



# Newsletter

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

November 2009

## ESSINGTON ON TOP

### Midlands 4 West (North)

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts	Adjust
Essington	5	5	0	0	117	57	60	10	0
Eccleshall	5	4	0	1	182	57	125	8	0
Yardley & District	5	4	0	1	152	64	88	8	0
Cannock	5	4	0	1	137	71	66	8	0
Cleobury Mortimer	5	3	0	2	145	43	102	6	0
Harborne	5	3	0	2	105	86	19	6	0
Barton-Under-Needwood	5	1	0	4	50	164	-114	2	0
Rugeley	5	1	0	4	57	146	-89	0	-2
St Leonards	5	0	0	5	42	138	-96	0	0
Old Griffinians	5	0	0	5	47	208	-161	0	0

We started off looking for survival, then mid table respectability now we all know we are good enough to be champions!!

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the league table on the left shows we have made a fantastic start to the season. Congratulations to all the players involved but also to the team management of Jeff, Graham, Ben, and everyone else who has been involved in the planning and development of a squad rather than just a team.

Now we have reached this position the really difficult work starts to maintain it. At last weeks committee meeting it became clear that not one member of the first team pack had attended training the previous week. Clearly some players work away and others may have genuine reasons for non attendance, but we are not going to be able to progress any further without total support and commitment from everyone.

How about making a special attempt to get everyone at training on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November prior to the game against Cleobury Mortimer on the Saturday.

## Essington get the Twickenham touch

ESSINGTON RFC got the Twickenham treatment recently - and the club was delighted to be chosen for a visit by RFU head groundsman Keith Kent.

Kent - who looks after the Twickenham turf - spent more than two hours looking at the club's pitches, along with Paul Mason from Walsall Football Club.

Together they prepared a detailed report on how Essington can improve the drainage on its two pitches and help the on-going improvements at the club.

Kent is regarded as one of the top groundsmen in the country, having spent 16 years looking after the pitch at Manchester United before switching to Twickenham.

He started his career in football with Leicester City.

He has now set his sights on improving the playing conditions for rugby clubs throughout the country.



Pictured at the Essington club are, left to right, Paul Mason, of Walsall FC; Ian Blake, Essington RFC treasurer; David Brawn, Essington RFC president; Keith Kent; and Ross Baxter, RFU funding and facilities manager.

## LUCKY CRAIG

For the last month the clubs website has featured a link to IRB Rugby Ready self-assessment programme.

The programme includes 17 good-practice modules covering:

Match preparation and physical conditioning  
Correct technique  
Injury prevention and management

The club offered free membership to a lucky winner who produced a certificate to prove they had successfully completed the programme and this was won by Craig – congratulations Craig.

If you complete the modules online you can still get a certificate.

## HAPPY HALLOWEEN

A great turnout, gruesome costumes and spooky pumpkins !!! Thanks to Ruth, Chris Worley, Mike Chandler and Mary the gorgeous barmaid.



## *You're invited to a murder...*

As a loyal member of the Godfather's family, you are cordially ordered, uh, invited to Don Brundizzi's speakeasy for a Casino party that's sure to be the bee's knees. Be there or beware!

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to solve a murder (or two).

**Are you up to the challenge?**

We want you to be fully involved in the experience so please come in costume and in character! We're taking you back to 1930. Become a flapper or a Mafia gangster. Make up a name for yourself. Dress the part. It's optional, of course, but it will enhance your whole experience.

Who among you will become a cold-blooded killer?

A victim?

Be warned and beware, it could be the person standing right next to you!

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

**@ 7.30pm**

**Ticket £5 -first drink free**

**See Dave Brawn for tickets**

## SPORT RELIEF

We have now been accepted as a venue for the Sport Relief mile on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2010.



## VICE PRESIDENTS LUNCH

The Vice Presidents will be meeting for lunch on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

This should be a really lively day at the club as the first team are at home to Cleobury Mortimer and the seconds are also at home to Linley.

## Essington out of Vase to a late penalty

### RFU Junior Vase

Notts Boots Corsairs .....	17
Essington RFC .....	14

ESSINGTON travelled to Nottingham for this cup clash and were disappointed not to come away with a win.

The match was played at a high tempo with both sides fully committed to the physical side of the game, explaining why each team lost four players through injury.

With the advantage of a strong wind, Notts pinned Essington into their own half for the first 20 minutes but could not find a way through, with only a long-range penalty to show for their pressure.

With injuries seeming to upset the rhythm of the team, this led to two clumsy penalties being given away which the Notts fly-half landed to make it 9-0 at the break.

The second half began brightly for Essington who took full advantage of the elements to pin the home team in their 22 and second-row Shingler barged over the line for a try. Smith converted.

With the score at 9-7, Notts attacked and were awarded a penalty 20 metres out. A quick tap allowed their centre to cut through and score.

Handsworth responded from a scrummage when the ball was recycled three times for replacement flanker Birt to score in the corner. Smith converted, bringing the scores level at 14-14.

With extra-time looming, Notts managed to break out of their own half and set up a ruck on the Essington 22.

The referee saw an offence, penalised Essington and the Notts kicker converted to win the match 17-14.

● ESSINGTON'S seconds put in a gritty display in an 8-5 loss to Eccleshall. Captain Graham Smith and hooker Dave McHale performed well.

## Smith penalties seal hard-fought success

### Midlands Four West North

Essington RFC First XV .....	25
Harborne .....	18

ESSINGTON produced an outstanding performance to beat a very strong and well-drilled Harborne side.

The tone was set in the fourth minute as prop Ben Richards crashed over in the left corner to score.

Harborne took the score as a wake-up call and mounted a series of attacks.

But it was Essington who added a second try as Gibbs crossed the line to

score and Smith converted.

With Harborne pressing hard before half-time, Essington were caught offside and Harborne converted a penalty to close the gap to 12-3.

The advantage was reduced to 12-10 early in the second half.

But Essington stretched their lead when Russell scored a try and Smith converted.

The visitors responded again and closed to 19-18 with 10 minutes to go.

However, two penalties from Smith sealed a 25-18 win for Essington.

## Sweet 16 for fly-half Smith

### Midlands Four West North

Old Griffins .....	9
Essington RFC .....	36

ESSINGTON continued their winning ways as they cruised to a convincing victory at Old Griffins on Saturday.

It took 15 minutes to break down a resolute home defence as Essington kicked for the corner, stole the resulting line-out ball and drove over for prop Shingler to score. Smith converted.

Old Griffs responded with two penalties to close the gap to 7-6.

But a great move by the back line saw Osbourn pop up on the right to give the scoring pass to Hilton in the corner. Smith converted the long-range kick.

With half-time approaching, the Essington backs stepped up a gear.

A pass from fly-half Smith was moved down to the Old Griffs' 22m line by centre Birt.

He dummed to supporting flanker Coates before giving a sublime pass back to Smith to score under the posts. Smith converted.

Griffs kicked their third penalty to make it 21-9 at the interval.

They tightened things up after the break, the only score for the next 30 minutes being a penalty from Smith.

However, the introduction of impact player Wolverson seemed to revitalise the forwards, who battered the try line before he drove over to score.

The final meaningful action came in the dying minutes as Smith put up a towering kick which the Essington forwards secured.

Scrum-half Brittain made a break for the line, passed to Smith out of the tackle, and wing Osbourn was on hand to finish off the move with a fine try. Smith again added the extra two points to take his tally to 16 for the match.

## Motorway hold-up fails to halt Essington's rise

### Midlands Four West North

St Leonards .....	12
Essington .....	15

ESSINGTON chalked up another league win to go top of the table, despite playing most of the match with only 14 players.

With star centre Phil Chandler stuck on the motorway, Essington decided to save their subs and kick off one man short.

They went ahead when a long kick from Adam Smith was taken by the St Leonards full-back, but he was hit by a perfectly timed Wayne Nicklin tackle.

As the home man tried to offload, Smith snaffled the ball and ran in under the posts to score the try and kick the conversion.

Losing a score to 14 men seemed to galvanise St Leonards and they

put together a series of attacks that tested the defence to the limit.

With Chandler finally on the pitch Essington held out until the 25th minute when a rolling maul drove over the line. A conversion levelled the scores.

A red card reduced Essington to 14 men again but despite the blow, they moved the ball to the right wing for Osbourn, who beat one man and passed inside for Chandler to score. Smith converted.

Back in the lead, Essington continued to attack and a ruck on the 30-metre line gave Smith the perfect opportunity to pop over a perfect drop goal.

With 15 minutes to go and Essington beginning to tire, the St Leonards pack finally made their extra man count as the Number 8 broke off the back of a scrum to touch down out wide, but the visitors held out.

## Brittain stars in Essington victory

### Friendly

Stourport .....	10
Essington RFC First XV ..	34

ESSINGTON received a boost last weekend with this friendly victory over Stourport.

With Phil Chandler injured during the warm-up, Essington had only 14

players but went ahead with a try from a line-out, plus a conversion and penalty from Smith.

The late arrival of Greenwood meant Essington were back up to 15 men and further tries followed from Wayne Nicklin and newcomer Andy Barker.

After the break, Ess-

ington notched a great try as a 22-metre drop out was charged down by man-of-the-match Nick Brittain.

The ball looped into the air, was caught, chipped over the Stourport defence, chased and caught and then ran in from 20 metres out by prop Ben Richards.

# In-form Essington continue winning run

## Midlands Four West North

Essington RFC.....	19
Rugeley.....	10

IN-FORM Essington pulled off a superb win against Rugeley in a very tight game last weekend.

The home defence was tested in the first 15 minutes.

But it was not long before they made their first excursion into the Rugeley 22.

Quick recycling at a maul allowed scrum-half Brittain to feed the eager backline, eventually finding Os-

born who outflanked Rugeley and scored in the corner, with Smith converting.

The hosts added to their score five minutes from the break.

This came when Brittain cantered over the line, under the posts, leaving Smith with an easy conversion.

An early try for the visitors in the second half proved to be the wake-up call Essington needed.

Shingler, after tearing the ball out of a maul, raced over the line from five metres.

Smith was able to convert the score.

At 19-5 it looked like Essington would take the points comfortably, but Rugeley never gave up.

The home defence held out until the 38th minute.

Then, the Rugeley fly-half out-paced his Essington chasers to score.

Essington's next game is away to Notts Boots Corsairs in Round Two of the Midlands Junior Vase.

● ESSINGTON seconds beat Birmingham Exiles 42-21 as the introduction of experienced half-backs Davies and Blondell saw the home side craft three great tries in the final minutes.

# 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 Wolverson 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.

## NOT ALWAYS PRETTY



When Keith Kent visited from Twickenham he commented on what a pretty ground we had. As you can see from the photograph above which was taken in the early 1970's at the Rubery Owen works ground the view wasn't always so pretty.

If you look carefully at the photograph you may be able to spot one or two of the vice presidents. If in doubt ask Blakey!!

## Pamper Yourself This Christmas

In The Comfort Of Your Home



Beauty Treatments at £5.00 :-  
Facials,  
Manicures or Pedicures  
Waxing  
Eyelash Tinting or Perming  
Eyebrow Tinting or Shaping

Make Up For That Special Occasion

*Also Available*

Aromatherapy Massage	£30
Reflexology	£25
Indian Head Massage	£20
Indian Face Massage	£25
Reiki	£30

Why not invite a couple of friends and have a relaxing get together ( maximum 4 people )

Call Sammie On : **0121 3566053**  
**07967 197 997 (mobile)**