

ESSINGTON RUFC

NEWSLETTER

July 2026



Function Room For Hire



essingtonrufc@gmail.com



[@essingtonrugbyclub](https://www.facebook.com/essingtonrugbyclub)



[essington_rugby_club](https://www.instagram.com/essington_rugby_club)

Ezzfest Returns to Essington Rugby Club



Essington Hawks gave visitors a chance to see their impressive touch rugby skills in action.



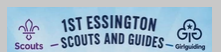
A wide variety of stallholders and charities attended, including representatives from Bat Conservation, the Woodland Trust, the Greyhound Trust, and Ashmore Rescue for Cats. Visitors also had the opportunity to test their abilities at our own "Test Your Rugby Skills" tent.



People used their skill at the Coconut Sky, knocking coconuts off the Shy's with a rugby ball. Thanks to [Essington Fruit Farm](#) for the donation of coconuts and to [1st Essington Scouts and Guides](#) for the loan of the Shy.

Live music provided entertainment throughout the day, adding to the atmosphere. The event was officially opened by local MP Gavin Williamson, who welcomed visitors and praised the community spirit on display. Friends of Essington did an excellent job managing the car park and helping visitors throughout the day.

Events of this scale require a great deal of planning and preparation behind the scenes. A huge thank you goes to everyone involved in organising Ezzfest, as well as all the helpers and volunteers who gave their time and effort on the day. Their hard work ensured that the return of Ezzfest at the club was an enjoyable and memorable occasion for all.



Essington Hawks Making Their Mark in the Summer Touch Series



Essington Hawks kicked off their Staffordshire Summer Touch Series campaign at Stone, finishing a very respectable third place after a series of closely contested matches. Round 2, held at Newport, saw the team once again secure third place as they continued to build momentum. Round 3 took the squad to Rugeley, where all their hard work paid off in spectacular fashion as they were

crowned tournament winners. The team's commitment, determination and growing confidence were evident throughout the evening, making the victory a well-deserved reward for everyone involved.

The squad continues to grow week by week, with standards rising and team spirit stronger than ever.

A particular highlight has been the success of our mixed touch rugby side, with two women on the pitch at all times throughout the tournament, demonstrating the inclusive nature of the sport and the strength of the team.

Want to get involved in rugby?

Mixed Touch Rugby is a fun, friendly and non-contact way to play. Suitable for all ages and abilities, it's a great way to get active, improve your fitness and meet new people. No experience is needed - everyone is welcome. Join the Essington Hawks and give it a try!



**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**](#)

The Committee for 2026/2027



ESSINGTON RFC COMMITTEE

 DAVE BRAWN President	 GERWYN JONES Chairperson	 PHIL BREAKWELL Vice Chairperson
 MIKE CHANDLER Secretary	 ANDY LYNDON Treasurer	 JAMES HANDS Junior Chairperson



ESSINGTON RFC COMMITTEE

 STEVE AYLAND Contact Head Coach	 ADAM BIGGINS Contact Assistant Coach	 GREG OSBORN 1st Team Captain
 GRAHAM SMITH 2nd Team Captain	 ALEX BALDWIN Touch Coach	 EMILY BROOKES Touch Captain



ESSINGTON RFC COMMITTEE

 THE SOPHIE LOCKLEY Junior Team Manager	 LIV BURROWS Rugby Safe Lead and First Aid	 PHIL BREAKWELL Inclusion & Diversity Officer
 SOPHIE LOCKLEY Safeguarding Officer	 JACK HOWARD Fixture Secretary	 ELLIE FLETCHER Social Secretary



ESSINGTON RFC COMMITTEE

 JAMES HANDS Volunteer Co-ordinator	 HELEN CHANDLER Bar Manager	 GERWYN JONES Sponsorship Co-ordinator
 STUART JONES Referee Co-ordinator	 PHIL BREAKWELL Webmaster	 JOSIE LLOYD Events Co-ordinator



ESSINGTON RFC COMMITTEE

 EMILY BROOKES Social Media Lead	 ALEX BALDWIN Social Media Team	 CHARLOTTE LYNDON Social Media Team
 ABBIE FARLEY Social Media Team	 LUCY DIXON Social Media Team	 WILL OSBORN Social Media Team



As we look ahead to the new season, we'd like to welcome a number of people into new roles across the club.

A warm welcome to our new Head Coach, Steve Ayland, and Assistant Coach, Adam Biggins. We wish them every success and look forward to the season ahead. We'd also like to thank Steve Brittain for his commitment over the last few seasons. His work with the players has helped provide direction, build confidence and develop the squad, and we appreciate everything he has done for the club.

Our safeguarding role also sees a change, with Sophie taking over from Gillian. Thank you to Gillian for the time and care she has given to this important position, and we wish Sophie well in her new role.

Our social media team has expanded for the coming season and will now be led by Emily, who takes over from Phil. Social media continues to play an important role in promoting the club, celebrating achievements and keeping everyone up to date. Thank you to Phil for all of his work in developing our online presence.

Phil isn't going far, however, as he will be leading a new team focused on player welfare and mental health, helping to ensure the wellbeing of our players and members remains a priority.

A special thank you also goes to Dave Best, Dan Helsby and Tom Kempson for their continued hard work and commitment over the past year. We'd also like to thank those committee members who have once again volunteered their time to continue serving the club this season.

Our ever-growing Mixed Touch section also sees a change. Faz has led the group for several years and has done a fantastic job growing it into the thriving section it is today. We'd like to thank him for all his hard work and dedication. Taking the reins this season are Alex as Touch Coach and Emily as Touch Captain, and we wish them every success.

Neil Reynolds has agreed to take on the roll of CDC which is the link with Staffs RFC and is a key steering committee that focuses on promoting rugby in the county,

Finally, there is a change in the first team captaincy. After giving his time and leadership to the role, Wil has stepped down as captain, but not from the committee. We'd like to thank him for everything he has contributed both on and off the pitch. Stepping into the role is his brother, Greg, and we wish him all the best as he leads the team into the new season.

Thank you to everyone who gives up their time to support the club, whether on the committee, coaching, volunteering or helping behind the scenes. Your commitment is what keeps the club moving forward, and we look forward to another successful season.



The fixtures for the 2026/27 season have now been released!

Following the latest league restructure, we've been placed in a league with just nine teams. While this means the First XV will have fewer league matches this season, it also creates a fantastic opportunity to schedule more fixtures for our Second XV/Veterans.

We're delighted that Graham has once again stepped up to lead the Second XV, and we're hoping these extra games will help continue the development of players throughout the club, giving everyone more opportunities to play and enjoy their rugby.

If you know anyone who's interested in playing rugby—whether they're experienced, returning to the game, or completely new—bring them along to the club. They'll receive a warm welcome and get a chance to experience what our club is all about.

This season, we'd also love to see as many people as possible getting behind both our First XV and Second XV. Your encouragement from the sidelines makes a real difference. Let's create a great atmosphere on matchdays.



RUGBY PLAYERS REREGISTER TO THE CLUB!

All players in must register annually through the RFU's Game Management System (GMS) to be eligible for contact rugby in the 2026/27 season.

PLAYERS NEED TO:

- LOG INTO** their personal GMS account
- COMPLETE** the renewal form
- SUBMIT** and confirm your details

**GET REGISTERED. STAY ELIGIBLE.
BE READY. BE PART OF IT.**

DON'T LEAVE IT LATE – GET REGISTERED TODAY FOR THE 2026/27 SEASON!

Re- Register

From the 1st July 2026 players will need to re-register to be eligible to play next season. From the information given so far players will get a reminder email from the RFU, there will also be an option to select their preferred rugby format: contact, non-contact, or both . It had been unclear before whether there was a need/option for mixed touch players to register. It looks like there will be this option. Login to GMS [HERE](#)

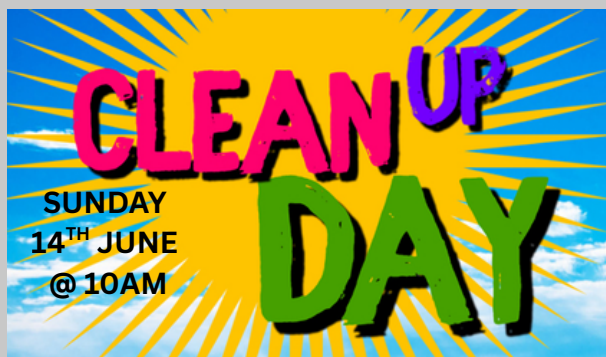
Once registered there will be a need to pay membership to the club. The details for membership are [HERE](#)



A huge thank you to Ben Richards of Stone Cross Scaffolding for installing our brand-new handrail on the steps down to the pitch. Ben was still hard at work just minutes before Ezzfest opened, making sure everything was finished and safe for everyone to use. His hard work and generosity are hugely appreciated and will benefit everyone visiting the club. The new handrail has even received the all-important seal of approval from his mum, Jen Richards!



**Contact Training Starts
8th July
Every Monday & Wednesday
7.30am**



A huge thank you to everyone who turned out for our annual Club Clean-Up Day. It's an essential day in the calendar, helping us tackle all those jobs that our fantastic Josie simply doesn't have time to get to during the year. Thanks to a brilliant team of volunteers, we managed to tick off an impressive list of jobs, including:

- Repainting the entrance hall
- Touching up paintwork around the new back door
- Cleaning the shower heads
- Re-hanging shirts
- Clearing the driveway
- Upgrading the CCTV system
- Redecorating the corridor to the toilets with club imagery
- Refreshing the outside bars and side doors
- Enjoying plenty of bacon and sausage cobs to keep everyone fuelled!
- Plus numerous other jobs completed throughout the day.



Checkout Emily's fantastic Tiktok video [**HERE**](#)

A massive thank you to everyone who gave up their time and worked so hard. Your efforts help keep our club looking its best and make a real difference for all our members and visitors. We couldn't do it without you!

WELL DONE

What's Next for the Club?

As we look ahead to the new season, we're excited about our plans both on and off the pitch as we continue to grow our club and improve the experience for everyone.

On the pitch, our priorities are to:

Recruit more players to strengthen our Second Team and Veterans Team, creating a clear pathway that supports the continued success of the First Team.

Continue the fantastic growth of our Mixed Touch Rugby sessions, welcoming players of all ages, gender and abilities.

Growing the junior rugby initiative and engagement with our partner schools.

Build on our commitment to supporting our members' mental health and wellbeing, ensuring the club remains a place where everyone feels valued, supported and included.

Off the pitch, we have plenty of exciting projects planned:

Repair and improve our training area to provide even better facilities for all our teams and make the 2nd team pitch playable.

Continue working with our resident grant guru, Dave, to secure funding for important improvements.

Apply for grants to install perimeter fencing around the pitch, helping to tackle the increasing problem of dog fouling and keeping motorcycles off the pitches.

Upgrade our floodlights to improve training.

Last year saw a huge investment in improving the club's accessibility, and we're determined to keep that momentum going. Every improvement helps make our club a better place for players, volunteers, supporters and the wider community.

There will, no doubt, be other projects happening along the way.

As always, none of this would be possible without the incredible support of our volunteers, sponsors, members and everyone who gets behind the club. Here's to another exciting season!



A group of Essington lads answered the call from Essington Parish Council on Saturday morning, giving up their own time to help with the 'Pitch in at the Pools' community clean-up.

The volunteer session saw plenty of hard work as the team tackled tidying, clearing and carrying out repairs around Essington Pools, helping to keep one of the village's most valued green spaces looking its best for everyone to enjoy.

Their efforts certainly didn't go unnoticed. Posting on its Facebook page, Essington Live said:

"Huge thanks to all the volunteers that came and helped out at Essington Pools today! Great to see so many volunteers from Essington Rugby Club (we appreciated the muscle! 🦵) – especially in this sunshine."

It's another great example of the community spirit that makes Essington special, with local people coming together to make a real difference. A big well done to everyone who gave up their Saturday morning to lend a hand – your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Take a look at [**this**](#) and see who was there and what they got upto!