



MANCHESTER VILLAGE SPARTANS RUFC

Sale Sports Club, Clarendon Crescent, Sale. Cheshire. M33 2DE

Message for New Starters

Hello!

Congratulations on even considering giving rugby a try with the Spartans! You've taken the first step by visiting this page and are one step away from learning a new sport at our club where we love Inclusive Rugby Union and Touch Rugby.

Let's cut to the chase: We believe rugby really can transform your mind and body.

Rugby develops cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength, flexibility and mental toughness. It's an intense full-body workout. But more importantly, it builds character and lifelong bonds. This isn't just a game for some - It's a way of life and we can understand why - it's great to play - especially once you've overcome any initial trepidations or reservations.

Out on the pitch, you'll taste victory and defeat. You'll make game-changing plays and mistakes to learn from. But most importantly, you'll discover your true potential. Rugby requires laser focus, split-second decision making, creativity and communication. These are the same skills that will drive your success off the pitch. This is not a solo sport. To win, you need grit, trust in your teammates and leadership. You'll carry these strengths far beyond the try line. So lace up your boots and get ready to learn.

Spartans have a motto, *Unione Fortior* - "Stronger Together." Out on the pitch, you'll understand what that really means. We pride ourselves on being inclusive and diverse. Everyone is welcome, and you'll make friendships that last a lifetime so fear not about your rugby or sporting ability, size, shape or speed. We all have to start somewhere.

But most of all, Spartans train and play with heart. We play with passion. And we play to win (But not at all costs). And we like to have a good time and laugh at the same time.

I look forward to meeting you and helping you develop. See you at training!

Christian - Club Captain



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Additional Notes

July 2022 – Spartans players are featured as guest judges across three episodes BBC2 Light Entertainment programme "Britain's Top Takeaways" with Sara Cox, as part of our continued efforts to challenge public perceptions of 'Gay rugby players'.

July 2022 - Spartans attend peaceful protest at Twickenham Stadium to highlight need for governing bodies not to lose sight of core values ahead of RFU vote on Trans Women participation in rugby union.

February 2022 – Spartans are included within Manchester Schools Lessons as part of a Teacher Training Programme (The Chesters Model: A Schools History of Manchester Village Spartans RUFC – University of Manchester PGCE)

January 2022 – Spartans become the first UK Rugby Team to participate in the global 'Worldwide Roar' naked charity calendar to promote positive masculinity and body positivity.

Nov 2021 – Spartans are featured alongside Kings Cross Steelers in a six-month, World Rugby Museum exhibition about LGBT Inclusive Rugby pioneers.

April 2021 – RFU release short promotional film about Spartans Touch Rugby to celebrate restart of Touch Rugby post-Covid pandemic, highlighting the positive way the club maintained a strong sense of community throughout the preceding lockdowns.

July 2019 – Spartans create a pioneering photographic portrait campaign called "Portraits of Pride" working with the first team at Sale Sharks and a professional London portrait photographer, Andy Barnham, to capture imagery of players from professional Premiership clubs to grassroots, regardless of sexuality, in support of Inclusivity in Rugby.

March 2019 – Spartans receive a Blue Plaque to mark the 20th Anniversary of the club's very first player meeting held at Via (Fossa) Bar on Canal Street back in 1999. ITV News celebrate our 20th Anniversary in a 3-minute TV news report.

September 2018 – Spartans help launch the new IGR UK League Championships (the world's first ever annual rugby competition for Gay and Inclusive Rugby) at Manchester Pride, joined by friends from other IGR rugby clubs including Liverpool Tritons, Typhoons of Lancashire, Brighton and Hove Sea Serpents and Kings Cross Steelers.

February 2018 – Try For Change participants from the Spartans play on the Twickenham pitch with England stars including Danny Care and Sam Underhill having discussed the growth of inclusive rugby with H.R.H Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex at the England Open Training Event at Twickenham



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December 2017 – Spartans appear on BBC 1's Strictly Come Dancing TV Show encouraging the final celebrity dancers on to success.

Summer 2017 – Spartans 1st XV appear on Dave TV's fly-on-the-wall TV programme "The Dressing Room" to a warm reception and strong social media response.

Summer 2017 – Ore Oduba, BBC Entertainment and Sports Presenter supports Spartans in their bid to be crowned National Lottery Good Cause Winner 2017.

ENDS.