



ECCLES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded 1897

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

2020/2021 SEASON AGM MINI & JUNIOR RUGBY REPORT

Welcome to this end of season M&J Report. Not unexpectedly; due to the obvious distraction of this damn COVID situation, it's likely to be a diluted feed back, nevertheless I'd like to start on a positive note:

Most of our age ranges have retained significant player numbers throughout the last year. This is a result of some amazing commitment from a number of coaches and club members.

Our Minis section continues to thrive and to see the organised bedlam on a Sunday morning is heart warming! The club has seen fantastic levels of recruitment at this age group, no doubt influenced by positive word of mouth amongst the parents to the unrivalled quality of our coaching and facilities.

In addition, to see a selection of former first team players now coaching kids is just as encouraging and my thanks go to the likes of Dan Nichols, Simon Donovan, Steve Lillie, James Cunningham, Glen Cahill, James Wright and Alan Bent (Apologies to those I haven't mentioned)

In the depths of lockdown, our coaches worked tirelessly to keep the kids involved with the zoom sessions.

Amongst the younger junior ranks, on the whole, we have retained significant numbers, with our teams picking up a few new recruits following the relaxation of restrictions. The U14s have struggled and remain a focal point for the rugby committee.

I'm not about to mention each age group but I would like to add here an acknowledgement of the U15s... not least because this is my age group! They enjoyed a winning run of 14 games unbeaten before succumbing to COVID! A total of 5 players represented ERFC at the Sale Sharks DPP with one player recently being selected to go to their academy squad!

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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The fixtures in May provided the usual code clash with the RL players, but on the whole we struck a balance and this maybe will be a familiar exercise for a few more years yet! I have to say here that without our RL contingency the U15s would struggle to field a competitive squad.

As I'm stepping down from my role as M&J Chair, I would like to convey my thanks to a number of people without whom, the success of the junior section would not have been possible over the years.

Firstly to our senior rugby committee for their work that goes unnoticed behind the scenes! Without their continued support my role would like have been very difficult!

To Leeann our-ever reliable Fixture Secretary who can organise last minute games for 300 junior players in the time it takes to send a text!
Thanks Leeann..... You're a star!

The kitchen staff led by Marie who again manage to organise a scrum of kids on Sunday mornings and get them fed with QUALITY meals.... not the cold curled up offerings they get at some other clubs!

To our ground and pavilion team who work tirelessly year round to ensure there is hot water, clean changing rooms and decent playing surfaces when all others succumb to the elements of mid winter!

To finish off; arguably the most important group of people.... the coaches!

From u6s through to Colts... if you ever think it's easy, give it a try!
These people have stepped up regardless of their own rugby experience so that their particular age groups can play and train each week!
They have to double up as referees and physios and kit washers and other unidentified roles! Bloody well done to you all!

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Lastly my personal thanks to my support team who I have been privileged to have with me down the years! Dave, Mark and Paula! I must also include Toby, our society ref who is only too happy to step in for us! Gold dust!

Thanks to Mr Gaffey for all he does for the M&J section, including stepping into our U15s coaching team!

I wish you ALL the very best for the future!

Paul Fleming, Eccles RFC Mini & Junior Chair
June 2021

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