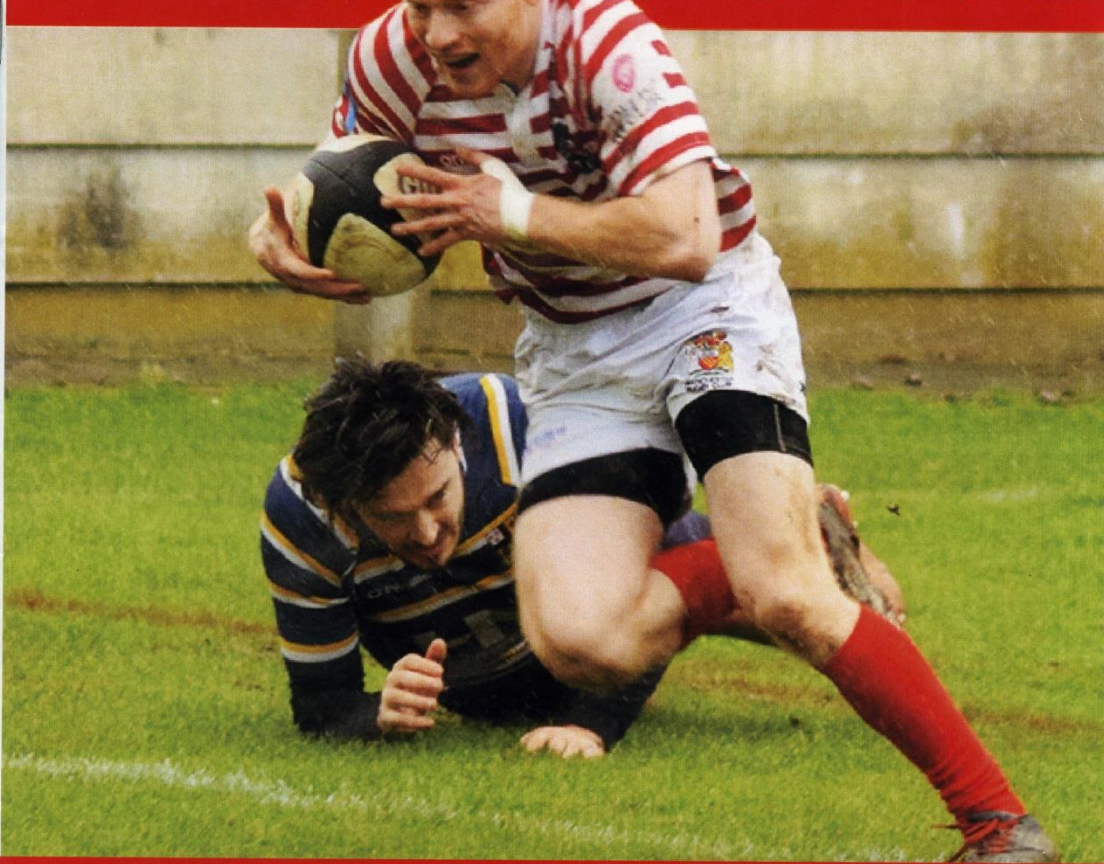




Founded as Manchester Football Club 1860

MANCHESTER RUGBY



OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME SEASON 2018/19

v Warrington

North One West, Saturday 9th February 2019, Kick-Off 2.15pm



**TEAM OF THE
YEAR 2017**



Founded as Manchester Football Club in 1860



MANCHESTER RUGBY CLUB

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SEASON 2018 – 2019

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Under 10s ANDREW MILLEN
Under 11s A J VAUGHAN
Under 13s NEIL CARTWRIGHT
Under 14s WILL CHATTERTON
Under 15s TIM HOLMES
Under 16s JOHN WILLIAMSON
Girls' Rugby BRYAN FISHER

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Welcome to Grove Park...

Manchester Football Club was founded in 1860, and its purpose was to play Rugby football, although it was not considered necessary to say so in its title. As such we have a proud tradition and heritage spanning over 150 years, making us one of a select few who can lay claim to being the oldest rugby club in the world.

The Club was formed in 1860 by Richard Sykes, a former Captain of Football at Rugby School, having previously (in 1857) organised the first game of rugby, between the Gentlemen of Manchester and the Gentlemen of Liverpool. Over the years the Club has provided no fewer than six RFU Presidents, ten Presidents of the Lancashire RFU and more representative players than space allows us to list here.

The game has certainly moved on a little since 1860, turning 'professional' in 1997 with some great names falling by the wayside as a consequence. We have had our own challenges since our first foray into National One (now the Championship) in 2001. We have met those challenges head on in true rugby spirit, surviving a rapid tumble through the Leagues. We have since seen a reversal in our fortunes and we are pleased to be competing for a second season in North One West in 2018/19 having been promoted as champions of South Lancs & Cheshire 1.

We continue to field three Men's sides in league competitions as the senior section continues to strengthen. The foundations provided by the 2nd, 3rd & occasional 4th XV are essential to the success of our First XV and to the continued growth of the Club. Perhaps even more so with an eye to the future, we need a competitive Colts team, which we certainly have in our Academy, again competing as MAKOS in an innovative partnership with our neighbours Stockport RUFC. Manchester Ladies are a well-established and integral part of the Club, now with a 2nd XV as the squad continues to grow, and will once again field a competitive team in RFUW Championship North 2.

We are delighted to have so many senior players representing Manchester Rugby Club who are "home grown", and we welcome the new players we continue to attract who want to 'make history, play rugby' here at Grove Park. With many of our Juniors and 'old boys' winning County and International honours (not to mention Premiership club rugby at Sale Sharks and beyond), a thriving Women & Girls section and literally hundreds of M&J players enjoying their rugby every weekend, it is clear that the building blocks are in place for a successful and sustainable future.

We salute all those players who have played in our colours, those who play this weekend and those who will play in the future. We know that you are rightly proud to represent a rugby club with such a long and proud tradition. It is up to us, the current generation, to continue to pull together to ensure that this club has a glorious future for the next 158 years and more. We welcome all visiting players, officials and supporters to Grove Park. You are assured of a warm welcome here and we hope that you will stay around after the game and enjoy the atmosphere of our great club.

Your Rugby Committee 2018-19

Cover photo and Match Day photos by Liz Baines

Keep up to date with all the latest club news at www.manchesterrugby.co.uk



Simon Says...



Welcome to the players, coaches and supporters from Warrington who currently lie 7th in what is a very competitive league this season and just 3 points ahead of Manchester.

A draw and a losing bonus point in two very disappointing 2nd half performances against Broughton Park and Anselmians have left the squad with an awkward run in to the end of the season. Just seven points covers six clubs and the last relegation spot so even with eight games left, today's match is crucial for both clubs and I expect a very competitive game.

The 2nd XV slipped up against Sefton away but did manage a bonus point to keep the heat on league leaders Anselmians, who they beat at Grove Park 26-5 the following week.

They play Lymm away today who are 4th position then another crucial game against 3rd placed Moore – these two games could well determine promotion for the 2nd XV which is their target for the season.

Welcome to today's referee, Ben Moore.

Enjoy the game, Oggy

FIXTURES 9th FEBRUARY 2019

Blackburn v Birkenhead Park
Manchester v Warrington
Penrith v Douglas (I.O.M.)
Stockport v Burnage
Carlisle v Northwich
De La Salle v Broughton Park
Firwood Waterloo v Anselmians

RESULTS 26th JANUARY 2019

Broughton Park 22 v 8 Waterloo
Warrington 20 v 37 Carlisle
Anselmians 16 v 12 Manchester
Birkenhead Park 34 v 5 Penrith
Burnage 34 v 32 Blackburn
Douglas (I.O.M.) 20 v 0 De La Salle
Northwich 12 v 3 Stockport

NORTHERN DIVISION	.MES	RESULTS				POINTS			TOTALS			
		P	W	D	L	F	A	DIFF	PTS	TBP	LBP	ADJ
Carlisle	18	15	1	2	546	318	228	75	12	1	0	
Blackburn	18	11	1	6	430	322	108	60	11	3	0	
Douglas (IOM)	18	12	0	6	412	261	151	59	8	3	0	
Birkenhead Park	18	12	0	6	193	363	130	59	10	1	0	
Northwich	18	10	1	7	461	428	33	53	8	3	0	
Stockport	18	10	0	8	469	385	84	53	9	4	0	
Warrington	18	9	0	9	459	402	57	47	7	4	0	
Penrith	18	8	0	10	485	564	-79	46	11	3	0	
Broughton Park	18	9	2	7	366	289	77	45	4	1	0	
Manchester	18	8	1	9	467	490	-23	44	8	2	0	
Burnage	18	8	0	10	462	501	-39	43	8	3	0	
Firwood Waterloo	18	7	0	11	389	368	21	40	6	6	0	
Anselmians	18	3	0	15	271	521	-250	15	1	2	0	
De La Salle (Salford)	18	1	0	17	191	689	-498	9	2	3	0	



Harping On...

Good Afternoon and a warm welcome to Grove Park.

Today we welcome Warrington for what I am sure will be another highly competitive game of rugby, with Manchester looking to overturn the away loss earlier in the season. It would be good to recreate some of the form that saw us put 87 points past Penrith and put behind us the results of the last two games.



Hopefully, the game will not disappoint and the fixture will attract a big crowd, who will be entertained with some free flowing rugby.

No doubt the game will provide many talking points for a friendly discussion in the bar later.

We also welcome the coaches, parents and players from the M&J section to the match today. It is fitting that we celebrate the tireless work of the coaches in this way and it is good to see so many down at the club enjoying a relaxing lunch and then watching the first team.

The coaches are an integral part of the M&J section, which is the lifeblood of the club. As you will see elsewhere in the programme for some time it has provided the first XV with the majority of the players, whilst at the same time producing a number of players who have gone on to play at a higher level for premiership clubs and England.

Ben Spencer a former M&J player is an example of this, playing for Saracens he won his first cap for England against South Africa last summer and returned to the club last weekend to present his shirt to the club in recognition of the part Manchester played in his rugby development.

Manchester is rightly proud that we have produced more premiership players than any other club, only last week we added to this, when Luke James joined his brother in signing a senior player contract with Sale.

Finally a shout out to the second XV who will hopefully build on the great win against league leaders Anselmians last time out and have another win against Lymm today consolidating their 2nd place and promotion prospects.

That's all from me, I will see you in the bar, depending on team numbers for the 2nds and 3rds that could be before or after the game or both. Let us hope for victory today for Manchester to cement our position in the league.

Tim Harper
Chair of Rugby



Last Time Out...

Anselmians 16 v Manchester 12

Manchester let lead slip away'

On another frustrating day, Manchester failed to capitalise on their dominance of territory and possession, which ultimately cost them the game and the loss of a vital away win.

A good start to the game saw Manchester make a good exit from the kick off and press the opposition deep into their 22. With good kicking from hand, Macca kept play deep in the Anselmians half, where following a line out steal a penalty was awarded to Manchester for holding on; just to the left of the posts 30 yards out reward for the good start seemed on the cards, however, the kick was off target.

Anselmians were unable to execute a good exit and again found themselves pinned in their 22, where once again they infringed. Manchester elected for a scrum and after several close drives Mike Jordan was pushed over for the opening score. There was a disagreement between the linesman on whether the conversion was good, crucially as it would turn out later, the referee ruled it as a miss. Twenty mins 5 v 0.



From the restart Anselmians finally managed some possession in the Manchester half, gaining a penalty in the 22 to the right of the posts, this was slotted over 5 v 3.



Manchester then had their best passage of play, winning a string of penalties in the opposition 22, strangely none were kicked, Manchester electing instead for a scrum on each occasion. The pressure told, first the Anselmians tight head was sinned binned, then Charlie Ding took a quick tap to dart over but this was brought back as a front row replacement was making his way onto the pitch. The respite was short lived as the ball was moved out to the right for Charlie Johnson to cross the whitewash which with the conversion made it 12 v 13, 30 minutes into the game.

Following an injury Joe Williams was replaced by Joe Houghton but the pattern of the game remained with Manchester in charge of possession and territory. However, with half time looming Anselmians managed to break out and following a couple of line out infringements moved the ball into the Manchester 22. Another penalty allowed Anselmians an easy three points to bring the half to a close at 12 v 6.

Turning round with the wind at their backs Manchester seemed well set to consolidate their lead, which in truth should have been much bigger if kicks had been taken and more chances converted.

The weather then decided to intervene with heavy rain throughout the second half making play very difficult, with a wet ball and a greasy surface. This soon came

into play as Enna was harshly adjudged for a high tackle on a playing falling into him as he slipped, resulting in a yellow card and 10 minutes in the bin. Despite lower numbers Manchester continued to dominate possession and territory and were unlucky when following a clean break by Jay and Charlie Ding the ball was knocked on as the try line loomed.

The pattern of the next 20 minutes saw play in the Anselmian half as they tried to play rugby with forward drives rather than kick for territory. As the conditions worsened neither side could sustain possession, with numerous knock-ons and missed line out throws leading to stalemate.

With the Manchester scrum now dominant it looked like it was only a matter of time before the pressure told and Manchester would stretch their lead. However, it was not to be. From deep in their 22, Anselmians chose to run it out, their outside centre made a clean break finally being brought down by Doug Day in the Manchester half. Good recycling allowed the ball to be moved out on the right and after a series of drives, the defence was breached and the ball run under the posts allowing for an easy conversion. Totally against the run of play Anselmians took the lead 13 v 12, 15 minutes to go.

The pressure was on Manchester, who



again returned to the Anselmians 22 but allowed another break out as the ball was spilled. As Manchester retreated and tried to stem the oncoming tide of the now fired up Anselmian players they were adjudged to have infringed, with hands in the ruck. The penalty in front of the posts was calmly slotted and at 16 v 12 this meant with time running out Manchester needed a try to regain the lead.

Play returned yet again to the Anselmian's 22 where further pressure was exerted by the dominant Manchester scrum, however, as penalties were conceded in the dying seconds these had to be played rather than kicked. Several attacks were repelled by the defiant Anselmians defence and matters were made worse as Manchester spilled balls in their desperation to score, alas, finally running out of time.

A harsh lesson for Manchester, where dominance in possession and territory were not converted, kicks were missed, chances spurned and too many basic errors made when the conditions worsened. Credit to Anselmians' who were strong in defence and literally converted all the four opportunities Manchester afforded them to score.

A losing bonus point does not help our league position. Hopefully, the break next week will do Manchester good and we can work our way back to the performance that allowed us to score 87 points only three weeks ago.



Manchester

1. Callum Baines*
2. Karl Higginson*
3. Martin Halsall

4. Jake Stewart*
5. Mike Jordan

6. Chris Saena
7. Tom Fantom*
8. James Brodie

9. Charlie Ding*
10. Richard McCartney

11. Harry Lewis*
12. Jay Saena
13. Zac Round
14. Joe Houghton*
15. Doug Day

16. Luke Boon*
17. Brian Ndlovu
18. Alex Marchlewski

Physio. Liz Bouch



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- 5 PAUL FARRINGTON
- 6 MARTIN DAVIES / DINK
- 7 TIM & DI FANTOM
- 8 ANDREW & JUDITH GARETY
- 9 FREDDIE & ARCHIE
- 10 PETE LUXTON
- 11 CHRIS GOODWIN
- 12 JONATHAN HIRST
- 13 JENNY & NORMAN THOMAS
- 14 DEREK BARKER
- 15 STEVE SWINDELLS

Warrington

1. C. O'Rourke
2. C. Byrne
3. C. White

4. D. Flemming
5. J. Riley

6. P. Lynch
7. J. Evans
8. S. Callander (Capt)

9. T. Wood
10. L. Gilooly

11. T. McEniff
12. S. Pilkington
13. K. Hughes
14. T. Arnold
15. N. Beesley

16. T. Green
17. K. Drummond
18. D. Norman

* former MRC M&J player



Today's Referee
Ben Moore

NEXT HOME GAME - BURNAGE
Saturday 2nd March 2019



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WHENEVER YOU CAN**

