



The e-Magazine for Rosslyn Park Supporters - Issue 04 2015/16 - 10 August 2016

# IT ALL STARTS THIS WEEKEND



What was England women's scrum half Amy Turner (grey tracksuit top) doing with the Slingbacks last Wednesday? See story inside.

**W**elcome to Parknews. It may come as a shock to those of an older generation whose pre-season training would still be taking second place to cricket, but the new season starts this coming Saturday for the First XV, with a challenging visit to Newport to take on the Principality Premiership side. Training has been going very well, and it is impossible not to detect a very positive spirit and camaraderie among this season's squad. The acid test, of course, comes on the field of play. The match is our first chance to see some of the new players in action as the Coaches assess their best combinations for the season to come.

As with all pre-season matches, finding the right combinations of players is going to be more important than the final result. Having said that, there is serious competition for places in every position so the match will be taken very seriously. No one wants to travel that distance to lose!

### Letter from the Chairman

*There is an important letter from the Chairman on page two of this Newsletter, to which we would direct Members' attention as it deals with the AGM and proposed changes to the governance of the Club*

For Defence Coach Scott Sneddon, skipper Hugo Ellis and lock Adam Frampton it will be a trip back to familiar territory at their former club. Scott said, "As a coaching squad we are very much looking forward to the trip to Rodney Parade.

"It's our first chance to have a look at new and existing players in Rosslyn Park jerseys and to see how combinations of new and old work together. We'll be taking a strong squad to play against a strong Newport team.

"Newport are coming off the back of a successful season and have recruited

**Next fixtures**

**Saturday 13th August**  
**Newport v 1st XV**  
 Practice Match  
 Away - KO 3:00PM

**Saturday 20 August**  
**Richmond v 1st XV**  
 Practice match  
 Away - KO(TBC) 3:00PM

**Friday 26 August**  
**1st XV v Cambridge**  
 Practice Match  
 Home - KO (TBC) 7:45PM

**Saturday 3 September**  
**Ampthill v 1st XV**  
 National 1  
 Away KO 3:00PM

**Saturday 10 September**  
**First home League match**  
**1st XV v Cambridge**  
 National 1  
 KO 3:00PM

Send all articles, reports, letters and photos to [news@rosslynpark.co.uk](mailto:news@rosslynpark.co.uk)



## A Letter from the Chairman

Adam Tyrer

It seems an eternity ago that we were busy digging up the grass pitch to install the artificial surface that we have today but it was only a year ago that the work happened – a lot has happened in that year though. We were all disappointed that our early season success petered out but regrouping after the new year, our squad of players and the coaching team that took over the reins showed what they were capable of and finished the season on a great run.

From my perspective, having the new pitch with the ability to run multiple games on the weekend exceeded my expectations and the feedback I've had from both playing and non-playing members has been overwhelmingly positive. Last year was very much a learning curve for Shaun and the team in the office as they looked to rent out the pitch when the club weren't using it and they did a fantastic job that we are looking to build on this year with the experience and contacts we generated last year. More can always be done so any members who are connected with clubs, schools, societies or companies that you feel might rent the facility then please do be in touch. We are looking again to maximize the number of games we run on a Saturday as well as give some Friday night options for our sides. Those of you who managed to catch a game from one of our other sides on the pitch during this last year will appreciate that the standard of rugby is very high indeed.

As the club becomes more professional in all we do we have made a couple of changes to how the club is run that I wanted to let the members know about ahead of our AGM when we will formally ask for the approval of the members. On the subject of the AGM due to the pattern of our fixtures in September we are looking to hold the AGM on Saturday 1 October when the 1st XV

are at home to Darlington Mowden Park. Aficionados of our rules will note that strictly we are due to hold the AGM by 30 September each year but I am hopeful that members will understand and allow us this slight flexing by 24 hours. If any members do object then please do write to me directly.

The changes I alluded to in the previous paragraph are that Bob Evans has decided to stand down after 10 years as our Honorary Secretary for which we thank him for his dedicated service. He has no intention of leaving us however as he is standing to be the club President to succeed Geoff Bayles! Almost all of the traditional duties of the Hon Sec are now carried out by the office (communication with the RFU, organization of members etc) therefore I feel the role is now redundant and the Board is therefore proposing that the responsibilities are wrapped up as part of the club administration.

Secondly as the club has grown it is clear that the management of our finances are an area that are of upmost importance and require dedicated resource, employed by the club. This is at odds with the notion of an Honorary Treasurer and after many discussions the Board made the decision to appoint a Finance Director who will also join the Board as an executive alongside our Managing Director, Shaun Justice, and our Commercial Director, Dom Shabbo. The Board have appointed Holly Hammill to this role and thank Pete Curry for his work looking at our finances in the role of Honorary Treasurer for the last 8 years. Holly brings a wealth of experience having most recently been Head of Finance for England Rugby 2015 and Finance Director for the Twickenham Experience.

These changes bring our governance into line with other organizations in that our Board will consist of both executive and non-executive members, with the non-executives being voted by the membership at our AGM.

As we start our pre-season friendlies we are (as always) full of optimism for the season ahead but also are painfully aware of the challenges that each season brings both on and off the pitch and this year will be no different!

well in the off season for the year ahead so we feel it's a great challenge first up".

Scott added, "Personally, I am looking forward to re-visiting Rodney Parade. Hugo and Adam will back me up when I say that all associated with Newport RFC are some of the most friendly and welcoming people around, we are very much looking forward to returning and sharing a few more memories on and off the pitch".

The Kick-off at Rodney Parade is at 3:00PM

As always, your vocal support will be very welcome. The address of the ground is Rodney Parade, Newport, Gwent, NP19 0UU. If you are driving, leave the M4 at Jct 25a and take 1st Exit off the Roundabout onto Heidenheim Way, then 1st Exit off the Flyover and 2nd Exit off Roundabout. At the next Roundabout take 1st Exit across River Usk, then at the traffic lights bear Right onto Chepstow Road and take 1st Right onto Cedar Road, then 1st Right onto Corporation Road and 1st Left onto Grafton Road and the ground should be on your left.

By public transport, Newport station (direct route from London Paddington) is fairly close to the ground. There's a map showing the location of the ground at <http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=331425&y=188324&z=0&sv=NP19+0UU&st=2&pc=NP19+0UU&mapp=map.srf&searchp=ids.srf>

The season proper begins on Saturday 3 September with a visit to Amphill, one of the top teams last term, who will be looking to build on that success. We'll give travel info nearer the time (there

is no financial advantage to early rail bookings for this one: the nearest station is Flitwick on the Bedford line). We went there on the most awful day last season and there were some comments about the somewhat 'open' nature of the facilities for spectators. Don't let that put you off. In August their rural setting presents an almost idyllic setting for a game of rugby and they have a decent and friendly clubhouse.

### Free Friday night out

*The final pre-season warm-up match at home to Cambridge is on a Friday night - 26 August, kicking off at 7:45PM. It felt like a good idea to open the gates to one and all with no admission charge. It's a great opportunity for every section of the Club to come down and mix together in a social atmosphere on a - hopefully - warm August evening. A chance for all our teams to meet up in a real rugby atmosphere and to introduce new players to what the club has to offer over a drink or two. Bring your friends - everyone is welcome.*

*The Clubhouse will be open before, during and after the match, and after the final whistle there will be every opportunity to circulate with the First team players, new and old. Please make a note in your diary!*

### DISCLAIMER

Any views expressed in this publication are those of the individual contributors, and are not those of the Club, its Officials or employees unless specifically stated to be so. Potential litigants should note that the Editor is skint and therefore not worth suing.

### The new boys

The Editor has received a few requests for information about the new players mentioned in the previous Parknews. Please remember that there is still the possibility of other signings being made.

**Stewart Maguire** is a tight-head prop who played for Newport Gwent Dragons as a teenager before moving on to Leinster and Connaught, playing for Ireland U-20 and gaining Heineken Cup experience. He has since played at Esher and London Scottish.

**Suvwe Obano**, another tight-head prop, will need no introduction to followers of the National Schools 7s as his lethal mix of pace and power made him the outstanding player in the 2015 competition, appearing for John Fisher. He went on to play for Quins U-18 and joins Park from Dorking.

**Paul Spivey** is a second-row from Ealing Trailfinders, but learnt his trade at the Leeds Academy under Stuart Lancaster before moving on to play for Moseley and London Scottish.

**Rob Martyn-Smith** is a back-row who played his Rugby at Cardiff University before moving to Hong Kong, where he played for Kowloon and was Player of the Year in the HK Premiership last season.

**Jamie Herries** played in the back row for Bedwas and Newport Gwent Dragons and was selected for the Wales 7s squad in 2007. He gained his Blue at Oxford in 2012-13 having joined Wasps in 2011. This will be his second spell with Park.

**Harry Hudson** is a back row from Southend, where he contributed 19 tries in 53 matches. He has also played for Bracknell and has played for England Colleges and the Essex County side.

**Harry Leonard** is a fly half from Leeds Carnegie, who originally joined Edinburgh as an elite academy player in 2011, travelled to New Zealand and captained Scotland Under-20s. He joined Leeds in 2014.

**Russell Weir**, scrum half, was originally a Sevens specialist and a star of Scotland's 7s squad. He moved south to concentrate on the 15-a-side game with London Scottish, from whom he joins Park.

**Ollie Grove** is a winger who also plays fly half and has played more than 60 Championship matches for London Scottish, having previously played at the same level with Pertemps Bees.

**Toby Howley Berridge**, a centre / winger, joins from Ealing Trailfinders, was previously with Plymouth Albion and is an England Counties International.

**Huw Morgan** is another England Counties International who played for Chinnor and Cambridge before moving north to play for Wharfedale, from whom he joins us.

**Andy Reay** is a centre and also our Fitness & Conditioning coach, but also registered as a player. His first senior club was Harlequins, but he also played for Moseley and joins Park from Ealing Trailfinders. He was a regular member of the England U-21 squad that won the Grand Slam in 2004.

### Fixtures

In the text of the previous Parknews we showed the home fixture against Esher as being on the original date of Saturday 12 November. In fact it has been brought forward to the Friday evening, 11 November, kicking off at 7:45PM. This is to avoid a clash with the England match on the Saturday, added to the fact that playing Esher on the Friday night has become a regular (and popular) occurrence of late. The fixture poster at the end of that Parknews had the correct information

### ROSSLYN PARK Player Sponsorship 2016/17



A great opportunity to be linked with a Rosslyn Park player and to follow his progress throughout the season.

#### The sponsorship package includes:

- > PA announcement when your player scores a try
- > Company logo/name against player profile in match-day programme
- > 10 tickets for a 1<sup>st</sup> XV home game of your choice

Cost: £250 + VAT per player

#### CONTACT

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Rosslyn Park FC, Priory Lane, Upper Richmond Road,  
Roehampton, London SW15 5JH



### Sponsor a player

Now that most of the players that will comprise the Senior Squad next season have been announced, get in quickly for the best choice in sponsoring a player. Full details are in the box above and Dom Shabbo is the man to speak to.

### Welcome boost for Slingbacks

The Slingbacks have received a massive boost in the pre-season return of England scrum-half Amy Turner in a Coaching role. It's a bit of a homecoming for Amy, who started her adult playing career with the Park girls as a 16-year-old before scaling the heights of International Rugby.



In 2001 Amy was the standout player when the Slingbacks - then in South-East 3 - beat rivals Folkestone in the final of the South Cup before going on to beat Scunthorpe to lift the National Cup. The star of the Folkestone side that afternoon was none other than Catherine Spencer, who went on to become Captain of England. Had anyone suggested to the two youngsters that afternoon that one day they would be playing together for England in the World

## Parknews

Cup one wonders at the reaction!

The Slingbacks had a meteoric rise to Premiership level, but the retirement of several key players at around the same time saw them fighting to retain their status. Last season brought a crippling run of injuries, and lack of players saw them having to concede competition points, when unable to field sufficient numbers. They still played the fixtures, but were relegated to below Championship level, despite some super individual performances and their spirit never wavering.



The Park girls are determined to fight back and are actively recruiting. It's not an easy task with the number of local women's teams mushrooming but they are determined to turn around their fortunes. Any readers who know any sports-minded females who might be interested in swelling the Slingback ranks, please tell them to turn up at the Club at 7:15PM any Wednesday and they will be sure of a warm welcome.

Amy's pre-season appointment provides the players with a great example of what hard work can achieve as the Park girls set out on a new season. Their first fixture is at home to Crowthorne on Sunday 11 September.

### Press Officer

The Editor is doing another tour of duty as Press Officer for the Club. However, that function does not include producing detailed match reports. We still have a vacancy for a match reporter if there is anyone out there who fancies having a go. Please speak to Dom Shabbo in the Club Office if you are at all interested.

### Youth & Mini Rugby - Training Camps

There's still time to book the few remaining places on the popular pre-season training camps for young players this August, during the summer holidays. For details, please see the flyer to the right.

These are top class, professionally staged events from which attendees will learn a lot. Feedback from previous camps has been very positive indeed.

There is a flyer describing the camps in the flyer opposite. Please bring it to the attention of any rugby-mad youngsters you know. Dom Shabbo in the club office is your man if you have any queries.

### Next Parknews

Parknews will now generally be produced weekly throughout the season, generally appearing on the Club website some time between Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. It is meant to serve the whole club, but that does rather depend upon people sending in news and reports. If the part(s) of the club you actively support are not getting adequate coverage, then why not become a reporter yourself. It's far better to get a single paragraph report on a team each week than to hear nothing all year and then get a mini-version of War & Peace on one particular match! Readers letters on Rugby-related topics are also very welcome, so if there's something you like, celebrate it. If there's something you don't like, let us know - if others feel the same way it might change. The only things we never print are those that are clearly libelous, criticism of

individual players (it damages team spirit) or things that are gratuitously insulting. If you would like to receive a 'tweet' as soon as the Newsletter is posted then please opt to follow the @RPNoseyParker Twitter stream.

## RUGBY AT ROSSLYN PARK FC

### 1st XV Fixtures 2016-2017

NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE

<p><b>PRE-SEASON</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>AUG 14</td><td>A</td><td>NEWPORT</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>A</td><td>RICHMOND</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>H</td><td>CAMBRIDGE (19-45 KO)</td></tr> </table>		AUG 14	A	NEWPORT	20	A	RICHMOND	26	H	CAMBRIDGE (19-45 KO)	<p>DISCOUNTED TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT <a href="http://WWW.ROSSLYNPARK.CO.UK" style="color: white;">WWW.ROSSLYNPARK.CO.UK</a></p>																																																																																																				
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Home games kick off at 15:00 except where stated otherwise.  
 Nearest stations: Barnes (Waterloo-Richmond Line) 400m from ground.  
 Buses 33, 265, 292 and 337 stop outside Ground.  
 Nearest tube stations: East Putney (District Line) then 337 bus; Hammersmith (Piccadilly, District & Metropolitan Lines) then bus 33.  
 The Club's facilities are available for private hire, and the Club offers many sponsorship opportunities for companies and individuals - call 020 8876 6044.

0208 8766044 [www.rosslynpark.co.uk](http://www.rosslynpark.co.uk)

Rosslyn Park FC, Priory Lane, Upper Richmond Road, London SW15 5JH

## ROSSLYN PARK RUGBY CAMPS

MON 22<sup>ND</sup> AUG TO THURS 25<sup>TH</sup> AUG 2016

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE

**ELITE SCHEDULE**

START 9.30am

Registration and screening

Athletic development

Rugby skills/games

Lunch 12.15pm

Workshop/video analysis

Rugby skills/games

FINISH 4.00pm

ROSSLYN PARK ACADEMY

U8s to U16s

RUGBY CELEBS  
NUTRITION ADVICE  
FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS  
VIDEO ANALYSIS  
CLASS WORK  
FITNESS

£35 PER DAY OR £120 FOR 4 DAYS

ELITE CAMP

U12s to U16s

COACHED BY JAMES BAILEY (ex England 7s and Gloucester/London Irish)

PLAYERS MUST BE IN SCHOOL/CLUB'S A TEAM OR 1ST TEAM

£180 FOR 4 DAYS

**TO BOOK**

Call: 0208 8766044

Email: [dom.shabbo@rosslynpark.co.uk](mailto:dom.shabbo@rosslynpark.co.uk)

**ROSSLYN PARK**

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