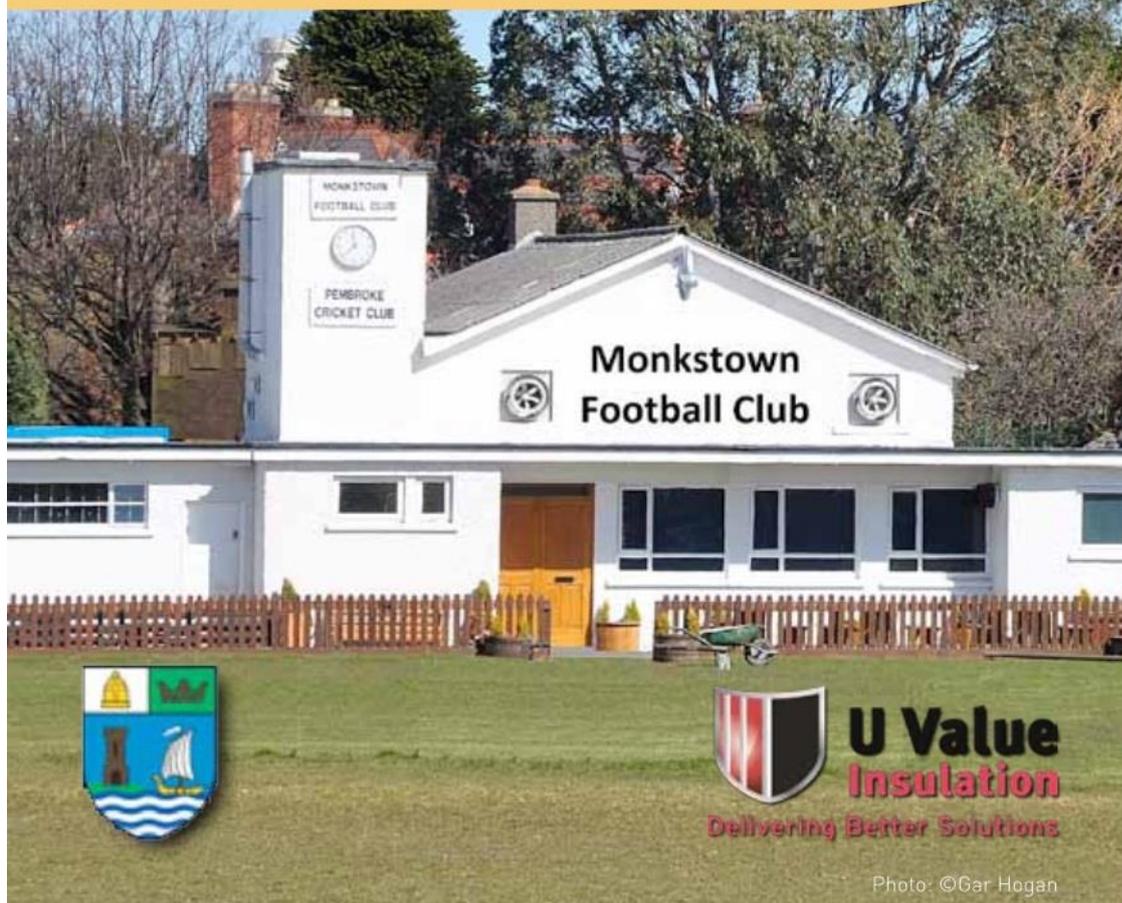


Monkstown FC

Sandymount

1883

SEASON 2020/21



Presidents Message

Presidents Message:

It is a great honour and privilege for me as President on Monkstown Football Club to welcome all the visiting teams, supporters, families and friends, to Sydney Parade for the 2020/2021 season.

Last season, our senior squad won section 1B of the Leinster Junior league, winning some very tough games en route. The bar is now set for us to continue our crusade under the continued guidance of our coach David 'Manners' Mahon and Captain Lorcan Walshe and build on the success of the past year. I wish all the teams all the success in their upcoming season

A particular mention to our Mini parents and teams who continue to help build our underage program. Their organisation and enthusiasm are a source of encouragement to us all and I look forward to working with them in the coming year.

A strong membership is fundamental to the success of our club. In Monkstown we have a small but vibrant membership and our aim is to substantially increase this over the coming years. I am therefore asking lapsed members to re-join. Details are available on the club website and our Honorary Secretary, Ian Murray, will gladly encourage your membership queries.

Fundraising is another vital part for the running of our club. I would like to thank all those most sincerely who have supported us in the past. I ask you to continue your support and I invite all others to attend as many of our events as possible. I look forward to seeing many of you attend an upcoming club event.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors for their continued generosity and in particular our main sponsor Niall McEvoy and U Value. The club could not survive without the support we receive through these vital sponsors. I encourage all club members to reciprocate support when possible to our club sponsors.

To the volunteers who work tirelessly, I cannot thank you enough. I encourage all others to step forward and help the few who do so much.

I wish you all the very best of rugby and look forward to the season ahead.

Eamonn Tuffy
President.





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Club Officers 2020/2021

President.....	Eamonn Tuffy
Club Captain	Lorcan Walshe
Immediate past President.....	Peter Mooney
Senior Vice President.....	Frank Condon
Junior Vice President.....	Peter Fagan
Honorary Secretary	Ian Murray
Honorary Treasurer	Brendan McGovern
Head Coach	David 'Manners' Mahon
Forwards Coach.....	Declan Lavery
2nd XV Captain.....	Ed Sweeney
2 nd XV Coach.....	Dave Kilbride
Women's Head Coach.....	Ailish Toner
Director of Rugby.....	Frank Condon
Minis and Youths Managers	James Ferris + Robbie Hamilton
Subscriptions Officer.....	Garry Coughlan
Tickets Secretary	Brian Aherne
Team Physiotherapists.....	Blaithin Brady and Sarah Crosbie
Club Welfare Officer.....	David O'Brien
Fixtures Secretary.....	Peadar O'Mahony

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Message to MONKSTOWN F.C. from John Walsh, President of the Leinster Branch IRFU

As President of Leinster Rugby I wish to extend my best wishes to the players, members and supporters of **Monkstown FC** for an enjoyable 2020/21 Season.

“What was the norm is no longer the norm” and as we transition from an abbreviated and uncompleted 2019/20 season (over 700 fixtures were “lost” including our prestige Competition events) we are facing challenging times for our sport.

“Every cloud has a silver lining” and even one as this black and pervasive accursed C-19 pandemic hopefully will provide us with an opportunity to enjoy what is best about our sport.

Club Rugby Appeal

I would appeal to all your players, members, volunteers, supporters, and sponsors to assist your Club in whatever way they can during these challenging times. There is strength in unity “Ni neart go chur le cheile” so please continue to develop and support your club and one another. We will all have to adapt, improvise and diversify in order to cope with these challenges, so keep the faith.

I would like to congratulate your President **Eamonn Tuffy** on his appointment and wish him every success in his role. Eamonn has been a long time and committed stalwart in the club as a player and committee member and it’s a great honour for him. The Club has continued to invest and upgrade its facilities for players and supporters and this is a very positive statement from the club as to its future ambitions.

Congratulations to Monkstown on winning **Leinster League Division 1B** title in 2019/20 under the captaincy of **Michael Mcloughlin**. The side went unbeaten throughout the League season under head coach **David (Manners) Mahon** and his coaching team of **Chris O’Connor** and **Declan Lavery** with 13 wins and a total of 59 league points. **Lorcan Walshe** takes over the captaincy this season and I wish him and his squad of players a happy and successful return in the royal blue and gold colours to Division 1A, a Division that they won in 2005/06.

A special mention, acknowledgement and thanks to **Brian Aherne (A Life Member)** who has served Monkstown with great distinction especially as Hon. Secretary for many seasons and is now succeeded by **Ian Murray**.

Monkstown Rugby Club has a deserved reputation as a **welcoming and hospitable** Club and a venue at Sydney Parade for all rugby people to enjoy. The **Dublin Dogos Rugby Club** are a relatively new Club to Leinster Rugby have been welcomed to play their fixtures at Sydney Parade and this generous sporting gesture is a fine example as to the sporting values that Monkstown have as a club.

Monkstown has since its establishment in **1883** made a significant contribution to Irish Rugby (3 Presidents of the IRFU) and also to the development of Leinster Rugby. Club representatives including Leinster Branch Presidents **Brian Brady** (2005/06), and **Ken Mills** (1986/87) have played their part in the establishment of a successful and vibrant Leinster Rugby.

Leinster Rugby needs more referees if we are to meet the demands of our expanding fixture programmes at all levels so I would urge players to stay involved by representing their clubs as a referee. The **Association of Referees Leinster Branch** (ARLB) are there to assist, mentor and train aspiring referees so please get in touch with them for assistance. Monkstown members who have contributed to the ARLB include **Herbert Jones** (1st President of the Association in 1902-05), **Jerry Counihan** (President of ARLB 2009/10), World Cup referee **Donal Courtney** and **Pierce Fitzpatrick**, so hopefully that great tradition will continue with more Monkstown members taking up the whistle.

A special word of support and good wishes to **Ailish Toner** as the incoming coach to your Club's new **Women's Team**. The Leinster Branch are committed to the development of the Women's and Girls game and we welcome and support Monkstown's initiative and this combined with the club's expanding "mini's" section will ensure its stature as a community based club.

To all in **Monkstown FC** I wish you a happy, healthy and enjoyable fun filled rugby season.

John Walsh

President Leinster Rugby 2020/21



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Captains Message

I'm delighted to accept the captaincy of Monkstown FC for the 2020/2021 season.

It is with pride that I take over from outgoing captain Michael Mcloughlin who served with distinction and great commitment over the past few years. I also would like to congratulate incoming President Eamonn Tuffy and wish him success on building on all the hard work of his predecessors.

I extend my gratitude to our Director of Rugby Brian Hogan and Honorary Secretary Brian Aherne who are standing down this year after serving the Club with distinction.

I want to welcome back all players, coaches, members and supporters to Sydney Parade for the coming season. In these unprecedented times, some normality and entertainment on the field will be a welcome addition for us all. I want to acknowledge the fantastic work done by the committee members and the coaching team in getting the appropriate Covid-19 precautions in place to get us back out training and ultimately to get us out playing in Sydney Parade.

A special thanks must be extended to the Club's committee in their efforts keeping the Club running smoothly in what were difficult circumstances last season and the challenging times ahead. With the gym now in full swing, the clubhouse and facilities are second to none. Your work behind the scenes does not go unnoticed.

David Mahon continues on as head coach with Chris O'Connor and Declan Lavery providing their considerable knowledge as assistant coaches. Brian Flaherty remains as strength and conditioning coach. David Kilbride takes on the Second XV again this year. We welcome back Blaithin Brady and Sarah Crosbie as physios who do stellar work in getting us out on the pitch every week. We must also thank ever presents John Carroll and Gary Coughlan for all they do around the Club. Club stalwart David Forrest also deserves a thank you for his hard work.

This year once again we welcome a number of new players into the Club. We have players from all parts of the country as well as the globe which shows the inclusivity and diversity of our Club.

As a group we are hoping to build on the success of going unbeaten last year. While moving up to division 1A will bring greater challenges, with the talent and commitment shown so far I have no doubt we will meet the challenge head on and bring some exciting rugby for the supporters to enjoy this season.

I wish all teams the very best in the coming season.

Lorcan Walshe

Club Captain 2020-21

First XV Photos







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Monkstown Minis

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The IRFU in their strategic plan are committed to providing the best sporting experience for young people in Ireland. Our goal in re-energising the Monkstown Minis three seasons ago was to make sure that this what was on offer at Sydney Parade. Providing children, girls and boys, with the ability to learn skills, make friends and have fun in a relaxed and inclusive MFC environment.

Building on Irish Rugby's values of Inclusivity, Fun, Respect, Monkstown Minis cater for all from the age of 3. Starting with just a handful of kids, last season saw 120 kids don the blue and gold. In addition to weekly training sessions and friendly matches for under 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10's from September until March, we will play in the in the Dublin Metro league, we attend Leinster at the RDS and last year raised €30,000 for our two partner charities, Crumlin Children's Hospital and the Irish Cancer Society.

We are working hard to be the community club of choice in Sandymount. We are delighted that a significant number of parents, many of whom are new to Monkstown, are now involved as minis coaches and administrators of MFC. Many friendships have been formed not just amongst the kids but these bigger kids too. Friendships on which the future of the club can and will be built through long term association between the club and the community.

Although the coming season may be somewhat overshadowed by the covid restrictions we will ensure a fun, friendly, family and community focused season. We offer a unique experience both on and off the field within a vibrant club for players and parents. As we continue to grow the Monkstown Minis, we warmly welcome all new members (children and parents) on Sunday mornings at 10.45am to join in.

Follow us on Instagram @monkstownmini for all the latest updates.

For and on behalf of the Monkstown Minis
James Ferris

Monkstown Minis Photos

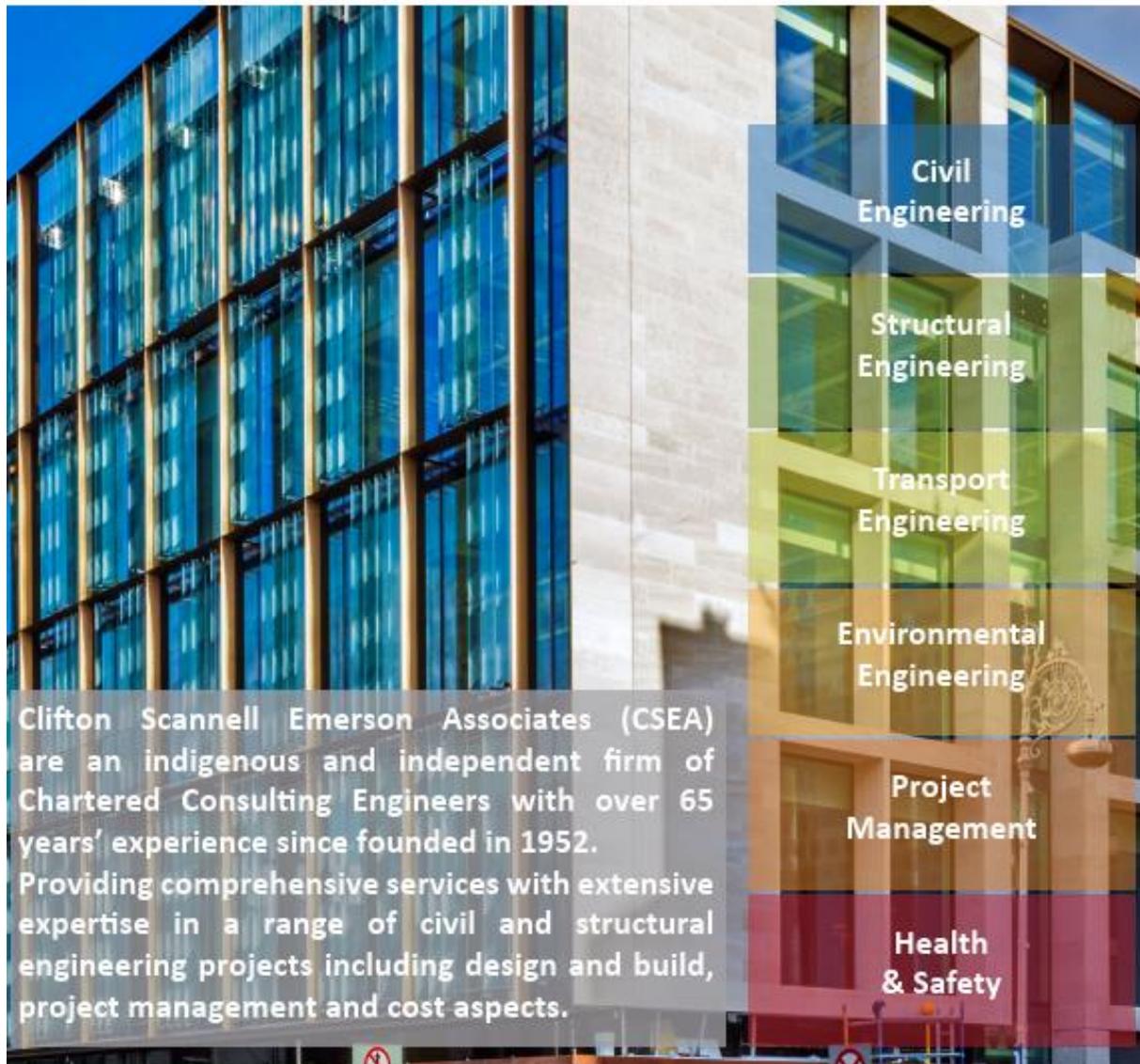






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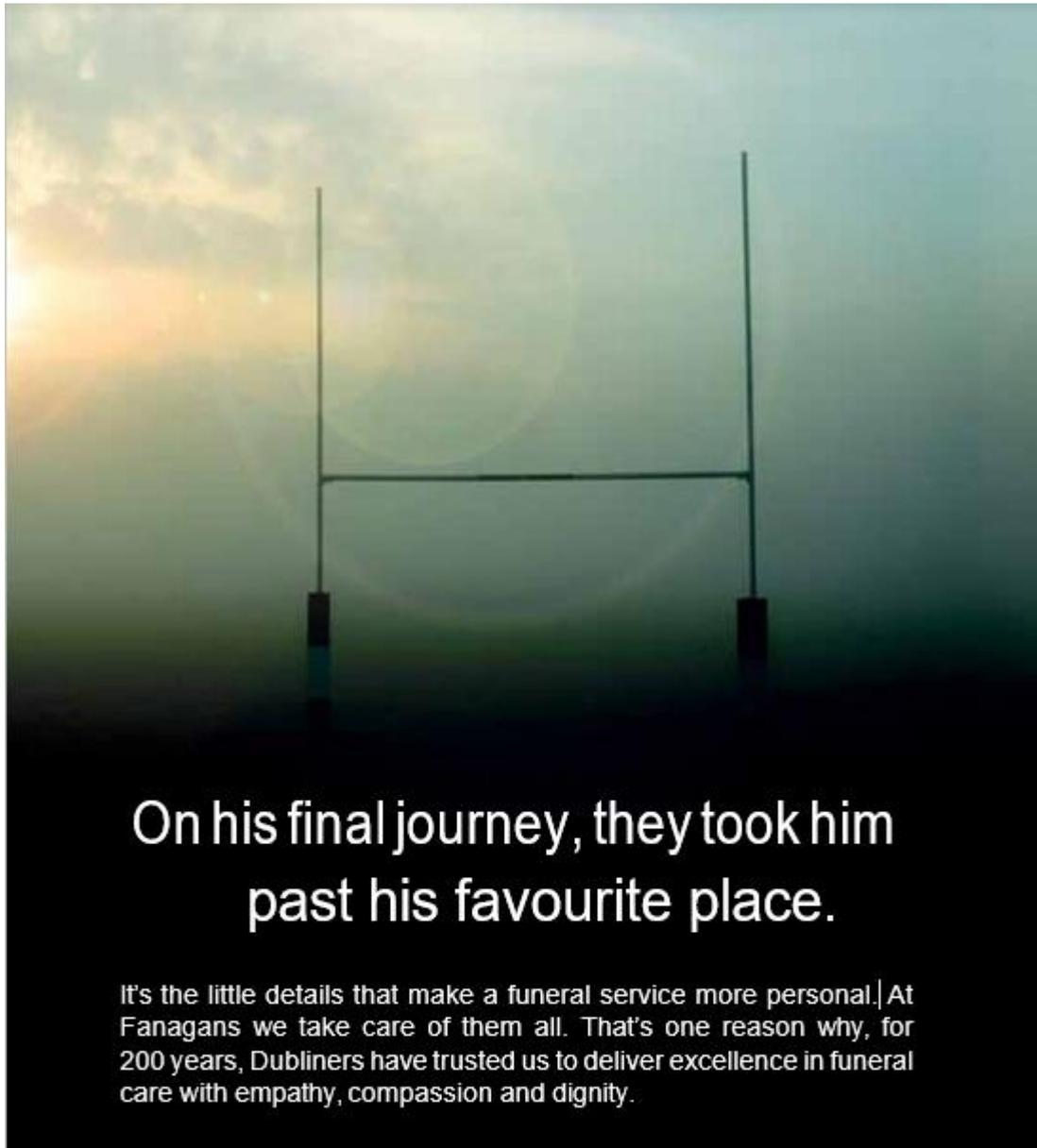


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WHY IS A RUGBY CLUB LOCATED IN SANDYMOUNT NAMED MONKSTOWN FOOTBALL CLUB?

Most of us who have been members of Monkstown Football Club for any length of time will have experienced the confusion caused in many ways by their club not being in Monkstown County Dublin, but in Sandymount, Dublin 4. Many visitors, and particularly those travelling by taxi have found themselves being delivered to Monkstown village, and this also happens to visiting clubs whose Dublin coach drivers often do the same or on occasions have brought them to Seapoint Rugby club.

The following is a brief history of why a rugby football club located in Sandymount is called Monkstown Football Club.

A club was formed in Monkstown in Co. Dublin in 1870 and calling itself after its district of origin, became Monkstown Football Club. The Irish Rugby Football Union annual of 1880 makes mention of the activities of Monkstown FC, and this particular publication was edited by a Mr. R.N. Peter who was central to the foundation of the IRFU, the first organised body to run rugby football throughout Ireland.

Subsequent records seem to indicate that Monkstown was floundering as they regularly cancelled fixtures and on occasions played their matches while short of 3 or 4 players. [Sounds somewhat familiar]. Whereas there is no mention in the IRFU records or subsequently, of this Monkstown FC being affiliated to the parent body, several players mentioned in association with this embryonic club, proved to be significant in the forming of the subsequent organisation in 1883 which then took the same name of Monkstown Football Club.

In the meantime another club appears to have been formed by many of the young people, formerly of Monkstown F.C. who lived in the area of Eaton Square and was called Eaton Football Club. This short lived club played their home games in a field at Alma Road [off Monkstown Road].

On the evening of 1st October 1883 at a meeting at Parry's Hotel, Kingstown, [now Dun Laoghaire] Co.Dublin the Eaton club went out of existence and a new club to be known as Monkstown Football Club was born. This is the club which has survived the stresses and strains of the most turbulent century in human history. The meeting was attended by about 20 persons and was chaired by Lieutenant P Reeves. "The Irish Times" had been notified of the happenings of that historic evening and an account of the proceedings appeared in "The Irish Times" on Wednesday 3rd October 1883.

The first match of the new club was played on the following Saturday at a venue referred to as "the clubs grounds" at Silchester Road, Glenageary [close enough to Monkstown].

Corrig School was established about the same time as Monkstown F.C. and these fortunate circumstances proved most beneficial to Monkstown. Corrig school was founded by a Mr .J.H. Bousfield who was at the time a member of Monkstown F.C., and the school had playing fields at Tivoli Terrace, Kingstown, [now Dun Laoghaire and near Monkstown village]. The Monkstown/ Corrig connection was established and Monkstown Football Club played their home matches at Tivoli Terrace. The then Secretary and main founder of Monkstown Herbert W. Jones clearly a very shrewd man arranged that all past pupils of Corrig School automatically became honorary members of Monkstown F.C. thereby establishing a readymade nursery. There is much evidence that this club intended to and became did become a force in Irish Rugby.

Monkstown affiliated to the IRFU and in the 1884-1885 season got the ultimate recognition in being awarded a senior match against Trinity F.C. [Monkstown lost by a try to nil]. At this time the club established strong links with Trinity, which still exist to this day and are currently manifest in the fact that Trinity F.C. use the facilities at Sydney for training purposes.

Monkstown F.C. moved to Sydney Parade, Sandymount, around 1887, by arrangement with Pembroke Cricket Club who had been playing cricket there since 1868 as the tenants of their patron

and at times President, the Earl of Pembroke, through the entity known as the Pembroke Estates. As we are aware Pembroke C.C. was and are still a major force in Irish and international Cricket.

It has from time to time been suggested that Monkstown was formed from the Kingstown F.C. but this is not supported by a body of recorded evidence, including the fact that when Monkstown F.C. was formed, that Kingstown club was a major thriving organisation and continued to be such for some time.

Although it is often assumed, Monkstown F.C. has never had any affiliation with Monkstown Christian Brothers School of Monkstown Co. Dublin, although many past pupils of the CBC school have played and held office the club with great distinction over the years.

It appears that during the intervening years there were numerous proposals to change the name of Monkstown to a name reflecting its geographical location. These look like having been quite half-hearted attempts and were generally opposed by the majority of the membership in deference to the revered 'founding fathers ' and the clubs origins in Monkstown Co. Dublin

As we are all aware Monkstown are still playing Rugby at Sydney Parade in the beautiful grounds and facility that they still share with Pembroke C.C. Although both clubs have remained in situ since their original agreement, and have contributed to the development of the grounds and facilities, the arrangements regarding the tenancies and ownership of Sydney Parade have legally altered on a number of occasions in the intervening years and the current situation is that Monkstown F.C. and Pembroke C.C. both enjoy ownership of the freehold of Sydney Parade.

Former successive generations who have played for, administered and guided the affairs of Monkstown Football Club, have handed on a well worthwhile entity to those, some as yet unborn, whose task it will be to ensure the survival of the club. Achieving an age of 136 playing years through two world wars was no mean memorial to those men who met in Parry's Hotel in 1883. Whereas it may be that some future generation may have reason to elect to change the name of their club we remain confident that it will still retain the spirit and sporting ethos that has been the hallmark of Monkstown for one and one third centuries.

[Pierce Fitz Patrick](#)

With Acknowledgement and Gratitude to the great Rugby Historian Mr. Edmund van Esbeck and the Archive section of the Leinster Branch

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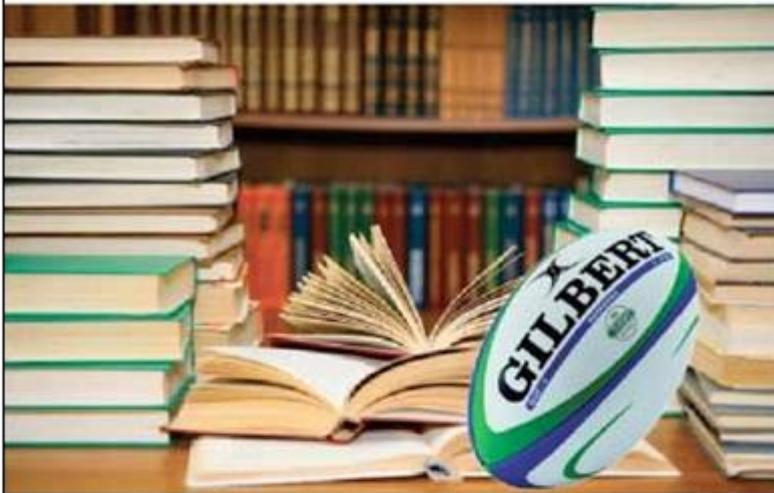
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