



ECCLES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded 1897

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

2020/2021 SEASON AGM

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD REPORT

I would like to begin this report by offering my thanks to the extremely dedicated volunteer leaders who support the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme at the club. This is now our tenth year of operation and from its commencement in 2011 to date, the DofE at Eccles RFC has grown year on year, due in no small part to the hard work and commitment of the volunteers. Without their dedication it would not be possible to run the award at the club.

The past year has been very challenging for everyone. The pandemic restrictions have prevented our young people making progression and we have achieved very little activity. However, despite the significant obstacles, we have managed to ensure that 11 young people completed their Bronze award.

The DofE programme is the world's leading youth achievement award. The scheme is open to any Eccles RFC player aged 14-24, regardless of ability or gender. By setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries, the progressive sections (Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition) aim to improve self-esteem, build confidence and develop resilience and drive, encouraging participants to become more involved in their community, become fitter, and gain aptitude in problem-solving, team-working and communication.

These attributes are not only relevant to rugby and consistent with our 'Homegrown' principles at Eccles, but are also qualities highly attractive to employers and educational establishments in the competitive world our young people face. The experiences that the participants share together away from the rugby pitch not only strengthen their team bonds of comradeship but also give the players memories for life.

Eccles RFC can claim a fantastic pass rate of over 92%, well above the national average, with an even split between males and females. The club total is now 237 medals achieved including 48 Gold awards, 62 Silver, 127 Bronze.

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



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In recent seasons DofE groups at Eccles RFC have become progressively smaller with lower recruitment, higher drop out rates and less participants moving on to the next level. I'm unsure of the reasons for this, but the DofE does require sustained commitment and it's not for everyone. We hope to improve recruitment and participation with the new season, by when we hope restrictions will have lifted to permit more activity.

The DofE team are currently making plans to get started again and are chasing up previous participants to see if they wish to carry on.

We have a few volunteers who help out when required on walks and expeditions, but as always, we do require people to help out in any way they can. If you know anyone or wish to volunteer, please do come forward.

Mark Baines, Eccles RFC DofE Chair
June 2021

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