
Eidgâh Report

**Musallâ of Eid al-Fitr
1437/2016**

"Reviving a forgotten Sunnah"

1. Importance of the Eidgâh

For the fifth time in Bolton, the Sunnah practice of performing Eid Salâh at the Musallâ was once again practised upon with the help and permission of Allâh. The key difference on this occasion was the absence of the marquee which was used on previous Eids, providing a real open field experience for the prayer.

The reason for performing Eid Salâh at a Musallâ, and not in the Masjid as is the case usually with other Salâh, is that Rasûlullâh SallAllâhu 'alayhi wasallam himself did this despite his Masjid being one of the most blessed places on Earth to perform Salâh. The evidence for this can be found in many narrations in Ahâdeeth, two of which are given below.

- *Sayyidunâ Abû Sa'îd al-Khudrî RadhiyAllâhu 'anh says: "The Messenger of Allâh SallAllâhu 'alayhi wasallam would go out on the Day of Fitr and Adh-Hâ to the Musallâ (Eidgâh)." [al-Bukhârî, Muslim, An-Nasâî]*
- *Sayyidunâ al-Barâ bin 'Âzib RadhiyAllâhu 'anh reports: "Rasûlullâh SallAllâhu 'alayhi wasallam went out on the Day of Adh-Hâ (Eid) to al-Baqî' [and in another narration: to the Musallâ] and performed two raka'ât. Then he turned and faced us..." [al-Bukhârî]*

2. Publicity and Preparation

As with the previous Eids, an effort was made during the weeks leading up to the Eid to raise awareness about the Eidgâh. Posters (as shown below) were printed to be placed in Masâjid around Bolton and the image and details were also spread via social media and Whatsapp.



A meeting was held for volunteers during the week preceding Eid, in which the importance of the task was reiterated and responsibilities distributed. As can be seen from the poster, a key difference was the change of venue from the previous four Eids. This will presently be discussed below. Due to the change of location, the volunteers' tasks were slightly modified from previous Eidgâhs. As can also be seen from the poster, attendees were encouraged to bring their own prayer mats.

3. Venue and Details

The venue was changed from Deane and Derby Cricket Club to Essa Academy Sports Field. One major advantage of this change was the fact that it was a lot easier for drivers to park and thereafter access the Musallâ, as a school closure on the day meant that the entire car park was available for the benefit of those attending the Eidgâh. A second advantage was the freedom from requiring a marquee, as the sports hall was planned for use in case of rain. This change substantially reduced the costs of the Eidgâh. A third and very significant advantage was that this move meant the Musallâ, now being adjacent to Slack Fold Lane, was further towards the outskirts of Bolton, which is where it ought to be rather than in the midst of a neighbourhood.

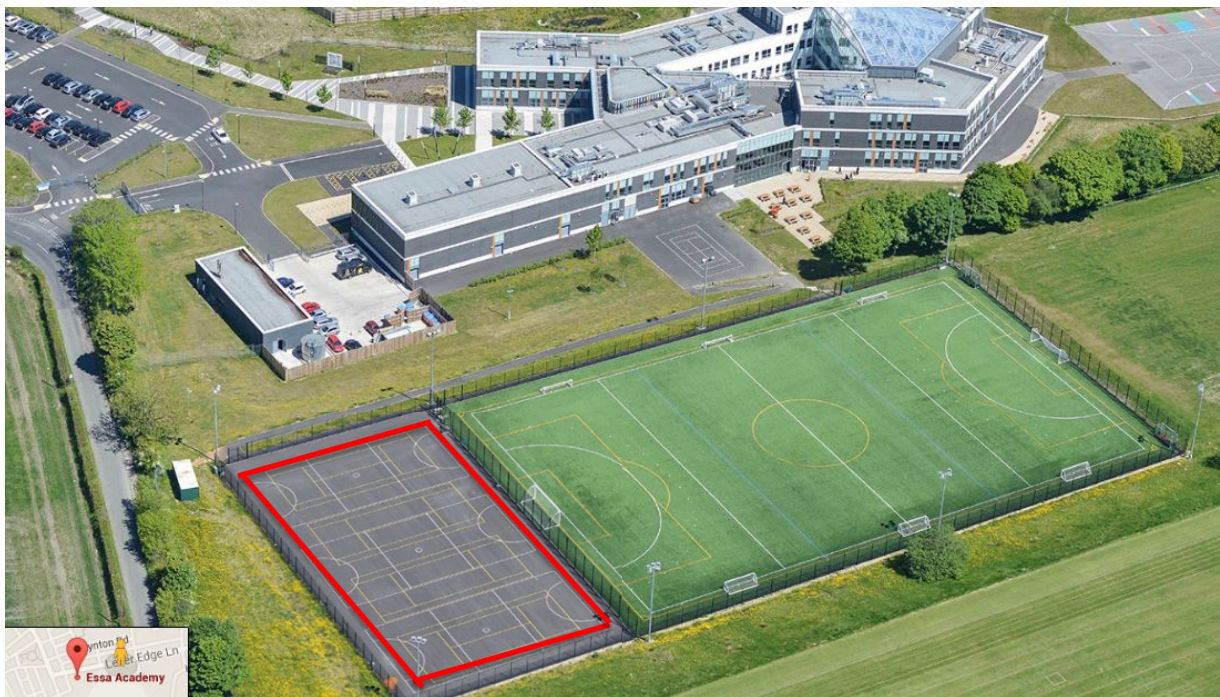


Figure: An aerial view of the Essa Academy Sports Field. The tarmac pitch where Salâh was performed can be seen to the left, outlined in red. (Source: Google Maps)

Since the Shawwâl moon was not sighted on the night of Tuesday 5th July, Eid was confirmed to be on Wednesday 6th July. On the final day of Ramadhân, volunteers gathered at the venue and fine details were finalised. The sports hall was laid with a carpet under-layer and the sound system was installed indoors.

On the morning of Eid, some volunteers arrived early to inspect the sports field as to its feasibility for Salâh to be performed on it. Judging by the wetness of the ground and the relatively clear skies, an

impromptu decision was made to make use of the tarmac pitch next to the sports field for prayers. Hence, the PA system was moved by the volunteers, as others positioned themselves in the car park and at various locations along the path to the pitch.

The speech commenced just after 5.30am as people were making their way in and forming rows using their prayer mats. After a slight delay during which the rows were realigned, the Salâh and Khutbah also took place. It is estimated that with the permission of Allah, approximately 1000 worshippers attended the Eidgâh.

4. Income and Expenditure

The marquee was the most significant cost incurred in the previous Eidgâhs, but as mentioned earlier, this was something that had since been addressed this time around. Furthermore, a total of £1520.19 still remained in the balance after being carried forward from previous donations. Therefore, Alhamdulillah, no additional donations were required at all to cover the costs of this Eidgâh, though some people still kindly offered.

There was a collection on the day for those who had not yet fulfilled their Sadaqatul Fitr payment which would presently be distributed to those in need via a partner charity.

The two areas of expenditure were the hire of the school for the day and a provisional caretaker fee, both of which amounted to £500 and £100 respectively, still leaving a total in excess of £900 to be carried forward. A full tabular account is given below.

Income	Total	Expenditure	Total
In account	1,520.19	Council fees	0
On the day	0	Marquee	0
Afterwards	0	PA System Hire**	0
		Essa Academy Fees/Costs	500
		Additional costs*	100
		Plastic Bags**	0
		Black Bin Bags**	0
		Poster printing/distribution**	0
		Hi-vis jackets**	0
TOTALS	1,520.19		600
		Outstanding	-920.19
* Provisional		** Free/donated/borrowed	

Table: An account of income and expenditure for the Eidgâh

5. Closing note

Many thanks are due to all the volunteers who each played their vital part in ensuring all aspects of the Eidgâh, from organisation to cleaning up, went as planned. We would like to show appreciation to all those who attended as that is the purpose of having Eid Salâh at the Musallâ; to show the strength of the Muslims by having the largest possible gathering at one place. It is therefore essential that we keep this Sunnah alive in Bolton, by continuing to attend and donate, and by encouraging others to do the same. Furthermore, by spreading the word to family and friends in other towns and countries we can be a part of this once forgotten Sunnah being revived throughout the world.