



# Newsletter

[www.essingtonrugby.co.uk](http://www.essingtonrugby.co.uk)

February 2009

## A WORD FROM THE SECRETARY

I am sorry to have to report that Neil Greenwood has felt it necessary to resign as Chairman of the club last weekend.

Neil has tirelessly worked to make the club more professional and open during his time as chairman. This has included putting more structure into the committee and trying to give people more responsibility (ownership) of the club and get away from this group of old farts meeting up once a month.

I feel this is working well with the committee now working in small groups and then reporting back to the central management committee. With this new structure we have been able to renegotiate the lease with the Parish council on a much reduced rent by taking on the running of the building ourselves, develop communications with RFU funding managers and actively look to develop and improve the club facilities for the future.

The ethos of Essington is to enjoy rugby with friends and for all players to have the opportunity to play rugby to the best of their abilities in a good friendly atmosphere. This is something that Neil holds to very dearly and I think you would agree it's not done us bad as a club over the years.

Thanks Neil for all your efforts over the years.

Under our new constitution Neil Birt will move up from Vice Chairman to Chairman. This will be in effect until the AGM in May, when all positions are elected by the members. I hope you will all give Birty the support that is needed in these hard times to make sure the club still moves forward.

Mike.C (Sméagol)

## SOCIAL EVENTS

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Feb - Valentines Disco**

Live Rock Group **Road Runner** and Disco.

Tickets £5 – see Ruth. We must sell 70 min

## A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

First off I would like to thank Neil for all of the hard work and time that he has invested into the rugby club during his tenure as Chairman. I would hope that as a club we can continue to strive towards the goals we have set ourselves both on and off the pitch. Over the last season the club has seen great success in its social and playing activities. I feel that we must remain focused on these aspects of the club and not lose sight of what could be the most successful season that Essington has had in its lifetime. Now more than ever we will need every member to do their bit in order to see us progress from this strong position and turn it into tangible results that we can be proud of.

Neil Birt

## INTERNATIONALS AT CLUB LIVE



Games Cancelled on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb due to bad weather

So come to the club and watch the



Live with your mates.

We are working on acquiring a projector to show the matches on a Big Screen. Even if that doesn't work out you will still be able to see the TV and listen to "Jeff Link" which gives an unusual insight into every mistake the Referee ever makes!!

**England v Italy Kick Off 3pm**

**Ireland v France Kick Off 5pm**



## THIS COULD BE OUR KITCHEN

Illustrated above is the proposed layout for the new kitchen. As you can see it includes

- a double oven
- moving the fridge freezer and hand wash sink
- replacing the double sink with a single sink with drainer
- adding lots more storage space.

These new improved facilities should help increase the number and range of community functions that we can host. More functions will obviously mean increase revenue for the club.

The cost of these improvements is just over £10,000 and we are about to apply to the **Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust** for a Community improvement scheme grant.

## JUNIOR SECTION

Last week saw the highest training attendance yet with 13 lads all seeming to have a great time in the mud. Nick Smith is hoping to find some suitable under 16's tournaments for the lads to play in soon.

As we mentioned last month training is on a Wednesday between 6 and 7.30pm. So if you know any young lads who would be interested get them to come along.

## FIXTURE

### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2009

*Essington 1 <sup>st</sup>	v	Stone 1 <sup>st</sup>	A
Essington 2 <sup>nd</sup>	v	Sutton 4 <sup>th</sup>	H

### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009

*Essington 1 <sup>st</sup>	v	Wheaton Aston 1 <sup>st</sup>	A
Essington 2 <sup>nd</sup>	v	Wheaton Aston 2 <sup>nd</sup>	H

\* = League Games

H/A = Home/Away

## THE PRESIDENTS BEEN CERTIFIED

... ABOUT TIME TOO!!



The President Dave Brawn and Vice President Mike Alberts attended a full day Safety and Health Awareness Course at the South Staffordshire County Council Offices. Some very informative and important information on Fire Safety was probably the highlight of the day.

## A Warning to Bar Volunteers

Trading Standard Officers announced they will be using young volunteers to attempt to buy alcohol from licensed premises in South Staffordshire. The clubs policy is that if a customer looks under 21 years of age they must show proof of identity, to prove they are over 18, before purchasing alcohol. This policy must be strictly adhered to.

Penalties don't just apply to the organisation, but the Bar Person responsible will face an £80 fine even if they are a volunteer.

## STRICTLY COME ESSINGTON

Matt Dawson & Austin Healey have proved that Rugby players make great Ballroom & Latin American Dancers. Now it's your chance to shine and impress the ladies.

Provided enough people are interested we will be starting dancing lessons in the club house on Monday evenings. There is a list on the notice board with around 10 names already listed, so add your name to the list.

**Come along and bring your mates.**

Dancing is thirsty work so I'm sure there will be a chance for a beer afterwards!!



## **MATCH REVIEW BY BIRTY**

**Aldridge 10 – 14 Essington – 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009**

The first half started with Essington kicking down the slope. The general pattern of play being..... no pattern at all, with dropped balls, missed passes and poor tackling from both sides. After 20 minutes Essington earning a penalty 15m out, a quick tap and go caught the Aldridge pack asleep allowing Bommer to get the first try of the game, Nick Brittain stepped up to kick the conversion. After this the Aldridge pack made good yards up the pitch and continue to apply the pressure to Essington. Essington still had a few chances but were often too far away from the Aldridge try line to convert the space they had created. With the half drawing to a close Aldridge made a last minute surge for the Essington line. Essington managed to turn the ball over and the resulting ruck was slowed enough by both the referee (who had decided to stand at the scrum half position) and the Aldridge tight five, to allow an effective charge down of the attempted clearance kick which Aldridge dived on to score....Birt will have to make his feet kick the ball quicker next time.

The second half began with Essington knowing the league campaign was in the balance knowing a loss may see them fail to win the league. After 25 minutes Aldridge produced some sustained pressure on the Essington line. A penalty was given to Aldridge. An Aldridge player took his chance and dived over in the corner, the conversion was missed leaving the scores at 10-7 to Aldridge. The Essington team responded with renewed vigour and, whilst the rugby was far from pretty, territory was gained into the Aldridge half. A scrum was given to Essington just outside the Aldridge 22m. Number 8 Osborn picked up from the base and set off catching the opposition pack off guard getting near to the line, a pass was given and the Essington captain Richards powered over the line. The conversion kicked yet again by Nick took the score to 14-10. Essington then had to maintain possession of the ball for the remaining 5 minutes to see out the game. This final five produced the most convincing display of the Essington team who played through 10 phases and finally getting a penalty on the final whistle the referee indicated no time to play so Essington decided to kick for touch and finish the game.

This weeks tackle of the game goes to Monkey for taking man and ball to prevent what would have been an easy run in for the Aldridge winger. Man of the match went to Nick Brittain for outstanding work rate and two excellent conversions. Well done lads but lets not let another game get that close again.

In a hard fought tense game Essington 2<sup>nd</sup> lost to Aldridge 2<sup>nd</sup> 10-12. Bad luck Guys.

## **MATCH REVIEW BY BIRTY**

**Essington 5 – 3 Rugeley – 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2009**

Essington hosted Rugeley in what was the top of the table clash, with both teams needing to win order to get breathing space at the top of the league.

The game from the outset was a tense affair as for the first 10 minutes both teams were evenly matched. Essington managed to exert pressure on the Rugeley scrum and line out to make it very hard for Rugeley to set their backs free. Essington began to get on top and forced a couple of penalties within kicking range, however the very windy conditions forced both attempts wide of the posts. Essington spent the majority of the first half on or around the Rugeley 22, and to their credit the visitors defended well. The half ended with Essington being held up over the line pushing for that vital score.

The second half saw more of the same as Essington pushed hard to register points on the board. As the half wore on and more risks were taken some fine last ditch tackling from both sides saw the scores remain even. Rugeley managed to get decent field position for several minutes and were awarded a penalty only meters out from the posts, the penalty was kicked and Essington trailed by 3 points with only 10 minutes left to play. This seemed just the spark that was needed as Essington exerted more pressure on the Rugeley line. After several phases of play an overlap was created at the blindside with the two on one in place captain Richards combined well with Winger Thompson to get the all important try in the corner. The Conversion was missed and the last few minutes of the game saw Rugeley push hard to get the win, the Essington defence stood firm yet again and showed why they are so difficult to beat. A scrum was awarded to Essington who kicked for touch and the end of the game. Jubilation for Essington Fans and players, and disappointment for Rugeley as both teams went to get changed after a very tense and nail biting game.

This weeks tackle of the match goes to Monkey Japp for yet another man and ball tackle just when it was needed. Well done lads and thanks to spectators support. Lets see if we can go the whole season unbeaten.

**Essington 2<sup>nd</sup> 15 – 10 Willenhall – 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2009**

Another excellent performance by the second team saw them beat Willenhall 4<sup>th</sup> 15-10 with one of the highlights being a stunning run and try by Wolvo from the Half way line leaving 5 Willenhall players flat on their backs.

Jeff Osbourn summed up everyone's feelings that the only way the day could have improved would have been if we had a 3<sup>rd</sup> Team that beat Cannock!!