



# 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)

## 2020/21 Season Secretary Report

In many ways, this last season has seen less activity than any in recent memory. But in other ways, this season has been by far the most demanding in terms of off-field organisation. There has been no reverting back to normal after a temporary intense period; there has been a near-constant need to remain abreast of continually changing guidance and regulations, so that decisions can be made on behalf of the club, whether you have the energy or mental capacity for it or not. Personally, I have found it an extremely difficult season, and the fact that we are (hopefully) emerging from it in such a strong position is testament to the efforts made by all committee members. I would like to offer my thanks to everyone who has contributed over the last 12 months.

The challenges of the last year are perhaps best represented by how little there is to report from my perspective. The vast majority of efforts have gone into “preparing for a return to rugby”, “discussing opening the clubhouse”, “reviewing finances” and other mundanities which took up a lot of time but don’t warrant explaining in further detail.

To look at things more positively, there are a few highlights to share:

- The conference room has been tidied up and restored to usability, ready for use by both us and the outside world as soon as it is permitted.
- The new volunteer reward programme has resulted in positive feedback from both the volunteers themselves and the general membership. We can never fully reward our volunteer base for everything they do, but we will continue to build on this in the future.
- The Eccles Peak Challenge got people off the couch and exercising whilst also raising money for the NHS. The Ecclesathon was also a great initiative which saw many sections of the club having fun and sharing their adventures online.
- Coach development sessions were delivered to club coaches via Zoom during lockdowns, meaning that we were still improving when many other clubs and sports ceased activity completely.
- A new kit supply contract was negotiated and signed with O’Neills to keep us looking smart into the future.

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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As I'm sure you'll here repeatedly throughout the evening, the big challenge for us moving forward is re-engagement. We have done all we can to try and keep people involved and entertained during the season and nowhere is that better shown by our thriving minis section. But there are other sections where we will undoubtedly have lost players due to other interests, changing of circumstances, or the relentless march of time. Hopefully the plans we have put in place to continue improving the facilities, to recruit a dedicated Community Rugby Coach, and building the pergola will make us an attractive proposition moving forward.

Finally, as you may already be aware, after 10 years as a committee member and the last five as Secretary or Chairman, I am standing down. During this time, I have had chance to work with a wide number of hard-working volunteers and I thank them all for the efforts. Despite this challenging season, the club is strongly positioned to kick on and grow even bigger and better, and I wish the new committee all the best for their stewardship.

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