

ETON MANOR SUMMER BALL 2022



Friday 10th June



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ETON MANOR RUGBY CLUB

Brief history

The Eton Manor Club has a rich history, dating back to 1913 with the club playing a wide variety of sports. At the beginning of the 1927-28 season rugby was introduced at Eton Manor and a mixed team of Old Boys and Boys Club members formed an initial training squad with fixtures arranged for the second half of the season. For the following years the club fielded a regular fifteen playing friendly fixtures until the outbreak of WWII. During the war years, as for the majority of Eton Manor Old Boys sports, rugby was cancelled.

Towards the end of 1945, as members were returning to civilian life, the clubs rugby section was reformed once again recruiting Boys Club members. During the 1947-48 season, with many Boys Club members playing regularly, a Boys Club Team known as 'The Colts' was raised. Some four/five seasons later the club was able to field two or three junior teams on a regular basis with most of their fixtures against local schools. During this time many of the Boys Club teams represented the London and International Boys Club Teams.

As the Boys became of age and transferred to the Old Boys section the clubs strength grew allowing the club to regularly field four regular sides to play at a higher standard. In 1976 with the closure of its clubhouse and playing fields, the rugby club was forced to restructure. Similarly, in 1992 the club again had to restructure and some four years later acquired its current home and again became successful to rebuild.

The club has grown from strength to strength with the development of it's junior section and senior rugby in their new home.

25 YEARS ON...



Before

From left to right:
John Munro, Steve Banks, Tony Janaway,
Dereck Edwards



After

Message from the CHAIRMAN

On behalf of Eton Manor RFC, I would like to welcome you to the 2022 Eton Manor Summer Ball. A big thank you to Martin Pearl, Ian Edwards, and Natasha for pulling this all together! This year we're being looked after by the Rear Window restaurant in Leytonstone I hope you enjoy their experience and would recommend a visit to their restaurant - it's great food and service.

This season saw us return to a full capacity of rugby following the pandemic; and with the game in decline at some clubs we seem to have flourished and continued to grow. This is no doubt due to the fantastic support and dedication from our members and volunteers! Not forgetting the hard work of the previous executive committee who gave the new exec such a great platform to work from. So huge credit goes to the legend's, Jeff Bradley, John Roach and of course Gary Wood.

It's been a very busy year with volunteers working very hard to ensure our club is continuing to operate, grow and improve the facilities. Our new stand was delivered late in May in time for our first ever 7s event. Paid for by you! Recognition goes to Fintan Mooney for project managing this and of course Henk Louw for the ground works. Not forgetting Nick Horton for creating such a great event. More plans to install match standard floodlights on our second pitch to provide additional floodlit playing and training areas are just one of the many projects lined up for the next couple of seasons.

On the field has been very exciting. A huge effort by Mark Farrell and all the coaching staff. Working hard with the senior section recruiting and developing players. Our 1st XV have provided some great performances which we are very proud of which we will build on for next year and no doubt push to be league contenders. Our 2nd XV remained unbeaten for the season. Our 3rd and 4th XV have felt the impact of the decline of Rugby in the county with several games cancelled which was very disappointing for us and the game in general. Thanks go to all the players and committee working hard on this which was no doubt very difficult and frustrating. Not forgetting Jamie Connors, Who after 10 years as head coach steps down. Jamie helped the 1st XV to 3 playoff finals and the clubs first ever taste of national league rugby. I wish him all the best and thank him for his service to the club.

It's been a great year for our 1st Women's XV. We have not had a women's team for nearly 2 decades and to finish third in a competitive league is a fantastic achievement. Congratulations to the players, coaches and of course Jackie Clune who has been a huge driving force behind the women's section not forgetting some committee members who have put on the blue and blue. Clare Bowden, Christelle Louw, Michelle Lineker.

I have had the privilege to see so many youth games this season and it's a real pleasure to see so much talent on display. I can honestly say the future is bright and I look forward to seeing the youth coming through into the senior sections. Of course, that testament goes to all our volunteer coaches who put in so much time and effort with our kids. The section which was started 25 years ago by our past and current president. Terry Burton and Martin Pearl who must be so proud if where it is today. I personally thank them for the support and advice they have given me since becoming chairman. The youth section is arguably most challenging areas of the club but thank Gary Davies has done great job! Creating a team of volunteers to assist with Scott Saville and Nicky Beak and other team admins.

This year we have finally seen the club incorporated and new bank accounts opened to support the new structure. This will now protect the exec and the club for the future generations and open the gate's to grants and other funding opportunities to help us grow and expand. So, after 25 years at the new Wilderness, I am looking forward to the next!

I think we all take rugby for granted sometimes so please spare a thought for Jack Finter who has had to stop playing on medical grounds at 13. Jack is a wonderful young man, a leader on and off the pitch and is a testament to his parents, Rob and Lucy. I'm sure they are very proud of him. I think Jack will excel in whatever he does outside of rugby.

There are so many silent runners at our club which vital to the overall running of it ensuring it's in the best condition for our members to enjoy. We now have our very own Apiary thanks to the grounds team. So many to name but all do it in the spirit of the manor. Always around getting on with jobs.

Special thanks to the AGP team, Fintan Mooney, Woody, John Phillipson, Paul & Clare Bowden, Austen Ellicott, Dave Bone, Henk and Christelle, Victor, Lee and Kerry, Steve Thompson, and of course Ged & Diane. Sorry if I have missed anyone.. not forgetting for minuteman press for printing and small Paul (under 13s coach) for assisting with the design in this years programme.

Have a great night!

Dave

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DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

Men

Welcome everyone to Eton Manors Summer Ball 2022, the first one in three years and how much have we missed it!

It's fair to say that last season was a complete rollercoaster of a journey for our club! through the highs of our 1st XV challenging league promotion, our 2nd XV becoming Manors first ever unbeaten League & Cup Winners to the lows of multiple player injuries, disciplinary sanctions & league points deductions, we've seen it all!

We started our season by re-opening our clubhouse doors from a world pandemic where some rugby clubs had suffered very badly with players not returning and finding themselves unable to even field sides. Numerous walk over fixtures & further shutdowns at Xmas damaged & made a mockery of league positions, with some clubs clearly abusing the new Covid regulations. Yet throughout all this our club has bucked the national trend and has continued to thrive and increase our membership & player numbers, but this outcome is no fluke! Eton Manor continues to push boundaries, evolving its clubhouse, grounds, playing & social facilities. It continues to invest its money back into the club, providing its players and membership with an unrivalled player experience and an exceptional clubhouse and grounds we can all be truly proud of. I am empowered by what we have achieved and excited for our next steps.



**2021-22
Senior Men's
rugby played
83 fixtures,
with 62 wins,
5 draws &
16 losses.**



Our club is blessed with so many incredible volunteers that do so much for our club and its these members that make all our club aspirations become reality, allowed just one page of this brochure, there are too many to name! I would however like to take this opportunity to personally thank the following, without which, our Mens Rugby section would not be where it is today. To all our Men's Rugby sponsors; Whiteskips, ESS, Edwards, Duffie & Shamash, Austin Chapel, Sirius, Amity Visuals, SE Secondary Glazing, Mullally, Groundworks UK, 1stEvent Group, Petty Son & Prestwyth. To our Coaching, Medical & Management team; Ian Edwards, JC, Aaron Lowe, Stocky, Webby, Jeff Bradley, Nick Horton, Ian Stewart, Alex Maye, Ryan, Jesse, Louisa, Ged, Derek Edwards, Young Roy Morris, Natasha & Big Nick. Finally, my biggest thanks are to all our senior men's players - our dedicated Manor Boys, who every week pull on our Blue&Blue shirts and put their bodies on the line to represent our club with pride, passion, and determination.

The last few years have seen us build a strong squad of players and with the new league structures firmly in place we also have a new Coaching Team headed up by Jesse Liston keen to take the reins and push us onwards! Our club is strong, and we are ready to challenge.

**I hope you all have a wonderful night.
UTM - Faz**

WOMEN'S CHAIR

I've been running the girls section for almost a decade and the women's team for over two years and I can honestly say being part of the Manor family is a huge and joyful part of my life.

My four kids have come up through the club and as they start to fly the nest I know that they are taking the best of the club's ethos with them - they will work hard, get stuck in, help their mates out in good times and in bad, and never give up on their hopes and dreams. This is what the club has given them.

In my new role as Women's Chair I will continue to advocate for the women's game - having a thriving womens section will bring more focus, more sponsors and more excellent rugby to our already buzzing club. It has been my privilege to guide the team through their first season, aided by our wonderful sponsors Kingsley Napley, who believe in us and will be cheering us on as we head into the new season looking for league promotion.

UTM - Jackie Clune



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SUMMER BALL 2022

Timings

6.00pm

Bar open



7.15pm

Seated for dinner

(Please note bar will then close and move to table service only until dinner completed)



9.30pm

Welcome from club President Martin Pearl and Awards

Auction and Raffle.



10.30pm

Dancingintroducing our band 'Just for the weekend'



1.30pm

Carriages



Eton Manor Women are very proud to have finished our first season of league rugby in third place.

We entered the NC2 Central league, facing tough opposition who had the numbers for first and second teams, and we worried we had overestimated ourselves. We needn't have worried. We only lost two games the whole season, and our score lines were equally impressive. Number 13 Simbi Sikiru was top try scorer in the league. We fought hard and sadly sustained some injuries, having to concede two matches as walkovers. Who knows where we would have ended up if we'd been able to play every fixture.

The squad continues to go from strength to strength, and is particularly blessed to have a very healthy player pathway into senior rugby via our wonderful girls' section - every match this season featured several young women who have played



for the club as children. We even had girls travelling back from Uni in Liverpool, Essex, Manchester, Warwick, Brunel and Southampton to play for us.

We are so proud to be sponsored by Kingsley Napley again this season, and with their support are looking forward to next season's promotion campaign! Huge thanks also to our fantastic head coach and scrum half Ellis Powell, alongside her team Kim Roberts, Tahnika Talbot and John Phillipson.

UTM - Jackie Clune



1ST TEAM *Men*



After what felt like a never-ending stop/start approach to our pre-season, dictated by the return to rugby COVID guidelines- all the players were excited to get back into our first competitive fixtures for 19 months.

We started the season well, with 5 wins in a row before a draw vs Southend and a loss away to Sudbury. We were back on track in the run-up to Christmas with another 5 wins and a narrow loss to eventual league winners Shelford. A great win away to fellow promotion hopefuls Colchester was the pick of the games from the first half of the season; the best Manor performance for a few seasons.

After the break we picked up another 2 victories before losing away at bottom placed Leighton Buzzard. It was a hugely frustrating day for all involved, and from that point we never quite regained our early season momentum and lost some games that we really should have been winning. A last minute loss away to Harpenden was tough to take, but we ended the season well with a comprehensive victory away to Thurrock. We finished in 6th place and used 52 players; consistency is a key thing to look at moving forward.

The Thurrock game marked the end of an important era for Eton Manor; it saw the retirement of Jamie Connors as head coach. Jamie has been instrumental in the club's success over the last 10 years, and brought a level of professionalism, organisation and team-play we hadn't seen before. He's been an integral part of the team and on behalf of all the players, a massive thank you Jamie for all of your hard work.

The list of thank yous is never-ending and wouldn't do justice to the dedication of the volunteers who make our club tick day in, day out. You make the club what it is and make it a pleasure to play at. The facilities we now have are outstanding and the only way is up - the next few years will be exciting for Eton Manor.

After four seasons as captain I am stepping down from the role. It's been an honour to captain such a great club and I've enjoyed every minute. The role is made a lot easier by having such a good team around me, so a few final thank yous to the coaching staff, senior playing group and last but not least my wife for all the support and endless rugby discussions over the years.

UTM - Nick Horton - 1st team captain





2ND TEAM

The Invincibles

Well where do we start, no rugby for way too long we had a lot of men hungry to play! Sadly this wasn't the case across the Merit Leagues. Many league games were cancelled by the opposition for not having enough players. Conversely our numbers are our strength and no matter who JC took for the 1s Jeff and I was left with some exceptional players.

A few facts:

We won the league 16 & 0

We finished 23 points clear of 2nd – Shelford

***We beat Woodford – 69-0
and finished 10mins early***

We beat Westcliff 74-19 and 0-76

I mention these as I respect these clubs, actually that's not true I respect Westcliff I just like digging out our neighbours :) The league in truth was wrapped up in January. The league and cup double became the target. Beating Shelford (probably our best performance of the season) Chingford, Brentwood and Burnham on Crouch in the final made it an unbeaten season.



While our strength is our numbers its with great pleasure to say the heartbeat of this team is Blue with the majority of the team being Manor Boys having played youth rugby – in fact 11 of the 22 of the final squad were manor boys.

Huge thanks to the entire coaching group Aaron, Ian, Tom, Ryan, Jesse and Nick for supporting the 2s. JC is our leader and we all share in the results of this team x

UTM – Stocky and Jeff

PS some Essex 1st team scalps coming next season



3RD TEAM



The 3rd team season started well with an away win at Romford. Finished well against top of the table against Harlow at home.

There were lots of highlights throughout the season with only a few little blips. Being the only 3rd team in the league full of second and 1st and 2nd team it was evident from the off that everyone saw Manor as the biggest test in the league. And we proved it. With only 2 losses against the other 2 top teams and a silly draw (who kicked that) with 14 men away to East London.

This season saw so much youth in the side, very rarely was there anyone except Captain fantastic

over 30 and that just proves how strong a position we are in at the moment. With competition being so strong on the training field it was great to see that taken into match days. Finishing the season being undefeated at home was great with our slip ups coming away from home, that is the aim to rectify next season. This is a team that will win the league next year!

Special mentions to some star players this year, Alex Roberts, Tom Amass, Darcy Head, Harry Davies and Alex Doli-Lami

UTM - Ian





The phrase 'the more things change, the more they remain the same' just about sums up the fourth team season. We battled our way to a very deserved second place and promotion through the familiar mix of young, old, new and regular faces with the signature fours sprinkling of champagne rugby.

The start of the season was a little shaky as we lost our first two games to strong opposition but this was nothing to worry about, once the boys got a few minutes under their belts and the new

shirts began to lose their initial elasticity the strong performances came rolling in.

We then embarked on a fantastic seven game winning streak, which included two games where we didn't concede a single point and a strong performance away to Chelmsford where we pushed their infamous Undertakers pack up the hill. We even managed a Friday night game under the lights away to Wanstead where the forever young Jeff Bradley played in his sixth decade of senior rugby for the Manor, some achievement.

Unfortunately losing twice to Old Coops meant we were never going to challenge for the top spot, but everyone involved with the fourth team can look back on this season with their heads held high, especially those who bear the scars from Campion away, where we started the game with 10 players!

Special mentions this year go out to Paul Porter for helping me to bash the boy's heads together when I retired to the confines of the bench, and the youngsters (Darcy, Morgan, Harry & Hayden) who took to senior rugby like ducks to water.

UTM - Alex





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THANK YOU

Jamie Connors

by Ian Edwards

Jamie joined us in 2012 following a long and successful playing career at Southend RFC. He was part of their successful National 2 winning side and prior to this had represented New Zealand as an U20 All Black.

Unfortunately, a neck injury followed by a career ending knee injury on the slope at Ruislip ended his brief Eton Manor playing career.

Jamie was our 1stXV Head Coach for 10 seasons, he is the longest serving Head Coach in our history. He has taken us to three London 1 play offs and on the third attempt we were finally promoted to National 3. This still remains the highest league position in our clubs history.

Jamie has steered the club through some very difficult seasons. There were times the Club struggled both on and off the pitch, it's a testament of his character & resolve that it was during these times of adversity we came through as a stronger playing group and club.



Jamie has always been very humble, he will always say a coach is only as good as his team. I think as a group we have often played our Rugby in a way that represented him; hard, determined and always honest. Jamie loves an underdog, a rough diamond, I'd like to think as a club we were just the perfect fit.

We would all like to thank Jamie for his time with us, we wish him & his family the very best on their next steps. For me and the whole of our club he is and always will be a Manor Boy!



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JUNIOR RUGBY

Chairman

Well finally a full sort of normal season. We have semi-finalists, league winners and a great national cup run in our junior section and our players are increasingly getting Essex representation in the youth section We had delayed rule changes but we have and a full season and not lost a single game to the weather. I am not gonna tell you about all the teams, they all have their blurb below in their own words and would be much better at telling you about their season than me.

BUT We have the largest junior section in local area and that creates problems with opposition team sizes (Hampstead U9 came with 3 players) but reflect the great environment we all have created. And the girls section goes from strength to strength.

We have a wonderful team of coaches and admins who give a fantastic amount of time as volunteers to training our junior section and I would like to thank them all for the had work and effort they put in.

I would like to particularly mention and thank; my gang of direct helpers Scott The Aussie, Nicky the workaholic and Phillippe the frenchman; Ged for keeping me right on the regulations and regularly tidying up after us on a Monday; to Nerys and the u12 gang who took over the second hand kit stall and did such an amazing job; to Richard for his ongoing support and endless advice; the support from the first team squad across the season some with specific teams and some coming and giving general assistance; to Michele on safeguarding; to the clubhouse team of Tashs gang and finally Big Nicks BBQ.

Assuming no one else wishes to rush forward and volunteer to be Chair next season I will endeavour to improve on fixtures (particularly for the minis) next year and also ensure a good run of Friday night fixtures. The Club has solved the kit problems now - and yes the coaches kit will be ready for the new season.

Enjoy the evening! Gary. UTM



JUNIOR RUGBY

U4/5

We had a record-breaking year for the U4/5s, with 76 children attending sessions over the course of the season - about two-thirds of whom are from families new to the Manor.

Our amazing coaches from last season - Chris R, Dave, Ellen, Glen, Lawrie, Lewis, Lucy and Paul - are now seasoned pros at child-wrangling and we are very grateful to our newer coaches - Chris E, Ed, Gary, Helen, John and Tom - for stepping up to help. We're looking forward to stepping up a gear with some tags as the U5s become the U6s, and welcoming our new batch of 3 year olds as the new U4s join (and hopefully tempting in some much-needed new coaches for the U4s too).

U6

The Under 6's have come on leaps and bounds this year.

Considering the kids had not used belts and tags before this season because of Covid, they have done remarkably well and all the coaches are tremendously proud of their achievements. Not only are they 'running forward and passing backwards' but some of the passes completed, tries scored and tackles (well tag grabs - as well as some tasty tackles on the bags too) would put the first teamers to shame! We all cannot wait to start playing other teams next year and showing off their skills to the other local teams (just hopefully minus the tackling)! Well done U6's...UTM!!!

U7

Define Eton Manor U7's in one word : COMMITMENT

After the rollercoaster that is still COVID, one might think our children could have found other reasons than to be at the Manor at 11am on a Sunday morning. Not this group, time and time again we had numbers in excess of 25 as they were being ably prepared by Wes and the team to begin

playing matches in January 2021. As a coaching team we were marginally nervous following our first experience at Woodford RFC. By the time we hosted Woodford at home one could witness the fantastic progress made! Our biggest thank you goes to the parents who hug the touchline and brave the weather, without their COMMITMENT, there is no team!

U8

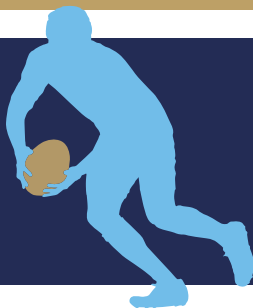
21/22 has been a wonderful season for the U8s.

Following the ups and downs of the previous year due to Covid, they returned to training full of passion and commitment. The players have got back into the routine of playing tag matches, remembering their offensive and defensive lines and learning to pass to others rather than keep the ball for themselves! The biggest challenge for them this season has been learning to tackle during training sessions which they have embraced wholeheartedly. We have welcomed a number of new players this year and now have a good 40+ on the team, with a really nice balance of both boys and girls turning up each week. It has only been possible with the support of the wonderful team of parents and amazing coaches. Thank you Philippe, Sean, Nancy, Jonathan, Chris, Stefan & Duncan for all that you do for the children, helping to share your passion for the game and helping them to learn that rugby has a place for everyone.



U9

What a season for the U9s when our players became real rugby players and started to tackle.



With the disruption of COVID and the RFU extension of U8 laws till Christmas we decided not to go back to tag and spent the first half of the season working on tackling, passing away from contact and avoiding the touchline. We have a big group of 30+ kids we were never bested by a team over a



series of games - always finding a way to win games and never hiding. The season highlight was the well organised tournament at Westcliffe where we won 7 out of 8 games and the rugby was really exciting to watch.

The team has a great future. Thank you to a great team of coaches that all bring something different to the table - Matt, Danny, James, Andy, Gary, John and our coach and admin combined Adam. We had fun! Long may it continue!

U10

It's been a stellar season for the U10s, who were undefeated in the Westcliff tournament in March, a highlight of a year that began with a ruck-shaped learning curve.

The kids soon got stuck in, developing a fast-paced rucking game with great ball movement and plenty of individual flare. Some of the best tacklers emerged among the girls, who now graduate to the all-new u12 girls side. We wish them the best - you're welcome back with the U11s if you ever need a game! With huge thanks to the parents and fellow

coaches Bruce Meuli, Stuart McConnell, Eamon Gorman and Ben Ward, who as a Manor 1st team vet has been a brilliant addition. Thanks too to Jon Boardman who hops over from U12s duty when he can, manager Josie Hunt for whipping us into shape, and stalwart supporters Barry and Tom Nunn for reviving the lost tradition of the half-time orange. James Palmer (u10s head coach)

U11

The u11s have had another successful rugby season, playing a number of matches, culminating in a successful four way mini tournament against Chingford, Chelmsford and Maldon at Eton Manor in April.

Another highlight was a competitive and exciting encounter against local rivals, Wanstead, when every player made extra effort on the pitch.

We are very proud of our consistent group of boys and their hard work this season to develop their skills and their teamwork. We have gained new players who have done extremely well in their first full season at the club, and have seen a number of boys grow their skills and focus. The team has developed key skills including the ruck, and new for this season, effective kicking.

We have seen the team grow together, focus on their rugby, teamwork and enjoyment of the game and their membership of the club. Our parent group continues to be our strongest supporters, consistently bringing the boys for practice and always supporting the values of the club.

The u11s have been coached by Laure, Dave, Dennis, Andy and Kim - we all love the game and the club. Olivier manages us and we greatly appreciate his relentless support and the time he spends managing the team.

Next year the boys start high school - we're (Cont.)



... extremely excited about the opportunity to welcome new players to the club and to the challenges that next year will bring on the pitch and the training ground.

U12

The U12s have enjoyed a very successful season, with a number of impactful new recruits in the team as we moved from a mixed side to a boys-only side and started playing with a five-man pack.

The team recorded convincing wins against Wanstead, Old Coperians and Blackheath with the latter played in heavy conditions against a very well drilled Blackheath side. The team played a mini-tour down in Canterbury playing a triangular tournament with Ashford and an extremely strong Canterbury side. This stern test helped us as we went the remainder of the season unbeaten, playing some very physical and entertaining rugby along the way. Awards: Player of the Season went to Bryn, Newcomer of the Year went to Morne and Players' Player of the Year went to Johnny."



U13 GIRLS

The U13s have had a phenomenal season, with only a handful of defeats to mark their superiority in the Essex region.

They won the U13 Girls Essex Cup and narrowly

missed out on a medal at the huge Worthing Girls Festival. They are a huge squad of small stature, but with the hearts of lions. They give everything on the pitch, inspired by their brilliant coach Gina. Next season they will enter the new RFU age band of U14 girls and will be playing 15 a side for the first time. We know they will smash it.

U13

The boys had missed their rugby! The first season with organised league fixtures and waterfall cup the boys were very excited.



Firstly thanks to my fellow coaches. Lee Flitcroft, Rob Flinter, Paul Considine, Paul Carr, Matt Brown Lee Reed and Steve Differ, secondly and a bigger thank you to the parents for trusting their cherubs with us and letting the boys play by being perfect on the touch line!

The aim as a coaching group will always be to make the boy want to come back to the next session. That mantra has served us well with 42 boys. Thus we had two teams in the league a remarkable achievement. We then mixed the teams for each game. This meant most Sundays we had 35 lads representing us across two teams. We won more than we lost which was amazing considering the way we worked it. The waterfall cup was very competitive - we lost to a ridiculously good and

JUNIOR RUGBY

massive Westcliff team to give us our "final" against South Woodham Ferrers which we also lost by a try.

However allow me to state here, these losses will turn to wins as we catch up in the size rankings and that will allow our obvious skills advantage to fully come to the fore. Big things to come from these Eagles. Supporters all welcome you'll enjoy our brand of rugby from the comfort of the stand.

It would be remiss of me not to mention Jack Flinter who must stop playing due to medical reasons. Jack has been instrumental to the team the boys have been building, leading from the front and an able foot soldier doing as he is told when others take the reigns. His enthusiasm, smile and sheer stubbornness will be missed by his mates and us coaches equally. This is true of Rob his dad who has been a brilliant coach to the boys and Lucy who has done so much not least the pre loved stall while Kiera is the epitome of the little sister who is also a manor player. You all are Eagles for ever, our friends, my friends, for life.

UTM

U14

For our under 14s side, this really was a season of two halves!

We started the season playing u13 rules and ended it playing u14 rules.

We started the season with a playing squad of 15 players and finished with 30.

We started the season with a heavy loss to Maldon and ended the season winning two waterfall cup trophies.

We started the season as one club and ended the season as two clubs!

What a journey we've had this year. We've always had a small squad of players, but the pandemic unfortunately had a major impact on our team and we lost a few to round ball sports. This called for

drastic action in order to keep us from losing the team altogether. Fortunately, our friends at Bancroft had the same issue and with the support of both clubs, we collectively decided to merge our teams for a trial period and we haven't looked back. Our squad size doubled overnight and we were joined by some likeminded coaches who together have helped to transfer our fortunes into a competitive team, with a great group of boys who are able to enjoy their rugby again.

We managed to honour both clubs league and cup fixtures for the remainder of the season and ended winning both waterfall cup finals with a trophy for each club. The only issue we've had was thinking of a name for the new team. Bancroft Manor? Etoncroft? In the end the team was greeted with cheers 'Bannor' from the sidelines and from that point 'Bannor Barbarians' were born.

Looking forward we have designed our own shirt, combining the playing shirts from both clubs and we have entered the league as one combined team.

Tonight we are joined by Roy Hardy and Daryl Player from Bancroft (probably dressed as deckchairs) and are looking forward to playing as a combined team for the foreseeable future.



JUNIOR RUGBY



U15 GIRLS

Our U15 girls started off this season with a huge mountain to climb as they'd never played in positions or on a Full size pitch before.

They rose to the challenge however beating fierce rivals Old Reigations 30-19 in the first game of the season, the victory was sweeter as we'd come back from being 5-19 down at half time, showing the true grit and determination that would characterise the season.

We followed this game with significant victories over Rochford & Basildon as well as winning the Sudbury's 7's cup, a title we were defending.

The girls then played their first ever national cup games, competing with heart and passion to top their pool with victories over OA's & Welwyn. The new year didn't start too well for us however, and the girls faced their first defeat in 4 years against the mighty Horsham, most of the girls had never had to deal with losing before so it came as a huge blow. As always with our girls though they picked themselves up for the next stage of the national

cup which took us on a (much loved) coach trip to Ipswich where we came back from behind to beat them 35-7.

The celebrations afterwards for all the girls were probably more enjoyable than the win itself as we were now placed as one of the top 8 teams of the country, which was a record for the club.

Unfortunately our national cup dreams came to an end in March when we lost at home to Cheltenham (who by the way went on to win the National Cup). The girls were obviously hugely disappointed but picked themselves up to finish the season on a high coming 2nd at St Georges Festival and 3rd at Worthing. More important than any result though, they finished the season as a strong team unit, who enjoy their time off the pitch as much as they do on it!

The support, respect and love they show for each other as well as any new member truly defines rugby's core values.

Huge thanks to our coaches, Bill, who's been with them from the start as well as Rob, John, Matt & Clyde and of course not forgetting Jackie without whom there would be no Girls team!

We're really looking forward to the next season and watching this team grow from strength to strength... at some point they will be bringing home the National Cup!!

U15

Eton Manor U15's had a season they can all be proud of.

We beat 3 big teams which was a goal the coaches set for them at the beginning of the season. Romford, Woodford & Wanstead. A huge shout out to the senior players who came



and did some training sessions with us. Specifically George for the rolling maul work and Nick the backs set piece work. We scored tries using both the drills the week after learning them. We also made use of the Clubs VEO camera for two of these games which will help us out next season.

U16

Our last season of youth rugby and it has been quite a mixed bag.

Plagued with injuries and of course C19 we still managed to pull off some great games of rugby. We have witnessed some fantastic individual and team play, and as usual lots of laughs. Top try scorer got 15 this season.

Wish them all well with their GCSEs and hope most will come back to play for the Colts in September.

U18 GIRLS

It's been a tough season for the U18 girls – many of our regular opposition struggled to field sides after the pandemic, which made matches few and far between, and many of our longstanding players went off to uni.

We lost 12-10 to Basildon in the first round of the cup – they went on to make the national semis, reporting that ours was the toughest game they'd had up to that point. The girls were amazing though, and really came together over the course of the season, with new leaders stepping up and the three different school years eventually bonding into a fantastic team. The season ended on a high, as we were unbeaten group winners at the St George's 10s festival, playing some beautiful rugby and eventually losing in the semi-final to Old Albanians. Huge thanks as always to Ian Welch, Hollis, Cath, Ian Ryall and Jackie. Next year the age structure of the girls' game changes, which means we will be low on numbers – if you know any girls who'll be in year 12 or 13 next year, please send them our way.

U18 COLTS

Eton Manor Colts (combined U17 / U18 squads) had a very strong season in both Essex Division 2 and the Essex Cup.



The team won the league, winning seven out of their nine games. It came down to a tense decider versus Harlow which was drawn 24-24 meaning Manor won the league on points difference. In the Essex Cup, Manor progressed to the semi-finals beating two Division 1 teams on the way. In the semi-final, at home against Division 1 Westcliff, Manor looked to have won the game but drew 27-27 when Westcliff agonisingly levelled the score with the last play of the game. Westcliff progressed to the final as competition rules favour the away team in the event of a draw. Manor took a very creditable third place in the cup.

Congratulations go to Wylde Tulip, Riccardo Iheanyiogu, Romane Irwin and Sean O'Connell who all played for Essex U18s, Sean and Romane trialling for London and the South East with Sean playing for L&SE in the Divisional Championship. Johnny Loneran and Thady Clune have been selected for the Essex U17s.

Thanks go to Ged, Tony, Mark, Paul and Rob for their tireless coaching through the season.

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Through the Years **ETON MANOR**

The history of Eton Manor dates back to 1880 when Old Etonians visited Hackney Wick and raised funds for the area first church St Mary's of Eton. Church community clubs and men and boys choirs were soon formed along with ladies and girls circles with sporting clubs for men and boys. Acquiring a clubhouse and facilities for football, cricket, soon became popular sports and especially boxing, producing Olympic Champions Fred Grace (1908) and Harry Mallin (1920-1924).

In **1906** Gerald Wellesley offered his services to run the Boys' club (14-18) introducing club camp at Windsor and local swimming activities in Victoria Park. Two years later he recognised that on leaving the club the boys became layabouts so he, in 1909 against the wishes of the vicar, created the Eton Old Boys' Club.

In **1913**, with the financial aid of other Old Etonians and the support of Arthur Villiers, the Eton Boys' and Old Boys' multisport clubhouse, Riseholme Street, Hackney Wick, was opened by Lord Roberts.

1914 - WW1 - some 215 members joined the armed forces. Gerald Wellesley and Arthur Villiers served in the same regiment as Winston Churchill.

1922, with Arthur Villiers taking the role of club leader, the name change to Eton Manor, presuming with the premises having been built on the ex Manor Farm.

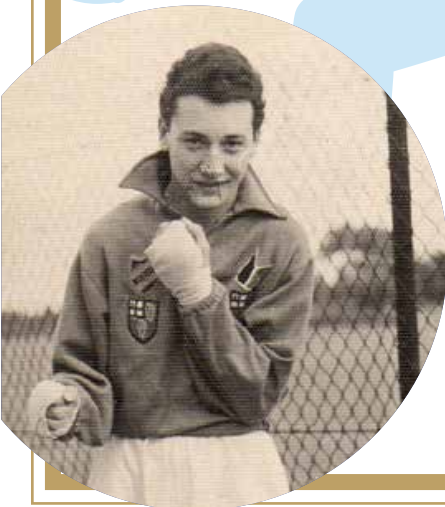
In **1920**, just a mile away from the clubhouse, a thirty acre ex-rubbish tip site was purchased and converted into a sports ground to be known as The Wilderness. 1924 saw the first cricket and football matches played. A few years' later bowls, squash and tennis were encouraged.

1927 Lord Longford, Arthur Villiers nephew proposed that rugby should be introduced.

Following several months coaching the club played its first fixture in **1928** against Hoxton Manor followed by regular fixtures until like the many old boys sports were cancelled during the years of WW2.

1938- 1944 the Wilderness and Riseholme Street clubhouse were used by the armed services and closed to members, a local temporary clubhouse was used.

1945 with the reopening of the clubhouse and the Wilderness Boys and Old Boys sections started to flourish once again with members, Boys and Old Boys participating in some ten or more sports at a high level with many members gaining National and County honours; 1932 Fred Mallin (Olympic boxing 1932) Nicky Gargano (Olympic boxing - 1956). The club also supported other activities as amateur dramatics, art, chess and draughts and penny bank.



1948 – At the London Olympics several club members carried the Olympic flame with Les Golding, the club athletics secretary for many years, supported the flame in its final stage into the Wembley Stadium.

Following the Olympic Games saw the transfer of the Wembley athletics track to the Wilderness with the first post war floodlight games and several famous Olympic athletes participating being held at the Wilderness, this being the first for many years.



Several years later the Riseholme Street Clubhouse was closed in order to make way for a motorway. The club endeavoured to continue without the use of the club house. Unfortunately in 1969 with the decline in use by the members, the possibility of a motorway through the site meant, the closure of the club.

In **1967**, with the foresight of the possible club closure, the Eton Manor Association was formed aiming to support, as one active club, some six active sporting sections and a social club. A few years later with the Lea Valley Regional Park Authority acquiring the grounds the rugby and cricket sections were able to return to the once home venue.

In **1996** after several years without a clubhouse the rugby club moved to its present home at the New Wilderness at Wanstead and has redeveloped itself as a strong Senior and Junior Club.

The Harriers athletic section, having now acquired home for many years in Leyton, also continue to be very active. Unfortunately the football section have not been able to find a permanent home but have managed to sustain their standard. The Otters, now as a water polo club only, although having been forced to move home venue several times in recent years, continue to field two teams. The Association still continue to liaise with some 200 members holding its annual reunion at the rugby club.

In **1997** Terry Burton & Martin Pearl started up the mini and youth section of Eton Manor. With 5 boys and ball they played their first competitive game in October 1997. Since then, the section has grown to such an extent that it now consists of over 500 boys and girls from the ages of 4-18 playing rugby.

In **2018** the New Wilderness was transformed with the fitting of an all-weather AGP pitch, in partnership with the RFU. This project was successfully implemented through the hard work of a small team of club members lead by John Roach.

In **2019** an Eton Manor Ladies team was re-formed after a break of over 20 years. Under the guidance of Jackie Clune this section of Eton Manor RFC has flourished.

In **2021** during the Covid Pandemic, club members came together to completely refurbish the clubhouse, building a new bar and kitchen and constructing an outside pergola complete with a self-contained bar.

In **2022** the club continued to improve the facilities that they offered to members and visitors with the construction of a new stand overlooking the AGP.

Eton Manor RFC is extremely proud of its history and traditions but also aware of the need to provide members and visitors with the best experience possible when visiting the New Wilderness and will continue to invest in the future of the club.

Thanks to Fred Spencer for providing the club history.



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