Function Room For Hire

essingtonrufc@gmail.com

@essingtonrugbyclub

essington_rugby_club

OKTOBERFEST

7th November 2026

More info inside.

XMAS FAYRE

Sunday
29th November 2026
If you wold like a table contact Josie
07514025623

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday
11th December
2026
@ 7.30pm

Men's Contact Training
Mondays & Wednesdays
@ 7.15pm

Junior Contact 14+ Boys
Wednesdays @ 6.00pm

Mixed Touch Training 14+
Thursdays @ 7.30pm

ESSINGTON RUFC NEWSLETTER

October 2026



We are asking all players and members to make sure they've registered on GMS, as this helps the club show growth, interest and player retention when applying for grants and funding.

Register here:
https://gms.rfu.com/GMS/Dashboard/Individual

Please also complete your membership form and make any outstanding payment.

All memberships require a completed form.

Membership form:
https://shorturl.at/PxhWR



A SUCCESSFUL QUIZ NIGHT



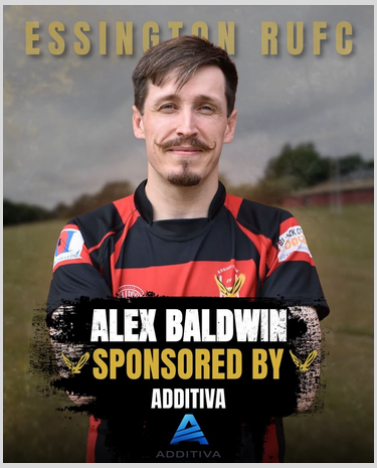
A fantastic 15 teams took part in our recent quiz night, with Jon from Friends of Essington doing a great job as quiz master. The evening raised £151 from entry fees, which was donated to Friends of Essington to support projects around the village. Those attending also kindly donated items for the food bank. These will be taken to The Lamp Foodbank in Brownhills, which operates as part of the Black Country Foodbank network. Congratulations to the winning team, Palrodhigzees, and thank you to everyone who took part and supported the evening.

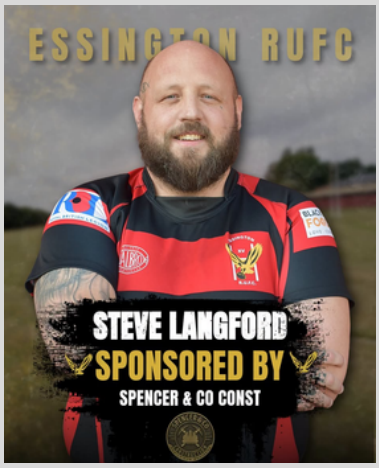


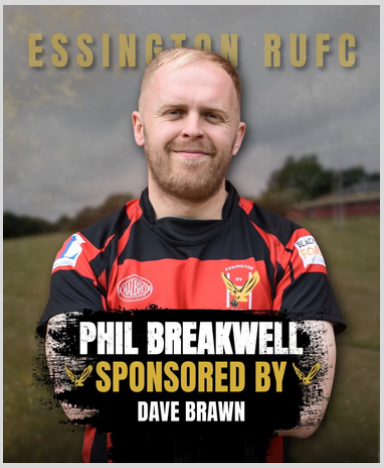
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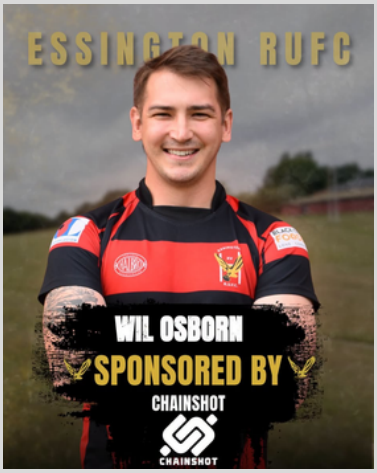
Friends of Essington are moving their future monthly quiz nights to Essington Rugby Club, with the first one taking place on Tuesday 27 October at 7.30pm.
Teams of up to 6 people, £2 per person, with all funds raised going towards projects around Essington.

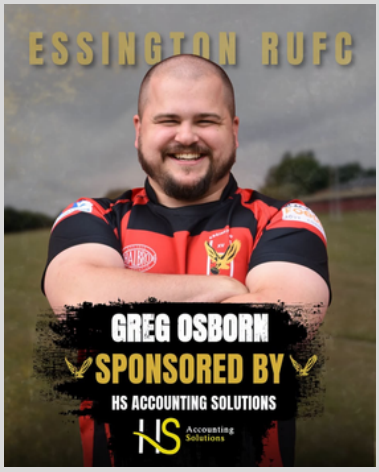
PLAYER SPONSORSHIP

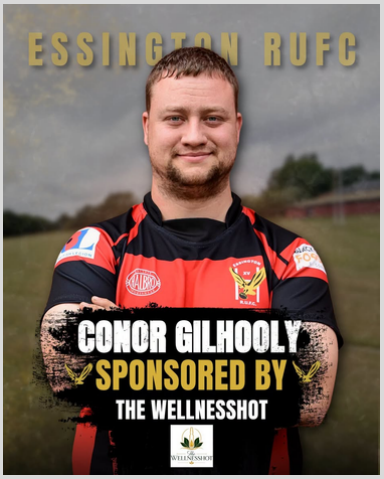


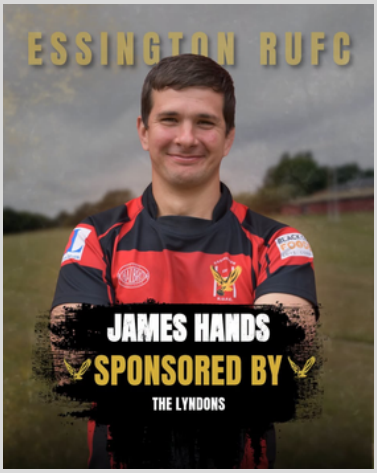












PLAYER SPONSORSHIP

Alongside the sponsorships above, already featured on our social media pages, we're delighted to recognise even more of our players and the fantastic sponsors supporting them this season. Their individual sponsorship graphics are currently being prepared by our very busy social media team and will be shared on our social media pages shortly.. With sponsorships continuing to come in, this is a snapshot of those confirmed at the time of going to print, and we look forward to recognising further sponsors as the season progresses.

Jesse Howard - Sweetphoria
Jamie Babington - Memory of Auntie Jane
Tom Pearson - The Ozzies
Mike Chandler-Ros Halford Brawn
Rhys Evans - Steve McEwen

New Sponsorship Opportunities Available for the Coming Season

🚨 NEW SEASON, NEW OPPORTUNITIES! 🚨
We're opening up sponsorship packages for the upcoming season — helping us fund vital equipment, upgrade facilities, and grow Essington RUFC 💪🏉
✨ What's on offer?
🔴 Player Sponsorship – Back your favourite player & see your name/business featured on socials + more!
⚫ Custom Packages – From small to big, we'll tailor something to suit your goals.
Whether you're a local business wanting visibility or a supporter looking to get involved, there's a place for YOU in our team.
📩 Get in touch today: sponsoressingtonrufc@gmail.com

INVESTING IN A SAFE CLUBHOUSE

A lot of the work involved in running the club happens behind the scenes and often goes unnoticed, but it is essential to keeping our clubhouse safe, compliant and properly maintained.

Our recent five-year electrical inspection highlighted a number of issues requiring attention, including some concerns relating to aged and non-compliant electrics These needed to be rectified to ensure that our electrical systems meet the required safety standards.

The cost of the necessary remedial work is £3,908 + VAT. The work is critical to the safe running of the clubhouse and to ensuring that we continue to meet our insurance requirements.

It is a significant expense, but maintaining a safe and compliant clubhouse for our players, members, visitors and hirers has to remain a priority.

RFU MEETING

Gerwyn, Dave, Mike and Helen recently met with Pat Hill, an RFU Club Development Officer, for an in-depth discussion about where Essington RUFC is now and where we would like the club to be in the future.
Over the course of three hours, the group looked at the club's current position, our ambitions and the opportunities available to help us continue moving forward. One of the key aims discussed was our desire to build towards running a second senior team, while also continuing the excellent growth of junior rugby at the club.
There was also discussion around the development of T1 Rugby and Touch Rugby, both of which offer further opportunities to attract new players, retain existing members and provide different ways for people to stay involved in the game.

Pat also took us through some of the data from last season. One particularly positive figure was our player retention rate of 77%, which is above the average figure of around 70%. Pat was interested to hear what we felt had helped us achieve this. For us, much of it comes down to the friendly, social and family-orientated atmosphere we have worked hard to create, alongside maintaining a strong and active presence through our media and social channels.

Another encouraging point from the data was the club's younger age profile, with a good proportion of players falling within the 18–30 age group. This gives us a strong base to build on as we look to grow senior rugby over the coming seasons.

This season, the player registration process has also been expanded so that players can indicate whether they take part in contact rugby, contact and touch rugby, T1 Rugby, or whether they are university based. Pat explained how important this information is, both for Staffordshire RFU and for the club itself.

Accurate participation data can be extremely valuable when applying for grants, funding and other forms of support, as it helps demonstrate the true size, activity and development of the club.
The meeting also covered a number of possible future projects and areas for development. Pat was particularly impressed with the clubhouse and the facilities inside the building, which was very encouraging to hear.

It was a productive and positive meeting, giving us plenty to think about as we continue planning for the future of Essington RUFC. A further meeting with Pat is expected to take place later in the year as we continue to develop these ideas and look at the next steps for the club.







JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THIS FANTASTIC EVENT WITH

Essington Rugby Club

OKTOBERFEST







07TH NOV
7:30PM
£15.00
PER TICKET

HIGH HILL,
ESSINGTON,
WOLVERHAMPTON,
WV11 2DW

Band Playing from 8pm - 11pm









If last year is anything to go by, our Oktoberfest is set to be another brilliant night at the club! Last year's event was full of laughs, great music and plenty of audience participation, with a fantastic live Oompah band creating a lively atmosphere from start to finish.

This is definitely not a night for sitting quietly at the back! The more you join in, the better it gets — so come along, get involved and enjoy the fun.

And why not really get into the spirit of the evening and dress up in costume? Lederhosen, dirndls or anything Oktoberfest-themed all add to the atmosphere and the laughs.

Whether you came last year or fancy experiencing Oktoberfest at Essington RUFC for the first time, make sure you don't miss it. Bring your friends, bring your sense of humour and be ready for a great night of live entertainment!

Tickets available through this link https://www.essingtonrugby.co.uk/event-details/oktoberfest-2026 or the qr code above.

HOUSE, GROUNDS AND GRANTS

As stated in the previous article, part of our discussion with Pat Hill, RFU Club Development Officer, was about the future development of the club, including the clubhouse, grounds and facilities.

Fortunately, we have a fabulous grant and funding finder in the shape of our Club President, Dave Brawn, who is constantly on the lookout for opportunities that could help us improve the club without placing the full financial burden on club funds.

It is not always an easy task. Grant opportunities can appear with relatively little notice and, just as quickly, disappear again as council or government policies and funding priorities change. This means Dave has to keep a close eye on what is available and be ready to act when the right opportunity comes along.

There are several projects currently on our wish list. These include fencing around the pitches to help prevent damage from motorbikes and dogs, lighting for the new extension to the car park, and a tarmac ramp providing safe and accessible access down to the pitches for players, spectators and, importantly, the emergency services.

We would also like to install extra pitch floodlighting and provide a canopy along the side of the clubhouse, creating a sheltered and more accessible route down that side of the building.
Dave is also currently looking into a grant that would allow a consultant to visit the club and assess the exterior of the building. The aim would be to suggest improvements that could make the clubhouse look more welcoming and inviting to members, visitors and the wider community. We are currently waiting for a meeting to be arranged.

What About the Training Pitch?

Many people may also be wondering what is happening with the training pitch.

We had hoped to reseed the area during the summer, but the exceptionally hot and dry weather put paid to those plans. Unfortunately, it is now too late in the season to carry out the work, as the area would need to remain out of use for at least three months to allow the new grass to establish properly. The most likely option is therefore for the reseeding work to take place at the end of the season. However, if we experience the same problems next year as we did at the beginning of this season, with the training area becoming unusable, we may need to investigate alternative options.
The main pitches are thankfully beginning to recover. They received a treatment of weed and feed shortly before the prolonged spell of sunny weather, which has helped.

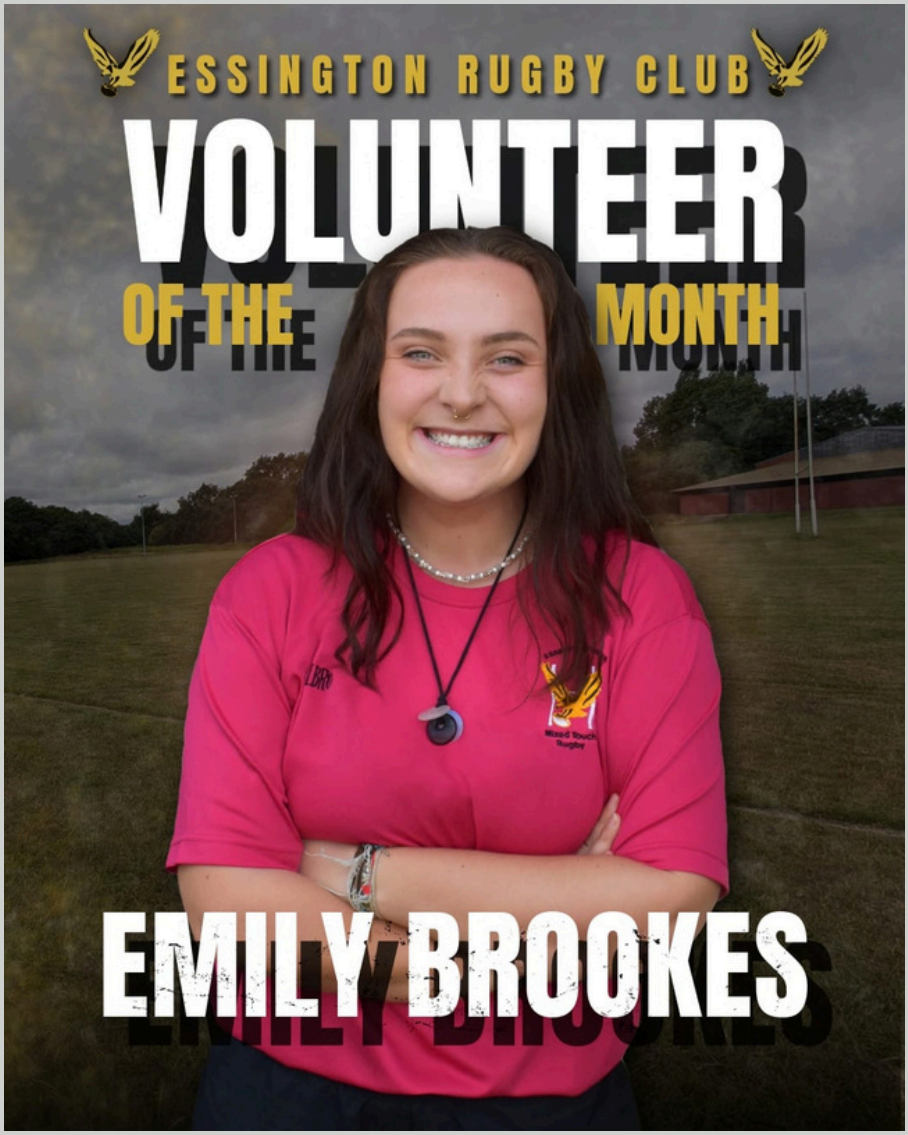
The bank alongside the training area has, however, had some much-needed attention. We hired a local farmer who brought in some heavy machinery to cut back the overgrowth of brambles that had slowly been taking over that side of the ground. It has made a big difference to the area and, hopefully, means there will be no more delving through the brambles after lost rugby balls!

Each year the club commits a couple of thousand pounds towards maintaining the pitches and keeping them playable. Unfortunately, we have recently experienced motorbikes damaging the playing surfaces, as well as animals digging some surprisingly large holes.

Maintaining good-quality, safe pitches remains one of the club's biggest priorities. After all, no pitches means no rugby.

There is plenty we would like to achieve, and much of it will depend on successfully securing grants and external funding. With Dave continuing to hunt down every opportunity available, we hope to see more improvements taking shape around the club over the coming seasons.

🏆VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: EMILY BROOKES 🏆



Huge congratulations to Emily Brookes, who is our Volunteer of the Month! 👏

Emily's impact across the club has been outstanding. Not only has she been leading our social media team and creating fantastic designs and posters for the club, but she's also been leading from the front on the pitch as our Touch Rugby Captain—keeping player engagement high and ensuring solid numbers at training every week! 🏉

On top of all that, Emily spent her own spare time doing litter picks around the club grounds while contact training was going on, as well as capturing fantastic photos at our first league game of the season. 📸🧹

Thank you for your tireless dedication, energy, and hard work across so many areas of Essington RUFC, Emily—it is massively appreciated by everyone at the club! 🙌

🤝 WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Grassroots rugby relies on amazing people like Emily. If you are interested in volunteering or giving a bit of time to support the club in any way, please drop us a message or get in touch!

#EssingtonRUFC #RugbyFamily #VolunteerOfTheMonth #GrassrootsRugby #CommunityRugby

ANAGRAM
This months 'quiz'

Unravel this anagram to reveal
a rugby player at the club:
Boggy Error Son
Answers to essingtonrufc@gmail.com
Winner wins a free drink at the club

NEW BALLS PLEASE!

A bit of good fortune came the club's way thanks to our Club Secretary, Mike, who won a fantastic £1,000 voucher on behalf of Essington RUFC. Naturally, we wasted no time sending Mike shopping! The voucher has been put to very good use, with new match balls, top-quality training balls for the men's contact team, new touch rugby balls, a new tackle sausage and water bottles for our Second XV all making their way to the club. Not a bad shopping trip at all — and, even better, Mike didn't have to spend a penny of his own! A brilliant boost for the club and equipment that will get plenty of use throughout the season.

Rugby Club Camping Weekend – A Great Success

Members of our rugby club enjoyed a fantastic weekend away together at this year's camping trip to Wye Vale. With excellent weather throughout, it was the perfect opportunity to take a break from the pitch and enjoy the great outdoors.

Nearly 30 players, family members, children and even a few four-legged friends came along, and although the weather was definitely on the damp side, it didn't stop us from having a brilliant time! No Campfires or BBQ's this year!!

The weekend was filled with walks for some, testing of the local hostelries, laughter, and plenty of time to relax – a true reflection of what our club is all about. Thanks to Chris & Gillian for sorting the site.

Again we are already looking forward to next year's camping weekend and hope to see even more members join in. If you would like to be part of the planning and receive updates, we encourage you to join the Camping Communities WhatsApp group.









LOOKING AFTER OUR RUGBY FAMILY

As part of the committee's continuing work to support everyone involved with Essington RUFC, we now have a dedicated focus on mental health and wellbeing within the club.

Following our first game of the season, our First XV swapped their usual colours for purple and blue in support of Suicide Prevention Month, helping to highlight an issue that can affect players, coaches, volunteers, supporters and families alike.

At Essington RUFC, we believe looking after each other goes far beyond what happens on the rugby pitch. We now have a dedicated mental health team at the club, with members who have undertaken training through LooseHeadz, the rugby community's mental health charity.

However, supporting someone who may be struggling is not just the responsibility of that team.

We can all play a part.

Sometimes something as simple as asking "You alright?" can open the door to a conversation that somebody really needs. You do not need to have all the right words or all the answers — being prepared to listen can make a real difference.

We want Essington RUFC to remain a club where people feel comfortable talking, asking for support and looking out for one another.

If you or someone you know needs support, help is available through:
ANDYSMANCLUB – free peer-to-peer support groups for men
andysmanclub.co.uk
LooseHeadz – mental health support specifically for the rugby community
looseheadz.co.uk
Samaritans – free, confidential support 24 hours a day
Call 116 123
Whether you are a player, coach, volunteer, supporter or part of our wider rugby family, remember: it's okay to talk and it's okay to ask for help.

LOOK OUT FOR YOUR TEAMMATES. CHECK IN. START THE CONVERSATION.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Our wonderful Josie is once again busy organising the club's Christmas Fayre, which will take place on Sunday 29th November 2026.
A number of the available tables have already been snapped up, but Josie is still on the lookout for a few more stallholders to join us on the day.
Are you interested in having a table, or do you know someone who might be? Whether it's crafts, gifts, festive treats or something a little different, we'd love to hear from you.
It's always a lovely festive day at the club and a great opportunity to support local sellers while getting everyone into the Christmas spirit.
Email : essingtonrufc@gmail.com

INDOOR BOWLS RETURNS TO ESSINGTON RUGBY CLUB





Our club runs on volunteers. And we are asking if you can help us be the best we can be. Whether you can spare an hour to help us with our junior training, 10 minutes to help us with networking or 30 minutes for some D.I.Y.

At the moment we really need some help with growing our junior rugby section to really get it up and running.

Any help is valuable and much appreciated. Please contact me to find out how you could help make the club even better

James Hands

Volunteer co-ordinator



The new season is here, and we've got a fantastic line-up of events planned for 2026/27!

Essington RUFC is about community, friendships and having a good time together, both on and off the pitch. So why not come down, bring your friends and family, meet some new faces and get involved?

Got an idea for another social event?

We'd love to hear from you! Whether it's a family day, live music, themed night, race night, bingo, games evening or something completely different, get in touch and let us know what you'd like to see.

📧 essingtonrufc@gmail.com



Want to get your business in front of 3,600+ followers while supporting your local rugby club?

Essington RUFC reaches more than 90,000 views every month across our social media, with matchday coverage, tries, behind-the-scenes content and plenty of club fun.
We're now offering a range of 2026/27 business partnership opportunities, helping local businesses raise their profile while supporting our players, grassroots rugby and the wider community.

Interested in becoming one of our club partners?

Get in touch and find out how you can get involved.











A BUSY DAY AT THE CLUB

Saturday 26th was a very busy day at the club. Not only was it our first league game of the season, but it was also the first Vice Presidents' Meal of the season.

You may be wondering what the Vice Presidents' Meal is all about. Our President, Dave, came up with the idea as a way of encouraging former and retired players back to the club, including some who are now well into their 80s. Every so often, Dave organises a meal which gives old friends and teammates the chance to catch up, share a few stories and enjoy being back at the club.

But the meal is not just for former players. Anyone is welcome to come along, enjoy the company and tuck into a lovely meal — including the now-famous desserts made by Judith!

We were also pleased to welcome local MP Sir Gavin Williamson to the club for the occasion. Sir Gavin had previously visited us a few years ago to officially open the club's refurbished toilets, so it seemed only fitting that on his return visit he was once again given a job involving toilets — this time officially opening our new accessible toilet facilities!

All joking aside, it was great to welcome him back to the club and to mark another improvement to our facilities.

It really is a great idea and a lovely way of bringing people together, keeping old friendships alive and encouraging more people to come back and enjoy the club.







More pictures HERE



Home Games – More Than Just the Rugby

Home games. Come and watch the game and have a catch up with club friends before the game. Much better than sitting at home or shopping.

Want to grab some food before the game, here are two options. The opposition committee members are invited to join us at all of these:

VP dinner. Hosted by our president David brawn, a three course meal for the vice presidents and other guests, before some of the home games. Pre book with Dave and a charge of £25 per person.

Chairman's lunch. Hosted by our chairman Gerwyn, it is an informal meetup, with sandwiches and snacks. Open to any club members who are not playing that day, especially injured or retired players. Let the chairman know if you can, with a donation collected to cover costs and raise for one of the club charities at each event (suggested donation of £5).

17th October - Willenhall 3s - 2nd / Vets Team Friendly (H). **Chairman's lunch**

31st Oct - Sutton Coldfield 2s (H). **Chairman's lunch**

7th November - Rugeley Greybeards - 2nd / Vets team Friendly (H). **Chairman's lunch**

21st Nov - Moseley Oak 2s (H). **VPs dinner**

12th Dec - Old Saltleians 2s (H). **Chairman's lunch**

2027

9th January - Rugeley Greybeards - 2nd / Vets team Friendly (A). **Chairman's lunch**

16th Jan - Willenhall 2s (H). **VPs dinner**

23rd Jan - Telford 2s (H). **Chairman's lunch**

20th Feb - Tamworth 2s (H). **Chairman's lunch**

13th Mar - Wednesbury (H). **VPs dinner**

In memory of George Robert Lillie

In March this year, one of our players and friend of the club, Ryan Lillie, and his wife went through the nightmare for any parent when they very sadly lost their young son, George Robert Lillie.

During this very hard time, they had support from the Lily Mae Foundation, who offered support and memory boxes to help keep George's memory alive, while also offering support to the family.

As a thank you to the Foundation, Ryan is looking to raise funds for the Foundation by taking part in the Dublin Hyrox & 2027 London Marathon - he has already run the Balsall common 10km fun run.

If you can help Ryan in his fundraising, please follow the link to the JustGiving page below. Any donation, small or large, is really appreciated.

Donate **HERE**

We Will Remember Them!

:



Last year, Josie and Helen knitted and crocheted a number of poppies to create a Remembrance display by the bar. The original idea was to get lots of people involved, but, as often happens, time ran away with us and it was all organised a little too late.

This year, they have started thinking about it much earlier and would love to make the display bigger and involve more people from across the club.

The plan is to create a Remembrance display at the top of the drive, either around the club sign or on the grassed area nearby. Ideas so far include making larger outdoor poppies, knitting and crocheting more poppies, a banner to wrap around the brick gas box at the entrance and creating plaster-of-Paris poppies which children and adults can paint. These can then be mounted on sticks and placed in the grass to create a field of poppies.

You certainly don't have to be an expert to get involved. Helen had never crocheted before last year and still managed to produce quite a collection of poppies — even if a few of them were slightly wonky! That is all part of the fun and every poppy adds something special to the display.

So, could you make a poppy or two to add to the ones already completed? Knitted, crocheted or handmade in another way, we would love to include them.

And if you have any ideas about how the display could be created or improved, please have a chat with Josie or Helen. The more people who get involved, the more special our Remembrance display can be. Poppies would need to be done before the end of October.

At Last – The Rugby Season Gets Underway

After what felt like a long wait, the rugby season eventually kicked off on 5th September, following the RFU's recommendation to delay the start because of the exceptionally hot, dry weather and its effect on pitches across the country.

Essington's first opportunity to get some competitive rugby under their belts came with a warm-up fixture at home against Rugeley. The visitors certainly arrived in numbers, bringing an impressive squad of 35 players, giving both sides plenty of opportunity to rotate players and get some valuable game time.

It was also really good to see some new names appearing on the team sheet, alongside familiar faces returning for another season.

Essington made a positive start, with Semi crossing for a hat-trick of tries and Sele also getting on the scoresheet. Alex added the conversions, helping the home side to a convincing 28–12 victory

The following week saw Essington take on Stone in the Owen Cup. With Stone playing a league above us, it was always going to be a tough test, but Essington certainly made them work for the result.

Tries from Sele, Dan, Jesse and Mark kept Essington firmly in the contest, but Stone eventually came away with a 40–31 win.

Despite the result, there was a real buzz around the club afterwards. The clubhouse was full, the atmosphere was lively and it was great to see players, supporters and visitors enjoying themselves after the game. It was one of those afternoons that showed there is much more to rugby than simply the final score.

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Then came the first league game of the season, with Essington taking on Burntwood 2nds — and what a way to start the league campaign. Essington produced an emphatic 71-7 victory.
The game was played at a very fast pace, but there was some excellent rugby on show with a number of well-worked tries. Perhaps most encouraging was the way the players supported each other throughout the game, both in attack and defence.
It was also fantastic to see such a large number of supporters on the touchline, getting behind the team and helping to create a great atmosphere around the pitch. That level of support makes a real difference and is a great reflection of the club spirit we have at Essington.
Unfortunately, Dan, our scrum-half, picked up an injury during the game and may now be out for some time. We wish him well and hope to see him back on the pitch as soon as possible.
After a delayed start to the season, three very different games have certainly given us plenty to talk about. Let's hope the momentum, intensity, support and team spirit shown so far continue throughout the rest of the season.

GET ESSINGTON RUFC CLOTHING 👕🩳

We have a huge selection of quality clothing through our partner Halbro.
Get your playing shorts, coats, customised playing shirts, etc. including two ranges club shirts for after the game (with one at £23/24).
https://halbro.com/product-category/your-store/essington-rufc/

Socks £10 and ties £15 are only available over the bar and always in stock.
We do carry a small stock of other items behind the bar:-
Playing shorts. - 34"+
Long sleeve shirt – size 17½"
Long sleeve shirt – size 15½"
V neck Jumper – size 48–50"
V neck Jumper – size 54–56"
Woolly Hats - £12 & £15

UPDATED FIXTURE LIST

3rd October - Willenhall 2s - League (A)
17th October - Willenhall 3s - 2nd / Vets Team Friendly (H)
24th October - Telford 2s - League (A)
31st October - Sutton Coldfield 2s - League (H)
7th November - Rugeley Greybeards - 2nd / Vets team Friendly (H)
14th November - Tamworth 2s - League (A)
21st November - Moseley Oak 2s - League (H)
28th November - Wednesbury - League (A)
5th December - Willenhall 3s - 2nd/ VETS Team Friendly (A)
12th December - Old Saltleians 2s - League (H)
19th December - Burntwood 2s - League (A)

2027

9th January - Rugeley Greybeards - 2nd / Vets team Friendly (A)
16th January - Willenhall 2s - League (H)
23rd January - Telford 2s - League (H)
13th February - Sutton Coldfield 2s -League (A)
20th February - Tamworth 2s - League (H)
6th March - Moseley Oak 2s - League (A)
13th March - Wednesbury - League (H)
3rd April - Old Saltleians 2s - League (A)