



# Newsletter

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

January 2009

## WHAT A SATURDAY!!

After a sluggish start, the 1st Team beat third in the League Market Drayton to open up a 4 points gap between 2nd and 3rd places (for match report and league table see over).

This makes the next 2 Saturdays really vital for our season with Aldridge (away) and Rugeley (home), the 2 teams we have drawn with this season. 2 wins should see us as Champions come the end of the season!!

The 2nd Team also came from behind to win against Birmingham Exiles 2nds. Their massive pack and fast backs took them into a 17 - 5 lead and a heavy defeat looked on the cards, but inspired by captain Faz we fought back to win 24 - 17. Everyone involved played an important part - but there were particularly impressive displays from the 2nd row twins Chris and Ben Hilton (very aggressive in the loose), Munch (tackling everything that moved), Wolvo (controlled aggression even breaking up a fight!! Let's hope he's learnt his lesson and will fulfill his potential as one of our key players for the next 15 years) and Sally (converting from the touchline in a cross-wind gale). Well done everyone.



*Essington 2<sup>nd</sup> Team 2008/2009*

Then came the Wedding from Hell!!! Gerwyn Jones, Andy Linden and Chris Worley were the volunteer bar staff for the event which unfortunately ended in a brawl and the Police had to be called. The "Best Man" punched the driver of the bands van - so he

went home, leaving Andy Linden to take the band home. It turned out the groom was in Jail and had been let out for 24 hours to get married!!!

Fortunately the 3 weren't injured and the club wasn't damaged. We've decided not to accept any last minute bookings in future to avoid a repeat.

It just goes to highlight the work of the volunteer bar staff, and a reminder of how vital this role is to the club. What we all need to realise is the effect this has on each of us individually. We earn £7,000 a year from outside functions, so with around 70 members that means each one of us would have to pay an extra £100 a year membership for us to be able to run the club if we didn't have any outside functions.

So a massive thanks to ALL volunteers that work for the club. We are always on the look-out for more volunteers, so if you are prepared to undertake occasional work of any kind please see Ruth and offer your services.

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are entering an exciting time for the development of the club. The Committee believe that there is a possibility of obtaining grants of £250,000 or more over the next 5 years to improve every part of the club's activities.

We have recently met with representatives from the RFU, the local Council and various Grant Aid bodies and are finalising a 5 year Development Plan.

The first phase is the introduction of this Newsletter to keep you all informed about what's going on and to encourage you all to support the club and it's various activities as much as possible.

We are about to apply for our first grants to cover Improved Drainage for the pitches, extra and improved Floodlighting for training and up-grading the Kitchen.

Watch this space to see how we get on.  
Dave Brawn

## MATCH REVIEW BY BIRTY

**Essington 18-8 Market Drayton - 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009**

The weather was warm with no breeze to be felt and the pitch was firm underfoot.....that's enough about the rugby I saw on the telly anyway.

Essington started the game in a manner not really seen this season, with the 3 weeks off due to bad weather showing straight away as Drayton powered around the pitch beating Essington every ball going. This continued for about 20 minutes after which Drayton had only managed to get 8 points on the board thanks to some great last ditch tackling by Phil C, Mike O Nick and Wayne Nicklin...with in my opinion got the award for best tackle of the game. Essington however began to put some phases together in the second 20 and put pressure on the Drayton line several times, hats off to Drayton as the copied Essington's defensive stubbornness to only allow 11 points past them. The half ended with Essington in the driving seat. Half time saw Essington get a bollocking stern talking to from both Captain and Daz Owen. With the comments taken on board the second half began.

Straight from kick off Essington earned a penalty, and for a change were allowed to take it quick, as the Drayton captain could not get to the Ref quick enough to slow it down. With ball in hand Phil Russell made good inroads into the heart of the Drayton defence before off loading to Bommer who set off, the support was outstanding but was not needed as Drayton's top drawer defence deserted them and two dummy passes were bought allowing Bom the easy task of smashing one man over the line. The Try was converted and Essington had the lead at 18-8. Essington's obvious dominance of the scrum came to nothing as the Drayton pack collapsed several scrums; more action was required from the referee which never came. Drayton's response was to attempt more running ball away from the set piece which was easily snuffed out by the Essington back despite the obvious weight disadvantage. Hats off to Phil and Monkey for a rock solid performance. The game finally ended after Drayton failed to make anything from several 5m scrums from the Essington line.

All in all the victory earned not in the style of other games so far this season but was good to see the fighting spirit and determination of the side was still what it always has been.

## LEAGUE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts	Adj
Rugeley	8	7	1	0	181	77	104	15	0
Essington	8	6	2	0	249	58	191	14	0
Whittington	8	5	0	3	229	93	136	10	0
Market Drayton	8	5	0	3	191	68	123	10	0
Aldridge	8	3	1	4	186	84	102	7	0
Hanford	8	2	0	6	99	245	-146	2	-2
Wheaton Aston	8	1	0	7	58	299	-241	2	0
Stone	8	1	0	7	58	327	-269	0	-2

## SOCIAL EVENT

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

Live Rock Group Road Runner and Disco.

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

Please come and bring your friends



## FIXTURES

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

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

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009**

*Essington 1 <sup>st</sup>	v	Rugeley 1 <sup>st</sup>	H
Essington 2 <sup>nd</sup>	v	Willenhall 4 <sup>th</sup>	H

• = League Games

H/A = Home/Away

## JUNIOR SECTION

Thanks to the work of Nick Smith, Alaister Cowmeadow and Jack Summers we now have around 12 under 16 years lads training on a Wednesday. If you, or any of your relatives or friends, know any lads of a similar age please encourage (or drag!!) them to come along on a Wednesday - we only need a few more to make a team – particularly required is another prop!!

We have applied for a grant to buy them a new kit, so in a few weeks that should look really good. We're sure Nick could also use some help with training and organisation, so please see Nick if you can help.

## 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!!

