



Newsletter

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October 2009

NOTHING'S CHANGED IN 40 YEARS

That was the verdict of Dave Morris (aka Big Daft Dave) when he went to watch the recent Owen Cup game at Barton Under Needwood.

As he arrived there were cars containing players from both sides driving in different directions all around Barton because neither team knew whether we were playing at the club house or at a school (two of the Essington Cars actually couldn't find either the club house or the school!!)

Next it became apparent that we'd forgotten to take any kit, first aid equipment or water bottles and Craig had to race off to try and find some kit ready for a 3 o'clock kick off. Then, to our surprise, the Staffordshire Rugby Union President and Secretary arrived to witness our embarrassment to be shortly joined by the RFU representative for Staffordshire.

This important match was to be refereed by a 17 year old ref who not only had to perform in front of these honoured guests but was also being assessed at the same time. (He performed really well under this pressure)

At 2.50pm Barton looked like a proper Rugby Team and were in the process of warming up on the pitch while we were wandering around bear chested and our replacements were a crippled Jeff Osbourn and an ancient Dave Brawn wearing Phil Chandlers shorts Mike Chandlers socks and Birty's boots.

However once the game started it became clear that there really were two rugby teams present and after a hard game we won to reach our third consecutive Owen Cup Semi Final.

The final bits of the puzzle that Big Daft Dave didn't know about was that we had to change in the Ladies changing rooms because as well as rugby there was also Cricket and Football at the same place and to complete a bizarre day the showers were cold!!



We have applied to be accepted as a venue for the Sport Relief 2010 Charity Run which is to be held on Sunday 21st March.

This date clashes with Tour so all you finely honed racing snakes that are going on tour will have to wait another 2 years before you can join the 6 mile run.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have been fortunate enough to witness three out of the four excellent wins by the first team at the start of this season. All the players involved have shown outstanding commitment, determination, team spirit and a will to win.

To progress from this excellent start we must ensure that complacency doesn't set in and we need to improve our discipline on the pitch. In four games we have played 90 out of 320 minutes with 14 players and at some stage this is going to cost us dear.

We are also conceding far too many penalties and free kicks. On Saturday against Harborne we were comfortably in the lead and attacking close to their line. A penalty was conceded which they kicked half way. In the line out a penalty was conceded which they kicked into our 22. They won the line out and scored a try. The easiest 90m try they have ever scored.

To my mind a total of 8 penalties or free kicks is acceptable within a game and we are conceding far more than that.

I would like the management, captain, and players to consider a fine system of 10p per infringement above 8 to be paid by every player into the tour fund. Hopefully this would focus minds and quickly lead to a reduction. What do you think guys?

Dave Brawn

BEHIND THE SCENES



When a swan is gracefully gliding across the water it is hiding a flurry of activity below the surface. It's just the same for the rugby club (apart from the Barton game!)

Every week we take for granted fixtures, referees, opposition, kit, food, well stocked bar, people to open and close, etc etc but none of this would happen without the on going commitment of people like Graham, Gerwyn, Ruth, The Captains, Helen and Francis. Plus all the others.

Now to help to develop the club there are even more behind the scenes activities being pursued. Bommer has just been elected Chairman of the Staffordshire Junior Clubs Committee, which regularly meets to discuss the needs and requirements of the small clubs. Bommer will then represent these views at the main Staffordshire Committee earning the club lots of brownie points.

Nick Smith has completed a SWOT analysis on behalf of the club and is attending a Staffordshire Meeting to see ways in which they can help us achieve our objectives with a junior section.

Angie Smith has become the last in the long line of volunteers to attend first aid training. Ian Blake has had a meeting with Loss Assessors to start off the latest insurance claim and Dave Brawn opened up the club for the fire extinguishers to be tested.

A big thank you to everybody who give up their time for the benefit of the Club

FROM STAFFS RFU WEBSITE



RFU League Champions 2009

Congratulations to four Staffordshire clubs that each won their respective RFU Leagues for Season 2008 2009.

Willenhall - Midlands 4 West (North)

Uttoxeter - Midlands 6 East (North West)

Essington - Midlands 6 West (North)

Bloxwich - Midlands 5 West (North)

Staffordshire RU President Barry Tilston presented the clubs with their RFU league champions plaques at the County AGM on 14th July 2009.

CAROLINE GREENWOOD

It is with regret we announce the death of Caroline Greenwood after a long illness. Our condolences to Neil, Terry & Katie

Essington get the mix just right to record victory

Friendly

Essington RFC First XV 52
Old Saltleians 0

ESSINGTON'S second string seized their opportunity to play for the first team as they piled on the points against their lower division opponents.

The Essington management

mixed new boys from the seconds with experienced first teamers and the result was dynamic, as they ran in eight tries during a 52-point haul.

It took just three minutes for the deadlock to be broken, with number eight Wolverton bursting past three tackles to go over.

Outside half Smith, who converted six of the tries, grabbed

the second before flanker Shingler drove over after good work from winger Hilton to make the half-time score 19-0.

Resolute tackling was needed to withstand the Old Salts attacks early in the second half, before two wonderful solo tries, one each from Smith and Birt, cemented Essington's superiority.

With the game over as a contest, Essington crossed three more times, with tries scored by centre Barker, flanker Coates and winger Hilton.

The seconds were beaten 63-17 by Five Ways Old Edwardians.

Essington's man of the match was try scorer Dave Brawn, who, at 62, is probably the oldest player to score for the club.

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