



ECCLES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded 1897

2021/2022 AGM MINI & JUNIOR RUGBY REPORT

Summary and Season Highlights

- M&J members continue to grow. Minis teams continue to hold very good numbers with succession planning in place for teams with coaching/manager gaps next season.
- Majority of teams engaged well throughout lockdown. Minis gifted a care package containing a rugby ball. Credit to coaches who created challenges, did sessions online and our U9s won club-wide Ecclesathalon.
- J. Wright appointed as a part-time CRC with appraisal cycle and targets set and reviewed. Effective line management of D. Aspinall as a paid casual coach.
- Salford-wide in-school and enrichment opportunities successfully embedded leading to the setup of 'Eccles Rugby Schools Union' and regular inter-school competitions at Gorton Street.
- Member increase has been gratefully matched by a much-needed increase in volunteers including current/ex-1st team players. Free Sunday breakfast and Eccles RFC coats gifted to nearly all coaches/managers/committee members as valued volunteers.
- N. Ariane and R. Nicholls set up Eccles M&J Instagram page. Now over 550 followers and a host of stakeholders interacting with almost daily posts, stories and reels celebrating the growing success and diversity of our section.

Ground and Clubhouse : Gorton Street, Peel Green, Eccles, Manchester, M30 7LZ
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- Monthly 'spotlight' piece in Saturday match day programme celebrating each M&J team in turn. Shared with parents on WhatsApp and SM.
- Junior Barbarian event built purposeful momentum for 2021/22 season including a boost in new M&J sponsors and team flags purchased by parents.
- All teams successfully moved to the 'one club' membership offer and 95% parents registered pre-season to ease September chasing. Members feel proud wearing the same kit featuring our 'DofE' links, M&J sponsor and #Homegrown hashtag.
- Midweek training extended to U9s and 10s before Christmas as part of 'Friday Night Lights' initiative.
- Memorable Christmas party experience for most teams. Huge thanks to Rugby Babes!
- Only 2 weekends lost to weather with an AstroTurf timetable actioned. Over 10 car park parties held thanks to Dave Nick, Dutty and Heather with over 300 children in attendance for 'Super Sundays'.
- Average of 25 fixtures played across all teams including tri-fixtures, round-robins, Lancashire cup and Waterfall fixtures, culminating in enjoyable festival days for many teams with strong performances. Thanks to Leeann!
- 95% win rate at U10s and U11s across the season.
- Record Lancashire representatives in Junior teams, 8 in U16s.
- 'Greater Manchester Girls Network' setup by James. Fortnightly cluster fixture attended by our girls alongside 'Mini Warrior' events – 4 hosted at Eccles.
- 7 safeguarding courses set-up and delivered at Eccles thanks to Heather. Attended well by M&J volunteers. 'ProActiv' safeguarding app used effectively post-Covid.



- 4 formal CPD sessions for all M&J coaches delivered by J. Wright. Informal support delivered every Wednesday and Sunday where required.
- New mental health partnership with local company 'Soli'. Reconnected with Shelley Maddocks and 'Try Talking' with U14s meeting.
- 4 visits to Sale games at A.J.Bell stadium towards end of season. Over 200 members in attendance and 'Top 5' status has been rewarded with player visits and tag rugby half time experiences next season.
- Increased M&J parents and volunteer attendance at marquee weekend.
- Successful presentation experiences by team enjoyed & attended well.

Actions / Opportunities

CRC Targets:

1. **Continue to boost playing numbers** in U13s – U15s Boys teams. Including effective line management of 2022/23 casual coach(es).
2. New RFU Junior Girls structure from 2022. Teams in their own right at U12s, U14s, U16s and U18s means we turn our attention to **building a formidable girls section** starting pre-season.
3. **Ensure CRC focus / effective CPD programme** with U13s – U15s Boys and developing Girls section.

Wider Actions:

- Ensure effective pilot year of Eccles 'Red Rose Championship' at U12's – U15s. Six 'Championship' weekends culminating in a waterfall-style finals day held at Eccles with the opportunity of all of our Junior teams competing for silverware. Results to be tracked and shared on social media to emulate Rugby League style competition.



- U10s (into U11s) move to 9 a-side next season and have a valued rugby league contingent. With 3 girls in this team, there's an opportunity to add more and build towards a full U12s Girls team in 2023/24 season.
- Summer Schedule - Ensure successful delivery of 'Junior Touch' every Wednesday, 'Minis Touch' every Sunday and plan/deliver Junior Barbarian 2 (date in July TBC).
- Year 2 of new membership cycle - Secure support partners and design tiered offer for existing/new members including year 2 training apparel.
- Replace D. Aspinall as a casual coach.
- Begin early planning to host Minis Festival in Easter 2023.
- Consider Marquee evening for Junior presentations in 2023.
- Ensure timely Refereeing CPD delivered by D. Taylor and increase recognised referees in the section.
- Forge more Saturday links by returning to 'Mini-Mascot' days for 1XV home games.
- Build in more training weekends in 2022/23 to avoid player/volunteer burnout.
- Sale DPP and Lancashire selection - careful consideration needed to avoid losing players post-Christmas.
- Car-parking, changing/showering and hotdog mania. Growing section puts more pressure on the same people.
- *Thanks to all M&J representatives this year in what has been a season to celebrate and remember!*

Dan Nicholls

M&J Chairman

Eccles RFC