



# **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)

## **2019/20 SEASON AGM**

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award Section Report**

Eccles RFC are proud to offer the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, the world's leading youth achievement award. The scheme is open to any young person, regardless of ability, gender or background. By setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries, the progressive sections 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 new skills 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 attractive to employers and universities in the competitive world our young people face.

In total Eccles RFC has now achieved over 227 medals: 117 Bronze, 62 Silver and 48 Gold! Our 92% completion rate is well above the national average, with an even split between males and females. We currently have 37 young people at different stages in their award, 21 at Bronze and 16 at Silver.

To provide the DofE Awards at Eccles RFC takes a lot of effort from the extremely dedicated leaders and volunteers. From our start in 2011 to date, the DofE at Eccles has grown year on year, due in no small part to the hard work and commitment of our volunteers. Without them it would not be possible to run the award at the club and I would like to this this opportunity to thank them for their efforts once again this season.

This past 12 months has been one of the most challenging we've encountered, we've had a few obstacles to overcome and it has been the first year we have not achieved any awards.

We had a group who became lost on their expedition, so they need to repeat and successfully complete that stage again in order to pass and move forward to the next award level.

We have also had some participants who have not submitted their expedition presentations and as such, cannot be given their award - quite disappointing as the young people have put all the hard work in and received all the assistance possible from their leaders, only to falter at the final hurdle.

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 addition, we've found the groups have become smaller, with lower numbers signing up and fewer moving on to the next level. I am unsure why this is, but the DofE is a prestigious achievement and does require a big commitment to succeed.

With the disruption of the Corona Virus to also contend with, we are looking to re-install all aspects of the DofE towards the end of the year.

We have a few volunteers who help out on walks and expeditions, but as always, we would like to bolster our numbers with new recruits. If you know anyone or would like to volunteer yourself, please do come forward. All offers of assistance will be appreciated.

Mark Baines, Eccles RFC DofE Chair.

July 2020

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