



## What a Weekend – A Perfect End to the Season!

What a weekend it has been, and what a fantastic way to round off the season!

Friday evening kicked things off in style with the club's annual Dinner Dance and Awards Night. Everyone dressed to impress in their glad rags and enjoyed a fantastic meal, complemented by a mix of humorous and heartfelt speeches that captured the spirit of the season.

Saturday brought a more relaxed pace, with a few touch games featuring some understandably 'tired' players still recovering from the night before. Despite that, the energy and camaraderie were as strong as ever.

Sunday saw a brilliant turnout, with a large crowd gathering to watch Essington take on the Chairman's Team. It was a great way to close the weekend, with plenty of support from across the club.

An event like this doesn't just happen on its own—there is a huge amount of planning and effort behind the scenes. A massive thank you goes out to the fantastic volunteers who made it all possible. From those who helped set up for the dinner on Thursday, to those who provided food on Sunday, and everyone who contributed in between, your efforts ensured everything ran smoothly from start to finish.





There are a lot more photographs and reels from the weekend available on our social media pages—be sure to check them out here: <https://www.facebook.com/essingtonrugbyclub>. A big thank you to our social media team and photographers for capturing so many great moments and helping share them with everyone.



We are hosting Ezzfest along with the Parish Council. If you can help out for a few hours please contact Mike, Gerwyn or Phil or just fill out the form : <https://forms.gle/joJeA8nYqTPVtGfQ7>



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**MONDAY – FRIDAY**

**9am - 3pm**

**SATURDAY**

**9am – 2pm**

**CLOSED SUNDAY**

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

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

# Staffordshire summer touch series 2026



## Confirmed Dates

**Fri 22nd May - Stone**  
***Fri 29th May - (Half Term)***  
**Fri 5th June - Newport**  
***Fri 12th June - (Break)***  
**Fri 19th June - Rugeley**  
**Fri 26th June - Cannock**  
**Fri 3rd July - Essington**  
**Fri 10th July - Vesevans**  
**Fri 17th July - Stafford**

v2

These are the dates for the Mixed Touch Summer Series. If you are able to make some or all of these please let Faz know.

Mixed Touch training will be held on a Wednesday evening starting the end of May, this will allow 'recovery' before the games on Fridays.

As you can see we host the tournament on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July. If you are unable to play or would like to help out during the evening again please contact Faz.

### Staffordshire Summer Social Touch Series



[Version 2026 v1]

#### 1 : Overview

Now in its seventh summer, this series runs on Friday evenings throughout the warmer months, hosted by a range of local clubs.

- This is a non-contact sport – physicality has no place in touch rugby. If your team struggles to keep things light or treats this as a contact game, this isn't the competition for you.
- Likewise, if your attitude is win at all costs, this isn't the right environment. The series is about enjoyment, inclusion, and playing in good spirit.
- Touch is an inclusive game and we want to encourage everyone to partake. Mixed gender teams are encouraged and expected – while it's not compulsory every single week, we only want teams entering who are genuinely trying to put out a mixed team. As such, we have a new points rule intended to allow male and female of all abilities to enjoy.

#### 2 - Here's what to expect

- Completely free to enter
- Social-level touch rugby – fun, friendly, and not taken too seriously
- 6-a-side games, with most clubs bringing a squad of around 10
- Mixed gender teams are encouraged and the game scores are amended as follows: Each team that doesn't keep mixed sex on the pitch for the whole game (ie. is, or becomes, a single sex team) = 2 points added to opposing team. While teams that are, or become, 5 of one gender and 1 of other gender = 1 point added to opposing team.
- Minimum age is 14 years old – players must be at least 14 to take part

# Summer Touch Rules

- Games usually run from 7pm to 9pm, followed by a short trophy presentation
- Food and outside bar often available at each event
- No overall series winner – each tournament night stands alone

Each event is organised by the host club, who sets the number of games and the format. There is usually a winner on the night who takes home a small trophy.

#### 3 - Rules

The rules we play by: [in2touch.com/rules](http://in2touch.com/rules)

#### 4 - Referees

The expectation is that each club provides a ref – usually from its playing squad to ref a game. The organisers will try and make sure a team is not allocated to ref and play at the same time.

At some of the events the hosts club may provide a specialist ref to support. All players will respect and support the referee regardless of their level.

Assistance will be given to any club that asks for help to develop referees, but if you can play this game you can ref it.

However, it won't be acceptable for a team not to provide a ref on the basis "we haven't got one".

# AGM

We will be hosting our AGM on Saturday 20th June 2026, followed by a screening of the Premiership Final and a club BBQ (time TBA).

We encourage all members to attend for what promises to be an important and enjoyable day at the club.



## GREAT NEWS!!!

We have new, fully functioning doors onto the field.  
No more pushing, shoving, cursing to open and close these doors.  
Fitted by father & son team from DJB Steel Doors Ltd.



Last months quiz was won by Gerwyn.

The answer to how many stars on the Brazilian Flags was 27!

They represent the night sky over Rio de Janeiro on November 15, 1889—the day the Republic was proclaimed. These stars symbolize Brazil's 26 states and one federal district, with the constellation Crux (Southern Cross) at the centre

# April Match Report – The Finish to the Season

April saw Essington complete their season with three competitive fixtures, full of effort, character, and plenty of positives to take forward.

The final home game against Trentham was a real thriller, ending in a narrow 38-39 defeat. Essington produced some excellent rugby throughout, with tries from Phil, Jesse, Aiden, and Dave Best. However, a brief lapse in concentration in the closing moments proved costly. Andy Barker was named Man of the Match for an outstanding performance. The match also marked a special occasion, as it was the final game for Graham Smith after many, many years of competitive rugby. A fantastic servant to the club, Graham's contribution over the years has been immense, and he leaves the first team squad with the respect and appreciation of everyone at Essington.

In the second fixture of April, Essington travelled to Burntwood to take on their 2nds in challenging conditions, with heavy rain throughout. Despite the weather, the team showed glimpses of strong attacking rugby but struggled for consistency, eventually falling 36-19. Tries were scored by Jesse, Alex, and Andy B, who also earned Man of the Match honours.

The final game of the season saw a bare 15 make the trip to Whitchurch on a very hot day, with players embracing the occasion in 80s-themed attire. It was a spirited performance to close out the season, with Wil crossing twice and further tries from Jesse and Greg. Wil's efforts saw him deservedly named Man of the Match.

Overall, it was a fantastic end to the playing season, highlighting the team's resilience, commitment, and team spirit.



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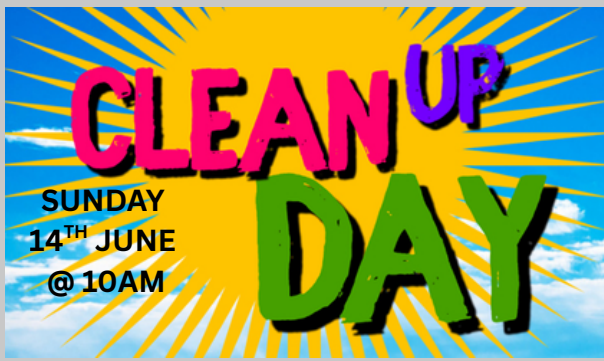
Mondays – Street Dance : 5pm-7pm.  
Contact 07311616115 for info

Tuesdays – Hartbeeps baby/toddler sensory classes 10am-2pm.  
Contact [www.hartbeeps.com](http://www.hartbeeps.com) for info

Wednesdays – Taekwondo 6pm – 9pm.  
Contact Jim 07886442786

Thursdays – Slimming World 5.30pm – 7.30pm.  
Contact Kim 07900982494

Next time your are at the club see if you can spot the new sign for the Jones Nicklin Wood, which has been installed by Friends of Essington



Every year we hold a Clean-Up Day at the club, and as always there's plenty to get done to keep everything in great shape.

Josie does a fantastic job all year round maintaining the club—keeping things clean, tidy, and even tackling bits of painting here and there. There are, of course, some jobs we have to contract out, such as electrical safety checks, boiler

servicing, alarm maintenance, fire extinguisher inspections, and roof repairs.

However, there are still many tasks that we as members and volunteers can take on together—things like painting, grouting, sweeping, and strimming. These efforts really help us maintain the high standards Josie sets.

Most tools and equipment will be provided, along with food and drinks, so it's also a great chance to get together and lend a hand.

We'd love to see as many of you there as possible!

THE 2 MIKES HAVE  
ALREADY MADE A START



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## THANKS WIL

Wil is stepping down as club captain, he has been an outstanding captain over the last four years, showing tremendous growth both as a player and as a leader. During his time as captain, he has matured immensely and consistently demonstrated leadership both on and off the rugby pitch. His understanding of the game, combined with his calm and respectful approach, has earned him the respect of every player within the club.

On the pitch, Wil leads by example. He gives everything to the game of rugby and never asks more of others than he is willing to give himself. He has developed the confidence and awareness to know when it is appropriate to challenge decisions during matches, always doing so in a composed and professional manner for the benefit of the team.

The last four years have not always been easy. There have been difficult weekends where pulling together a full squad has been a challenge, yet Wil has remained committed and dependable throughout. His dedication to the club and the players has never wavered, even during the toughest periods.

One of Wil's greatest strengths is his ability to connect with people. Whether he is speaking to a brand-new player just beginning their rugby journey or welcoming former players back to the club, he always shows genuine care, encouragement, and passion for the game. He creates an environment where everyone feels valued and included.

In addition to his responsibilities as captain, Wil has shown excellent organisational skills and an ability to multitask. He has helped organise social outings and club events, contributing greatly to team spirit and camaraderie away from rugby. Alongside this, he has also dedicated his time to the junior rugby coaching team, helping to support and inspire the next generation of players.

Wil's contribution to the club over the past four years has been immense. His leadership, commitment, passion, and care for both the club and its people have been hugely appreciated by everyone involved. He has set a fantastic example as captain, we look forward to his continued support as a player and committee member.