get to know folk as they hopefully turn out for the seniors in the coming years. As lockdown restrictions allowed us to play rugby once again we played a 3 way 7's tournament at Oundle along with Stamford. Final match of the day allowed us to merge with Oundle to play against a strong Stamford team. A special day for all those that attended ... thanks to the club, the boys were chuffed to receive a 'Gate' sponsored ball at the end of the day.



CLUB HISTORY ... DID YOU KNOW?



Stoneygate FC is one of the longest established clubs in England and celebrated its Centenary Year in 1988 in style by playing a Presidents XV packed with Internationals and British Lions. Can you guess the total number of Caps and Lions in the side? Answers to president@stoneygatefc.co.uk. All correct answers will go into a draw for a £100 Sports Kit Voucher.

CAPS **LIONS** **TOTAL**

WANTED ... MOVEMBER



£1,208

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED



STONEYGATE DEBUT AT TWICKENHAM

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (PROVISIONAL)

SEPTEMBER 11	SUMMER BALL @THE FALCON Details: cillian.brugha@gmail.com
SEPTEMBER 11	FIRST MATCH V KETTERING (A)
DECEMBER 27	OVERS & UNDERS

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

AFTER ALL COVID RESTRICTIONS LIFTED



STONEYGATE FOOTBALL CLUB

Uppingham Community College, London Road, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9TJ
web: stoneygatefc.co.uk | email: newsletter@stoneygatefc.co.uk

Founded in 1961, Lycetts has grown to become one of the UK's leading independently-operated insurance brokers. We specialise in farm and estate insurance but also provide bespoke financial services, commercial and bloodstock insurance advice.

With 60 years' experience sourcing tailored cover for the rural community, we have a deep understanding of the issues, risks and challenges faced by our clients. Most of our 16 offices across the UK are situated in rural or market town locations.

At Lycetts, we take great pride in the superior levels of service which we offer to all our clients. We know you always have a choice of insurance partner, so we strive to make sure our claims handling is second to none.

A recent customer satisfaction survey bears witness to the tremendous effort made by our account and claims managers to make your life as easy as possible.

*97% of clients are satisfied with the service we provided.
99% of clients feel we treat them fairly at renewal.
100% of clients are satisfied with our friendliness,
professionalism and level of product knowledge.*

We are able to achieve these results by giving our clients the time they need with us, when they need it the most. Our account and claims managers are there for our clients every step of the way.

In an increasingly competitive sector we believe that our understanding of our clients' requirements is what sets us apart. This is achieved primarily from employing experienced practitioners in their fields and people who understand the sectors they operate in.

Please see overleaf for our range of Products and Services.

Rural

We advise estates, farmers and land-owners on the complex insurance requirements of rural enterprise – from buildings to specialist machinery and diversified businesses. With our extensive experience in farming and rural business, we can provide flexible insurance solutions no matter what your specialism.

Commercial

From construction and forestry to membership organisations and renewable energy – our cover is individually designed for you to suit your business needs. We understand the complex needs of covering specialist equipment and protecting you from the unexpected.

Home, Motor & Marine

We can advise you on the detailed insurance requirements involved in making sure your home, vehicle and treasured possessions are properly protected. Whether you own a rural retreat or a Georgian townhouse, a classics sports car or inherited family heirlooms and antique collections, we will make sure you have the right cover to suit your unique circumstances.

Equine

Specialist insurance to cover all types of horse and equestrian activities including racing, breeding and equine sports. So whether you run a livery yard or a stud farm, enjoy polo or point-to-point, we have the expertise to know exactly what cover you need and what you don't.

Financial Advice

Our financial advisers can provide advice on all aspects of wealth management, including inheritance tax, retirement planning, long term investments and protecting your family or business. We offer financial planning solutions to both corporate and personal clients.

Risk Management

We will help you identify and mitigate risks which pose a threat to the commercial viability of your business and offer a "competent adviser" service together with more specific support and guidance on the ever changing legal and regulatory landscape.



For a review of your insurance please contact Will Kendrick

07920 331592 | will.kendrick@lycetts.co.uk | www.lycetts.co.uk