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**DUBLIN UNIVERSITY
FOOTBALL CLUB**



ICONIC UNIVERSITIES USA TOUR 2019

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Dublin University Football Club

2018/19

TRUSTEES COMMITTEE OF DUBLIN UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL CLUB:

As listed in the Club website (<http://dufc.ie/trustees/>)

FULL INFORMATION FOR 2019/20 ON THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE & COACHING/TEAM MANAGEMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY ON THE 2019/20 TRINITY RUGBY YEARBOOK OR SEE OUR WEBSITE www.dufc.ie

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President: Aidan Walsh
Vice President: Alan Rogan
General Manager: John Boyd
Hon. Secretary: Peter Gibson
Hon. Treasurer: John Doddy
Hon. Medical Officer: David Fennelly
L.B.I.R.F.U. Representative: Michael Coghlan
I.U.R.U. Representative: Guy Johnston / Eoin McBennett
Committee Members/Convenors of Task Groups:
Sponsorship: Peter O'Connor
Events: Pedro Ribeiro
1854 Task Group: tbc

Director of Rugby & Fixtures Sec.: Tony Smeeth
Club Administrator: Kay Bowen
Club Captain: Colm Hogan
Women's Captain: Jane Leahy
Student Officers: Daryl Egan / Grace Quinliven
Club Communications Officer: Joe Horan
Parents Convenor: Peter Silvester
Referee Development & Recruitment: Alan Rogan
Disciplinary Officer: Marc Murphy

COACHING & MANAGEMENT TEAM

1st XV: Tony Smeeth / Hugh McGuire / Gareth Pickering
Senior 2nds: Noel Hehir / Jonathan Butler
Senior 3rds: Pat Tipper / Tom Austin
Senior 4ths: Mark Doyle
U20s Premier: Tony Smeeth / Keith Murphy
U20s Pennant: Ross McCorry / David Murphy
Women's: Joe Horan / Colm Hogan / Arthur Greene
Club Head Physio: David Ukich
Physio Manager: Tony Rafferty
Strength and Conditioning: Ian Hirst
 Ross Hamilton (Sports Perf. Devt. Off., Dept of Sport)

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

Tel: Office: 01 8963468
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DUBLIN UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL CLUB WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES TO THIS TOUR PROGRAMME AND PARTICULARLY TO ALL OUR SPONSORS, TOUR PATRONS AND ADVERTISERS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT.

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FOR UP TO DATE DETAILS OF ALL CLUB FIXTURES & RESULTS, EVENTS, MEMBERSHIP, SPONSORSHIP, COLLEGE Park COLLECTION AND MUCH MORE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.dufc.ie



Floodlit match in College Park home of Trinity Rugby/ Dublin University Football Club



Message from Alan Rogan President, Dublin University F.C.



It is with great pride that I wish all our touring party, D.U.F.C. parents, travelling supporters and our North American Alumni a wonderful tour of the East Coast of the USA. I would also like to extend hearty greetings to all our hosts, old and new friends from all the members of Dublin University Football Club.

It is not by chance that D.U.F.C. would tour North America in this World Cup year, as we in D.U.F.C. believe it is important that we continue to build relationships and embrace the rugby community worldwide. D.U.F.C. has had very strong links with the USA dating back to the Mid-West tour of 1977. Our Director of Rugby, Tony Smeeth's contribution to Seattle rugby, the US Eagles is well documented and over the years we have welcomed a multitude of touring USA teams to College Park, our home ground in the Trinity College campus in the heart of Dublin. D.U.F.C. has also had a number of US Eagles players over its history, most recently Scott LaValla. These links are vital in helping to make it a truly memorable tour for all participants, supporters and spectators alike and no doubt new friendships and relationships will be created from this tour.

It is important to Dublin University Football Club that we recognise not only the relationships and friendships developed on the pitch, but also an understanding that we are a family and we

remember the contributions made by past and present members as well as all the parents who have made this and other tours possible.

As the oldest continuous rugby club in the world, we are acutely aware of our responsibilities and work to uphold the ethos of the game of rugby at the same time embrace inclusivity for all in our community. We are very lucky and fortunate to have a wonderful ground and pavilion in College Park and we thank the college authorities in Trinity College for the support we receive from them on an annual basis. It is a truly unique and very special venue.

Preserving this philosophy comes with challenges and the Club is "Blessed" with wonderful leaders, who understand the importance on delivering this in every aspect of what is a unique university rugby experience which helps to make Dublin University Football Club, a Club for life.

The Club has over 1,000 connections with whom we communicate weekly via Mail Chimp. It reaches Club Alumni in all the five Continents and as a result we regularly get members returning to College Park for a visit from US, Canada, UK and Europe.

We connect with Trinity University Alumni when and where possible. We are very proud of our heritage, traditions and for the unique place in Irish Rugby where for the last three seasons we have maintained our playing position in the top tier of club rugby in Ireland. This year we finished fourth in the AIL Ireland League Division 1A and were subsequently beaten in an away play off semi-final by Cork Constitution. For the first time, we also won the Colours Match in the UCD Bowl and back to back Colours wins for the first time since 1996.

Our touring party consists of 49 players and 5 staff: 2 coaches, a physiotherapist, strength and conditioning trainer and a video analyst. All members of the modern Elite club rugby programme that we ran so successfully under the professional guidance of our Director of Rugby, Tony Smeeth and his Assistant Coach Hugh McGuire. In addition to the achievements of our 1st XV, our U20's successfully defended their All Ireland Cup title and our Women's team

were promoted to the second division of the Leinster League.

Our 2019 "Iconic Universities USA Tour" is part of our long term objective to have a significant overseas tour every 4 years, coinciding with the Rugby World Cup. In 2015 we participated in the University World Cup in Oxford, where we got to the Final but were runners-up to Cape Town University. Previous overseas tours were also undertaken to the USA and Japan. This year's tour will include rugby fixtures with Navy, Penn State, West Point and Iona College as well as a Training Camp in Yale University.

The players are of most importance and their role modelling inculcates their commitment and love for the Club in helping them to reach their potential. It is with thanks to our Trustees and Management Committee for their ongoing support, enthusiasm and encouragement that the Club is as good as it is.

We are very privileged and appreciative to have wonderful people as our Chairperson, John Boyd, Director of Rugby, Tony Smeeth, Assistant Coach, Hugh McGuire, Club Administrator, Kay Bowen and so many other unsung heroes throughout our Club. We are so proud of your current delivery and your continuousness to strive to improve the wellbeing, fitness, health of all our players in your care. Thank you all.

We are very grateful to all our Sponsors, Patrons, Advertisers and Supporters of the Club, a particular mention must be made with respect

to our main sponsor the Bank of Ireland. Your contribution to the Club makes it so much easier to reach our goals and your active engagement with the Club makes it so enjoyable for all concerned. Thank you all for your continued support.

To all our Parents, how lucky are we? Your support, enthusiasm and commitment are unwavering regardless of the team. It makes your son/daughters' experience all the more special with your ongoing support. It is truly unique! Thank you and enjoy your journey as well as theirs.


As the touring party departs for the USA, I would like to thank the Tour Organising Committee of Aidan Walsh, John Boyd, Pedro Ribeiro, Tony Smeeth and Kay Bowen supported by the players and parents for making this ambitious USA Tour a reality. Well done!

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at our various games, activities and events throughout this tour and back home.


I wish, our Club Captain James Hickey, our Women's Captain Genevieve Ruesch, Team Captains and their players every best wishes for the season ahead. Whatever the season brings, let us all enjoy and do our best.

#aclub4life

Alan Rogan
President 2019-2020

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Acted as debt advisor for the successful raising of new facilities.



Acted as debt advisor for the successful raising of new facilities.

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Message from Bank of Ireland



Bank of Ireland is delighted to support Dublin University Football Club's Iconic Universities USA Tour 2019. With fixtures against Navy, Penn State, West Point and Iona College, as well as a training camp in Yale University, this promises to be a trip to remember!

Sport, education and travel are each a powerful force when it comes to bringing people together. They broaden the mind, challenge perceptions, and expose us to different cultures, customs and viewpoints. And, combined, they can foster close friendships – in this case, between iconic seats of learning on both sides of the Atlantic.

Bank of Ireland is proud to be associated with a trip of this kind. Our purpose is to enable our customers, colleagues and communities to thrive. Education and learning are, of course, a big part of how we thrive, as individuals and as a society as a whole.

Our relationship with Trinity College Dublin is one that goes back over two centuries. But this is not a relationship that rests on its laurels – together, we look to the future. That's why Bank of Ireland is proud to sponsor a number of important aspects of life and study at Trinity College – including the Dublin University Football Club.

For those taking part, this trip is a great opportunity. Grasp it! I want to wish everyone travelling on the Iconic Universities USA Tour the very best of luck, with the hope that they thrive on the pitch, in their studies, and in their careers to come.

Tony Dunne
US Country Manager
Bank of Ireland





Dublin University Football Club

Captain's Message by James Hickey



I am greatly honoured to be the D.U.F.C. Club Captain for the 2019/20 season, following on the footsteps of so many illustrious past captains going back to the Club's Foundation in 1854.

I would like to thank the Tour Committee, the parents, players and particularly our sponsors, tour patrons and programme advertisers for their contribution without whose support and generosity this pre-season tour of the USA, would not have been possible.

Last season was one of the most successful in the Club's history with the 1st XV qualifying for the AIL Division 1A playoffs, the top tier of Irish Club rugby, for the first time ever. We also won the 67th Annual Colours match in the UCD Bowl for the first time and were beaten finalists in the Leinster Senior Cup. Several of our players also represented Ireland and Leinster successfully at various levels throughout the season.

An undoubtedly successful season, made possible by the contributions of many people in Trinity. I must first acknowledge Colm Hogan, last season's Club Captain who was at the forefront of all the hard work and effort that enabled the Club to perform to its highest ever standards under the guidance of our Director of Rugby, Tony Smeeth and his coaching team. Thankfully

for us Colm will be toggling out in the white jersey again this year, an enormous boost for the Club.

Thanks also to Aidan Walsh our Club President of 2018/2019, a true Trinity rugby fanatic and a great presence in the Club. I look forward to working with Alan Rogan, this year's Club President as we strive to build on the rapid improvements made in recent years by this great club under the stewardship of John Boyd.

The success of last season was not limited to just the 1st XV by any means. The U20's side, led by James Moriarty, retained the title as All Ireland Champions, Trinity being the first club to do so. The U20's side epitomised the strength in depth of the Trinity Academy as they secured a comprehensive victory against U.C.C. in the final despite the unavailability of many players due to their involvement with both the Senior's play-off game and the Ireland's U20's team. This team's success was accompanied by individual successes, with five D.U.F.C players representing Ireland U20s national team in their Grand Slam 6 Nations victory and their hugely entertaining World Cup run. The 2nd XV maintained their league status and the J3's also won their Colours fixture in College Park in unforgiving conditions in April

The D.U.F.C Women's XV, captained by Jane Leahy achieved promotion to Division 2 of the Leinster League with Linda Djougang earning a call-up to the Irish Senior squad for the Six Nations after some superb performances. Although no silverware was obtained last season, the women's team did manage to get to League and Cup finals which is a massively encouraging sign for this coming season.

This season is a new one and the success of last year is behind us. As a group we face new challenges and we have different goals to other years. The only way to achieve our desired outcome is to do what we have done before even better, work tirelessly in a culture driven by togetherness and hunger. I have no doubt the coming season will be a memorable one, hopefully filled with many exciting matches

played both in College Park, across Ireland and in the USA . We will do everything in our power to be on the right side of each result, all the while playing our own brand of rugby - hard-nosed and fast.

I must also thank everyone involved in the Club, including the parents, for their continued support, especially in relation to the club's fundraising events for our USA Tour. The squad are now training together in our pre-season camp and are looking forward to the coming season with

excitement levels rapidly growing.

I can't wait for the AIL season to get underway as we take on UCC on the 5th October in College Park. I hope to see you all out in force cheering on the team during the season, wearing the unmistakable D.U.F.C bobble hats!

Yours,
James Hickey.
D.U.F.C. Club Captain 2019/202





Message from Trinity Rugby 2019 USA Tour Committee



Dear Members and Friends of Trinity Rugby,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to our 2019 USA Tour Programme. This tour kicks off our 2019/20 season, a season we look forward to with much enthusiasm and high expectations. The 2018/19 season was a great success, qualifying for the play offs in the top tier of Irish club rugby and winning our annual Colours match away from home. Many individual players won International and Provincial representative honours. Coming into this season we have a large contingent of players returning to enjoy another season with D.U.F.C.

This season's USA tour is part of our plan to have an iconic tour every four years. In 2015 we participated in the University World Cup, played at Oxford in England. This year we look forward with much anticipation to our visits to

Naval Academy, Penn State, Yale, West Point and Iona College. Our club led by our Director of Rugby, Tony Smeeth and our Executive team led by Chairman, John Boyd expect that this adventure will provide a great platform for the season ahead. It is a great opportunity for team development and for our squad of players to develop strong bonds of friendship amongst themselves and to make new friends at the clubs we will be visiting.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the clubs we visit for hosting us, for your hospitality and for making our tour possible.

I know, based on my own experience of touring in the Mid-West, as an undergraduate at Trinity, that tours such as this will create life long memories and friendships and will help to build a strong playing squad for several seasons to come.

This tour is only possible as a result of the financial support that we received from parents, players, members, advertisers and tour patrons as well as the Trinity Association and Trust. We are all extremely grateful for all your generous contributions and the support received in so many ways which allowed this iconic tour to happen. Thank you.

We look forward to welcoming you all to College Park over the season ahead, to enjoy some traditional hospitality in "The Pav" and to some entertaining University rugby on the pitch.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our Director of Rugby, Tony Smeeth and our Club Captain, James Hickey an exciting and successful tour and a competitive season ahead.

**Aidan Walsh,
Chairman, Tour Co-ordinating Committee
August 2019.**

TOUR FUNDING ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Tour Committee wish to thank sincerely all those individuals, organisations and companies who have made this Iconic Universities USA Tour possible through their direct marketing support and patronage of this pre-season Trinity Rugby Tour.

A concerted effort by Club volunteers, players and parents in fundraising over the last nine months or so has contributed immensely towards defraying the costs of this ambitious Tour. We thank you all as well as those who supported the Club lunches, the 1854 Dinner, the 6Nations & US Masters Forecasts and the many other fundraising events and activities undertaken by the Club, its members and parents.

We extend also our sincerest appreciation to all those past and present members, and friends of Dublin University Football Club who through their generous donations contributed to the Tour Fund.

The Dublin University Football Club also wishes to thank the Trinity Association and Trust for their generous sponsorship of the Tour and we encourage all Trinity Graduates to support the Trust in all its good work.

A particular word of thanks to the Pig N Whistle establishment in Manhattan for hosting the Touring party on their final night in New York.



ICONIC UNIVERSITIES USA TOUR 2019



Wednesday - August 28th

10am - Meet at Dublin Airport
12.35pm - Depart Dublin Airport
3.35pm Local time; Arrive in Dulles Airport, go to Washington DC to see Washington Monument/ White House.
Drive to Annapolis.

Thursday - August 29th

8am - Training
10am - Gym
Afternoon - Free time
8pm - Team meeting - Culture

Friday - August 30th

8am - Training
10am - Gym
Afternoon - Tour around Naval Academy
8pm - Team meeting - Leadership

Saturday - August 31st

10am - Navy vs DUFC 2nd XV
11.30am - Navy vs DUFC 1st XV
1.30pm - Presentations
3.30pm - View Navy Football Game vs Holy Cross

Sunday September 1st

10am - Bus set to depart for Penn State
4pm - Arrive in State College
8pm - Team meeting

Monday - September 2nd

8.30am - Gym
10am - Training in indoor facility
Afternoon free - Tour round Penn State sports facilities
8pm - Team meeting

Tuesday - September 3rd

8am - Training - walk through
4pm - Penn State vs DUFC 1st XV
6pm - Penn State vs DUFC 2nd XV
After match function

Wednesday - September 4th

10am - Depart Penn State for New Haven (Yale)
6.30pm - Dinner - followed by Team meeting;

Thursday - September 5th

9am - Training
10am - Pitch session
Afternoon - Visit Yale University
7pm - Dinner

Friday - September 6th

9am - Walk through for Army and Iona College games
12noon - Depart New Haven for West Point
2.30pm - 'Tour around West Point'
6pm - Army/West Point vs DUFC 1st XV
8pm - Presentation.
9pm - Depart for NYC (New Jersey)

Saturday - September 7th

10am - Depart for Iona College
12noon - Iona College vs DUFC 2nd XV
2pm - Game Presentation
3pm - Sightseeing in NYC
9pm - Alumni Party 'Pig N Whistle' - Manhattan

Sunday - September 8th

9am - 1pm - Sightseeing - NYC
1.30pm - Bus pick up to go to JFK Airport
5.30pm - Depart from JFK for Dublin

Monday - September 9th

5.20am - Arrive in Dublin

The earliest record of a team photograph dates back to the 1866-67 season





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Preview of the USA Tour 2019

by Tony Smeeth, Director of Rugby



Trinity Rugby also known as DUFC (Dublin University Football Club) the oldest continuous Club in the World (1854) are making their first tour to the USA in 11 years.

The famous College club are excited to take their brand of Rugby to North America to meet old and new friends in their latest pre-season tour.

The tour kicks off in Annapolis where Trinity will be hosted by the Naval Academy, games kick offs at 10am and 11.30am. Navy are coached by former St Marys College and Leinster Senior hooker Gavin Hickie. Gavin has made a great name for himself in American coaching circles, including coaching the USA Universities team (Collegiate All Americans) . Trinity will stay 4 days in Annapolis apart from the game, highlights will be visits to Washington DC and viewing the Navy 'Football' game vs Holy Cross. Navy are 4th ranked Collegiate Rugby team in the Country after an exceptional season in 2018-19 where they closed the gap on the top Collegiate Rugby teams in the USA. They only lost by one point to eventual National Champions Life University. The two clubs have played at least 3 times in the recent past, all in Dublin.

Navy Rugby plan to visit Dublin in September 2020 when they will play the return game in

College Park, Trinity on the same weekend as Notre Dame vs Navy Football game. The team will play two games on this tour with 1st and 2nd XV games on Saturday, August 30 in the recently built Prusmark Rugby complex on campus.

Trinity will then travel 4-5 hours north to State College PA where they will be hosted by old friends Penn State University. Trinity visited Penn State in 2004-2006 and 2008. Penn State (National rank 8th) have produced many top Rugby players for USA Eagles over the years. They are coached by former USA Eagle and Penn State Graduate, Justin Hundley. The touring team will experience a great American Collegiate experience in a College town. Penn State (Nittany Lions) have one of the top ranked American Football teams in the country and play in front of an incredible 105,000 fans for every home game. Their sports facilities are among the best in the world. The touring team will train in the Football facility which will be an incredible experience. The two games between Trinity and Penn State will take place on the Tuesday evening KO 4pm and 6pm.

Trinity move onto New Haven where they will be the guests of Ivy league Yale. Trinity will not play any games at this destination but will recover and train using the fabulous sports facilities of University of Yale. Yale are coached by Trinity graduate, St Michael's College 1st XV coach and former Irish Womens coach and "top man" Greg McWilliams. Greg has also made great inroads into the coaching scene in America and will coach the USA backs in the upcoming Rugby World Cup in Japan.

On the Friday afternoon, Trinity travel to the iconic West Point (KO 6pm) where the 1st XV will play Army Cadets coached by former USA Eagles attack coach Matt Sherman. Army are also a perennial top ranked rugby program (Ranked 11th). The state of the art Rugby facility in the scenic West Point is possibly the best in the USA set on the Hudson river. Before the game the tourists will have a tour of the Army campus.

On the Final Saturday (September 6th) of the tour the Trinity squad will play a vastly improved Iona University (KO 1pm) who are ranked 16th in the USA. Iona are coached by the legendary USA rugby character Bruce McLane who coached along side Trinity coach Tony Smeeth with the USA U19s squad back in the last century! Bruce has been an old friend of Trinity Rugby and

hosted the past three tours in 2004-06 and 08 (with distinction!) when he was coaching club side NYAC.

Tony Smeeth
D.U.F.C. Director of Rugby





SENIORS PUSH THE BOUNDARIES!

2018/19 Season Review by Tony Smeeth

Coming into the last season, the Trinity Senior squad had been cleaned out, this happens every two or three years in this famous old College club of ours. I remember going to Galway with a very new looking group for our annual training camp. We took 34 players. The spirit was very positive and the lads worked hard on the pitches and the classrooms of NUIG. But it really was “what you don’t know – won’t hurt you” type deal! We had only one starting forward from the previous Colours in April and that was Alex MacDonald who was only available for the first 6 games as he was off to New York to play in MLR.

We had massive challenges in the front row as well with zero AIL experience coming back at prop – we had graduated 7 front rowers with League 1A experience. Coach Hugh McGuire was his usual “Doom and Gloom” – “we are all going to get killed!” He might have had a point when we played Connacht J1 Team NUIG winning the game easily but getting pushed around at scrum time. I guess that is why we pay the old Coach McGuire the big bucks to go with his OAP Bus pass! Need less to say the ‘over time’ he clocked up on the scrum machine and live scrummaging on Tuesday nights and a bit more on Thursday “Stick it – Stick it Dylan”.. or TC or Azis or whomever had the good fortune to play at Tight-head prop on any given week.

We came back to Dublin, and on the Friday night we played a very confident and buoyant Old Belvedere fresh off an impressive summer of recruiting and pre season training in the Leinster League. We were not ready for this at all and at half time had shipped an incredible 40 pts! If you had told me at that point that we would be playing in an AIL 1A semi final come the end of the season. I would have committed you to the “funny farm”! In desperation the night before in training we had moved our Belgian and U20s Pennant No8 Bart Vermeulen to Loose-head prop. Any one who knows Bart will testify the boy has a ‘hard nosed’ attitude and incredible strength built with many, many hours in the weight room. At half time Bart came into the game, Belvedere were busy making substitutions and clearly took

their eye off the game. The lads started winning some ball and we pulled back to 40-38! Before the clock ran out.

We were well beaten by Clontarf 34-12, our rivals had six Trinity Colours on the pitch from the previous April and we had one! We then had the privilege to play Lansdowne in the Aviva Stadium, a ‘once in a lifetime’ opportunity for any club player these days. Lansdowne had started the Leinster league strongly. But even though Trinity lost, we led the game going into 70 minutes. Two yellow cards killing off the game for us.. It was at this point that ‘green shoots’ of hope began to appear. Maybe we might be able to compete? The bookmakers did not think so they had us at 500-1 to win the All Ireland league.

We had several players with Leinster A playing in the Irish/Welsh Cup which would mean we would be short of these players for the first three games of the AIL campaign. These players included Jack Dunne, Ryan Baird, Giuseppe Coyne Thomas Clarkson, Dan Sheehan, Liam Turner, Jack Kelly and Micheal Silvester. Our first AIL game was away to Garryowen. The lads really stood up to the experienced battle hardened Limerick men playing all the rugby on the day. On the run of play - it was a crime we never got the win, but a little naivety on the day possibly cost us the 27-25 loss. We had a conversion from the corner to draw with the last kick of the day, but it should not have come down to that.

Our first home game was against UCD in a non colours league game. On a horrible wet day we probably were unlucky only to get a 23 all draw against a big UCD pack who scored in the last play of the game. So we were playing quite well without getting the wins, it was a classic case of ‘young team in the big league’ scenario.

We travelled down to Cork Con the next week, and were well beaten by the League favourites 25-13. We scored two late scores which flattered us on the day that we looked like an U20s team playing Senior rugby.

We then went on a run of winning games, first

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Best wishes from Investec to DUFC on their US Tour 2019



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up was a good win over Young Munster when full back Michael Silvester announced his return to Trinity Rugby with as good an individual performance seen in College Park in many a year. 'Silvo' scored three tries and made the fourth in a four try bonus point win, you would have to think if he was not playing we would have struggled to win 31-19 on the day. It was good to get our first win all the same.

We travelled out to Terenure for 'Friday night lights', a game we dominated the first 20 minutes running up a good lead, but then showed our inexperience by not getting a bonus point for four tries but winning 25-8.

We hosted Shannon who were newly promoted back to the top league and were in a rich vein of form. We started shakily but really turned it on in the second half to win 31-19 for the second time this season. I think it was on this day that I thought we might be able to survive if we could stay healthy.

But we travelled down to UCC for their 'Colours'. The Cork University were playing well but not winning. It was an ambush just waiting to happen in front of a big volatile crowd. We never really got off the bus, we did get back to 14-14 on 65 minutes, and looked like we might undeservedly sneak a win against an inspired home team. But it was not to be as the home team scored two late tries.

At the beginning of the season you could not help but notice our four game winter streak against Clontarf A, Lansdowne H, Lansdowne A and Clontarf H. To play any of these Dublin powerhouses is always demanding, but to do it four games in a row was almost unthinkable. Except for the Lansdowne Away game straight after Christmas the boys embraced the challenge and incredibly got an unthinkable before 'double win' over Tarf with all their ex Trinity heads and took Lansdowne close, leading on 60 minutes 6-5 in awful conditions in College Park.

We were now in good shape for the last seven games of the season. Suddenly it was realistic to start thinking "top four" rather than "lets avoid relegation" which has been the usual story for us in this league. We had three difficult close games with anxious one score wins over UCC, Shannon and newly resurrected Terenure. These games could easily have all gone the other way. But the

lads stood up to massive physicality from their opponents.. but came out on the right side of the scoreboard.

We faced relegation threatened Young Munster in Limerick, on the run of play we could have won the game, but the hunger of the home team was the difference and we deservedly lost and learned a huge lesson in the process.

Next up was a date with runaway league leaders Cork Con in College Park. Since we have been in the top league, we have never been close to upsetting 'Con'. On this day we played some sensational rugby against a team who possibly were a couple of percentage points off their best game. The second half was very special, our execution was so accurate on the day, and it was as good as any rugby played by Trinity in this season or any other that I have been involved..

This unexpected win over Con guaranteed us a semi final, and it was 'odds on' that the game would be away to Cork Con. We had a "dead rubber" home game vs Garryowen, so it was probably good that we could relax and just enjoy our last game in College Park for the season. Its always a special day particularly for the few lads who are leaving, Niall O'Riordan, Cian O'Dwyer and Joe Horan. Although we will not be losing too many of this years team, the reality is that 'this team' will never play together. Again with all Trinity teams there are changes from season to season its just the dynamic we work/play under. The other very recent dynamic is that we have many potential professional players and you never know if you are going to see those guys again, even though they are still in College. We actually played some good rugby that day against Garryowen and ran out convincing winners in front of a large home crowd.

We then had to play the Leinster Cup Final vs Lansdowne in Donnybrook on a Thursday night, to qualify our league game with Clontarf was our quarter Final and then we beat Division 1B leader Old Wesley in the semi final. The Final was wedged between the last league game and the Cork Con Semi Final, added to this was the U20s were defending their All Ireland title on the Saturday after, and we had the small distraction of Final exams the next week!

We decided to play a fringe team in the Cup Final, in fairness it was the fringe team who had gotten

us to the final in the first place. We pressed a full strength Lansdowne for most of the game and led on 60 minutes. But Lansdowne deservedly won out in the end, scoring a few late tries to pad the score..

The U20s went on to retain the All Ireland U20s Title vs UCC the following Saturday, and then it was full steam ahead for Cork Con. With a few 'Final' exams thrown in on the way. The players are to be commended on the way they balanced their exams with the most important game in our recent history. It is certainly something we try to avoid at all costs, and the lads who have a "no excuse" culture were exemplary in their dealings with this challenge.

We travelled down to Cork for the semi final the Saturday night before, picked up 6-7 lads outside the Simmonscourt RDS exam hall, and made our way down South.

The Semi Final is now history and Cork Con were full value for their 23-3 win. We gave it a rattle. For me the game changed on one play right on half time, when we were 6-3 down into the breeze. We had possession on the halfway line, but got turned over somewhat questionably and Con took their opportunity attacking the blindside and kicking through and scoring. 13-3 down at half time was a killer blow, and we never recovered, we chased the game from deep and got turned over again on a great defensive read by the home team for Con to score. A sickening blow for the Students, most of the game was our attack against their defence and on the day we just could not get the quick ball our attack craves. Con defended brilliantly, and had clearly done their home work to win out comfortably under the circumstances. They went on to win the Final vs Clontarf to prove they were the best Club team in the land which their league form all year had

shown.

What a year! And hopefully we have taken a step forward as a Division 1A club. The league is so tough, and momentum is very important as all the teams are capable of beating each other. Every week there are surprises when bottom teams beat the top. Our model in Trinity has its obvious flaws and we can lose that important momentum at times..

In articles like this its always good to thank the every increasing group that is DUFC. The coaches who put in so much time, not just in training but on 'hudl' and on scouting the opposition. Special thanks to my assistant coach Hugh McGuire who has put up with me for the past 20 years or so. Every year I say the same, but he makes boys into men at an annual rate. The scrum creaks but rarely goes backwards and just keeps developing all year. Same for the Line Out which is now so intricate and technical that it makes back play/strategy look simple!

Thanks to the defence coach Gareth Pickering, who has taken on our understanding of defence to new levels. The clarity and technique he brings to our defence is outstanding. With few exceptions our defence was a different quality this season.

It may surprise some of our supporters but we brought in a kicking coach not just for the poles but for strategy. Shane Murray has been a great addition to the coaching staff. Our continual discussions about this topic are ongoing! But the theory is when we do kick we kick with clarity and purpose and Shane has added that to our arsenal.





2018/19 Season in Pictures





2018/19 Season in Pictures





TRINITY U20S NATIONAL CHAMPIONS REPEAT!!

Trinity U20s with only two players from last season's winning team won the Frazer McMullen Trophy for the All Ireland U20s Championship for the second year running.

Every season that a team plays can always be termed a "roller coaster" with the natural 'highs and lows' of a season taking its toll on players coaches and supporters alike. But the Trinity U20s squad of 2018-19 had some serious ups and downs! The first challenge was that the team used 50+ players. We seemed to start the season with one squad and finished it with a near totally different team!

I have been involved in six All Ireland U20s championship teams over the years. The formula for success is usually the same, a talented, settled squad working very hard with good depth, with the majority of the starting XV - second year U20s players. But this year was different due to the 'fluid' nature of the season with National and Provincial U20s and U19s squad weekends. Add to this an incredibly young 1st XV with up to 12 U20s players on any given Saturday, playing in the All Ireland league.

The Trinity U20s came into the season with the usual high expectations, we had won the All Ireland the previous season for the first time in 12 years, so why not do it again, right?

We had our usual 2-3 trial games in September losing to Clontarf, UCD and Old Belvedere respectively. We had big numbers (60+) but very few lads were available from the season before. The Seniors XV were in a total rebuild with only one first choice player from the previous season. So any 2nd year player worth his salt was up with the 1st XV.

Until now all Trinity U20s teams have had the same Captain for the entire season, this team had four! Back row and natural leader from Glenstal Abbey Rory Clarke started the season, but got injured early on, and only played a few minutes after the Christmas break, Out half Micheal O'Kennedy was next up, but his superb

performances got him selected for the Senior 1st XV, same with flanker Reuben Pim. So in late January centre James Moriarty took up the mantle and did an incredible job of binding the entire squad together. He literally grew into the job, was very positive throughout and led by example on and off the field.

The JP Fanagan Premier League traditionally starts with seeding games, these games can be quite intense as it sets the tone for the season, lose 1-2 games here and you can find yourselves in the 2nd Division for the season. A fresh looking Trinity U20s are always vulnerable to an upset in these early games. Particularly against the 'Old Boy' teams from Blackrock, Terenure and St Marys who for obvious reasons come in more settled.

Fortunately, Trinity won their two games after a difficult first half where we scored on half time to draw level 10-10 we went on to beat Old Wesley 55-10, against a team who would go on to win Division 2 easily by the end of the season. We followed this up with a good win over Blackrock College RFC 40-8. We began to show a bit of form as our shape and combinations began to integrate together. We followed this up with a statement against a strong Old Belvedere squad who had recruited well and been beating all comers early in the season. 57-8 was an awesome show of power against a quality team.

Next up was the Irish Universities Championships in Cork for the inter-varsities, and although UCC and NUIG pushed us close in 30 minute group games, the boys showed great character to come through. Trinity faced Belfield rivals UCD in the Final. Cheered on by the watching Senior squad who had been playing Cork Con nearby, the pack just dominated possession from the kick off with UCD rarely seeing the ball. Trinity winning 21-6 to lift the Conroy Cup for an incredible 6th time in a row. The celebrations in Cork were good as always and the team building that went with it could only help bring the lads together.

The next week Trinity hosted a strong Leinster laden UCD, these 'back to back' games are

always difficult if you have played the week before and won. But Trinity won again playing sublime rugby 46-14 in College Park. They followed this with an always difficult win over arch rivals Lansdowne 36-18 in College Park.

Trinity were now just behind table leading Clontarf who had been destroying teams and were next up for the students. Trinity took the lead early, but lost 3 forwards in the first half through injury. Clontarf were not to be denied and with several players from the All Ireland final the April before, were superb on the day and fully deserved their 33-21 win over a shell-shocked Trinity squad who tasted defeat for the first and only time before Christmas. We scored two late tries that flattered us on the scoreboard. It was clear if we were to repeat our All Ireland win from the year before, the road was going to go through Castle Avenue.

With games against the top half of the league played, Trinity now faced Terenure, Barnhall and Blackrock in the run into the Christmas break. Without really playing well and squeaking past Terenure in particular they went in to the break 2nd place behind the rip roaring North siders.

After Christmas a disjointed Trinity team continued to struggle to find their form, with players at this stage coming in and out of the squad.

In the new year, Old Belvedere were well beaten again. But then we slipped badly against a highly motivated UCD who were clearly sick of losing to Trinity U20s in Belfield. Trinity have dominated this fixture the past 4-5 seasons. But UCD clearly were out to change that on the day. Winning comfortably and inflicting on the Inner City University the worst loss in several years. 50-7 Ouch! Incredibly only 4 players remained from the Trinity win over UCD in College Park such was the transition/attrition during the season. Interestingly, 10 of this losing team would go on to start in the All Ireland Final V UCC later in April. Crucially this loss truly grounded the group. The lads dedicated themselves to getting better every day in the gym and on the pitch.

We bounced back to get a good win in Lansdowne 21-10 always a tough place to win. We then lost to Clontarf in College Park 23-13 who deservedly won the league that day. But

although we lost the game our U20s unlike the first game with Tarf dominated in possession and position and played all the positive rugby. We just got the balance wrong and were very loose, wasting opportunities throughout the game. We were all looking forward to April when the big All Ireland Trophy would be up for grabs. We closed out the regular season with a win over Terenure 22-10.

The U20s season really is separated into two parts. We have the regular league which is a marathon and you are jostling for seeding's for the All Ireland U20s Championship. We took 2nd in Leinster, so we got a home draw in the quarter Final in College Park. Coincidentally, we faced Shannon having gone to Limerick for the same QF game last season. The Lads came out on fire on a beautiful spring day in Dublin and simply blasted the Visitors off the field in the opening minutes, playing at a tempo and intent that we always strive. The big difference was on this day the execution was excellent. It was difficult for Shannon to get off the bus and face wave after wave of attack. Trinity won out 70-17. In a real statement of intent to the rest of the competition.

Next up was Lansdowne who had narrowly beaten Garryowen on a cold windy Aviva Stadium back pitch, We dominated all the stats but the scoreboard. Lansdowne defence was heroic that day, and took their opportunities and with 2 minutes to go lead the game 29-25.

We looked dead and buried, the body language was not good. But in the last play, the boys pulled together one last play, went through several phases before cutting back open and passing the width of the pitch for skipper Moriarty to break through before feeding Andrew Hogan who released Paddy Opperman out wide in space – game over, we are in the Final for the second year running. The mild surprise on the day was the news that Leinster champion Clontarf had lost to Munster Champion UCC 29-28.

The Final was arranged for Naas RFC on a ultra hot spring day in Kildare. This was a great statement for University rugby to have two teams contesting the National U20s final. UCC were in impressive form beating Leinster teams UCD in the QF and Clontarf in the semi final.

I don't think anybody expected what actually

happened in this Final. Trinity upped their performance from previous games against a well drilled and hungry Cork outfit. The blend of fitness and ball skills along with physicality at the breakdown was wonderful to behold from Trinity U20s. The game was over on 55 minutes when Trinity led 36-3 scoring some sensational team tries along with two freakish tries from Paddy Opperman who was unstoppable on the day with his speed and footwork. Trinity won out 43-21 in the end.

For the second year running Trinity had kept their best performance to the All Ireland Final, always the ideal time to do it!! Congratulations to UCC who have had a great year in their own right.

Special thanks must go to the players and the large squad who contributed to this very special

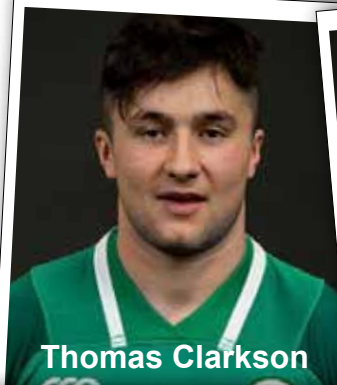
triumph. The lads work so hard, with 40+ players doing 3 mornings a week in the gym under S + C coach Ian Hirst. The training sessions are so competitive at times, and coaches Keith Murphy, Ross McCorry and Dave Murphy have been so much fun to work with. In Trinity we run two Premier U20s teams and it always pays off that we can do that. Our U20s Freshers team came 4th in Division 2 of the Leinster U20s league, they probably played their best games in training vs the Premier U20s making training incredibly competitive. Thanks also to physio Warren Barry who keeps the lads on the pitch for the most part with his highly professional methods.

Congratulations to Ross McCorry and Warren Barry on new additions to their families – Finn and Willow respectively!!





DUFC's Ireland Under 20's Stars



Thomas Clarkson



Ryan Baird




Rob Russell



Liam Turner



Max O'Rielly



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Trinity Colours 2018 - 2019

Men's Team







Players Profiles



James Hickey 6'2 | 92kg | 21 yrs

Studying 4th year Engineering **School/Club** St. Michaels **Honours** Leinster U18s, U19
This year's Captain, James had another strong season last year helping DUFC to the AIL semi-finals. A natural leader, James sticks out head and shoulders (but mostly head) from the rest as a vocal presence on the pitch. James is most liked during his scheduled and well needed 'quiet hour'. Always leads by example.



Aidan Donnelly 5' 10 | 100kg | 20 yrs

Studying 3rd PPES **School/Club** Fordham Prep
Aidan has come on leaps and bounds in his two years at DUFC. Hailing from New York, he has already made several appearances in friendlies for the 1st XV which he will look to build on in the coming season. Aidan has a lovely voice and does an excellent rendition of 'Piano Man'.



Alan Francis 6' 1 | 96kg | 20 yrs

Studying Business and Management DIT **School/Club** Blackrock College **Honours** Leinster U19, U20, Ireland U18
Franno joins us from Blackrock RFC after apparently putting the team on his back. A 110 metre hurdler in the past, Franno is a great athlete and has shown huge potential in just a handful of training sessions since his arrival. It is yet to be seen if he will be able to reconcile with his now teammate, Mick O'Kennedy, after promising to hospitalise him in their SCT clash in Donnybrook. He will certainly make a very strong case for a starting berth in what is already a very competitive back row this season.



Andrew Hogan 6'1 | 88kg | 19 yrs

School/Club Glenstal Abbey **Honours** Munster U18,19
The better looking of the Hogan brothers, Andrew was part of the first ever Glenstal team to win the Munster Schools Senior Cup, a feat which is often dismissed by the Leinster based players in the squad. He soon showed his huge potential with strong showings for the U20s which earned him a spot in the Senior side to play against Durham. Andrew's pace and step from either wing or fullback caused carnage for defences at U20 level last season.



Aran Egan 6'1 | 84kg | 20 yrs

Studying Fashion **School/Club** Glenstal Abbey
A pivotal member of the infamous Glenstal Senior Cup winners, Aran will be looking to transfer his skills to the senior squad as he fights for a place. Aran shows great loyalty to the club by remaining despite numerous modelling contract offers. When not looking for clothes online Aran can be found in the tanning salon on Grafton street.



Arthur Greene 6'4 | 102kg | 21 yrs

Studying 4th year Geography and Geoscience **School/Club** St.Michaels
Arthur is another member of the 2018 All-Ireland U20s winning team that has moved his trade into senior rugby. A true club man, Arthur was one of the coaches for the Womens team last year and can usually be found at any DUFC event involving pints. A man who runs, albeit at the same pace, for the whole 80 minutes Arthur works tirelessly and puts his body on the line every game. With Arthur being unhygienic and generally unkept, it is fitting that his party piece is showing people his toes. All jokes aside they're messed up.





Players Profiles



Aziz Naser 6' 3 | 115kg | 20 yrs

Studying Legal Studies DBS Graduate 2018 **School/Club** St. Fintans **Honours** Leinster U18 clubs, U19
Aziz is a hardworking young player with great potential as he has shown multiple times. A physical tighthead pro, he played in many games for the 1st XV last season and will hope to build on this game time this coming year under the watchful eye of Hugh McGuire. A man of many talents Aziz can leave you in stitches with his hard hits and witty one liners.



Bart Vermeulen 6'2 | 103kg | 19 yrs

Studying 2nd year BESS **Honours** Belgium U18
Bart is a workhorse when it comes to anything about rugby. A self-confessed gym addict, Trinity's Keep Rugby Clean Ambassador puts up some jaw dropping gym scores for a 19 year old. Bart made the transition to pro last year and performed extremely well for someone who was a complete stranger to the position at the start of the year, a testament to his hard work and obsession to always improve. When he's not murdering Fenners in a "grab" drill Bart can be found watching Love Island, Bridget Jones Diary or having a protein shake as a dessert.



Ben Nel 6' 3 | 95kg | 20 yrs

Studying Engineering DIT **School/Club** Diocesan College RSA **Honours** Western Province U18
The South African is one of the more mysterious characters in the club. No one knows quite what he does when he is not carrying hard ball and pinging darts to the tail, something to do with Kings Hospital we think. The utility front rower will be dearly missed by Stinks and Ross down with the 20s but an exciting weapon for Hugh and Rory's arsenal going forward.



Billy O'Hora 5' 10 | 95kg | 21 yrs

Studying 4th year BESS **School/Club** Crescent College **Honours** Munster U18 Schools
A powerhouse of a winger with great pace and competitive nature, Billy re-joins us this year after an unfortunate training ground injury followed by an Erasmus to Australia robbing us of him. Despite this he has a wealth of AIL experience having played when he was in 2nd year. A great man to have on the pitch, in the changing room and during a sing song. Best avoided on a night out, which is usually easy enough seeing as he is most likely already in a jail cell.



Cian Egenton 5' 11 | 84kg | 19 yrs

Studying Engineering DIT **School/Club** Castlcknock College **Honours** Leinster U18 Schools
Cian returns after a long injury lay off, after showing his quality at the start of last season, the playmaking Castlcknock man will hope to prove a strong character within the 20s again this season. His silky and to the game-line play has earned him the named 'edgy'.



Conor Lowndes 6'0 | 90kg | 23 yrs

Studying 3rd year Genetics **School/Club** Colaiste Iognaid **Honours** Connacht U20s, A, Ireland 7s
Lowndes is in his second year with the club now having spent time in the Connacht Academy and with the Irish 7s. A very physical scrum-half who has the ability to play almost anywhere across the backline. Lowndes is a big social media user, so much so that he often pretends to go spear fishing for the sake of an Instagram and likes to live stream a cover of Sticky Fingers in his back garden. His long blonde surfer hair is an easy spot on the pitch, his bullet of a pass and enormous box kick are also eye catching. Lowndes will be looking to continue on his fine form of last year and attain as much game time as possible with the 1st XV.





Players Profiles



Colm Hogan 6'2 | 95kg | 22 yrs

Studying Law & French **School/Club** Glenstal Abbey **Honours** Munster U18, U19, U20, A, Ireland U18, U19, U20, 7s

Last year's club captain has to the delight of the club announced he will be toggling out in the white jersey again this year. A cruel injury picked up in the Colours win sees Colly unavailable till October. Never afraid to tell a joke, no matter how bad it is, Colly usually is his own hype man and frequently high fives himself when no one else will. A fullback or wing who showcased moments of individual brilliance last season and one of the most experienced players in the squad, Colly's presence this year will be a massive help to the team.



Darragh Porter 6'0 | 85kg | 21 yrs

Studying 4th year Engineering **School/Club** CBC Monkstown

Darragh was forced into a year sabbatical last season due to an unfortunate jaw injury, the cause of which remains vague to this day. A lightning quick winger who is equally as strong, Darragh is an impressive athlete who understands the game. He comes into this season hoping to continue his prolific form at U20 level and earn his starting spot in a hotly contested back three. It is a widely held view that Darragh's dad is much cooler than him.



Daryl Egan 5'7 | 72kg | 21 yrs

Studying 4th year BESS **School/Club** Rockwell College **Honours** Munster U18 Schools, U19

Daryl was welcomed back into the club by Nulty with open arms after his year abroad on Erasmus. Despite being given legal advice, he will be sure to tell you of all his exploits of Southeast Asia which have also been documented on his Instagram page "Buttcheek Travel". A true example of a Trinity scrum half, Daryl plays at a very fast tempo and his sniping runs leave space open for others, another contender for the scrumhalf spot this year. A man who has always helped massively behind the scenes in DUFC, it is great to have him back both on and off the pitch.



Donnchadh Mescall 6'2 | 117kg | 20 yrs

Studying Human Resource Management DIT **School/Club** Blackrock College **Honours** Leinster U18 Clubs, Ireland U19

Mescall is in his second year now with the club having had an injury ridden season in first year. A player with great potential but it's difficult to know seeing as he only played 23 minutes of rugby for the club. One of a number of players who will be looking to nail down his claim for the spot at hooker, Mescall is a great person to have in the changing room and is always one to whip up a cup of tea with a box of Cadburys Chocolate Fingers on the side.



George Downing 5'10 | 90kg | 20 yrs

Studying 2nd year Maths & Economics **School/Club** Glenstal Abbey **Honours** Munster U18 Schools

George was a key figure in the U20 All Ireland winning team from last season. His escapades in Munster has shaped him into a wrecking ball on and off the pitch. He has a history of injuring his teammates, one particular incident involved a LUAS stop and a famous Mango. George's favourite things include DTwo Thursdays, pulling hamstrings, concussions and studying in secret.



Giuseppe Coyne 6'0 | 105kg | 20 yrs

Studying 3rd year BESS **School/Club** Blackrock College **Honours** Leinster U20, A

"Champagne Peppy" is an outside back living in a pro's body. Scoring an outrageous 5 tries last season, Pep is not your traditional loosehead with the skill and speed of a centre, he is also the best impressionist since Joe Horan's departure from the club. Pep can be described as everyone's favourite pizza and enjoyed his fifth pizza at Forbidden Fruit this year.





Players Profiles



Hugh Twomey 6'9 | 86kg | 20 yrs

Studying 3rd year BESS **School/Club** Gonzaga

Supposedly hailing from Cork, Hugh is a Gonzaga man through and through. Make of that what you will. He was involved in many of the Senior games at the beginning of last year and proved he can play at AIL standard. He then went on to play in the centre in the U20s side and was pivotal to the teams success. Hugh is often ridiculed and excluded from jokes and social events due to the fact that he is very tall.



Liam McMahon 6'1 | 89kg | 20 yrs

Studying 2nd year Business Management DIT **School/Club** Blackrock College

Liam "church boy" McMahon returns for his second year with Trinity after a successful season of three games where he was instrumental in winning the All Ireland title. Liam is a powerful and fast winger who is well able for AIL rugby, he will hope to fight his way into a starting spot on the 1st XV with the back three already looking like a fiercely contested spot. Off the field he likes to spend his downtime watching tik-tok videos, eating crisps and attending mass.



James Fennelly 6'1 | 80kg | 22 yrs

Studying BESS **School/Club** Blackrock College

Church Bells began ringing throughout Trinity as word had spread that Jesus Fennelly decided he would grace us with his almighty presence for another season. An outhalf with a laissez-faire approach to the game and an ability to put others into space with sublime touches of skill. His offloads, cross-fields and general outrageous play have Tony Smeeth pulling his hair out until he sees they have by some miracle come off. However he was unable to put out the fire he started on "Bad Boys" barbeque. The go to man if there is ever a crucial kick that needs to go between the sticks.



James Moriarty 6'0 | 88kg | 21 yrs

Studying 1st year anything **School/Club** Gonzaga College **Honours** Leinster U20s

'Morsh' captained the U20s side to All Ireland victory last year and proved to be a leader when one was needed. A physical and skillful centre, 'Morsh' has all the skills an inside back can want. His other skills include chatting to fifths to no avail, being the first person to get barred from the Pav and blaming Mick O'Kennedy for anything bad that happens to him. Morsh will hope to build on his successful season and play as much 1st XV rugby this year as he can.



Jamie O'Grady 5'10 | 80kg | 19 yrs

Studying 2nd year Medicine **School/Club** Belvedere College

Jamie a player who was stifled with injuries throughout last season is back and fitter than ever. The Belvo man will be looking to be a regular in the 20s this season with the centre positions up for grabs. An incident last year has earned him the nickname 'baldy', after claiming he always wants to shave his hair off at some point.



Jody Booth 87 | 6' 2 | 19 yrs

Studying 2nd year global **School/Club** St. Michael's **Honours** Leinster U18, U19, Ireland U18

An Ireland Schools International, Jody recovered from a nasty toe injury to become one of the most consistent players on the 20s side last year. Jody can play across the backrow and gets through a massive amount of work each game. Jody enjoys doing a lot of the unseen graft work both on and off the pitch.





Players Profiles



Johnny McKeown 6'1 | 93kg | 21 yrs

Studying Economics & History **School/Club** Ballymena Academy **Honours** Ireland U18 Schools, Ulster U18 Schools, U19

With an accent and demeanour that could make you weak at the knees, our Northern Irish backrow is certainly the heart-throb of the squad. Johnny has played a crucial role in the club since he arrived. A powerhouse at U20 level who has showed no signs of slowing down as he has made the transition to a weekly starter for the 1st XV last season. A tremendously hard-working individual, Johnny often leads from the front in both fitness and gym work.



Louis O'Reilly 6'2 | 85kg | 19 yrs

Studying 2nd year BESS **School/Club** Blackrock College **Honours** Leinster U18,19, 20

A hard hitting, physical scrum half who tackles like a back row. Louis arrived into Trinity off the back of a summer playing with Leinster U20s. With excellent game management and a strong kicking game he became a leader in the U20s All-Ireland winning side. He will be competing against his cousin, 'Màs' for game time with the firsts. Louis was frequently heard shouting "Màs who?!" in College Park while 'Màs' was away on Erasmus last year.



Matthew Martin 6'4 | 95kg | 20 yrs

Studying 2nd year Engineering **School/Club** Clongowes

One of our 625 crew to arrive into Trinity College this year, Matthews barnstorming runs and hard hits established himself as one of the stars for the U20s last season. With a keen interest in classics and car number plates, Matthew Martin is a name to watch out for on the DUFC scene in the coming years.



Max Kearney 5'11 | 90kg | 20 yrs

Studying 3rd year BBS **School/Club** Belvedere College **Honours** Leinster U19, U20, Ireland U19

The 'Hunchback of College Park' returns for his third season with the club. Max is a leader of men and was an influential player and person last season, driving standards and displaying a grit and determination that spread throughout the squad. Also known for his aggression and 'never give up attitude' on both the pitch and the dancefloor, Maxy will go to Coppers by himself if he has to.



Micheal O Kennedy 6'0 | 85kg | 20 yrs

Studying Business & Management DIT **School/Club** Gonzaga College

Mick started off last season as a leader for the 20s side and due to a run of very strong performances was deservedly called up the 1st XV after Christmas. He managed to hold on to the number ten jersey for the remainder of the season and played brilliantly. He will no doubt be a leader and crucial player to the club this year. The panic of inviting someone to Red and Black has already set in for Mick as he aims to bring a date who does not end up crying on the night for the first time ever. Third time lucky!



Nathan Mullen 6' 11 | 107 | 19 yrs

Studying Business Management DIT **School/Club** Blackrock College

Nathan is returning for his second season in DUFC. The epitome of a club man he has played for the 20s first and second XV and the J1 side in his short time with the club. A very popular figure in the squad, Nathan is a phenomenal person to have in the Club and on a night out. When not dominating the line-out with his absurd height, Nathan likes to fall asleep and owe the boys money.





Players Profiles



Neil Howard 6'3 | 100kg | 19 yrs

Studying Sociology and Social Policy **School/Club** Belvedere College

Neil, another Belvo man, was a stalwart in the engine room for the 20s last season. After hitting an infinite amount of rucks last season, Neil will be looking forward to getting back on the pitch and doing it all again this season. Neil has been working very hard this preseason and will hope to progress into the senior ranks of the club.



Oisín Mangan 5' 6 | 69kg | 19 yrs

Studying 2nd year Biomedical Science **School/Club** Rockwell College **Honours** Munster U18s

Oisín joins DUFU with representative caps at Munster U18 level. "Mango" is an impressive player with tremendous pace and skill. His 5 foot stature along with his 9.5% body fat makes him a massive presence both on and off the pitch. When Mango isn't practising his box kicks he can be seen following his father a.k.a Lowndesy around campus.



Patrick Hamilton 6'0 | 96kg | 23 yrs

Studying Masters in International Management **School/Club** Campbell College

Belfast number cruncher, the hooker turned backrow turned hooker is a powerful workhorse with some skills to boot. A very physical player who loves the contact side of the game, Paddy's decision to play another year for the club came is great news. He can be found inside the library in a plain t-shirt munching on burritos with Kwaylong O'Flynn.



Patrick Nixon 5' 10 | 108kg | 19 yrs

Studying 2nd year Geography and Geoscience **School/Club** Colaiste Chill Mhantain **Honours** Leinster U18, 19, Ireland U18

Pat played a significant role with the 20s this season especially at the latter end of the season. On first encounters with Pat you'd think he was an Ulster man, but turns out he in-fact hails from Wicklow. Pat will be looking to progress again with the 20s after last year's success.



Patrick Opperman 6' 3 | 85kg | 19 yrs

Studying 2nd year Law and Business **School/Club** Gerard's

"The Operator" is one of if not the fastest player in the club. A true sprinter, the winger scored some ridiculous tries at U20 level last season and was one of the stars of last year's side. A great guy despite being from Gerard's, Paddy has expressed a particular interest in extreme ironing.



Patrick Nulty 6'0 | 92kg | 21 yrs

Studying 4th year MSISS **School/Club** Clongowes Wood College

Nulty is 4th year who has had great success with the Club, another member of the 2018 All Ireland winning team that have transitioned into Senior rugby. Nulty is hoping to establish himself as a starter for the club in the backrow, his blistering pace and footwork and his ability to pick great lines often leave defenders for dead, however he usually forgets to catch the ball. Nulty has a habit of going missing on team nights only to arrive into breakfast with a very vague description of where he went and what he did.





Players Profiles



Paul Damery 6' | 86kg | 20 yrs

Studying 2nd year Physics **School/Club** Homeschooled

Paul's rugby days began in North Kildare and he has now gone on to play for Trinity. His size and skill make him a suitable centre for the team. Paul lives his life by the 3 B's wearing Barbour jackets, wanting to work in a bank and trying to be his brother. Paul has aspirations to follow in the footsteps of his brother, but is yet to work a day in his life. He is the Robin to Donnacha Mescal's Batman.



Phil Murphy 6'1 | 93kg | 22 yrs

Studying 4th year Engineering with Management **School/Club** Colaiste Iognaid **Honours** Sweden 7s, Sweden

Phil demanded he get a place in the yearbook despite being away on Erasmus for the year. A physical, hard-working and tough player. Often taking on the less appealing roles last season, he had his fair share of big collisions. A reliable centre who never lets his opposite man through his channel, he was the catalyst to many of the team's best tries. The designated music man with an almost concerning love for ABBA. At the age of 65 Phil is still a hopeless romantic who enjoys poetry, a bottle of merlot and complaining about the habits of today's youth.



Reuben Pim 6'3 | 96kg | 20 yrs

Studying 3rd year BESS **School/Club** Kilkenny College **Honours** Leinster Schools, 19s, 20s

A young but now experienced player, Reuben is a freakish athlete who has an engine that never seems to stop, he can slot in at either second row or backrow. Pimer is an uncompromising player and brings a competitive edge to any pack he plays in, found at the centre of any scuffle. A man with a world class sock game and sense of humour, Reuben often skips a post-match pint in favour of a glass of Max's home brew.



Ronan Quinn 5'7 | 69kg | 19 yrs

Studying 2nd year Engineering **School/Club** Glenstal Abbey

After quite the debut season, Quinny will be looking to pick up where he left off. 'Wee Man' got his first Senior Cap half way through the year when the groundsmen finally cut the grass short enough for Tony to see him zipping down the wing. Part of the first and only Glenstal winning Cup side, he brings plenty of confidence along with his ability and humour; all perfectly suited to DUFC rugby.



Rory Simmington 6' | 90kg | 20 yrs

Studying 2nd year BESS **School/Club** St. Andrews

Rory was very involved with the U20s last season and also played in the Leinster League final against Lansdowne for the 1st XV. A backrow with great potential, Rory will be hoping to break into the starting lineup for the U20 side this year on a weekly basis.



Seb Pim

The coolest Pim in the Club, Seb comes into his second year with DUFC after being heavily involved with last years All Ireland winning team. A quick and powerful centre he will be looking to nail down his spot on the U20s starting team and hopefully feature for the 1st XV whenever possible. A fan of documenting in-depth conversations with coaches, we hope Seb can continue his fine form into the coming year.





Players Profiles



Simon Clear 6'2 | 98kg | 19 yrs

Studying 2nd year BESS **School/Club** Gonzaga College **Honours** Leinster U18 Schools

A ball playing prop who can play both sides of the scrum. Simon was a very important player in last years All Ireland winning team. He maintains his weight by picking the pizza toppings off the pizzas he delivers for a living. A surprisingly good lad considering he went to Zaga, Simon puts in a massive shift every game and every night out.



Steve Gray 5'11 | 89kg | 20 yrs

Studying 3rd year Physiotherapy **School/Club** Kilkenny College

A product of Kilkenny College, Steve developed into a leader and crucial member of the U20s side last year. A cruel injury picked up in the act of scoring a try in the All Ireland semi-final win against Lansdowne ruled him out of the final. A strong carrier and thrower he has huge potential heading into Senior rugby. A keen cricketer, Steve always offers the lads massages which he claims is good practice for his degree.



Tomas Killeen 5'11 | 79kg | 21 yrs

Studying 4th year BESS **School/Club** St.Michaels

Mas returns to Trinity rugby after a dislocated shoulder he picked up in the act of setting up a try against Terenure followed by a 6 month stint Down Under meant he was missed for quite some time. A courageous scrum half who never shies from a collision, 'Màs' speed of delivery from the base is of great value to any Trinity team. Mas' sniping moves are a threat to any defender or person who brings their girlfriend to Red and Black.



Adrian Binders 6' 2 | 93kg | 20 yrs

Studying 3rd year BESS **School/Club** Blackrock College **Honours** Luxembourg

Our hard hitting Luxembourg international battled with injury early last year to come back and star for the U20s All-Ireland campaign. One of the hardest working players in DUFC, Binders is a workhouse both in the gym and on the pitch. Binders is ready to bring his physicality to 1st XV rugby.



Neilus Mulvihill 6'3 | 97kg | 22 yrs

Studying Masters in Civil Engineering **School/Club** Glenstal Abbey **Honours** Connacht U20s

Back Row/2nd Row who played two years of U20's rugby with D.U.F.C. and then took two years off due to injury and an exchange programme. We welcome him back to the Trinity Rugby family.



Luis Faria 5' 11 | 88kg | 19 yrs

Studying 2nd year BESS **School/Club** Newpark Comprehensive **Honours** Leinster U19, Ireland U19

An Ireland U19 international and member of the Leinster Sub-Academy, Luis was a crucial member of the U20s side last year and played in two 1st XV AIL matches when still a Freshman.. A strong ball carrier who has developed into an excellent ball player, Luis has already taken over from Joe Horan as Pedro's favourite player. After a strong showing in his 1st XV debut in a win against Cork Con, Luis will be looking to break into the starting line up this year.





Coaching Staff Profiles

Tony Smeeth



Born in England, Tony played his Rugby at St. Mary's Puddletown, Puddletown RFC, Exeter RFC and County rugby at all levels with Dorset and Wiltshire including English schoolboy trials. Tony came to Trinity in 1998 following three years as Senior Coach at Blackrock College RFC. Previously Tony lived and coached in Seattle, USA for ten years. While in the USA, Tony founded the USA U19s program in 1992 whom he coached on 8 tours to New Zealand /Australia. He also took the USA U19s to their first ever FIRA U19s championships back in 1998 in Toulouse, the same competition that Ireland won with Brian O'Driscoll. That same year he stepped in at the last minute and coached the Irish Women's XV in the Women's World Cup in Amsterdam. In 2010 Tony coached Leinster U19s to an undefeated inter-provincial championship. He has also coached Irish Universities on several occasions over the past 15 years. 2012-13 Tony was the USA Senior Eagles Backs and Attack coach – coaching in 13 test matches including narrow loss to Ireland in Houston Texas 15-12. He had another season with the Senior Eagles in 2006 coaching six games. Tony has coached at Willow Park School and Blackrock College School for over 22 years. He is an IRFU Level 3, stage 5 IRB qualified coach, the highest coaching qualification an Irish coach can achieve. He has been married to Catherine for over ten years, and they have a daughter Eabha.

Hugh McGuire



Co-Coach for the 1st XV, Hugh has looked after the Trinity 1st XV Forwards for the past 18 years, turning boys into Men. Previously he coached and played for St. Mary's RFC where he coached many Irish Internationals including Denis Hickie, Victor Costello and Trevor Brennan among others. He has qualified as a Stage 4 coach. While a student at UCC (NUIG) Hugh played for Irish Universities on their tour to New Zealand in 1978. He played his representative rugby for Connacht and was capped for Ireland A. Hugh's 'day job' was Principal at Willow Park School where he taught for over 30 years and has just retired. He was heavily involved in the Rugby in that school during that period. He is married to Geraldine and has two children in David and Rachel.

Gareth Pickering



Born in North Canterbury, New Zealand, Gareth came to the club in 2011. He will be taking over the defence coaching of the First XV this year, having spent the summer learning from teams from both rugby codes in his native country. Gareth's daytime job is as a P.E. Teacher in Blackrock College where he is also backs coach for the SCT. Before this he was a Housemaster and Teacher at Clongowes Wood College, also coaching their Junior Cup side. Gareth has previously been backs coach for the Leinster U20's. Gareth's playing days were cut short by a back injury whilst playing for the Douglas Rugby Club on the Isle of Mann in 1999 and he has been coaching ever since.

Jonathan Butler



Jonny hails from Mullingar RFC. Following eight years of success at youth rugby, he joined the Trinity senior rugby set up in September 2016 guiding the Second XV to the Metropolitan 2 League. Jonny has also taken on the kicking coach role, as well as the managerial role for the First XV. Outside of Trinity, he is a full time employee of Leinster, and also still playing his trade as a player/coach in Mullingar RFC.

Ian Hirst



Born in Dublin and educated in King's Hospital where he played Leinster schools rugby before entering Trinity College in 2008. During his undergraduate years in College he played prop forward in the U20s and three years in the Seniors XV. On graduating from Trinity he continued his playing career in Clontarf RFC during which he earned Irish Clubs representative honours and a professional contract with Leinster in 2015. Unfortunately, due to a back injury his promising Leinster rugby career came to an abrupt end. Leinster's loss, Trinity Rugby's gain when he joined Tony Smeeth's Coaching team in 2016 and is now an Assistant Coach and Video Analyst. He has since acquired a Masters in Strength & Conditioning which he put to good use when he took on 40 players from the double winning ALL Ireland 3 days a week for S&C. "Hirsty" as he is fondly referred to by fellow coaches, players, club members and friends is always willing to help out in other areas of the Club activities.

Rory Clarke



The latest addition to the Trinity Rugby coaching team. Educated in Glenstal Abbey in Co. Limerick where he captained his school team to their second ever Munster Senior Cup Final. Hailing from the Netherlands originally, he is now in his 3rd Engineering Year in Trinity and was the U20s Captain until injury ended his playing career. His proven leadership credentials are well suited for his new coaching role and he has already got his Stage 3 coaching badge. He encapsulates everything that Trinity Rugby stands for and was a member of the Events Committee where he played his part at many of the pre-match lunches and other events. Always willing to help in fundraising organising volunteers to collect gate money and sell programmes.



Chartered Physiotherapist

Ciaran Wade



Educated in Clongowes Wood College and Trinity College where he graduated with an Honours Degree in Chartered Physiotherapy. While studying at Trinity he played for the U20s and 3 years on the Seniors earning his Colours. Has just completed his Masters in Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy through UCD. Started his career in the world renowned Santry Sports Clinic where he gained invaluable experience in dealing with a range of Musculoskeletal injuries working with some of the top Orthopaedic Surgeons and doctors in Europe. He has worked across many sport settings including Trinity Rugby and League of Ireland football clubs. Ciaran is also a Certified Strength & Conditioning Specialist, keen sportsman he played for Wanderers rugby club after Trinity and previously played soccer and Gaelic football at a high level.



D.U.F.C. – “a Club for Life”

The 1854 – a social, career and business networked diaspora

D.U.F.C. /Trinity Rugby has and continues to provide “a unique university rugby experience”. For past players, parents and supporters this has developed in recent years beyond the 1854 Dinner, Colours Match and the Golf Classic.

Given:

- This unique rugby and social experience
- The fact that players stop playing earlier
- The “Clubhouse” that is the Trinity College campus, Dining Hall etc
- The substantial and diverse success of D.U.F.C. alumni in chosen careers

We believe there is a huge opportunity to develop further “The 1854” as an active social, career and business networked diaspora that can enable Trinity rugby alumni and supporters to more rewardingly engage with each other, with the Club and with College.

It is a priority strategy for the season ahead to develop the communication and event frameworks to achieve this aim. It’s the intention to appoint DUFC alumni to take on the role of “1854 Ambassadors” for their cohort years to take this forward.

WE WANT TO CREATE SOMETHING UNIQUE FOR THE D.U.F.C. ALUMNI & SUPPORTERS

PLEASE HELP US BY BECOMING A MEMBER

www.dufc.ie/shop

and receive your complimentary copy of:

“D.U.F.C. – a photographic memoir and history since 1854”



Wishing everyone at Trinity Rugby a
successful USA Tour

Sole manufacturers in Ireland of:

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**Peter McNamara
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**Wishing DUFC a successful
and enjoyable Tour**

**From Hugo MacNeill & All
the Friends of DUFC in the
Ireland Funds**



D.U.F.C. WOMEN –Review Of 2018/19

Season By Jane Leahy, Women's Captain

A year ago, I was sitting down to write my Captain's message for the Trinity Rugby Yearbook, looking forward to the season ahead. Now, I get to write the season review for what was arguably Trinity Women's best season, a season that surpassed every expectation and hopes I may have had 12 months ago.

This past season began for us during Trinity Fresher's Week, when we signed up over 100 women who wanted to give rugby a try. The interest from the student body in joining the Club gave us a huge boost of hope and energy going into our pre-season camp that same week. Our returning players, along with some experienced new recruits, took part in a three-day, all-encompassing camp with our Director of Rugby Tony Smeeth with the help from Ian Hirst and our coaches Joe Horan, Colm Hogan and Arthur Greene. Starting the season with a workshop on rugby and team culture really set the tone for the season ahead. From there we began to build on our basic skills and shape.

Our season began in Arklow in mid-September, where we convincingly defeated the home team starting, what would become a five-game winning streak. Our winning ways were halted by eventual league winners Barnhall. As exams approached we lost a further two games in the run-up to Christmas.

We picked ourselves back up and returned with a bang when we defeated Wanderers to start another winning streak. We went on to win our next four games securing a home semi-final in College Park, a privilege not many get to experience. In very poor conditions, but with the support of our families, friends and club members we dug deep and came out with a hard-fought victory against our long-standing rivals PortDara Falcons.

The League Final against Barnhall was played in Naas two weeks later, one of three women's finals played that day. A mixture of nerves and excitement led to our defeat and it was generally felt by all present that on another day the result

would have been reversed, as was demonstrated three weeks later when we defeated them in the Semi- Final of the Paul Cusack Cup.

Going into the Cup Final we knew we had a tough game ahead facing PortDara Falcons once more, this time in the height of the Trinity Exam Session. We were missing a number of players, coupled with the fact others had sat exams earlier that day, which left us going into the game apprehensive and somewhat at a disadvantage. The Falcons preyed on this, claiming victory and the Paul Cusack Cup. Despite this loss, we ended our season on a high with promotion to Division 2 secured for the 2019/20 season. This is a huge opportunity for us to continue the development of Women's Rugby in Trinity.

We also had an action-packed season for our Development Squad who participated in the Student Sport Ireland League as well as the Kay Bowen Cup and the Universities' Freshers 7's tournaments. The purpose of our development team was to give new players an opportunity to harness their skills in a match situation with the ultimate goal of getting into our Leinster League Panel. This proved to be a huge success and became a contributory factor in our season's success with some incredible talent coming through from this development squad.

Both the Development Team and Leinster League Squad came together to host an International Blitz in College Park, a welcome break from the intensity of league games, allowing us to meet so many new people and play some "no stakes" rugby. Far from "no stakes" rugby was the annual Colours match, this year played in the UCD Bowl. A hard-fought game played in atrocious weather conditions that saw an unprecedented number of scrums ended with a 15-7 victory to UCD.

In the past season, we had our ups and downs on the pitch but the underlying feeling, I will always associate with this season, is one of pride. When we were victorious, we continued to work hard and never took anything for granted. When we lost, we held our heads high, praised the positives, regrouped and worked together to

come back from it. For me, that's a true measure of a team and its strength.

Off the pitch, we had another unforgettable and enjoyable year, for which we have Pedro Ribeiro and his Events Committee to thank. With events such as the Red & Black Ball, the Club quiz, themed nights out, end of season party, fundraising and pre-match lunches, it was so easy for the teams within the club to mix with each other as well as with the club's network of Alumni and supporters. It is this sense of club comradery, along with its performance pathways and rich history, that makes Trinity Rugby such an attractive and successful club. A unique University Rugby Experience!

The Club's success can be measured in many ways, but one that is extremely evident to all is that D.U.F.C. collected 5 of the 11 awards on offer at this year's Trinity Sport's Awards. Among the award winners were Linda Djougang, Trinity Sport's 'Sportsperson of the Year', who represented both Leinster and Ireland and was a key player in this year's Colours match. Linda is one of two current D.U.F.C. Women's players to receive Interprovincial caps with Fiona Tuite also making her Ulster debut. Two past players Katherine Dane and Julia Bauer also played their part in the Interpro series for Ulster and Connacht respectively. Joe Horan, our Head Coach, who has been coaching the women's team for the

past three years, was awarded 'Coach of the Year' for his continued efforts in developing Women's Rugby in Trinity.

The success of this past season was helped by so many people, too many to name individually. We are eternally grateful to everyone who has supported us on and off the pitch. In particular, I would like to thank former Club Captain Colm Hogan, Club President Aidan Walsh, Incoming President Alan Rogan, the Rugby Committee, the Events Committee, the Executive Committee and Trinity Sport, as well as our own Team Committee who I had a pleasure of working closely with this past season. Without the tireless work of these people, we wouldn't be able to play the game we love, week in, week out. I would like to thank also, all the club's managers, coaches and physiotherapists, who dedicated their time and energy to all our teams.

Finally, I would like to thank my own family, friends and classmates who supported me fully in my duties as D.U.F.C. Women's Captain. This team has grown so much in the past few years and I can only imagine how much more it will grow in the years ahead. I wish Genevieve Ruesch all the best in her captaincy and I would also like to extend my best wishes to incoming Club Captain James Hickey, who I have no doubt will continue to lead this Club to bigger and better things.





TRINITY RUGBY – “a Unique University Rugby Experience”

Dublin University Football Club (D.U.F.C. or “Trinity Rugby”, the rugby club of Trinity College, Dublin University) has a remarkable history.

The first surviving written record, indicating that the Club was in existence for at least a year, occurs in the Dublin Daily Express of 1 December, 1855. DUFC is thus considered to be the oldest rugby club in the world in continuous existence.

The entry in the Daily Express was signed by R.H. Scott, who was acting as both Secretary and Treasurer. He was a former pupil of Rugby School, as was the man who revolutionised and modernised the football then being played in Trinity, Charles Burton Barrington. From a distinguished Anglo-Irish family in County Limerick, Barrington captained Trinity from 1867-1870 and was responsible for introducing a referee, formal uniforms/apparel for the team (a novel idea in Ireland) and the distinguishing of forwards and backs. Along with another Secretary/Treasurer, RM Wall, he also drafted the “D.U. Laws of Football” to address the fact in his own words:

“The Club had no rules, written or unwritten. They just played and ran with the ball, no touchline, no goal lines, our only paraphernalia (sic) being the rugby goal posts. These were all sufficient for the simple tastes of those days in Dublin football.”

He further recorded:

“He (Wall) wrote and I dictated. Gradually and gradually as one can remember them the unwritten laws that govern the immortal Rugby (school) game were put on paper.”

These Laws were circulated to the other principal Clubs as the Laws by which DUFC played the game and a common basis for the game in Ireland was established. Charles Barrington well deserves his title as the “Father of Irish Rugby”.

The earliest record of a team photograph dates back to the 1866-67 season (set out elsewhere

in the program).

The first meeting that led to the formation of Irish Football Union (later the I.R.F.U.) took place in No.9, Front Square, Trinity College and D.U.F.C. surrendered its Shamrock Club emblem for use by the Irish XV. DUFC has thus always been at the forefront of the development of the game of Rugby in Ireland and has a rightful claim to be the Home of Irish Rugby. The Club can lay claim to 160 Irish International players, 19 British & Irish Lions and 2 international coaches in the modern era.

So, what is it that makes Trinity Rugby as unique a university rugby experience in the modern era as it has been through the decades since Charles Barrington and R.M. Wall organized both Trinity and Irish rugby in the 1800s?

The Trinity Academy set up and developed by Director of Rugby Tony Smeeth is indeed unique. It has a technical framework of best in class coaches, a 365day strength and conditioning regime respected by the professional provincial academies and a medical framework providing full physio care (at all club matches and during the week) and access to medical consultants when required. The fast developing Women's section is greatly adding to the Club and our 8 league-participating teams represent an energy and vibrancy few clubs, let alone Universities, can match.

While the excellence of the Trinity Academy has enabled D.U.F.C. to sit at the top table of Irish rugby – we were 4th in the top division of the semi-professional All Ireland League and the men's U20 XV won the All Ireland Cup for the second year in a row - the unique experience is enhanced by our friendly fixtures with the other “Ancient Universities of the Islands of Britain and Ireland” Oxford, Cambridge and Durham as well as visiting teams such as recent visitors St Mary's College, California and The Hurling Club of Buenos Aires. The annual trip to Oxbridge remains a highlight of any undergraduate's experience and no other university, or indeed club, can offer anything that matches the variety

of fixtures.

Another important aspect is the development in recent years of a strong association with USA rugby. Tony Smeeth, has coached the USA national XV and the tour itinerary reflects his close contact with coaching staff not only on the East Coast but across the USA. This association has in no small way led to top USA players coming to Trinity to develop their game and there are now 5 ex-D.U.F.C. players contracted in MLR on top of the 24 US players playing rugby in the Club.

There is also of course the Club pitch, College Park. Nothing is more unique than this tree enclosed arena in the very centre of both College and Dublin City. Our sand based pitch is unrecognizable from the “black earth” that caused Charles Barrington and R.M. Wall to choose Red and Black for the club colours. Even recently our own Jamie Heaslip tweeted:

“Lucky to have played in great coliseums of rugby around the world, College Park in the heart of the city is still my favourite”

It remains the heart of the club. Every team in the club trains in College Park and every team has the opportunity to play there at least once in the season.

Our focus on this “Trinity Experience” has brought global recognition for D.U.F.C./Trinity Rugby. This is reflected in our participation in the World University Rugby Cup (Oxford 2015) and in the increasing numbers of international and representative rugby playing students that continue to add to the rich tapestry that is Trinity Rugby.

The increasing support of parents and alumni by way of membership and attendance at both matches and events has developed a new dimension. The after match camaraderie of parents, alumni, sponsors, supporters and players that flows out on to the balconies of the College Park Pavilion on match days is but one measure of the continuing development of the Trinity Rugby experience and it being “a Club for Life”.

Without the extraordinary level of voluntary time that is given to the Club and the support of the Bank of Ireland (our Club sponsor), program advertisers, parents, alumni, Trinity Sport and College, coupled with the all-important embracing of the D.U.F.C. culture by the players, none of this would be possible.

We believe Messrs. Barrington and Wall would be proud of their legacy – and especially our small part in supporting the development of the game in the USA.

We “set sail” for the east coast of America with the words of WB Yeats at the forefront of our minds:

“There are no strangers here, only friends you haven't yet met”.

Isn't that the essence of this game of Rugby Football that we are all so blessed to be a part of?

**John Boyd,
Executive Management Committee (Chair)**





Trinity Rugby

“a Unique University Rugby Experience”





I've always been proud to see D.U.F.C. beside my name by Jamie Heaslip



Trinity – first memories

My first memories of rugby in Trinity were when I was about nine or 10. I went in to College Park to see my brother Richard play for DUFC. He's 10 years my senior while my sister Joanne is eight years older than me. They both went to Trinity so that was my first touch-point with College.

I was young leaving school, just 17, and I'd hoped to follow in my siblings' footsteps by studying in Trinity too. However my preferred course, medical engineering, wasn't an option at the time so I went to DCU instead.

D.U.F.C. – the beginning

I started playing rugby when I was eight or nine and when I finished school I had a few different offers from clubs. My dad was very conscious of my age – he felt I was a bit too young to be going into certain types of environments. We narrowed it down to UCD or Trinity but there was no real contest.

Trinity won on a number of fronts – my brother had played there, it was in the city and I liked Tony from the start. I remember my very first meeting with him. Myself and my dad were driving around Pearse Street trying, and failing miserably, to find the DUFC offices. Eventually Tony came out, hopped in the car and we had a chat. My dad

was looking for assurances from him that I'd be allowed to develop physically, bearing in mind my relative youth. With reassurances given, I signed on the dotted line.

The D.U.F.C. years

My career in a DUFC shirt, however, got off to a bad start. In one of my first games for the club I was injured – one of only a few injuries I sustained in my career – which meant I was out until January. My shattered left eye socket did heal but come January I had to head off to play with the Ireland U19 squad. So that first year I didn't really play until the tail end of the season. The following season Tony wanted me to try out for senior rugby. I gave it a go and that was that – I've never looked back. Those were three great years playing senior with the club because during that time we went from division three all the way up to division one.

The year that really stands out for me was when we celebrated our 150th year and got promoted to division one. That was a rollercoaster ride but one that I thoroughly enjoyed.

Colours matches were memorable too - I was lucky to play in 3. They were pretty big during my time – it used to sell out Donnybrook and then there'd be the Colours Ball afterwards and your initiation to get your Colours! Just good fun stuff in the Pav with the boys.

Tony made an impression on me from the get-go but I'm not sure the feeling was mutual! I think I quietly impressed him but at times he probably struggled with my 'laidback' approach to things. Hugh McGuire used to go mad at me too. He can be very intense and serious and I used to have a laugh at training. I think I drove him crazy! When you're young like that you are relying on your talents a lot of the time – at the time I just found it fun which might have been at odds with Hugh's great work ethic.

Sibling rivalry

Another memory is playing against my oldest brother on the back pitches at Lansdowne. It was an early season game with very little at stake other than bragging rights between us. He was with Wanderers at the time, played for

Connaught and Ireland A. I was quite agitated as I knew I'd get a lot of abuse from him if we lost. They won, unfortunately, and I think he scored a try as well, which upset me even more!

He used to hold it over me that he was the only professional in the family - I think I got the last laugh there though and also helped D.U.F.C. on to greater things!

DUFC – a Club for Life

When it was time to leave college I signed a professional contract and basically went straight into the Leinster set-up. Trinity is the only club I've played senior with – bar Leinster and Ireland – and to this day I still very much consider D.U.F.C. to be my club.

Of course there was lots happening off the pitch too and it's true when they say that DUFC is "a Club for Life". I made some great friends during my playing days, including Hugh Hogan, Martin Garvey and Phil Howard - he's living in LA now and I always catch up with him when I'm over that way.

I haven't managed to get to see many matches in College Park over the last number of years due to my playing schedule but now that I'm retired from rugby hopefully that will change. Trinity is still one of my favourite places in the city and College Park remains a special place for all of us who have been lucky to have played there - as my recent tweet highlights: *"Lucky to have played in great colosseums of rugby around the world but College Park in the heart of the city is still my favourite!"*

For most, they spend their four years playing with D.U.F.C. and then move on to another club after leaving college. I bump into people all over the world however who still refer to themselves as "Trinity" even though they mightn't have played there since their university days.

That's why I've always been proud to see "D.U.F.C." beside my name.



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There Is More To Life Than Rugby In D.U.F.C! by James Fennelly

In recent years, several Trinity Rugby players have lived abroad as part of their studies. In some cases, they have also taken this opportunity to play rugby abroad as well as immersing themselves in the local lifestyle and culture furthering their education.

Our 2018/19 Club Captain Colm Hogan and our outhalf James Fennelly were in France during 2017/18, where both of them spent some time furthering their education. They resided in two completely different parts of France and enjoyed contrasting experiences.

Here is what James Fennelly had to say about his stay in France:

Q. What made you choose France?

I spent a number of months studying in France during my school years and have also holidayed down in Biarritz a few times, so when the opportunity to study there came my way, I was very keen. I had a decent level of French going over which I knew would help and also had friends studying in different areas around France so I would be able to meet up with them and see other parts of the country as well.

Q. Was playing rugby a factor in your choice?

Playing rugby was not really a factor in my choice. I did a half year Erasmus so was able to play with Trinity up until December, before going away in January. I then spent my Erasmus time focusing on different things and taking a bit of a break from the rugby. I spent a lot of time playing soccer and tennis while over there in a less intense atmosphere which was cool and a nice break but I'm definitely looking forward to getting back into the rugby now.

Q. Did you find it hard to settle in France?

At first it was relatively difficult as I went over on my own and did not really know much about Rouen and did not know anybody living there, but the staff in the school I went to were very helpful and gave us plenty of information about the city and all the places to go and things to do etc. There were also several Erasmus events at the beginning which was a great opportunity to meet fellow exchange students from all around the world.

Q. What did you find the biggest differences between the French and Irish lifestyles?

The French have a very laid back attitude which took a little bit of getting used to at the beginning. I was living in Rouen in the north of France, which was a lovely little town, but there really was not a huge amount to do there when compared to Dublin so we kind of had to make our own fun a lot of the time, but that was an enjoyable experience as well. One thing that definitely was not different was the weather as it rained an awful lot during my time in Rouen!

Q. Overall, did you enjoy your year in France?

Definitely! It was a really enjoyable experience in almost every aspect. Living away from home was something I had never done before my Erasmus and I found it to be difficult at times, but for the most part really enjoyable. Getting to meet so many people from all around the world was also really interesting and learning about not only the French culture but so many different cultures was cool. I also managed to get a lot of travelling done all around the country and particularly enjoyed trips to Paris and Toulouse, as well as attending the Trinity ski trip in Val Thorens in January.

Q. Were you looking forward to the new rugby season?

Absolutely! I was really excited for the year ahead, especially having missed the second half of last season. While we are a young and for the most part inexperienced group, I think that we have a chance of a really special year. There are a lot of really talented young guys coming through and while it may take a while for us to put it all together, I have no doubt that we're going to be strong again this year.

Q. What are your targets for 2018/19?

Off the back of two seasons where we have been fighting relegation, **I am hoping that we can take that next step this year and challenge for a top four *place.** We definitely have one of the most talented groups in the league but one thing we haven't really been able to do in the last few seasons is win against the Lansdowne's and the Clontarf's of the league. If we can pick up a few wins against the big teams this year I think we could have a great season!

*James Fennelly's prophecy came true!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2019/20

Each year we organise a series of events aimed at the various groupings (i.e. students & alumni, parents and sponsors/advertisers) within Trinity Rugby and their guests. With that in mind, and with the assistance of student members of D.U.F.C. and alumni members we will be organising a comprehensive programme of events for the 2019/20 season.

These will feature:

ALL Lunches in the Pavillion (see 1st XV Fixtures List for Home matches) with Guest Speakers, Match Forecast & Members Draws. Student members and members of visiting teams are encouraged to attend.

Pre-International Brunches/Lunches (tbc)

- A series of an "Evening with...." well known personalities in the Trinity Rugby "Clubhouse". We intend to kick off in October 2019
- Parents Christmas Lunch(TBC)
- Women's Colours Match Lunch on Wednesday,25th March 2020 in the Trinity Rugby "Clubhouse"
- Annual Men's Colours Match Lunch on Thursday, 26th March 2020 in the Trinity Dining Hall

- 1854 Annual Dinner – Friday,24th April 2020. Guest Speaker(tbc)
- D.U.F.C. Golf Classic in Milltown GC on Thursday,18th June 2020
- Social Golf Events: D.U.F.C. North vs South in Belfast (tbc)
- Social Events organised by D.U.F.C. student members such as the Team Pub Quiz, Themed Evenings and Club Nights which will be held before Christmas. Fund Raising Events and End of Season Party are planned for the New Year
- The Annual Red & Black Ball: Fitzpatrick's Castle Hotel Saturday,16th November

An updated list and details of other planned events and social evenings will be posted on the Club website www.dufc.ie/events

We would welcome any suggestions or ideas you may have regarding possible events or social evenings that we could organise for all our members.

Pedro Ribeiro,
D.U.F.C. Events Convener
pribeiro@eircom.net





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Fixtures

Men's 1st XV 2018 - 2019 DIV. 1A

Date	Opponents	Venue.
Aug-20	Old Wesley (Leinster League)	A
Aug-24	Queens University (Dudley Cup)	A
Aug-28	USA EAST COAST TOUR (Start)	See Tour
Sep-08	USA EAST COAST TOUR(End)	Itinerary
Sep-14	Lansdowne(Leinster League)	H
Sep-21	Wanderers(150th Anniversary)	A (Aviva Stadium)
Sep-28	Naas (Leinster League)	A
Oct-05	UCC (AIL)	H
Oct-12	UCD (AIL)	A
Oct-19	Garryowen(AIL)	H
Oct-25	Cambridge University (Fri)	H
Nov-02	Lansdowne (AIL)	A
Nov-09	Cork Constitution(AIL)	A
Nov-16	Ballynahinch(AIL)	H
Nov-22	Oxford University (Fri)	A
Nov-30	Young Munster(AIL)	A
Dec-07	Clontarf (AIL)	H
Dec-14	Terenure(AIL)	A
Dec-21		
Dec-28		
Jan-04	Durham University	H
Jan-11	Terenure(AIL)	H
Jan-18		
Jan-25	Clontarf (AIL)	A
Feb-01		
Feb-08		
Feb-15	Young Munster(AIL)	H
Feb-22	Ballynahinch(AIL)	A
Feb-29	Cork Constitution(AIL)	H
Mar-07		
Mar-14	Lansdowne (Fri/AIL)	H
Mar-21	Garryowen(AIL)	A
Mar 26	UCD AIL/Colours Match (Thurs)	H
Apr-04		
Apr-11		
Apr-18	UCC (AIL)	A
Apr-25	AIL Semi Finals	
May-02		
May-09	AIL Final	

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