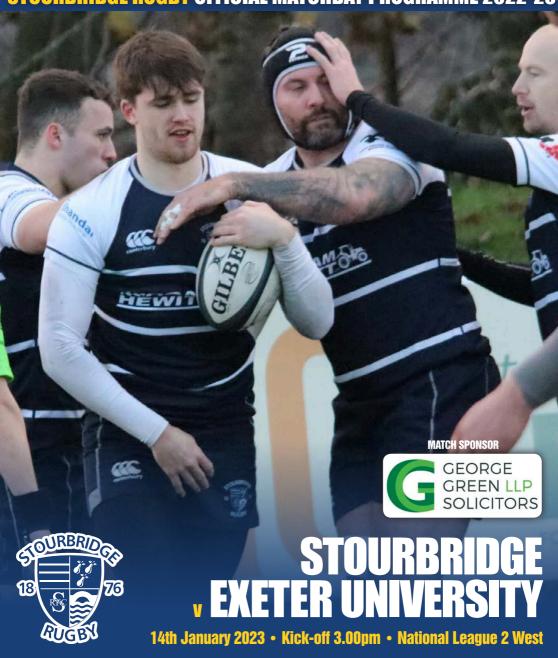
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Welcome to Stourton Park, the home of Stourbridge Rugby Club. We hope that you enjoy your time here with us and look forward to seeing you again in the future.

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Welcome to Stourton Park

STOURBRIDGE RFC, STOURTON PARK, BRIDGNORTH ROAD, STOURTON, STOURBRIDGE DY7 6QZ

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Over 20 Years of League Rugby

STOURVIEW

PROGRAMME EDITOR: MILES EDGE

Photographs: CERI DAVIES, PAUL DAVIDSON and ANDY COOK

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The President

After another tough weekend last time out for our sides, today the first fifteen entertain Exeter University.

The Lions had a tough away day last week at Stafford, and here at home, the first's ran second in the League Clifton close with the match cut short due to a serious leg break for the Clifton scrum half Danny Openshaw. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Some exciting additions to the squad and the evergreen Robbie Hurrell giving us real hope for a much better second half of the season

Watch this space and let us keep up the great support that we saw last weekend.

We welcome Mid-table Exeter today and let us hope that we can give them a good run and start to improve our position.

Off the field, we had a successful New Year's Eve party, and I thank again all of those who were instrumental in organising this.

Over Christmas, the Committee and a few volunteers took to the areas of the ground that have needed a bit of TLC for many years, weeding the pitch, cleaning the stands, and moving tons of leaves.

I thank the volunteers, and would give special Mention to Cody Cheshire and Jackson Wall, two youngsters from our Junior sections who gave up their holiday and Christmas time to come and help us in the rain. Both boys are invited to meet the players and run out with the team as a thank you.

Cody joined us last week and Jackson today. Future Club Captains I would think.

As a committee we meet every week and discuss many things. Fundraising for the club and events for our members are important to us.

We have a great Idea for May which I think will be brilliant for all members and their children. I will just keep my powder dry on this one for a week or two, but we are really excited about how we can use the Marquee in May on the

Saturday after the Corporate lunch.
Watch this space.

Regarding the Corporate
Lunch, our esteemed
Chairman has once again
pulled out the stops and
secured Mike Gatting and
Matt Dawson to speak
at the event. Invitations
will be going out in
February, and if you have any
questions, please give Miles a
call.

If you have any Ideas for other events, I would be really pleased to have a chat. Should we have a Greek Night, a Curry Night, a comedy night? I would love to hear your ideas. My mobile number is – 07523961690.

Good luck to all our teams today, thank you to our coaches and volunteers as always and hope to see you in the club for a beer after the game.

Rich

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Director's Cut



Welcome to Stourton Park...

We are fortunate to have a second game of the season at home following our defeat to Clifton last weekend. The game was competitive despite the huge gap in league positions and had it not been for a poor kicking decision in the last minute of the first half and two missed tackles in the first minute of the second half we would have very much been in the contest. The game was halted with 14 minutes to go due to a very serious injury to the Clifton scrum half Danny Openshaw and our best wishes go to him from all the players, staff and supporters at Stourbridge RFC.

Clifton deserve their position in the league and were strong, clinical and worthy of their second top spot. Although we have recruited some strong additions to the back line over Christmas, we still lack a recognised fly-half, with both Matt Moseley and Michael Heaney covering the key position for the last two outings. However, at level four our frailties are easily found out and the importance of the orchestration of that command position cannot be underestimated. At the time of writing this dilemma will hopefully have been addressed by today and hopefully we can put round pegs in round holes

On the injury front both our recognised fly-halves Mike Penn and Chris Scott are still recovering from their respective broken legs. Ben O'Sullivan is awaiting surgery on his leg. Arthur Morgan shoulder injury has flared up again and Will Roach and Jacob Dennison are struggling with a groin and concussion issues respectively. Matt Perks, Alex Maxwell and Mike Worthington all have long term work commitments, but we are getting there on numbers and should see Will and Chris back in the

mix by the end of the month.

Our opponents today Exeter University have fared well this season, as have all the University sides who can draw on huge player pools and resources. This is good for the game as when these talented players leave University, they populate the National Leagues in their respective hometowns. We played well at Exeter earlier in the season but during the last 15 minutes we let the result run away from us. We view this game this afternoon as a vital encounter to re-boot our season and want to build on the many positives from last week, so please get behind the boys this afternoon. We will need every voice behind us over the

Enjoy the day...

Mitch

next eleven games.

Neil Mitchell, Director of Rugby





Player Q&A with...

Arron Hackett

DATE OF BIRTH: 1st July 2004

POSITION: Tight Head prop

HEIGHT: 6'11" WEIGHT: 110kg

NICKNAME: Hacks

PREVIOUS CLUBS:

Stourbridge since Under 12's

WHAT/WHO MADE YOU PLAY AT

STOURBRIDGE: Spencer Bailey

TOUGHEST OPPONENT:

Beechen Cliff School in ACE semi-finals

BEST SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT:

Playing Rugby Sevens at Rosslyn Park

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Standing naked in a pub when someone stole my clothes

someone stole my clotnes

WHAT WOULD YOU PUT INTO

ROOM 101: Footballers

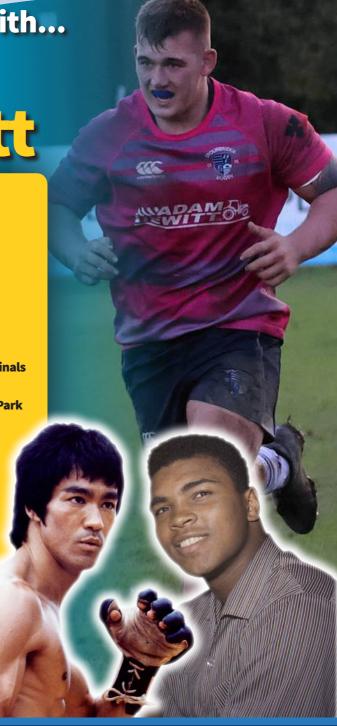
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DINNER PARTY: Tyson Fury,

Muhammad Ali.

Bruce Lee, Stefan Thorp

and my Dad









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We welcome today's opponents...

Exeter University RFC

Contributed by **Dave Garratt**

We extend a very warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Exeter University Rugby Club. They are yet another club making their first ever visit to Stourton Park. This season's restructuring of the leagues has certainly seen some new faces visiting Stourton Park. Including today we have played eight home games so far this season and six of them have been against opponents we have never met before in a league fixture.

Topsham

Exeter play their home games at the University of Exeter Topsham Sport Ground, four miles south east of Exeter city centre. Topsham (population 5,500) is a village-sized town in Devon in the district of Exeter, sitting on the east side of the River Exe, between Exeter and Exmouth. Topsham's position, offering a sheltered harbour to seagoing trade, enabled it to thrive as a port and a centre for both fishing and shipbuilding. There are many Dutch-style houses dating from its time as a cotton port. Many of these houses are built using Dutch bricks, brought over as ballast from the Netherlands as wool was exported to the Netherlands. After a period of decline over the first half of the 20th century, Topsham has increasingly become a desirable and high-value residential location. In addition to it's architecture the town is of interest for its proximity to nature reserves for wading and migrating birds, such as RSPB Bowling Green Marsh on the Exe Estuary, the whole of which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

History of Exeter University Rugby Club

The origins of the Exeter University Rugby Football Club can be traced back to the old teams of St Luke's College, founded in 1839. The first rugby match took place in 1860 against Exeter Grammar School. By 1872, Exeter Rugby Football Club had been formed and the club's inaugural match was against St Luke's College. By the 1950s college rugby in the United Kingdom had become a major influence upon the game as a whole.

In 1957, Devon won the County Championship with St. Luke's providing six members of the team. The 1960s and 1970s witnessed regular fixtures between St Luke's College and clubs such as Bristol, Gloucester, Rosslyn Park and Wasps.

Annual matches, home and away, against Loughborough College were established in 1969. These games ensured that both sides would be remembered as two of the most powerful student rugby clubs. In 1978 St Luke's College amalgamated with the University of Exeter. Much of their success and anticipated success can be attributed to the University's Sports Scholarship recruitment drive and the close links that have been forged with the premiership team, Exeter Chiefs RFC.

Exeter University

Exeter University has four campuses: Streatham and St Luke's (both in Exeter); and Truro and Penryn (both in Cornwall). The University ranks in the top 20 in many UK rankings and is one of the UK's elite Russell Group of research-intensive universities. Exeter University Athletic Union is the organization responsible for administering all aspects of sporting activity at the university. Activities range from recreational sport to competitive fixtures at local, national, and international level. The AU runs 50 Sports Clubs which facilitates, amongst other sports, rugby union, association football, American football, hockey, lacrosse, cricket, netball, golf, rowing and sailing.

...continued over

Exeter University RFC

A Warm Welcome (continued)

Exeter University and the Leagues

The university entered the league pyramid a fair way down the tiered system.

Successive championship winning seasons: Devon 2 in 2011-12, and Devon 1 in 2012-13 brought them upwards to play at level 7, in Western Counties West. Two further successive promotion campaigns in 2016-17 and 2017-18 elevated them to level 5 rugby in the South West Premier league.

Last season they completed their remarkable rise through six levels of the league structure to achieve National league status by winning the South West Premier and tier 4 rugby. The restructuring of the leagues at level 4 in readiness for this season saw them placed in National Two West where we meet today.

Main Honours:-

South West Premier Champions: 2021-22 South West 1 Promotion Play-off winner: 2017-18 Western Counties West Champions: 2016-17 Cornwall/Devon Champions: 2013-14 Devon 1 Champions: 2012-13

Devon 2 Champions: 2011-12

Earlier This Season

Stourbridge travelled to Topsham in September to face Exeter University for the inaugural league game between the teams. Exeter had started the season with three straight wins whist Stour had suffered three straight defeats. Exeter quickly changed those records to four wins and four defeats as they out scored Stour by seven tries to four in a 45-24 victory. Two late tries secured the win that made Exeter the early league leaders while leaving Stour in the bottom spot.

Today's Game

We continue our start to the New Year with a second successive home game against a team having a much more successful season than ourselves. Our new league visitors to Stourton Park will present us with a serious challenge. Whilst we wish the best of luck to our visitors we need Stourbridge to extract pay back

for our earlier defeat at Topsham, and deliver us the much needed points a win would bring.

Exeter University RFC and Exeter Chiefs RFC

During Exeter Chiefs recent rise to the Premiership and ultimately the Premiership title, the success of the university teams have not gone unnoticed. The Chiefs have stuck to their roots in producing top-class players from their own academies, with Exeter University RFC sitting high in their pecking order.

Tony Rowe OBE, Chairman and Chief Executive of Exeter Rugby Club has been a driving force in the development of the working relationship between the Chiefs and the University of Exeter. Rob Baxter, Director of Rugby at Exeter Chiefs and former Head Coach of the University's rugby club, has recognised and praised the University's contribution to the professional programme.

In order to maintain continuity and a clear pathway between the two clubs, Chiefs provide player coaches to each of the University's 10 BUCS sides, with former player Haydn Thomas heading both the University's 1st XV and Exeter Braves. He gained 211 caps for Exeter Chiefs as they rose through to the Premiership. Some of the University players make it to the Chiefs' Premiership side include internationals such as: -Henry Slade (England) Sam Skinner (Scotland), Jack Maunder (England), Christ Tshiunza (Wales) Sam Maunder and Richard Capstick (both England U20).

Today's Fixtures

Stourbridge v Exeter University Loughborough Students v Hornets Redruth v Hinckley Barnstaple v Newport Leicester Lions v Luctonians Bournville v Dings Crusaders Clifton v O Redcliffians



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George Green is delighted to act as Match Day sponsor at this afternoon's game. It is always a great pleasure to support local endeavour, especially where it involves commitment, passion and a love of what you do which I expect to see in abundance on the field of play today. George Green is proud to support Stourbridge Rugby Club and looks forward to continuing their association with the club for many vears to come.

David Stevenson, Chief Executive, George Green LLP

Match Officials

Referee: Mr. James Dowds Assistant Referees: Mr. Mark Summerhaves and Mr. Adrian Holmes

We welcome James to his second visit to Stourton Park having overseen our 25-54 loss to Loughborough Students on September 10th. 28 year old James is a Project Manager who played No. 8 for Beaconsfield RFC. He took up the whistle back in 2008. Yet to join the National Panel he is on the National League Match Official Team (NLMOT). His career highlight was to represent the Buckinghamshire Society on exchange to Minnesota.

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Lunches are held before every home game. Guests are welcome. Prior reservations are advised. For further information on any of our events contact the Club on 01384 395000 or see the events section of our website at www.stourbridgerugby.com

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Stourbridge

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MARK GEORGE **JACK LEA CHAD THORNE ROBBIE HURRELL GARIN STANDING JASPER SMITH LOUIS MIFSUD NIGEL MUKARATI**

BENCH FROM...

TOM RIMAN STEF THORP **BEN MEAKING JOSH OLVER**

OLI CLARE ADAM STURDY

TOM LUCAS

HAYDEN LINK

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Stourbridge

Saturday 28th January

Sheets

Exeter University

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BENJY JOSELAND

ARCHIE HILL

ZACK WIMBUSH

HUGO HUGHES

SAM WALKER

NIALL ARMSTONG

JACOB MORRIS

OLIVER WEBB

TOM GULLEY

JOE BAILEY

MILO HALLAM

WILLIAM DE BOEHMLER

SAM HIGGINSON

JOSH THORNE

BENCH FROM...

ELLIOT YOUNG

JARED WILLIAMS

RONAN KELLY

JAGO BAILEY

TOBY FERGUSON

change after printing of programme

e v Hinckley

2023 - Kick off 3.00pm

Forthcoming Events...

Saturday January 21st

Join us on a trip to the seaside... we are off to sunny Weston-Super-Mare to see the First XV play Hornets. Put your name on the notice board or email Rich Baron: richardbaron806@vahoo.com











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Around the Leagues Contributed by



ast week's loss against a strong Clifton side means that we are now 11 points adrift of Bournville and Barnstaple with only 11 games remaining. This is partly courtesy of a five point deduction for failing to fulfil our away fixture against Leicester Lions. There are a glut of teams above us around the 20 point mark so, if we can string together some wins over the next few weeks all is not vet totally lost, Hopefully our significant injury problems will improve and help give us some relief.

At the top of the table Leicester Lions now hold an 11 point lead ahead of Clifton with Hinckley and Redruth a further 4 points behind.

Top Scorers

Matt Moseley is our top try scorer with 11 followed by Jack Lea on 9 and Arthur Morgan on 6. Mike Heaney has now been able to resume kicking duties so hopefully our conversion percentages will now return to normal.

Other Midland Teams

In the Championship, Coventry had a fine win at Nottingham on Boxing Day and are now comfortably in third place.
Ealing's lead at the top has been cut to only two points over Jersey.
Ealing lost for the first time this season last week at Caldy – never

an easy place to visit.

In National One, Moseley lost at an improving Esher last week but are comfortably in ninth place – well clear of a relegation spot. This league is led by Sale who are four points ahead of Rams but have played one game more. Three teams will be relegated from this league due to the fact that there are now three feeder leagues from National Two. The bottom three are currently Hull, Leeds and Taunton.

In the other two National Two leagues the current pacesetters are Sedgley Park, closely followed by Fylde in the North and Blackheath who are well clear of Old Albanian in the East.

In the Midlands leagues, DK are six points ahead of Bridgnorth

at the top of Regional One Midlands. The leaders in Regional One South West (the other feeder league to ours) are Cambourne. Stourbridge Lions lost at Stafford last week and are four points behind Uttoxeter at the bottom of their table and have played two games more.

Today's Fixtures

Apart from our game against Exeter today, leaders Leicester Lions entertain Luctonians whilst of the other teams at the bottom end of the table, Bournville are at home against Dings and Barnstaple are at home against Newport.

LEAGUE TA	BLI	E - :	SS	EΝ	atio	nal	Leag	ue 2	2 W	est	
Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	А	PD	ТВР	LBP	Points	Adj
LEICESTER LIONS	14	13	0	1	449	258	191	13	1	66	0
CLIFTON	14	11	0	3	533	266	267	11	0	55	0
HINCKLEY	13	10	1	2	378	299	79	9	0	51	0
REDRUTH	14	10	0	4	512	325	187	10	1	51	0
DINGS	13	10	0	3	409	336	73	9	1	50	0
LUCTONIANS	14	9	0	5	442	229	213	9	3	48	0
EXETER UNIVERSITY	13	9	0	4	403	359	44	8	1	45	0
LOUGHBOROUGH STU	15	5	2	8	484	471	13	12	6	42	0
OLD REDCLIFFIANS	12	5	0	7	319	375	-56	7	2	29	0
HORNETS	14	3	0	11	354	488	-134	7	4	23	0
NEWPORT	14	3	0	11	278	556	-278	7	3	22	0
BARNSTAPLE	14	4	0	10	233	412	-179	3	2	21	0
BOURNVILLE	15	2	1	12	324	529	-205	6	5	21	0
STOURBRIDGE	15	1	0	14	329	544	-215	7	2	8	-5



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Stour Stats Season 2022-23 - after 15 games

				F	A
3rd September	REDRUTH (3.00pm)	Away	Lost	8	43
10th September	LOUGHBOROUGH STUDENTS (3.00pm)	Home	Lost	25	54
17th September	CLIFTON (2.30pm)	Away	Lost	19	59
24th September	EXETER UNIVERSITY (2.00pm)	Away	Lost	24	45
1st October	HORNETS (3.00pm)	Home	Won	55	25
15th October	HINCKLEY (3.00pm)	Away	Lost	24	40
22nd October	NEWPORT (SALOP) (3.00pm)	Home	Lost	27	37
29th October	LUCTONIANS (3.00pm)	Away	Lost	19	36
5th November	DINGS CRUSADERS (3.00pm)	Home	Lost	24	29
12th November	OLD REDCLIFFIANS (2.00pm)	Away	Lost	27	50
26th November	BOURNVILLE (3.00pm)	Home	Lost	29	34
3rd December	LEICESTER LIONS (2.00pm)	Away	Cancelled		
10th December	BARNSTAPLE (3.00pm)	Home	Lost	15	31
17th December	LOUGHBOROUGH STUDENTS (2.00pm)	Away	Lost	21	35
7th January	CLIFTON (3.00pm)	Home	Lost	12	27
14th January	EXETER UNIVERSITY (3.00pm)	Home			
21st January	HORNETS (2.30pm)	Away			
28th January	HINCKLEY (3.00pm)	Home			
18th February	NEWPORT (SALOP) (2.15pm)	Away			
25th February	LUCTONIANS (3.00pm)	Home			
4th March	DINGS CRUSADERS (3.00pm)	Away	71	A.E.	AY
11th March	OLD REDCLIFFIANS (3.00pm)	Home			
25th March	BOURNVILLE (2.30pm)	Away	/ 11 -		
1st April	LEICESTER LIONS (3.00pm)	Home			11/
15th April	BARNSTAPLE (3.00pm)	Away		102	
22nd April	REDRUTH (3.00pm)	Home			

Player Stats 2022-23

A 100 S	Арр	Rep	Tries	Cons	Pens	Drops	Pts
ASHLEY-BECK, Mark	1						0
BITIRIM, Timothy	4		4	6	. Sep \$186.5		32
BRIDGWATER, Findlay	6	4					0
CLARE, Oliver	1	1					0
CLARK, Callum	3	2					0
GEORGE, Mark	13		2				10
GILDERSON, William	1					2133311	0
GITTOES, Ollie	9	2	1				5
HACKETT, Arron	4	4					0
HEANEY, Michael	12	1	1	7			19
HEARD, Archie	1		1	2			9
HURRELL, Robbie	4						0
KUCERA, Billy	2						0
LEA, Jack	13	17/1	9				45
LINK, Hayden	6	1					0
LUCAS, Thomas	9	2	2				10
MAXWELL, Alex	5	5					0
McLEOD, Clarkson	8	7					0
MEAKIN, Ben	7	1					0
MIFSUD, Louis	10	1					0
MOORE, Ciaran	1						0
MORGAN, Arthur	9		6				30
MORRISON, Dmitri	1	1					0
MOSELEY, Matt	13		11	5	1		68
MUKARATI, Nigel	10		3				15
OLVER, Josh	3	2	1				5
OPUKO-FORDJOUR, Asher	3	2	1				5
ORORO, Dallas	7	1	3				15
O'SULLIVAN, Ben	11	6					0
PENN, Michael	5			6	2		18
PERKS, Matt	2						0
PIGGOTT-DENISON, Jacob	8	6					0
PRITCHARD, Rhys	3						0
RIMAN, Thomas	1	1					0
ROACH, William	7		1				5
RUNDLE, Dan	6		1				5
SCOTT, Chris	1				1		3
SMITH, Jasper	4		2				10
STANDING, Garin	6						0
STURDY, Adam	4	3					0
THORNE, Chad	11	1					0
THORP, Stefan	12	2	3				15
WALKER, Joey	7		1				5
WILSON, Sam	11		1				5
TOTALS			54	26	4	0	334



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