

STOKE GABRIEL & TORBAY POLICE FC

Stoke Gabriel & Torbay Police FC amalgamated three years ago when the Stoke club were struggling with volunteers and the Torbay Police club were looking for better facilities for both their senior and youth teams. Everyone involved with the new club feel that the move has been beneficial and the new club is growing in strength on and off the field.

Formed in the early 1900's, Stoke Gabriel Football Club had relied on the generosity of local farmers to provide a ground during which the changing rooms remained in the village where both the schoolroom and an old army hut were utilised.

In 1981 the club purchased land in Broadley Lane and developed a sloping field into our current home, the Speedwell Kia G.J. Churchward Memorial Ground, named in honour of the Great Western Railway Chief Engineer who was born in Stoke Gabriel. The ground was officially opened in 1984 with a visit from Torquay United.

TEAMS

We have three senior teams - one in South West Peninsula League, Reserves in South Devon Football League and a Ladies team who play in the Devon Women's Football League and which started in 2023-2024 season. Senior men games are played on a Saturday and the Ladies on a Sunday.

Also 21 youth teams ranging from Under 7's to Under-18s and mini-kickers for under 6's on a Saturday morning. In youth football you start with 5-a-side, then 7-a-side, 9-a-side and from Under-13 to 11-a-side so a gradual process to adult football. They play in the Devon Football League U-18s League, Pioneer League and one team in the Devon Junior & Minor League. Matches are played on a Sunday at Broadley Lane (Mini, Youth and Senior) and the 9-a-side teams play at the pitch opposite Ramslade Holiday Camp.

GROUND AND FACILITIES

Much work has been done in the past two to three years improving the ground and facilities at Broadley Lane. The railings around the ground have been replaced and hold several advertising boards, the old changing rooms have been adapted to a second kitchen facility and improvement has been made to the bottom car parking area. Ongoing work at the moment is to improve the road leading up to the clubhouse and building a new stand which is a requirement to play in the SW Peninsula League.

Floodlights have been in place for five years which enables the club to play evening league games and host cup finals.

The clubhouse facility has been spruced up and a new floor laid to replace part of the carpeting area. The bar has four keg beers on tap and the usual bottles and spirits available and the kitchen serves food on most match days.

Devon Air Ambulance can land at football club at night because of a link with floodlights, land ambulance then makes access through gates. A vital facility for the village and surrounding areas.

HIRE OF CLUBHOUSE

Outside organisations can book the clubhouse for birthday parties, social events, weddings etc at a competitive rate. The club will provide staff for the bar and event organisers can use the kitchen for catering needs.

THE FUTURE

The club are looking to always encourage young people to participate in football at all age levels and also to make further ground improvements when funds allow. With the growing number of youth teams we desperately need a field which we could rent or purchase for 11-a-side game matches. We are rapidly expanding and outgrowing our facilities.

We are looking to have a season ticket for the SW Peninsula games to encourage residents of the village to come up and have a look at what is on offer at the club and watch the football match. We really wish to engage more with village to lure more locals through the gates and very much welcome suggestions on how we achieve that.

Please contact Secretary Tim Perrin on 07736 428296 or email tim@stokeandtorbaypolicefc.com for further information or to book the clubhouse.