

## Players Court

6th December 2025  
Watch out for more info  
on the Players  
Whatsapp Group

## Next Fixture

6th December 2025  
Telford 2nds @ home  
KO 2:15pm  
Preceded by Vice  
Presidents Meal with Staffs  
RFU President, Mike Bezus!

## Club

## Xmas Party

20th December 2025  
5pm-10pm  
Holly Jolly Night!

## The Crawl Is Back!

The Pub Crawl returns  
27<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025  
Watch out for more info  
on social media!

### Function Room For Hire

 [essingtonrufc@gmail.com](mailto:essingtonrufc@gmail.com)

 @essingtonrugbyclub

 [essington\\_rugby\\_club](https://www.instagram.com/essington_rugby_club)

### Men's Contact Training

Mondays & Wednesdays  
@ 7.30pm

### Mixed Touch Training

Thursdays @ 7.30pm

### TOUR



### UPDATE

A date for tour has been decided.  
Put it in you calendar

**8<sup>th</sup> May - 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026.**

Destination : Burnham on Sea

Theme : Pirates

Virgin's Theme : Wenches

**HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR PLACE?**

**The £25 deposit needs to be paid  
before Christmas please.**

Tour is a chance to bond, have fun  
& build memories!

Get your name down — see what  
the tour can give to you!

**One Club. One Tour. One Family**

**31st December 2025**

BYOB

@ Essington Rugby Club  
from 7.30pm onwards

# ESSINGTON RUFC NEWSLETTER



December 2025



*Santa's Coming!*

**To ERUFC'S**   
**Christmas Fayre!**

*Sunday 14th December*

*10:00-15:00*

**Book your visit  
to Santa's Grotto!**



**Hot Food and Drinks  
Craft Stalls  
Tombola  
Personalised Items**

**ESSINGTON RUGBY CLUB, HIGH HILL, ESSINGTON, WV11 2DW**

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/essington-rugby-club>

**Book a time here slot to see Father Christmas!**

## 🎄 Essington Rugby Club Christmas Party - 20th December

Essington Rugby Club is hosting its own Christmas Party at the club on 20th December, from 5pm to 10pm.

Come along to visit Father Christmas, enjoy games and fun activities, and get together with friends and fellow members for a festive evening.

We ask that attendees bring an item of food from our list- <https://forms.gle/fcxyi1FhsfS1A1NG7> to help make the party even more special.

Father Christmas will be there, let him know [here](#) if your child would like to see him & his elves can organise a present for them.

It's a great way to celebrate the season with the club - don't miss out!



## 🍺 Oktoberfest 2025 - What a Night!

Did you miss it? What a night of fun, food, and entertainment at Essington Rugby Club's Oktoberfest!

The event was a fantastic success, and we're excited to announce it's already booked for next year:

**7th November 2026.**

 Put it in your diary now - you won't want to miss it!



## 🏉 Junior Rugby is Growing Every Sunday! ★

Junior rugby at Essington Rugby Club is building momentum every week — thanks to the hard work and dedication of our amazing coaches. We're welcoming young players in school years 10-13 to be part of something new and exciting at the club!

★ FREE to join — including a FREE Junior Membership!

📍 Essington Rugby Club, High Hill, Essington, WV11 2DW

📅 Every Sunday | 10:00-11:00 AM

It's the perfect chance to:

- ✓ Learn the game
- ✓ Get fit
- ✓ Make new friends
- ✓ Be part of a supportive team environment

No experience needed — just bring your enthusiasm and give rugby a go!

### **An Evening with Bill Beaumont, Fin Smith & Nick Mullins For the IPF**

Gerwyn was invited to this event and Dave Burgess went along as well. Gerwyn shares the evening with you:

*We had a great evening promoting the injured players Foundation (IPF), with about 150 other people at Birmingham Mosley rugby club.*

*The evening was hosted by BBC and TNT commentator Nick Mullins. He first chatted to members of the IPF and an injured player, to explain the work that they do.*

*He then led an informative interview with both Sir Bill Beaumont and Fin Smith. Mainly, both talked about their times in the Lions, as well as discussion about playing for England and how the game has changed, then followed by taking a variety of questions from the crowd.*

*Afterwards Dave and I met both Bill and Fin. In my discussion with Bill I invited him to our rugby club at the end of the season to join us at a VP dinner. Dave meanwhile compared their playing days and the fact he named one of his dogs (Beaumont) after him.*

*I learned a lot about Fin, who was a very pleasant and well spoken and has now become a supporter to the IPF - as he wants to give something back.*





"TO: Essington Rugby Club — for your generous contribution of 32.35kg of food from your quiz night. This will make a big difference to many people. We would not be able to continue our vital work in the community without such valuable support, and we thank you so much for helping us to help others in need."

After being postponed from April, Essington Rugby Club's St George's Quiz Night finally took place — and it was well worth the wait!

The evening's quiz was hosted by Jonathan Hanson from the Friends of Essington group, who challenged teams with a lively set of questions all about England — its history, culture, and a few tricky surprises along the way.

The event was well attended, creating a great atmosphere of friendly competition and community spirit. Thanks to everyone's generosity and support, the night raised £104 for the Black Country Food Bank, along with a donation of 32.35 kg of food.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part, donated, and made the night such a success. congratulations to the winners The Neighbours— and special thanks to Jonathan Hanson for his excellent quizmaster skills!

---

## **Essington Rugby Club Supports Paragon Bank's Christmas Shoebox Appeal**

Essington Rugby Club is once again proud to be sponsored by Paragon Bank this season. As part of the sponsorship agreement, the club supported Paragon's Christmas Shoebox Appeal in aid of Age UK.

### ***From Tom Kempson (Paragon employee & player):***

*On behalf of Paragon, I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has donated towards our Christmas shoebox appeal for Age UK. Your kindness and generosity will make a real difference to families across Solihull this Christmas, especially those who are less fortunate. We've received just under 40 items, which is incredibly impressive given we only had a few weeks' notice.*

### ***Message from Age UK:***

*You have all been amazing with everything you have done, the hampers also look fantastic and will certainly bring cheer to many people this Christmastime - you have all been so generous.*

*Age UK Solihull is a local charity that has supported older people in Solihull for over 40 years. We provide advice, companionship and practical support to those who need us, and we could not do it without the help of supporters like you.*

## **New Bowls Club at Essington Rugby Club!**

Exciting news! A Bowls Club has moved right here to Essington Rugby Club.

Whether you're an amateur or professional player, everyone is welcome to come along, have a go, and be part of something new in our community. It's a great way to socialise, stay active, and enjoy some friendly competition.

 Location: Essington Rugby Club

 Interested? Pop along any Thursday between 10am-12pm & ask for Phyl  
Come and join us — let's get the bowls rolling! 



## **BREAKING NEWS**

In the September Newsletter we announced that Dave Brawn had been successful in winning a £15,272 Grant from the National Lottery Community Fund. Well now Dave and his team have been even more successful in winning a £23,384 Grant from the Rural England Prosperity Fund which is managed by South Staffordshire District Council.

Together these 2 Grants will allow us to make the High Hill Centre more accessible to wheelchair user and provide disabled Toilet Facilities for the first time.

The deadline for completion of this work is 27th February 2026, so you will see work starting on the Clubhouse very shortly. There will obviously be some disruption in the short term, but the Committee will be working to keep this to a minimum, and it will all be worthwhile in the long term.

Dave wants to say he couldn't have done this on his own and wants to publicly thank his daughter Jenny White and Andy Lyndon for their time and commitment to achieving these amazing results.

NOTE: When Dave began navigating this grant process, he still had hair... and plenty of patience. Nearly throwing his computer out of the window was part of the journey, but his determination paid off, resulting in fantastic outcomes for the club.

A big well done & thank you to Dave for sticking with it — hair or no hair!



## **UKSPF Rural England Prosperity Fund**





**Essington's local community café and proud sponsors of Essington RUFC**  
**Serving quality hot and cold food and drinks and open for you**

Telephone  
01922 408900  
07958 788911

Email  
hello@1911cafe.co.uk

Website  
www.1911cafe.co.uk

**MONDAY – FRIDAY**

**9am - 3pm**

**SATURDAY**

**9am – 2pm**

**CLOSED SUNDAY**

**Essington Community Centre**  
**Hobnock Road, Essington WV11 2RF**

Find us on Social media: search [@the1911cafe](#)



### **P Car Park Extension - Work Underway**

Work on extending the club car park has officially begun! Hilton Main have been moving the bund around the car park as the first step in preparing the site.

The idea of extending the car park has been in the pipeline for several years, and a big thank you goes to Gerwyn, who navigated the costly and time-consuming process of obtaining the necessary planning permissions.

This first stage is all about assessing the lay of the land, and once completed, it will mean no more parking on the road for club events.

We'll continue to keep members updated as the project progresses — stay tuned for more updates and photos!

## **Essington Rugby Club – November Fixtures and Player Raffle Proposal**

November was a busy month for Essington Rugby Club, with three scheduled league fixtures. Unfortunately, one match had to be forfeited due to a high number of player injuries.

Match Reports:

### **Versus Willenhall 2nds (Friendly) - 16<sup>th</sup> November**

Essington picked up a fixture against Willenhall 2nds, with tries from Phil B, Alex B, Wil O, and Dave B. Despite a strong performance, the team narrowly missed out on a win, with a final score of 24-26.

### **Versus Aldridge – 22nd November**

The game against Aldridge was a match of ebb and flow. Sam Y scored 2 tries, while Alex B and Sem L also crossed the line. All four tries were converted by Alex B, who also added a penalty. Essington were missing several key players, but fought hard to secure a 31-31 draw.

The club continues to welcome new and returning players at all levels, with a focus on building squad depth and fostering community spirit.

### **Essington Players / Members Raffle Proposal**

To encourage regular attendance at Wednesday training sessions, the club proposes a season-long raffle for participating players.

#### **Concept:**

Players who attend Wednesday training sessions & participate in matches, will be entered into a raffle.

The winner(s) will receive prizes at the end of the season.

#### **Purpose:**

Encourage consistent training and commitment.

Increase attendance at coached Wednesday sessions to make training more effective.

#### **Prizes:**

£100 credit for the England store (players choose items; club purchases up to £100).

Additional smaller prizes donated by players, such as beer or chocolate.

#### **Terms & Conditions:**

Only Essington RUFC members are eligible.

Only Wednesday training sessions & game participation count for raffle entry (gym sessions excluded).

Winners will be announced at the last home game of the season.

This initiative aims to reward players for their effort, strengthen squad numbers, and make training sessions more enjoyable and productive.

A similar raffle concept is currently in the proposal stage for Mixed Touch sessions, aiming to encourage participation and reward commitment. More details will follow as the plans are finalised.

### **Enhancing the Club's Exterior Appearance**

Phil B had the great idea of making the club more welcoming to visitors and passersby. Thanks to the efforts of Mike Chandler and Mike Millichip, the front area has been cleared and planted with spring plants and bulbs, including the area under the club sign.

Daffodil bulbs have also been added to the green area between the drive and the footpath. Leaves were cleared from the driveway, and holly bushes that had encroached on the drive were cut back.

The club hopes to continue improvements by clearing ivy creeping down the drive and keeping the bank by the training area tidy.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in helping make the club more attractive and welcoming!

## 🇫🇷 **Lest We Forget**

On 9th December, Mike Chandler took part in the Remembrance Parade at Essington, laying a wreath in memory of those who have died in the service of our country.

At the club, we also have our own figure of remembrance by the bar.

The original idea was to get people to knit or crochet poppies while waiting for Saturday games to begin, to make a display for our Soldier. Time from the original idea and a lack of fixtures unfortunately limited participation, but Helen C and Josie L managed to produce a few poppies in a short space of time. Josie also came up with a design feature next to our 'Soldier', giving a personal touch to the display.

Looking ahead, the club hopes to expand this project next year, possibly creating a larger display under the sign at the top of the drive. Contributions, ideas, and volunteers would be gratefully received to help honour this important tradition.



**GERWYN'S RIDDLE TIME!**

**WHAT HAS MANY KEYS,  
BUT CANT OPEN ANY DOORS?**

The answer was Keyboard.  
Congratulations to Tom K & Cheryl L  
who both win a free drink at the club

**Christmas Riddle**

I am a ball that does not bounce. What am I?

Answers as usual to [essingtonrufc@gmail.com](mailto:essingtonrufc@gmail.com)



## 🎄 **Essington Rugby Club Christmas Tree at St John's Church**

A big thank you to Rachel and Sammie for decorating a beautiful Christmas tree at St John's Church, Essington, as part of their Christmas Tree Festival. It has handmade rugby balls with a different rugby value or message, on it

The display looks fantastic and proudly represents Essington Rugby Club among the many creative and festive trees on show. If you haven't yet, why not pop along to St John's Church to see all the wonderfully decorated trees — and, of course, take a look at ours! Check out their website for opening times!



## **Sponsorship update.**

Sponsors are really important to the club. Not only the financial assistance for the running and the project work at the club, but also the partnership where we are working with community businesses to help promote them.

We can offer different packages dependent on the business and what they want. Last newsletter you will have seen a long list of player sponsors advertised.

Club sponsors will benefit from being seen by over 8,000 visitors to the club house, for games or community clubs or external events. Plus our social media posts get over 40,000 views a month on Instagram and Facebook and on other platforms.

We are pleased with the ongoing sponsorship this season, with the village 1911 cafe & Paragon bank.

We are in discussion with others to join us, but if you know anyone interested in player or club sponsorship then pass them onto us @ [sponsoringessingtonrufc@gmail.com](mailto:sponsoringessingtonrufc@gmail.com).

Support our sponsors - say you saw them advertised at Essington rugby Club

When you see them or buy from them, tell them you saw them at Essington rugby club - so they know the sponsorship is working.

When you see our sponsors mentioned online, give them a 👍, comment, or tag — it shows them their support really matters!

## **🗨️ Second Team Captain - Could It Be You?**

As some of you will know, I am keen on the idea of having someone to build a second team. It's not a captain role in the usual sense, as this will be a role working with Wil (first team captain), Graham (as vets captain) and others, to recruit and build a team.

A large part of it will be taking spare players one week to link with neighbouring clubs to put a team together for a game, where another week maybe recruitment idea you have. Let us know if this is something you might be interested to do.

Gerwyn - Chairman

## **🍴 President's Meal at Essington Rugby Club**

President, Dave Brawn and the Vice Presidents of Essington Rugby Club are delighted to be hosting a President's Meal at the club.

The event will welcome Staffordshire RFU President, Mike Bezus and his guests, along with club members and friends, for an afternoon of good food, great company, and rugby fellowship.

It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the season, strengthen connections, and showcase the warm hospitality of Essington Rugby Club.

This will be followed by The Players Court.

## COMING 2026! - 🎉 EZZ FEST 🎊



Stalls, Food, Music and a Bar! - as well as some local performances.

Ezz Fest is being organised by Essington Parish Council, with Essington Rugby Club and will be a free to attend community event.

Saturday 30th May 2026 - Save the date!

If you're interested in having a stall or catering pitch, please complete the

'Expression of Interest' form linked below!

If any local charities, community groups or organisations would like a stall for fundraising, please also complete a form! We will be allocating pitches early in the new year!

If you would like to get involved volunteering for the event, it will be gratefully appreciated.

We want this to be a fun event for all the Essington Community!

Follow specific updates on the [Ezz Fest Facebook Page!](#)

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/vZWQUtOerR>

## The Christmas Story

Gerwyn has done a video recording of himself reading Matthew 2 : 1-12. This narrates the story of the magi (wise men) who followed a star to find and worship the newborn King of the Jews, Jesus. Its meaning highlights that Jesus is the promised King who fulfills Old Testament prophecies, a saviour for all nations (including Gentiles), and a figure who evokes different responses—joyful worship from the magi, and jealous fear from King Herod. The passage also foreshadows danger to Jesus' life and contrasts the magi's willingness to make sacrifices with Herod's hostility.

This is part of St John's Church's celebration of Christmas. A selection of people are each pre-recording a section of the Christmas story. The service will be on Sunday 21st December at 6 pm. It will be a service of traditional carols and readings from people within the community, including Essington Rugby Club. The main message of this service is involving our community, and Essington Rugby Club, 1911 café, Hawthorn Flowers, Parish Council and Adam & Eve Hair salon are all contributing via video link on their screen by reading the bible passages for them. Everyone will be welcome to come along to the service!

## 🎄 Season's Greetings from Essington Rugby Club

As the year draws to a close, Essington Rugby Club would like to wish all our players, members, supporters, and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for being part of our rugby community, your support at matches, events, and training sessions, and for helping make 2025 a fantastic year for the club. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2026 for more rugby, fun, and community spirit!

From all of us at Essington Rugby Club –  
enjoy the festive season! 🎉🏉👶