

# IN TOUCH

THE OFFICIAL  
CHESTER RUGBY  
FOOTBALL CLUB  
PROGRAMME

ISSUE 11 2019-20

# CHESTER



## v SCUNTHORPE

National 2 North Saturday 22 February 2020, Kick Off 3pm





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Head Coach Jan Van Deventer

2nd XV Captain Tom Mullen

3rd XV Captain John Marsden

Devas' Captain Sammy Evans

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Programme Editor Guy Hodgson

Web Manager Tim Carty

Physiotherapy Vicky Ashworth

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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Affiliations

Rugby Union League, English Clubs, Championship League

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



# President's Welcome...

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**G**ood afternoon everyone. Unfortunately Storm Dennis prevented our scheduled trip to Scunthorpe last weekend, but as luck would have it, we have another opportunity to play each other today in the rearranged fixture from November.

I am therefore very pleased to be able to welcome their players, officials and supporters to Hare Lane this afternoon for what will be the first meeting between our two sides this season.

We all know it's been a tough season for our visitors, both on and off the field. It is difficult to imagine how they have coped with the situation they have been presented with, but one hopes that the support of the rugby community as a whole has been some comfort to both the club and the families involved.



The last couple of games have not seen the Chester boys at their best with defeats away at Sedgley Park, a game we certainly should have come away from with at least a losing bonus point, and at home to Fylde who rubbed our noses in it during the final quarter. I'm sure the lads will be looking to turn things around this afternoon and give the home supporters something to cheer about.

Our 2nds went some way to avenging Fylde's win over the 1sts with an impressive 39-14 victory last Saturday. By all accounts it was a complete performance and congratulations are due to Cec and the boys.

The Six Nations rolls on with this afternoon's Wales v France and tomorrow's England v Ireland games probably sorting out who are the leading contenders for the championship. All to play for still but my money is on Les Bleus.

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				51	
23	29.02.20	Preston Grasshoppers	H				51	
24	07.03.20	Wharfedale	A				51	
25	14.03.20	Scunthorpe	A				51	
26	21.03.20	Huddersfield	H				51	
27	28.03.20	Tynedale	A				51	
28	04.04.20	Stourbridge	H				51	
29	18.04.20	Hinckley	A				51	
30	25.04.20	Sheffield Tigers	H				51	
				471	560	51	51	74





# Chester 1st XV

Chester RUFC Appearances & Points 2019-20							
Player	Apps	Subs	Tries	Cons	Pen	Drops	Pts
Shay Owen	13	2	7	22	2		85
Alick Croft	13	4	9				45
Harrison Vane	11	3	7				35
Harry Wilkinson	15	2	6				30
Mike Craven	11	2	5				25
William De Randt	8		5				25
Mark Dixon	19	2	1	6	1		20
Guy Ford	17	1	4				20
Kyle Joseph	12	3	4				20
Scott Robson	7	14	4				20
Callum Bennett	7	1		9			18
Dan Pemberton	6			2	4		16
Sean Green	20	1	3				15
Tom Holloway	15	1	3				15
Jimmy Lloyd	13	3	3				15
Colin Campbell	19	1	2				10
Tom Foden	18	1	2				10
George Baxter	16	2	2				10
Max Himbury	7		2				10
Rhodri Rhys Parry	19	1	1				5
Andrew Oakden	6	2	1				5
Anthony Bingham	3		1				5
Johanna Charlie Craven	1	6	1				5
Ric Cottrell	9	2					0
Macca Van Sertima	7						0
Johanny Charmley	6	10					0
Josh Morris	4	2					0
Alex Reed	3	14					0
Oliver Buckley	2	1					0
Dan Matthews	1	3					0
JJ Broberg	1	2					0
Rickard 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		8					0
Josh Woods		4					0
Tom Gregory		2					0
Sam Farrar		1					0
Penalty Tries			1	1			7
TOTALS	315	105	74	40	7	0	471

## Past Players Buffet

29 February 2020. Starts 1pm. £15.

Contact Arnie Smith if you wish to attend:  
arniesmith49@gmail.com 07518947580



# Did You Know?

## League Minutiae

### Today's opponents

Away from home Scunthorpe have picked up three points on their travels. They gained a losing bonus point at Huddersfield and try scoring bonus points at both Preston and Huddersfield.

At home they have scored try bonus points against Fylde, on the opening day of the season, and Otley. They have also picked up a losing bonus point against Sheffield Tigers

They have conceded try bonus points in all but their games against Wharfedale at home and Huddersfield away.

Their leading try scorer is Will Scammell with six and their leading points scorers are Paul Cook (2 T, 10 C & 3 P) and Will Robinson (3 T, 9 C and 2 P) or 39 points in plain English. Shay Owen is Chester's leading scorer with 85 points.

Josh Bird is their only ever present match day squad member



Shay Owen

### National 2 North Statistics

Caldy have used the fewest players this season (31) and are up to 115 tries.

Sheffield have the best conversion rate with 83.64 per cent.

Hull and Stourbridge are the only teams to score with a drop goal.



Not many people know that.....



# We welcome today's opponents... Scunthorpe



Courtesy of <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/scunthorpe/news/>

## At a glance....

**President Geoff Hull**

**Chair Liam Waldron**

**Secretary Malcolm Yates**

**Head Coach Tim Robinson**

Scunthorpe were treated to a reception hosted by the Mayor of North Lincolnshire last May after they were promoted as champions of the Midlands Premier League.

The civic recognition celebrated a stellar run because the Greens lost only twice after December 1 to pip Luctonians by a point. And that pip was minute, because Scunthorpe squeezed past Broadstreet 17-16 on the last day of the season.

Formed in 1929, the club first staged their fixtures in a field rented from a farmer for £8 a year. Quite what the players were ploughing through is not worth contemplating because the posts had to be removed each week to allow animals to graze between matches.

They, probably more than most, welcomed a move to their present ground, Heslam Park, in 1952 thanks to the generosity of a Mr J R Heslam, who donated the land and paid for it to be levelled. The club shares the facilities with Scunthorpe Town Cricket Club.

## Trivia fact

Scunthorpe's most illustrious former player is Mike Lampkowski, a scrum half who went on to win four caps for England in 1976 before switching to Rugby League with Wakefield Trinity.



# League Update

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## National 2 North

Storm Dennis left a sizeable calling card last weekend, causing more than half the National 2 North games to be postponed, including Chester's fixture at Scunthorpe.

Nationally, the rain resulted in pitches up and down the country being waterlogged and the winds resulted in serious health and safety concerns. Only 12 National League matches were possible.

Chester's match at Scunthorpe will now take place on March 14.

### Fylde 7-15 Caldy

Caldy registered yet another win in their unbeaten season, this time putting Fylde to the sword at the Woodlands.

It was former Fylde wing Nick Royle who opened the scoring with a try in the corner, but it was not until the second half that Adam Aigbokhae would extend Caldy's lead further, his try being converted. Their lead was reduced by Jacob Conner's converted score, but Gavin Roberts' late penalty made Caldy's lead unassailable.



Nick Royle

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### Preston Grasshoppers 3-33 Hinckley

Hinckley eased into third place in the league courtesy of a five-try defeat of struggling Preston at Lightfoot Green. Hooker Adam Johnson scored three of the five tries.

The victory pushed Hornets above Sedgley Park whose game was postponed and Fylde's defeat means that Hinckley are now just six points shy of the play-off place.

The turnaround in Hinckley's form from last autumn is becoming one of the stories of the season. They occupied bottom position at one point, but have now recorded eight straight wins and won 10 of their last 11 games.

### Hull 34-21 Sheffield Tigers

Hull have moved to seventh place. The scoring was opened by Hull scrum-half Harvey Harding. Tries from Harding's teammates soon followed, Charlie Beech, Laurence Cowan, Ali Heard and Will Hall all registering tries by half-time.

Tigers had a brief spell of resurgence in the second half, Anthony Symcox and James Newman powering over to score. Simon Humberstone put the icing on Hull's cake, scoring their final try of the day, also meaning that Lee Monk's converted try for the visitors late on was too little too late.



# National League 2 North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Try bonus	Losing bonus	Pts
Caldy	22	22	0	0	823	264	559	16	0	104
Fylde	23	16	1	6	712	405	307	14	3	83
Hinckley	23	15	0	8	593	439	154	12	5	77
Sedgley Park	21	15	0	6	559	476	83	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
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
Chester	21	9	1	11	471	560	-89	9	4	51
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	21	0	0	21	304	972	-668	4	2	6



**Chester RUFC latest news:**

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

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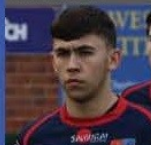


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SAT 22  
14:45



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SUN, 23 FEBRUARY

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**Chester RUFC latest news:**

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



# Chester v Fylde



Force nine: Chester's scrum-half Tom Holloway tests the visitors' defence last time at Hare Lane.



Power packs: The forwards cancel themselves out in an elusive moment of parity during the 51-15 defeat





# Chester v Fylde



Kyle driver: Chester's Kyle Joseph attempts to break free from the suffocating Fylde defence

*Photographs courtesy of Simon Warburton*



Doom raider: Max Himbury's pace stretches the visitors' rearguard during Chester's last home game



## Backwards Pass

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# Barren and Baron days for Chester

**R**ugby proved an elusive commodity for Chester 50 years ago when the senior squad travelled south in pursuit of matches in February 1970.

Their game against Old Haberdashers in Hertfordshire was snowed off and when the party of 28 travelled to London Welsh's ground, where an Irish XV were due to play, the weather intervened there too.

Finally they descended on Richmond Rugby Club to watch an informal game of soccer before retiring to the clubhouse for England's Five Nations match against Ireland on television. The lack of play does not seem to have dampened spirits because the *Chester Chronicle* reported: "Needless to say, an enjoyable weekend was had by all."

It was a barren day the following Saturday (February 21), too, which was unfortunate because Hare Lane was treated to a visit by nobility, Wavell Wakefield, the 1st Baron Wakefield of Kendal who was better known in this context as a former England captain and RFU president.

Orrell did their bit by agreeing to switch the game from Wigan to accommodate the peer of the realm, but the fixture fell short of peerless, finishing a scoreless draw. The *Chronicle's* report described it as a game "which failed to satisfy", adding that "several attempts at goal from penalties by both teams were off target due to a greasy, heavy ball".

Heavy going and heavy metal too. That fortnight Black Sabbath released their debut album, now regarded as the first major record of the genre.



Baron Wakefield of Kendal

*Courtesy of thepeerage.com*

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A message from the

# National Clubs Association

## The National League Pathway

The National Leagues have a strong history of helping players take their next steps in the sport.

When tuning into the Six Nations over the next month or so, several of England's current squad have experienced tiers three and four on route to representing their country on the international stage.

For example, the likes of Kyle Sinckler, Maro Itoje and Tom Curry have represented Richmond, Old Albanian and Sale FC, respectively, and this particular pathway to the top is continuing to flourish.

We are now seeing, arguably more than ever, National League clubs assisting the Premiership in terms of the development of their players.

Across all three divisions, there are many players who are dual-registered to National League teams and experiencing this level of rugby is seen as an invaluable stepping stone. The main benefit of this, which has been stressed by coaches and players themselves on numerous occasions, is gaining crucial game time.

The academies of Premiership clubs do a brilliant job of preparing their next crop of players for life in a senior set-up, but what is seemingly vital for a young athlete at the beginning of their rugby journey is minutes on the pitch.

It is notable in recent interviews on [ncarugby.com](http://ncarugby.com), with Worcester Warriors' Lewis Holsey and Bristol Bears' Will Capon, that both highlighted the positive learning experiences they gained by playing in the National Leagues during their spells with Loughborough Students and Dings Crusaders.

However, it isn't all about playing 80 minutes on a Saturday afternoon. Stepping into senior rugby and coming face to face with the competitive National League environment offers key exposure for developing players.

Locking horns with seasoned players, who may have previously plied their trade in the Premiership themselves, can provide a key learning experience for young players and whilst they may feel out of their comfort zone to begin with, the overall positive impact it can have is evident when you look at the plethora of ex-National League players now in the top tier.



Tom Curry







A message from the

## National Clubs Association



It is not a one-way street, though. We are continually seeing a growing number of National League representatives featuring in the Premiership Shield and Premiership Cup competitions. For example, the flourishing relationship Sale Sharks has with numerous National League clubs in the North-West, highlights how many of their young stars are experiencing the lower tiers. The likes of Gus Warr, James Williams and Tom Roebuck have all featured for the Sharks this season as well as appearing in the National Leagues.

On top of developing players, the National Leagues are also becoming a fruitful source of recruitment for Premiership clubs.

We saw as recently as last summer Northampton Saints sign three players from the National Leagues and now, they have been integrated into the fold at Franklin's Gardens. Tui Uru (Bury St Edmunds), Karl Garside (Ampthill) and Will Bean (Birmingham Moseley) are all continuing their careers in a Premiership environment, which shows how much top tier clubs value the National Leagues rather than cutting them adrift to sign 'bigger' name players to bolster their respective squads.

It is clear how much talent there is within the National Leagues and the profile of all three divisions is continuing to grow. Yes, this could be down to how competitive the leagues are becoming but also it is because they do provide an ideal breeding ground for youth development.

Each National League club is a vital cog for a player who may have ambitions of taking steps up the rugby ladder and it further highlights a realistic pathway from this level of rugby through to the top of the game.



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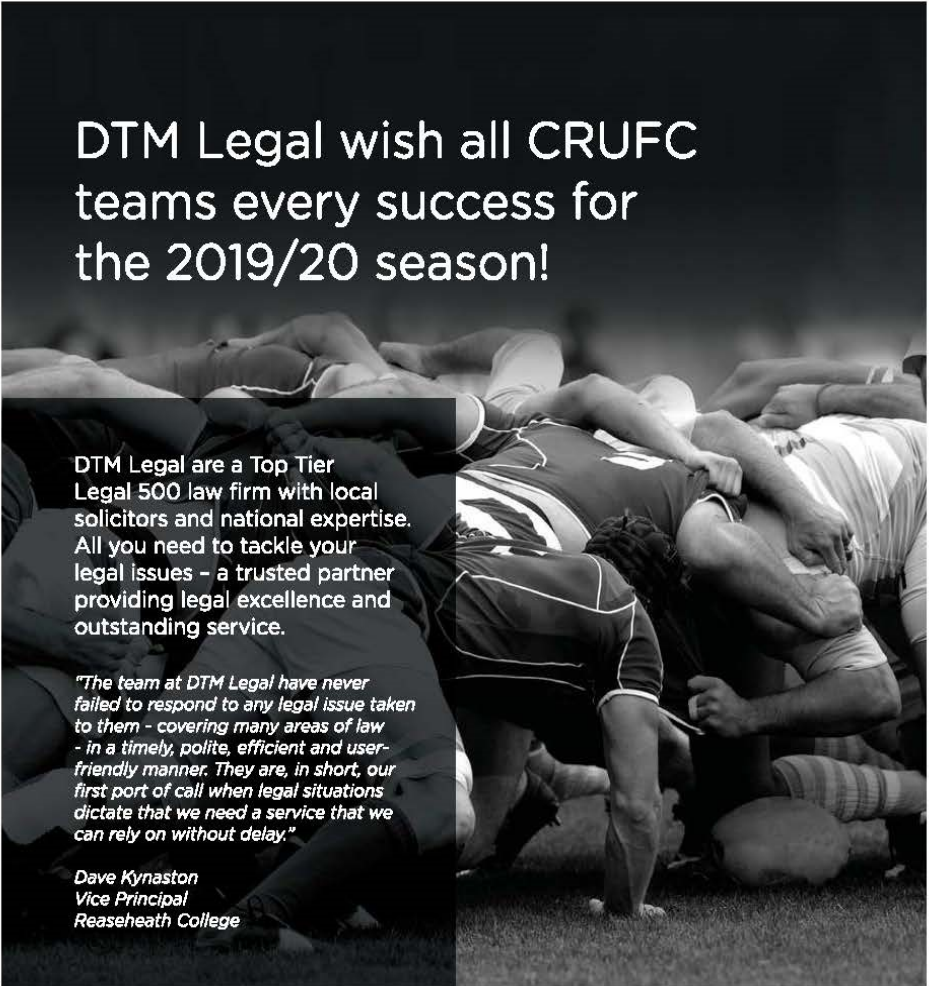
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# DTM Legal wish all CRUFC teams every success for the 2019/20 season!

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

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# 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



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DRINKS RECEPTION 7:00PM

CARRIAGES 12:30AM

3 COURSE DINNER

LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

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ONLY

# £45

PER TICKET

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

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...

## CHESTER v SCUNTHORPE

Mark Dixon	15	Will Scammell
Harrison Vare	14	Keir Gosling
Sean Green	13	Will Robinson
Tom Foden	12	Liam Brunt
Max Himbury	11	Josh Clarke
Dan Pemberton	10	Tom Foster (capt)
Tom Holloway	9	Josh Bird
Alex Parkes Reed	1	Matt Probert
Scott Robson	2	Gareth Mist
Rhodri Rhys Parry	3	Oliver Cole
Harry Wilkinson	4	Phil Jepson
Jonny Charmley	5	Nick Dyson
Kyle Joseph	6	Jacob Hardy
George Baxter (capt)	7	Grant Elliott
Guy Ford	8	Ben Hyde
Wade Williams	16	Kane Linklater
Alick Croft	17	Matty Mason
Jimmy Lloyd	18	Jack Scorer
Shay Owen	19	Colin Chapman
Charlie Craven	20	Rory Rendall-Tyrrell



**Ref George Richardson**

**AR1 Tim Dyer**

**AR2 Ben Moore**

**NEXT GAME**

**Preston**

**29 February**

**HOME**