

# IN TOUCH

THE OFFICIAL  
CHESTER RUGBY  
FOOTBALL CLUB  
PROGRAMME

ISSUE 12 2019-20

# CHESTER



Today's match sponsor



v PRESTON

National 2 North Saturday 29 February 2020, Kick Off 3pm





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As always we offer a warm welcome to our match officials today. It's possible you won't agree with every decision they make during the course of the game, but please remember this is Rugby Union, not Association Football – if you're the type who enjoys berating or even abusing officials, I would respectfully suggest this is not the place for you.



**Please respect the match officials.**

**Dave Maloney  
Chairman**



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The views expressed in the programme by contributors are not necessarily those of Chester Rugby Football Club



# President's Welcome...

**B**ack in early September 2018 we played Preston Grasshoppers for my first league game as President and the first game on the AGP. Today it is my pleasure to welcome back to Hare Lane President Keith Brierley, the players, officials and supporters of Hoppers.

Theirs has not been the greatest of seasons but we know they are capable of playing good rugby under coach Paul Arnold and the Chester boys will need to be on top form this afternoon if they are to get a win.

There are times when just winning a game is sufficient, a bonus point being the icing on the cake. Last week Chester needed the points and the points difference. However there are also times when it is difficult to witness the demolition of a side who, despite their best efforts, were just not up to the standard required.

For those of you who witnessed last week's one-sided game against Scunthorpe I'm sure there was more than a little sympathy for a club that has had the toughest of seasons, not only on the field of play. As rugby people we must all hope that they will be able to regroup at the lower level and come back stronger.

With the weather wreaking havoc across the country, the only other game played in National 2 North on last week's "catch-up" Saturday was at Sedgley where Caldý continued their unbeaten run to 23 games. Looking at their fixtures up to the end of the season it is difficult to see where they might lose a game, such is their run of form. That having been said, Hinckley have won every game since we beat them at Hare Lane in the middle of December and they travel to Paton Field for the last game of the season on 25 April. We shall see.

A break from the Six Nations this week which gives us all time to prepare for the one that really matters (if you're English or Welsh that is) on 7 March. Or will coronavirus prevent Italy from taking any further part and undermine the competition as a whole? Let's hope not.

Enjoy the afternoon everybody.



**Mike Dangerfield**  
**President**



# Chester 1st XV

## Fixtures and Results 2019/20

	Date	Opponents		For	Against	Match points	Total points	Tries
1	07.09.19	Sheffield Tigers	A	19	25	1	1	3
2	15.09.19	Caldy	A	10	18	0	1	2
3	21.09.19	Loughborough Students	H	29	23	5	6	5
4	28.09.19	Luctonians	A	24	20	5	11	4
5	05.10.19	Hull	H	14	5	4	15	2
6	12.10.19	Otley	A	17	18	1	16	3
7	19.10.19	Sedgley Park	H	24	28	1	17	3
8	26.10.19	Fylde	A	17	42	0	17	3
9	09.11.19	Preston Grasshoppers	A	27	10	5	22	5
10	16.11.19	Wharfedale	H	26	14	5	27	4
11	23.11.19	Huddersfield	A	27	27	2	29	3
12	30.11.19	Tynedale	H	36	17	5	34	6
13	07.12.19	Stourbridge	A	33	27	5	39	5
14	14.12.19	Hinckley	H	19	18	4	43	3
15	21.12.19	Caldy	H	12	53	0	43	2
16	04.01.20	Loughborough Students	A	31	64	1	44	5
17	11.01.20	Luctonians	H	25	29	2	46	4
18	18.01.20	Hull	A	16	27	0	46	2
19	25.01.20	Otley	H	36	17	5	51	6
20	01.02.20	Sedgley Park	A	14	27	0	51	2
21	08.02.20	Fylde	H	15	51	0	51	2
22	22.02.20	Scunthorpe	H	109	12	5	56	17
23	29.02.20	Preston Grasshoppers	H				56	
24	07.03.20	Wharfedale	A				56	
25	14.03.20	Scunthorpe	A				56	
26	21.03.20	Huddersfield	H				56	
27	28.03.20	Tynedale	A				56	
28	04.04.20	Stourbridge	H				56	
29	18.04.20	Hinckley	A				56	
30	25.04.20	Sheffield Tigers	H				56	
				580	572	56	56	91





# Chester 1st XV

**Chester RUFC Appearances & Points 2019-20**

Player	Apps	Subs	Tries	Cons	Pen	Drops	Pts
Skay Owen	13	3	8	22	2		90
Alick Croft	13	5	10				50
Dan Pemberton	7		1	14	4		45
Harry Wilkinson	16	2	8				40
Harrison Vane	12	3	8				40
Mark Dixon	20	2	4	6	1		35
Mike Craven	11	2	5				25
William De Randt	8		5				25
Guy Ford	18	1	4				20
Kyle Joseph	13	3	4				20
Scott Robson	8	14	4				20
Max Himbury	8		4				20
Callum Bennett	7	1		3			18
Sean Green	21	1	3				15
Tom Foden	19	1	3				15
George Baxter	17	2	3				15
Tom Holloway	16	1	3				15
Jimmy Lloyd	13	4	3				15
John Charlie Craven	1	7	3				15
Colin Campbell	19	1	2				10
Rhodri Rhys Parry	20	1	2				10
Johann Charmley	7	10	1				5
Andrew Oakden	6	2	1				5
Anthony Bingham	3		1				5
Ric Cottrell	9	2					0
Macca Van Sertima	7						0
Josh Morris	4	2					0
Alex Reed	4	14					0
Oliver Buckley	2	1					0
Dan Matthews	1	3					0
JJ Broberg	1	2					0
Richard Harry Craven	1	2					0
Oliver Powell Jones	1	2					0
James Hattersley	1						0
James Robins	1						0
Jonny Roberts	1						0
Ed Slater	1						0
Wade Williams		3					0
Josh Woods		4					0
Tom Gregory		2					0
Sam Farrar		1					0
Penalty Tries			1	1			7
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>580</b>

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# Did You Know?

## League Minutiae

### Today's opponents

Since 2004-05 Chester have played Preston Grasshoppers in 13 matches, having a decent record at home having won five and lost one. Similarly, at Lightfoot Green, we have six wins and one defeat. Our two defeats came in that 2004-05 season where we lost 12-10 at Preston, Jim Lyle scoring a try and Simon Verbickas adding a conversion and that rare commodity, a drop goal. At home we succumbed 20-5 with Tom Foden scoring our only points.

This season Preston have had four home wins (Scunthorpe, Sheffield Tigers, Stourbridge and Huddersfield) and away from Lightfoot Green they completed the double against Scunthorpe. They have also had two drawn fixtures this season away from home against Fylde, on the first day of the season (24-24) and the much reported no-scoring draw against Otley.

They have scored 48 tries with Jordan Dorrington and Christian Taylor leading the way with seven a piece. Their leading scorer is Nick Gregson with three tries, 14 conversions and four penalties (55pts)



Jordan Dorrington

### National 2 North Statistics

League wise, our opponents, Scunthorpe from last Saturday, who fought pluckily but were outgunned by the finesse we were able to show have now shipped 1081 points and this Saturday will see the number of tries scored in this league exceed 1200 for the season.

One correction from last weeks notes, is that Sedgley are the only team to score drop goals (2) – these were against Hull and Stourbridge. Apologies for the confusion.



Not many people know that.....



# We welcome today's opponents...

## Preston Grasshoppers



Courtesy of <https://twitter.com/RugbyHoppers>

### At a glance....

**President Keith Brierley**

**Chair George Erdozain**

**Secretary Graham Cox**

**Head Coach Paul Arnold**

While Chester are five years away from their centenary, Preston Grasshoppers are celebrating their 150th anniversary this season.

The club was formed when a group of men met at the Bull Hotel, Preston, on 28 September 1869 at which the following resolution was passed: "That a club be at once formed in Preston to play football with the Rugby Rules of the game but without hacking."

The club has an illustrious alumni that includes Wade Dooley, Dick and Will Greenwood, Steve Borthwick and Paul Grayson, but arguably they are eclipsed by a player from Nineteenth Century, A.N. Hornby. He was the first of only two men to captain the country at rugby and cricket but is remembered as the England cricket captain whose side lost the Test match which gave rise to the Ashes in 1882. If that was not enough, he also played football for Blackburn Rovers.

### Trivia fact

The name Grasshoppers was chosen, because the founders included several old boys of Cheltenham College. This school had a game "Fireflies v. Grasshoppers" which is believed to continue to this day.



# League Update

## National 2 North

**A**fter so many disruptions because of the weather, the fallow weekend of rearranged fixtures was also interrupted by the conditions. There were 12 NCA games due to take place, but because of the remnants of Storms Ciara and Dennis only six games were played.

In National 2 North three matches were called off as Yorkshire bore the brunt of the inclement weather. Huddersfield, Otley and Wharfedale were all unable to host their home games for the second week in a row and will have to find alternative dates to play their games against Tynedale, Luctonians and Stourbridge.



Dan Pemberton

### Chester 109-12 Scunthorpe

The most remarkable result of the day came here at Hare Lane where Chester inflicted a century of points on a spirited but overwhelmed Scunthorpe.

Full back Mark Dixon opened the scoring after three minutes, going over for a try in a move he had instigated 80 metres earlier. From that point it was largely one-way traffic, although Scunthorpe, for whom Gareth Mist was irreplaceable, did score two tries of their own.

Chester got 17 tries in all, including a hat-trick for Dixon and two each for Max Himbury, Harry Wilkinson and Charlie Craven. Fly-half Dan Pemberton had a day to remember, too, kicking 12 conversions and scoring a try.

### Sedgley Park 10-27 Caldý

The only other match to be played was at Park Lane, where league leaders Caldý maintained their relentless pursuit of the title on a remarkably mild day in Greater Manchester.

The Wirral side took the bonus point victory home, scoring tries through John Collister, John Barker and two from number eight Josiah Dickinson. They now lead the division by 26 points.



# National League 2 North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Try bonus	Losing bonus	Pts
Caldy	23	23	0	0	852	274	578	17	0	109
Fylde	23	16	1	6	712	405	307	14	3	83
Hinckley	23	15	0	8	593	439	154	12	5	77
Sedgley Park	22	15	0	7	569	505	64	10	5	75
Loughborough Students	22	12	0	10	649	536	113	11	5	64
Stourbridge	22	10	0	12	621	556	65	12	8	60
Hull	23	11	2	10	449	445	4	5	5	58
<b>Chester</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>56</b>
Tynedale	22	9	2	11	541	532	9	9	6	55
Wharfedale	22	10	2	10	488	488	0	5	5	54
Sheffield Tigers	23	11	0	12	484	541	-57	5	3	52
Huddersfield	22	8	3	11	470	539	-69	8	4	50
Luctonians	22	8	1	13	440	512	-72	7	8	49
Otley	22	8	3	11	429	552	-123	3	3	44
Preston Grasshoppers	23	4	3	16	366	582	-216	3	4	29
Scunthorpe	22	0	0	22	316	1081	-765	4	2	6



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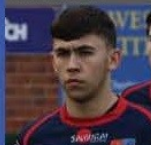


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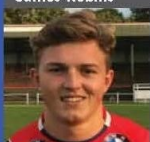
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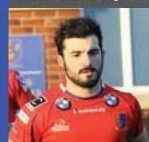
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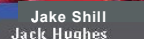
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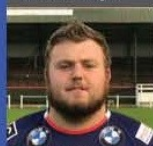
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# Chester v Scunthorpe



Top of the props: Rhodri Rhys Parry powers towards the overwhelmed Scunthorpe defence last week.



Low and behold: Scott Robson stoops to elude the Scunthorpe tackles in the 109-12 victory at Hare Lane.





# Chester v Scunthorpe



You should see what the backs can do: Lock Harry Wilkinson gives a text-book lesson in passing technique  
*Photographs courtesy of Simon Warburton*



Wing span: Max Himbury reaches for the line to score one of Chester's 17 tries last Saturday.



# The Weekend's Other Games

SAT, 29 FEBRUARY

3RD XV



SAT 29  
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**Chester RUFC latest news:**

<https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/chesterrufc/>



# Backwards Pass



Crash site: The wreckage of an Heinkel 111 that came to rest near to Bumpers Lane, Chester, in 1940.

*Photograph courtesy of the Imperial War Museum*

## Steps taken to boost war effort

**T**he phoney phase of the Second World War was coming to an end as Hitler ordered his panzers into Denmark and Norway, but no-one could accuse Chester Rugby Club members of not doing their bit 80 years ago.

First, the club donated half the proceeds of their annual dinner dance at the Grosvenor Hotel – tickets 8s 6d (42.5p) – in February 1940 to medical organisations, then it played a series of matches against armed services teams.

The home team was on its best behaviour, too, because the *Chester Chronicle* described an encounter with an

Airmen's XV as “one of the cleanest and most even that has been seen at Chester this season”.

The players were also pretty obliging against the Army on 6 April, going down 19-3 in a match in which the *Chronicle* described Chester as being “weak in attack and defence”. A performance intended to boost the morale of our front line troops, no doubt.

A closing match of the disrupted 1939-40 season was a game with an RAF XV that was won 14-10 by Chester, but more importantly, raised funds for the local St John Ambulance and British Red Cross.



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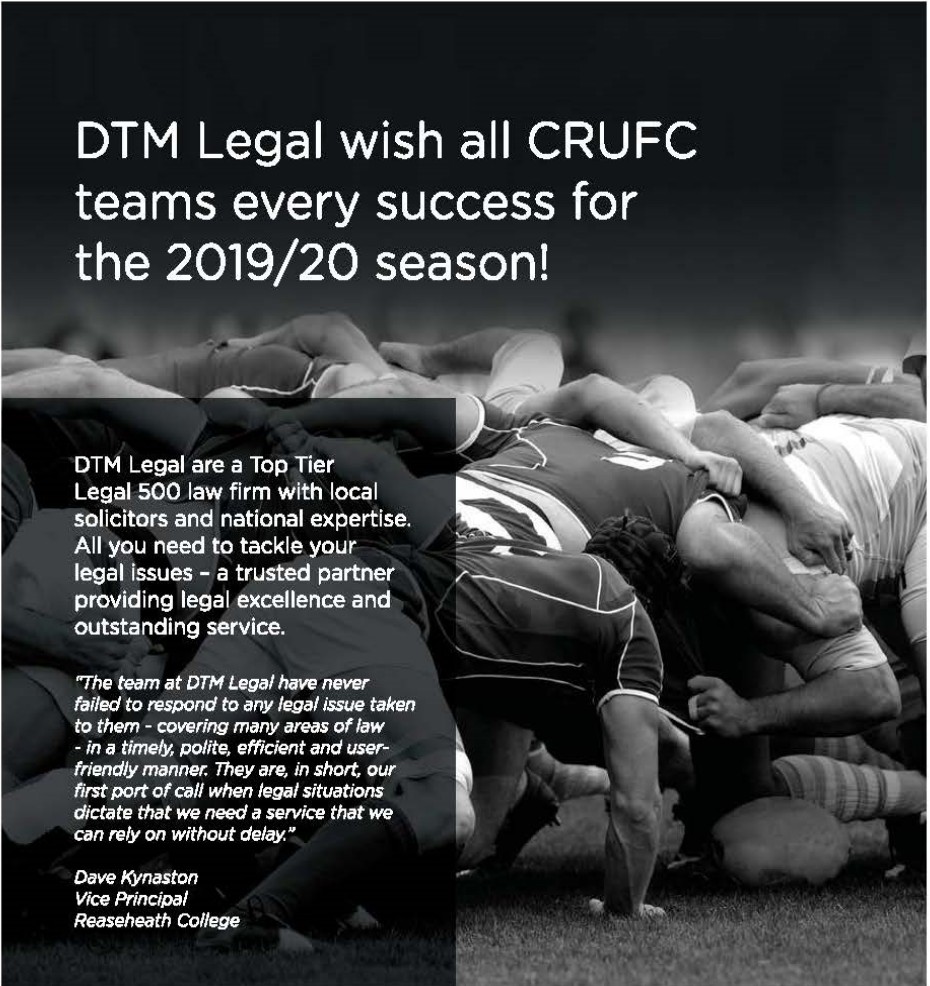
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# DTM Legal wish all CRUFC teams every success for the 2019/20 season!

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*"The team at DTM Legal have never failed to respond to any legal issue taken to them - covering many areas of law - in a timely, polite, efficient and user-friendly manner. They are, in short, our first port of call when legal situations dictate that we need a service that we can rely on without delay."*

*Dave Kynaston  
Vice Principal  
Reaseheath College*



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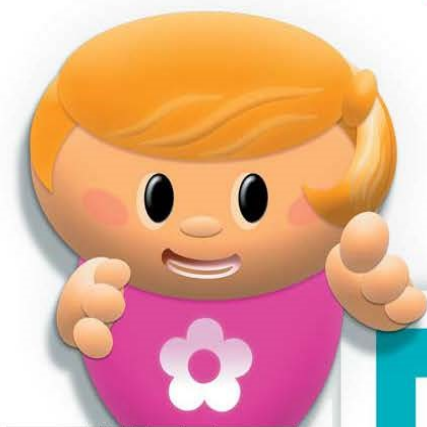
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A cartoon boy with dark hair, wearing a blue shirt with a white star, is visible through one of the windows of a large blue building graphic that serves as a background for the bottom right section.

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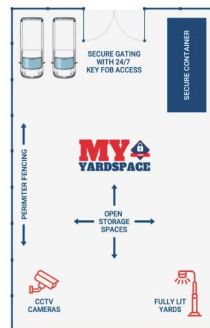
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**We wish all CRUFC teams every  
success for the 2019-20 season  
- from the 1st XV to the Minis.**

**[www.nicolhughes.com](http://www.nicolhughes.com)**

# Ladies Lunch

Saturday 21 March

## Ladies - join us for an afternoon all about you Saturday 21 March

We start with a drinks on arrival at 12:30pm, followed  
by a three-course lunch from 1pm with wine.

### MENU

**Starter:** Sharing boards of breads, cured meats,  
cheese olives and hummus

**Main course:** Chicken, dauphinoise potato, pod vegetables,  
red wine reduction

Pastry parcel of sweet potato and Mediterranean vegetables, red lentils,  
sweet pepper sauce, watercress, herb oil (V/VE)

**Dessert:** Mini Easter egg cheesecake, chocolate sauce

Your ticket price includes entry to the First XV game against Huddersfield.

We look forward to welcoming you a delightful afternoon at Hare Lane.

Tickets are £27.50 per person and can be bought online:  
<https://webcollect.org.uk/crufc/event/ladies-lunch-march-2020>



SAVE THE DATE!!

Saturday 28th March 2020

CHESTER RUGBY CLUB PROUDLY PRESENTS...

# THE GLITTER BALL

MINIS & JUNIOR'S SPRING BALL

## DRESS CODE

DIAMONDS, PEARLS & SPARKLE

SMART FROCKS & BLACK TIE (OPTIONAL)

WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR SPONSORS



ILLINGWORTH SEDDON  
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DRINKS RECEPTION 7:00PM

CARRIAGES 12:30AM

3 COURSE DINNER

LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

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WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!



ONLY

# £45

PER TICKET

SCAN HERE TO BOOK NOW TO SECURE YOUR TICKETS, DON'T MISS OUT!!  
OR VISIT <https://webcollect.org.uk/crufc>

All food choices & dietary requirements will be confirmed with the table lead a box 2 weeks prior to the event.



**'IT'S DISCO, IT'S BINGO, IT'S THE FULL NIGHT OUT!'**



CHESTER RFC



CHESTER RFC

# **CHESTER RUGBY CLUB**

## **FRIDAY 17TH APRIL**

**Raising Funds For Chester Rugby Club**

**Tickets £10 Show Starts At 7.00 PM**

**Tickets Call 07469 886341**

**Chester Rugby Club, Hare Lane, Vicar's Cross CH3 7DB**



# Today's teams...

Today's match sponsor

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## CHESTER v PRESTON

Mark Dixon	15	Scott Jordan
Harrison Vare	14	Jordan Dorrington
Sean Green	13	Nick Gregson
Tom Foden	12	Sam Stott (capt)
Max Himbury	11	Tyler Spence
Dan Pemberton	10	Joe Prior
Tom Holloway	9	Jake Squirrel
Alex Parkes Reed	1	Noah Miller
Scott Robson	2	Chris Taylor (capt)
Rhodri Rhys Parry	3	John Blanchard
Harry Wilkinson	4	Adam Howard
Jonny Charmley	5	Ally Murray
Kyle Joseph	6	Ryan Carson
George Baxter (capt)	7	Ben Dorrington
Guy Ford	8	Matt Lamprey
Colin Campbell	16	Oga Mabaya
Alick Croft	17	Olli Trippier
Jimmy Lloyd	18	Sam Wallbank
Shay Owen	19	Toby Harrison
Charlie Craven	20	Jacob Browne



**Ref Llŷr Ap Geraint-Roberts**

**AR1 Colin Burrell**

**AR2 Steve Halliday**

**NEXT GAME**

**Wharfedale**

**7 March**

**AWAY**