



# Newsletter

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March 2009

## An Important Week

This week could turn out to be one of the most important weeks for the future of our club. On Sunday morning our Under 16's play their first away at Tamworth. The last time we fielded a Colts team many of these players went on to play regular first team rugby. Equally importantly quite a few of them are still playing for the club 20 years later.

The Under 16's are meeting at the club at 9am prompt with kick off 11am at Tamworth. Some of the lads will probably need lifts to Tamworth and the team could certainly do with lots of support during the game. If you can help please see Nick Smith or just turn up on Sunday.

The EGM was well attended and the proposals to transfer the assets to the limited company and to become CASC registered were unanimously approved. At the same time it was announced that we have been approached by Essington & Great Wyrley Cricket Club to sub-lease the club and ground from us during the summer.

This week we held our first meeting with Cricket Club Committee and found them to be very enthusiastic about the prospects of working together. There are lots of details to be negotiated but the initial meeting couldn't have been more positive.

Finally, of course, we will win the league if the 1<sup>st</sup> team defeat Whittington on Saturday.

## Injuries Fixed

Chairman Neil Birt and secretary Mike Chandler – entirely for the benefit of the club – decided to chat up a “drop dead gorgeous” young masseurs named Emma.

Emma works with Chase Town Football club and is looking for experience of helping with sports injuries before going to university.

Her first session was this Wednesday at 7.30pm and the queue of players was half way across the room. Birty had a nasty bang on the head on Saturday, so naturally he had his back massaged for 20 minutes!!

We know that a pretty, young, female masseurs is stuff of youthful fantasies and the centre of over a thousand rude jokes, but we are sure that all the players will treat Emma with the respect that she deserves. Not just because we are a club of men with the highest morale standing, nor because of her looks which have previously been mentioned, but mainly because of the size of her Dad!!

## Dinner Dance – Fri 1<sup>st</sup> May

**£27 for 5 course Dinner  
followed by Awards, Disco  
and Late Bar.**

Please put your name on the list in the club house and pay Ruth.

## CJ in the News

CJ Smith attended her first England College trial on 10<sup>th</sup> December in Northampton, with around 100 girls attendance. On the same day there were other similar trials taking place at other locations around the country.

Over 60 were called back for a further trial at the end of January. A few days later CJ received a letter informing her that she had made the squad of 30.

The games are Wales at home and Scotland and Ireland away. The selection letter also informs CJ that she is responsible for her own traveling expenses and will also have to pay £300 towards accommodation and kit. Well done the mighty RFU and we wonder if this applies to Martin Johnson's team!



England and Bristol prop Sophie Hemming has officially launched the first Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE) scheme for women at Hartpury College. CJ was selected for this course last year and is pictured bottom right.

This pilot AASE scheme has been designed in partnership with the RFUW Hartpury College and supported by Gloucester Rugby Club to develop talented young female rugby players, providing them with the best chance possible to become selected to represent their country at senior level whilst also gaining important academic qualifications.

Congratulations from all at Essington for both achievements.

## Fighting or Dancing?



The first Monday night dancing lessons was a great success with constant laughter throughout the whole hour. Anyone else who wishes to join in will be welcome at 8pm next Monday.

## SOCIAL EVENT

### Sat 14<sup>th</sup> March - Quiz Night

Inaugural Quiz from our new Quiz Master Mr Stuart Jones. Always one of our most popular social events so please try hard to join us.

## Owen Cup Loss Reviewed

You all know that we very narrowly lost to Barton under Needwood in the Owen Cup Semi Final. We won't say any more about the game except that the result would have been different over the years and it has thrown up a few interesting thoughts.

If the game had been played in the 1968/69 season when Dave Brawn started playing for the club we would have won 12 – 11 because a try only counted as 3 points.

If the game had been played in the 1978/79 season when Jeff Osbourn started playing for the club it would have been a 13 – 13 draw because a try counted as 4 points.

The interesting thoughts are it's Dave's 40<sup>th</sup> season of playing for the club and Jeff's 30<sup>th</sup>. Sounds like a good excuse for a party!

# Uphill task as Jeff helps Essington battle through



Lineout action from Essington's trip to Stone

Stone 6 Essington 27

This week saw Essington take the trip to Stone and in keeping with every other game Essington have over played there the weather was grey grey and grey Essington took a much changed first team with some new faces and some old faces....and some even older faces.

Essington started the game at the bottom of the hill. The game was started with Stone kicking to Essington and the first few minutes saw Essington enjoy most of the possession but getting up the slope proved difficult, with too much kicking at times and the ball rarely being supported.

Frustation set in as Essington gifted a couple of early penalties which Stone accepted with pleasure against the form look they took an early 6-0 lead.

As with most games a few early points against three sides Essington got up and slowly but surely they gained more possession of the ball, just when things looked like springing up Stone somehow pro-

duced a turn over....some suggestions from the other match deflated them through, some use of the Slingshot might have put the Stone park off their kill the ball technique.

Essington however battled on and had the last 10 minutes of the half in the Stone 22's.

Constant pressure from driving and quick back saw Essington claim a try through captain Houghton.

The half was ended with Essington winning 3-6. At this point the game looked close and a written apology to was needed to make sure Essington got on top.

## Rescue

Essington began the second half in firing form and were close to score within a minute.

Stone managed to reverse the situation just in time.

The two talk at half time was making effect as even with the slope and wind direction the team stuck to their game of run the ball.

Essington needed up a couple of quick tries through Paul Cornerstone and Terry Greenwood who both took advantage of slope Stone defending.

Stone then battled hard to get back in to the game and managed to maintain a few minutes possession with which they worked up-

overlap and began to threaten the Essington line.

Essington however don't give up easily and this week's top tackle goes to Terry Greenwood for great side on hit to stop the Stone winger dead in his tracks, the turnover followed and the ball was cleared.

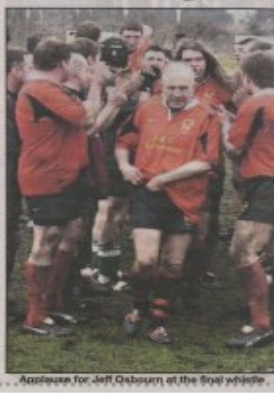
Essington applied more pressure and fast thinking, faster feet and some good passing saw Essington claim another try in the corner through Gary Thompson.

The game was drawing to a close with Essington well in control with several players making good breaks and off loading the ball well.

A sweeping move down field saw Essington fly out and Sharpe work at the breakdown by youngster Jeff saw the ball moved through four pairs of hands for Simon Hyton to get the last try of the game in the corner.

This victory for Essington keeps the league title on track, however some need to be lowered quickly as the slope start to games needs to be levelled if we are to get teams away in our last few games.

A special mention this week to Jeff Osborn who not only made rock solid tackles but contributed to Essington's best two tries of the game - in a special thank you.



Applause for Jeff Osborn at the final whistle

\*\*\* Advertisement \*\*\*

## Have you planned your 2009 holiday yet? Available for rental - Algarve Holiday Villa

- Luxury accommodation for up to 6 people
- Private swimming pool
- Half an hour from Faro airport
- Quiet country location
- Short journey to shops and many restaurants
- Easy access to Golf courses, the Algarve beaches and Spain
- Low cost flights from Midland airports to Faro

### Casa Da Rocha

This delightful three bedroomed villa is set amongst quiet countryside inland from the coast at Olhao in the central Algarve. Approximately 25 minutes from the airport at Faro, the villa is set in a 4000 sq mtr plot in the small village of Peral. The villa has gated access directly from a tarmac road to its front drive with ample parking space and is surrounded by its established garden. The village's new 'gourmet' restaurant and internet café is only 100mtrs away.



The large entrance hall leads to the well equipped kitchen/dining room, with separate utility room with dishwasher and washing machine. The hall leads to the large lounge with television (full Sky service), patio doors leading to a covered terrace that overlooks the private pool. The master bedroom is a double with en suite bathroom. A further double plus a twin bedroom share a separate bathroom. Central heating and a wood burning enclosed fire are available in the winter months. A side terrace is enclosed and forms a yard with a barbeque, fixed table and seating for al-fresco dining.

#### PRICES FOR 2009

Number of guests - Rates for villa per week	Up to 4	5 to 6
March, November, December	£ 400	£ 500
April	£ 500	£ 600
May, October	£ 550	£ 660
June	£ 600	£ 710
July, August	£ 780	£ 880
September	£ 680	£ 780

For further information and bookings please make contact on: Phone 01922 860963

E-Mail [casadarocha@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:casadarocha@blueyonder.co.uk) Web site <http://www.casadarocha.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/>