**Sidmouth Town V Stoke Gabriel**

**Man of the match: Jordan Hopkins** (.)

**Stoke win opening game of season for first time in several years.**

Stoke , who haven't won on the opening day of the season for several years, started the first league game of the 13/14 season against a Sidmouth Town side who have only ever won fourteen games in the history of the league.

The visitors started the game well scoring after only two minutes when Jordan Hopkins scored after a neat little run past a couple of defenders to give the title favourites an early lead. After early play in the match it looked like there could be a thrashing on the cards but with the Sidmouth defence holding out it gave the Stoke strike partnership of Tim Porter and Gary Fisher a hard time.

Stoke doubled their lead after quarter of an hour when Gary Fisher headed home a Dave Worthington corner before Tim Porter's chip over Rob Powell in the Sidmouth goal fifteen minutes later almost guaranteed the away team going home with the three points. Sidmouth had their first major chance of the game just before half time but Andy Isaac could only direct his header wide.

Half Time: Sidmouth Town 0 Stoke Gabriel 3

Sidmouth woke up in the second half and scored early on when Andrew Lord scored from close range after a bit of a scrap in the penalty area. Si Laughton came closest for Stoke when he flicked the ball up before shooting narrowly wide.

Dave Worthington scored an early contender for goal of the season in the last minute of the match when he lobbed keeper Rob Powell into the top corner from distance to complete the game at 4-1.

A rare occasion for Stoke who managed to name a full subs bench and win on the opening day of the season that sent the five travelling supporters home happy.

Full Time: Sidmouth Town 1 Stoke Gabriel 4

Sidmouth Town: Rob Powell, Andrew Lord, Tony Cox, Alex Raistrick, Wes Tarr, Sam Baker, Dan Tavender, Ben Cole, Andy Isaac, Dan Norman, George Moore, Jimmy-Lee Shaw, Correy Couch, Ben Ede, Matt Rasmussen, Aaron Doble

Stoke Gabriel: Dom Aplin, Robbie Bowker, Jordan Hopkins, Gary Fisher, Craig Fenner, Si Laughton, Mark Ashworth, Dave Worthington, Tim Porter, Jamie Mills, Ryan O’Calloghan, Jake White, Ollie Booth, Shaun Bowden, Ben Towler, Dan Harmer,