



# ECCLES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded 1897

Ground and Clubhouse: Gorton Street, Peel Green, Eccles, Manchester, M30 7LY  
0161 789 2613 | [info@ecclesrfc.org.uk](mailto:info@ecclesrfc.org.uk) | [www.ecclesrfc.org.uk](https://www.ecclesrfc.org.uk) | [@EcclesRFC](https://twitter.com/EcclesRFC)

## 2019/20 SEASON AGM

### Mini and Junior Section Report

As with all the other players/members associated with our club, the Mini & Junior section have suffered due to the C19 pandemic hitting us.

Despite this, we have continued to flourish and inspire our *'home grown'* across most of the age ranges with only a couple of exceptions. I'll touch on this later in this report, but firstly I'd like to discuss the successes, of which there are many, and it's only right that we acknowledge these.

The secret to any team in any sport starts with the foundations and having the right people in the right places.

There are far too many people to mention and I will probably miss somebody out if I do try and name every individual;

The club is fortunate to be in such a position and the calibre of these people and the work that they put in often goes unchecked.

We have a strong and robust senior committee which supports our junior section committee as and when needed. My thanks to Mark, Thorpey(s), Dutty, Dave Nic, Chris and Leeann.

We have a team dedicated to the upkeep of the facilities around the club and the pavilion which allowed us the play rugby when most of the venues in the area were unable to. This meant having clean, warm changing facilities and a well-stocked club house waiting to welcome visitors.

The quality of fixtures across the M & J section has provided some fantastic games both home and away, and once again this is thanks to the hard work and commitment from Leeann.

President: M. Dutton 07802345380  
Chairman: P. Thorpe 07766 512552  
Hon. Secretary: M. Greenhalgh 07525 434790  
Hon. Treasurer: M. Bateman 07843 756160  
Fixtures Secretary: D. Edmondson 0161 7476697  
Director of Rugby: S. Simpson 07935 403171

Sponsorship Secretary: A. Brunt 07743 825459  
Communications Officer: C. Gaffey 07971 817375  
Safeguarding Officer: H. Thorpe 0161 7902622  
M & J section Chair: P. Fleming 07889 601558  
D of E Award Chair: M. Baines 07850 082122



# ECCLES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded 1897

Ground and Clubhouse: Gorton Street, Peel Green, Eccles, Manchester, M30 7LY  
0161 789 2613 | [info@ecclesrfc.org.uk](mailto:info@ecclesrfc.org.uk) | [@EcclesRFC](https://www.ecclesrfc.org.uk) | [www.ecclesrfc.org.uk](http://www.ecclesrfc.org.uk)

We have a superb level of support across all the social media networks thanks to Chris Gaffey. (I know so many of the kids discuss their team's performances following their games). It has also provided us a channel of recruitment as perspective parents search various websites to identify a suitable club.

We have a marvellous network of coaches who are all kept in check by Heather!

The level of enthusiasm and commitment has been a pleasure to watch unfold as some of our new coaches have come into the club with little or no rugby experience, its vital that we maintain our support as senior club officials for any club member needing guidance or advice. Our committee meetings are well attended and training nights appear well organised!

Our mini section is in good hands and again, it's fantastic to see the likes of Simon, Danny and Rachel committing themselves to those U6 kids at the start of their rugby journeys.

The U7s have swelled in numbers and are progressing well; the U8s have been boosted by the arrival of our former Colts Captain Dan Aspinall as coach and we hope to see that team flourish; the U9s and U10s encountered a difficult start to the season but by bonding together and, with appreciated commitment from their coaches Pietro and Peter, saw a great improvement in their recruitment and ability; The U11s and U12s put a lot of effort into their fitness and are showing promising signs of their development into competitive Junior teams.

On a more sombre note is the plight of our U13s who have struggled all season with player numbers despite the best endeavours from Oggy and Gareth. They remain a priority for recruitment moving towards the new season. If we lose them, then the chain into senior rugby will be irretrievably broken.

President: M. Dutton 07802345380  
Chairman: P. Thorpe 07766 512552  
Hon. Secretary: M. Greenhalgh 07525 434790  
Hon. Treasurer: M. Bateman 07843 756160  
Fixtures Secretary: D. Edmondson 0161 7476697  
Director of Rugby: S. Simpson 07935 403171

Sponsorship Secretary: A. Brunt 07743 825459  
Communications Officer: C. Gaffey 07971 817375  
Safeguarding Officer: H. Thorpe 0161 7902622  
M & J section Chair: P. Fleming 07889 601558  
D of E Award Chair: M. Baines 07850 082122



# ECCLES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded 1897

Ground and Clubhouse: Gorton Street, Peel Green, Eccles, Manchester, M30 7LY  
0161 789 2613 | [info@ecclesrfc.org.uk](mailto:info@ecclesrfc.org.uk) | [@EcclesRFC](https://www.instagram.com/EcclesRFC) | [www.ecclesrfc.org.uk](http://www.ecclesrfc.org.uk)

The U14s have enjoyed their best ever season. Following defeat away at Preston at the beginning of the season, they put together a run of 11 consecutive wins, scoring over 400 points and conceding 105 points. We reached the quarter finals of the Lancashire Plate and have enjoyed tremendous fund-raising and recruitment with an influx of new players from Rugby League swelling our squad to 28 and had 5 players selected for Sale Sharks DPP before the COVID outbreak.

The U15s have had a great season with Finn Cox and Matt Hope as coaches with Moz as Team manager; they also secured a new kit sponsor!

Our U16s have also enjoyed a strong season with good numbers of players and just 3 defeats on the road. Sam Crowther and Louis Lord gained Lancashire honours and they look well positioned to enter into Senior rugby as Junior colts under Wade's guidance.

For more details, there's a full collection of Mini & Junior team reports for the season archived on our club website <https://eccles.rfu.club/news/2019-20-team-reports>

We have also had great support from the referees! Thanks go to Toby Houghton and Danny Taylor as well as the coaches who 'double-up' on match days!

The coverage we have enjoyed in the Senior match day programmes has been excellent, thanks to Chris G!

So all in all, we, as a Junior section are building something for the future of Eccles RFC. My sincere apologies for not mentioning everyone who tirelessly contribute to the cause... you know who you are!

My last thanks are arguably the most important: Thanks to all the parents for their continued support for bringing their 'cherubs' down and listening to us barking at them!

Paul Fleming, Eccles RFC Minis & Juniors Chair

July 2020

President: M. Dutton 07802345380  
Chairman: P. Thorpe 07766 512552  
Hon. Secretary: M. Greenhalgh 07525 434790  
Hon. Treasurer: M. Bateman 07843 756160  
Fixtures Secretary: D. Edmondson 0161 7476697  
Director of Rugby: S. Simpson 07935 403171

Sponsorship Secretary: A. Brunt 07743 825459  
Communications Officer: C. Gaffey 07971 817375  
Safeguarding Officer: H. Thorpe 0161 7902622  
M & J section Chair: P. Fleming 07889 601558  
D of E Award Chair: M. Baines 07850 082122