



Wishing all our players, coaches, supporters, and families a Happy New Year! Thank you for being the heartbeat of our club. May the year ahead bring good health, happiness, and plenty of reasons to celebrate together."

# ESSINGTON RUFC NEWSLETTER



January 2026

## Function Room For Hire

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

 [@essingtonrugbyclub](https://www.facebook.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 Date

**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 now 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**

Essington Rugby Club

## Burns Night

30th January 7pm

£15 pp

Join us for our annual Burns night celebration.



*Includes: A three-course Scottish dinner  
Authentic Bagpiper performance  
Experienced Caller to guide the dancing*

Secure your place

[tinyurl.com/ERUFCburns](https://tinyurl.com/ERUFCburns)

Dust off your dancing shoes! 🕺

We're hosting our annual Burns Night celebration on Friday, 30th January, starting at 7pm! 🕒

For just £15pp, you'll get:  3-Course Scottish Dinner  Live Bagpiper  Guided Dancing with a Professional Caller

It's always a fantastic night at the club—don't miss out on the haggis and the fun!

 **Book your tickets here: [tinyurl.com/ERUFCburns](https://tinyurl.com/ERUFCburns)**

## **Essington Rugby Club – Sponsorship Update**

December has been a busy and exciting month for Essington Rugby Club, with plenty of sponsorship news to share! We're delighted to announce that **Paragon Bank** and **Walsh Funerals** have both renewed their sponsorship with us — thank you for your continued support.

We're also pleased to welcome **Hilton Main Construction** as a new club sponsor! These fantastic partners join our existing supporters, including **1911 Café**, along with our many individual player sponsors.

Our sponsors currently benefit from exposure to over 8,000 visitors a year through matches, community groups, and private events at the clubhouse. Online, our reach continues to grow — with over 40,000 monthly views across Instagram, Facebook, and other platforms. In December, one of our TikTok videos reached 65,000 views in just one week, our highest yet!

### *Join Our Sponsorship Family*

We're in discussions with several more potential sponsors — so stay tuned for further announcements.

If your business would like to be part of our growing community and enjoy great exposure both locally and online, get in touch to learn more about sponsorship opportunities.

### *Support Our Sponsors*

Please continue to support the businesses that support Essington Rugby Club.

When you visit or buy from them, tell them you saw them advertised at Essington Rugby Club — it helps them see that their sponsorship is making a real impact.

And when you see our sponsors online, don't forget to like, comment, or tag them — every bit of engagement shows how much their support matters!



**1911**  
C A F E

Telephone  
01922 408900  
07958 788911

Email  
hello@1911cafe.co.uk

Website  
www.1911cafe.co.uk

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

**MONDAY – FRIDAY**

**9am - 3pm**

**SATURDAY**

**9am – 2pm**

**CLOSED SUNDAY**

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

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



**HILTON MAIN CONSTRUCTION LTD**



# SOMETHING BIG IS COMING - FROM ENGLAND RFU

A new era for international rugby begins in 2026 -  
**The Nations Championship.**

The Nations Championship will take place every two years, outside of Rugby World Cup and British & Irish Lions Tour years. The tournament will see twelve of the strongest international rugby nations in the world form two groups of six teams.



The Six Nations teams form a European group to represent the Northern Hemisphere, and will face the powerhouse SANZAAR nations, plus invitational teams Japan and Fiji, who complete the line up representing the Southern Hemisphere.

Next July, the Northern Hemisphere group of teams will travel to play three rounds of fixtures, with every team playing a different rival from the opposing Hemisphere group. In November next year, the Southern Hemisphere group will then travel north of the equator for the remaining three rounds.

The Finals Weekend will deliver wall-to-wall elite sporting entertainment to fans, with three days of double headers taking centre stage at Allianz Stadium.

Find out more [HERE](#)

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## End of Year Club Update – Progress and Development at Essington Rugby Club

As 2025 comes to a close, it's been a busy and productive period at Essington Rugby Club, with several important projects underway to improve our facilities and accessibility for everyone who uses the club.

*Car Park Extension* : Work on the car park extension began recently and has progressed even further than we initially expected at this stage. The project hasn't been without its challenges — from unexpected ground conditions beneath the new area to flooding that briefly made the site resemble a swimming pool! Overhanging branches have also needed clearing, but steady progress continues as we review the best drainage solutions to complete the work effectively.

*Accessibility Upgrades* : A key part of our long-term plan has been improving accessibility around the club, and we're proud to report significant progress here too. The outside area has been levelled and tarmacked, and a new accessible parking area has been added. Originally planned for Stage 2 of our development, these improvements were brought forward due to opportunity and necessity — and we're delighted with the outcome.

*Inside the Clubhouse* : Inside the clubhouse, major upgrades are also taking place. The main hall has been partitioned to allow for the installation of an accessible toilet and a new storage area for tables, chairs, and bowling equipment. This interior work will be completed in the new year, which will also include relocating the kitchen door and adding new doors opening directly onto the pitch — creating a more functional and welcoming space for all our members and visitors.

*A Team Effort* : What a fantastic achievement this is for such a small club! None of this progress would have been possible without the hard work and commitment of our dedicated committee members and the relentless grant-finding efforts of Dave Brawn.

A huge thank-you to everyone involved — your passion and persistence continue to drive the club forward.

## 🎄 The “Old Farts” Christmas Walk and Tipple

The Old Farts of Essington Rugby Club once again came together for their much-loved annual Christmas walk and tipple around Birmingham.

Each member of the group brought along their own festive drink to test the taste buds of the others — everything from port and cherry brandy to mulled wine and whisky-infused coffee made an appearance! Setting off from Birmingham New Street, the group enjoyed taking in the city’s sights, stopping every few streets for a chat (and perhaps to catch their breath), while sampling each other’s beverages and sharing a few Christmas snacks.

The day concluded with a well-earned meal in a nearby pub, bringing a wonderful end to a day full of laughter, memories, and good company.

### So who are the Old Farts?

They’re a group of former players and their wives from the Rubery Owen days, joined by a few familiar faces from Essington. Some hadn’t seen each other for many years — making this reunion all the more special.

You might still spot a few of them on the touchline, cheering on today’s players and continuing to show their unwavering support for the club.

Here’s to many more years of friendship, laughter, and festive cheer from the Old Farts!



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## 🍷 End of Year Social – The Essington Rugby Club Pub Crawl

To close out another rugby year, Essington Rugby Club held its second Pub Crawl, taking in 10 pubs over 11 hours across Cheslyn Hay and Great Wyrley.

The event was a fantastic success, bringing together players, members, and friends of the club for a day filled with camaraderie and good humour. It was wonderful to see so many people participating and supporting the event throughout the day.

A special mention goes to those who completed all 10 venues — an impressive effort and a testament to the spirit and enthusiasm within our club community.

The pub crawl has quickly become a much-anticipated date on the club’s social calendar, providing a great opportunity to celebrate the end of the rugby year in style.

Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make the day such an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

Check out the photos [HERE](#)

Here’s to more great events and continued team spirit in the year ahead!

## **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! 



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## **Christmas Decorations Wanted**

Hope you all had a great Christmas. Before you throw away any old decorations, the club is looking for donations for next year.

We are particularly interested in red, black, and gold items, but we will gladly accept any suitable decorations you no longer need.

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## **Club Statement – Match Abandonment and Disciplinary Hearing**

Many of you will have heard that our recent fixture against Newcastle was abandoned, and that the club was subsequently cited for contributing to the abandonment.

Following a disciplinary hearing on the 18th December, the club was found guilty and received an official warning regarding our conduct.

While this particular incident occurred on the field, the warning serves as a reminder to everyone associated with Essington Rugby Club — players, coaches, supporters, and spectators alike — of the importance of maintaining the highest standards of behaviour at all times.

We must ensure that we always respect match officials, opposition teams, and each other, both on and off the pitch. Rugby is built on the values of respect, discipline, and sportsmanship, and it's essential that we continue to uphold those principles as a club community.

Let's work together to move forward positively, support one another, and ensure that Essington Rugby Club continues to be known for its passion, pride, and integrity in the game we all love.

**TEAMWORK RESPECT ENJOYMENT DISCIPLINE SPORTSMANSHIP**

# 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 [HERE](#)

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!](#)

## December Match Reports

December was an exciting month on the pitch for Essington Rugby Club, with some memorable games:

**6th December:** A strong win at home, 27-10 against Telford 2nds, showing great teamwork and determination.

**13th December:** A tightly contested match away at Trentham, narrowly losing 24-25 in a thrilling encounter.

**20th December:** The year finished on a high with a victory at home against Burntwood 2nds, demonstrating the team's resilience and commitment.

## Watch Essington Rugby Club on YouTube!

Did you know that Essington Rugby Club is on YouTube? You can catch up on all of our games, relive the action, and see the highlights whenever you like.

Check out our channel here: [Essington RUFC on YouTube](#)

Don't forget to subscribe to stay up to date with all our matches & training sessions

## 💪 Start the New Year with Fitness

After the festive season, why not shake off the Christmas excesses and kickstart the New Year with some rugby fitness and training?

**Junior Training:** Starts Sunday 4th January @ 10am

**Contact Training:** Starts Monday 5th January @ 7.30pm & Wednesday 7th January @ 7.30pm

**Mixed Touch Training:** Starts Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January @ 7.30pm

## Donate Your Christmas Extras to Those in Need

Do you have extra Christmas gifts such as toiletries, biscuits, chocolate, or other treats that you won't use? Why not make a difference this holiday season!

Essington Rugby Club is collecting donations to support the Black Country Food Bank. Your contribution will go to someone who may not have been as fortunate this Christmas and will be greatly appreciated.

Bring your donations to the club and help spread some festive cheer to those in need.

Every small gift counts!

Let's show the true spirit of community and generosity for the New Year.



A huge thank you to everyone who has been putting their loose change into the Black Country Food Bank tin at the club.

We're pleased to share that we have just donated £30 to this wonderful cause — a timely contribution at a time of year when it's needed most.

Your small change is making a big difference, and we truly appreciate your generosity and support!

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## January Fixtures

Saturday, 10 Jan 2026

Essington



14:15



Stafford II

Saturday, 17 Jan 2026

Linley



14:15



Essington

Saturday, 24 Jan 2026

Essington



14:15



Wednesbury