**Exeter Uni V Stoke Gabriel**

**Man of the match: Steve Bowker**.

**Students suffer defeat at the hands of Stoke.**

Third in the table Stoke win at the Topsham Sports Ground thanks to an own goal and a Critchlow strike on Saturday the 15th of March.

After a very uneventful opening forty five minutes Stoke scored twice in the second half to take all three points back to the South Hams.

The game started off with most of the play in the centre of the field and not much entertainment in the sun of Topsham. Dave Worthington flicked the ball over the bar from a Dean Stevens cross and Stevens then hit high and wide a couple of minutes later.

Not much happening on the field of play made a couple of supporters watch a bit of the Rugby on the pitch behind. Tom Male put a right wing cross just wide for University to put an end to an uneventful first period.

The second half and changes needed to be made for both teams to improve what had been a rather drab affair.

Improvements came and three minutes into the second half the deadlock was finally broken. A Robbie Bowker free kick was converted into the back of the net by University defender Louis Bouwers for an own goal.

Stoke had a goal and the game started to brighten up. Dave Worthington, who scored four goals for Stoke seven days previously, shot just wide still searching for a goal.

An Olly Critchlow cross was pushed onto the knee of Dave Worthington and over from home keeper Christian Paulat-Brigg as Stoke pushed for a second. The second did come just after as Olly Critchlow fired into the net with power from a tight angle after Jowan Shainberg failed to clear a Worthington cross.

For the remaining thirty five minutes the Students looked for a way back into the game playing attacking football but still not troubling keeper Dom Aplin as Stoke maintained their advantage.

With Galmpton and Teignmouth drawing Stoke closed the gap on second in the table to just one point.

Uni: Christian Paulat-Briggs, Nick Thompson, Jowan Shainberg, Jim Micklem, Louis Bouwers, Tom Murray, Josh Higgins, Jack Jones, Tom Male, Toby Yeates, Myles Blenkinsop, Jesse Wilson, Pat Geddis, Niki Spaniol, ,

Stoke Gabriel: Dom Aplin, Jake White, Ryan O'Callaghan, Steve Bowker, Olly Critchlow, Mark Ashworth, Jordan Hopkins, Kris Davis, Dave Worthington, Robbie Bowker, Dean Stevens, Jamie Mills, Tim Porter, Matt Zadel