



The e-Magazine for Rosslyn Park Supporters - Issue 31 2016/17 - 15 March 2017

# FATIGUED PARK WIN AT ESHER

**W**elcome to Parknews. Park returned to winning ways at Esher last Friday night. Park dominated the first half and were good value for a 21-5 lead at the interval, despite the early loss of winger Rhys Crane to a serious looking injury that delayed the match while he was stretched off to an ambulance. Esher came back in the second half, and one suspects that the supreme effort the Park players put in against Hartpury only six days earlier was beginning to tell. In the circumstances it was a strong performance by the Park team - winning at Esher is never easy. It was great to see - and hear - so many Park supporters getting behind the team.



Stewart Maguire opens the scoring for Park [photo by David Whittam]

Even when tired and under pressure Park defended superbly, especially when reduced to 14 men by a late yellow card. It was disappointing not to be able to push on and get the four-try bonus point, but an away win at Esher is not a bad result whatever the final score.

Before moving on, Rhys Crane looked to be fairly seriously injured in making a tackle early on in the match. The Esher players in the vicinity immediately stopped playing and called the referee's attention to the injured player, rather than try to take a tactical advantage. It's great to see such sportsmanship in this professional era and our thanks to them for showing such consideration.

The win leaves Park in fifth position in the table with five matches remaining, six points behind fourth placed Birmingham Moseley, who rescued a point from a 26-47 home defeat at the hands of Plymouth Albion. The third placed club - Amptill - also lost (29-19 at Coventry) and we are now within ten points of them. However, that result was a bit of a mixed blessing as the four-try bonus puts Coventry only a point behind ourselves...and they are our next away match.

It would be great to get the same sort of turnout of Park supporters up at Coventry, who command numerically the best home support in the League. It's less than an hour on the fast trains from Euston and the ground is walkable from the station. Last time we checked you could still get an advance return ticket on the fast Virgin service from Euston for around £15 (or for less than a tenner if you have a railcard). Recent matches at Butts Arena have been close, thrilling encounters and there is no reason that this one will be very different. Please do come along if you can.

However, we must not get ahead of ourselves. After a much-needed rest weekend this coming Saturday on the following Saturday (25 March) we face a home match against Fylde. They are still mathematically in danger of relegation and so are bound to be fired up to get a result. Although we managed a 45-34 win up at the Woodlands Memorial Ground earlier this season, anyone who was there will testify that they gave us a distinctly hairy last quarter before we could claim the points. They play fast running rugby, attacking from anywhere on the pitch - a style well suited for the 4G surface. It should be a really entertaining match, so please bring your friends.

**Saturday 18 March**

**KCS2 v Nomads**

Surrey Championships  
Away KO TBA

**1st XV no fixture**

**B XV TBA**

**Hatters TBA**

**Fours TBA**

**Sunday 19 March**

**Crowthorne v Slingbacks**

League  
Away KO 2:00PM (fixture TBC)

**Monday to Friday 20-24 March**

**Rosslyn Park HSBC National Schools 7s**  
See Page 5 for full details

**Next 1st XV home match**

**Saturday 25 March**

**1st XV v Fylde**

National 1  
Home KO 3:00PM

To book for the pre-match lunch please contact David  
Booth in the Club Office on 020 8876 6044

**Esher 18  
Rosslyn Park 24  
National 1**

**P**ark's dominance of the first half brought them a welcome win in the Local Derby at Esher. An early try from prop Stuart Maguire, who galloped over from close range on 10 minutes was converted by fly half Harry Leonard for 7-0.



Park dominate the lineout at Esher [match photos by David Whittam]

Esher got one back against the run of play through number 8 Hugo Seccombe on 26 minutes, but the conversion was missed.

The visitors dominated the rest of the first half. Some good play by scrum half Will Crow put prop Ali Wade through on 33 minutes. Moments before the interval Andrew Henderson made excellent use of a shrewd inside pass from Leonard to go over. Both were converted by Leonard for a 21-5 lead at the break.

**H**owever Park were unable to kick on for the 4-try bonus, possibly a result of tiredness from the hero effort against Hartpury the previous week.

Two penalty awards converted by Sam Stanley on 51 and 56 minutes allowed Esher to creep back to 21-11 before Harry Leonard restored order with a kick of his own for 24-11 with 20 minutes remaining.

Esher were now forcing Park to defend well, which they did admirably.

The home side eventually cracked it with Park's defence under pressure Tom Vaughan-Edwards was sent to the bin on 74 minutes, and a minute later Esher went over for a try by the posts by Cameron Zeiss, converted by Stanley for 24-18. But Park held out



**Shawnton du Four**



**L**ast week we reported the sad loss of Old Emanuel player, Shawnton du Four, who died following a maul in the game between OE 2s and our own Nomads on 5 March. Before the First XV's National 1 match at Esher both teams lined up and, along with the crowd, observed a minute's silence in respect for Shawnton.

OE Chair, Penny McCarthy has contacted Park Chairman Adam Tyrer, saying, "There has been an outpouring of sympathy and offers of help from the whole rugby community with regards to the sad loss of our player Shawnton, who died whilst playing for our 2nd XV on the 5th March this year.

"Shawnton, was a family man, as well as a true Rugby man, and leaves behind a widow and 14-month- old twins. We have opened a Just Giving page for his family. OERFC would appreciate any donations and publicity.

"We will, as a Club, continue to raise funds for the family via a series of one-off and annual events e.g. 24 hour row to Trinidad (his family origins) and a 24 hour game of touch for example". Several of the current England squad have offered their support for the campaign.

You can donate at:

[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Shawnton](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Shawnton)



for a deserved win.

Park Attack and Defence Coach, Scott Sneddon said, "It was always going to be a tough game with a six day turnaround since Hartpury. It wasn't one of our best performances and credit to Esher they made it difficult at scrum time so we had limited ball to play from.



"We got the four points but weren't as accurate as normal in a lot of our play and I think that was due to a physical and emotional hangover from the Hartpury game. We looked tired but battled well to get the win.

"The boys will have Tuesday off and we'll then start looking at Fylde coming to the rock. There's a lot to work on from Friday night and we'll need to put those things right in order to ensure we get the win we need to climb the table".



**Park:** Grove; Crane, Henderson, Barnes, Kohler; Leonard; Crow; Wade, Piper, Maguire; Frampton, Milne; Ovens, Hudson, Ellis  
**Bench:** Vaughan-Edwards, Nwakor, Harries, Weir, Watkins  
**Park scorers:** Maguire (T), Wade (T), Henderson (T) Leonard (3C, P)

### Clubsides

**W**ill Thorogood gave a brief summary of last weekend's action.

**Hatters** 27 Dorking 2's 25-nail biting Zoo Sports 3 Quarter Final Play-Off, which ebbed and flowed right to the end.

**B's** 22 Chiswick 10. Last league game for the B's, who have showed their real form over the last three games, but not quite enough, unfortunately, to qualify for the MMT1 Play-Offs.

H&F 4's 54 **Fours** 20-a depleted and 14 man 4's gave good account of themselves against H&F 4's, but I understand we were exposed at the back, and superior numbers breached our defences. However, a MMT2 home Play-Off Semi Final awaits, against HAC 3's. Hopefully, a curtain raiser to the Fylde game on the 25th March.

Battersea Ironsides 20 **Nomads** 19. It sounds like a really close one, full of mettle, determination and team solidarity and unity, after the tragedy at Old Emanuel last week.

All sides had a minute's silence preceding their games in memory of Shawnton De Four.

At the moment, I don't think that there are any games this weekend, because of Super-Saturday.

### Slingbacks

**T**he Slingbacks have had the last two weekends off. They are due to travel to Berkshire to play Crowthorne this Sunday, then the following weekend is their final League match of the season at the Rock against the same opposition. However, it looks likely at the time of these notes that a lack of available players may cause this Sunday's game to be postponed to a later date.

### Mini and Junior Rugby

#### Under-11s win Richmond Festival

**O**n Sunday, 12 of March, Rosslyn Park under 11's attended Richmond FC mini rugby Festival. We played 3 matches in the pool stages - Richmond, Hammersmith & Fulham and Blackheath, winning all the 3 matches, scoring 15 tries in the process and only conceding one. We played London - Irish in the final, comfortable winning by 3 tries to nil. The boys played some of their best rugby all season with in particular their ball handling and running lines a standout. A most enjoyable day with some very happy boys and parents at the end!

*Team: Cederwell, Clark, Edwards, Fearn, Grieg, Griffin, Hall, Higgins, Hope, Knight, Manuel, Reynolds, Winter*

### London Floodlit 7s

**T**his year's staging of London's premier clubs' Sevens tournament takes place on Thursday 04 May, kicking off at 5:00PM, with the final at 10:20PM. Teams due to participate include Harlequins, Wasps, Worcester Warriors, London Scots, Richmond, Esher, Loughborough University and the sevens specialist invitation side Rambling Jesters along with - of course - Rosslyn Park. This is one of the Club's biggest fund raising events so please do come along and bring as many others as you can.

**Please note that even Members need to have a ticket. Admission on the night will be £15 but you can get tickets online in advance for £10.75: there's a link from the tournament website at [www.londonfloodlitsevens.com](http://www.londonfloodlitsevens.com)**

*If you want to watch in luxury there are still a few hospitality packages available. Whether you want to get together a few friends and colleagues to watch some quality sevens in style, or you'd like to provide some corporate hospitality in friendly and professional surroundings, our entertainment packages provide the full range of options. Speak to Dom Shabbo in the club office.*

### 400 Club

If you'd like to enjoy the chance of winning monthly cash prizes - including a jackpot bonus at the end of the year - while helping your club, then please contact Boothy in the Club office. March winners

are Philip Ingman £100, Mrs Pol Wright £50 and Peter Smith £25.

### Away travel

Advance rail tickets are on sale for the match at **Blaydon** on 22 April. It currently looks cheapest to buy two single tickets at around £27 each (£18:50 if you have a railcard) than to buy a return. Newcastle is the station to book to and there is a frequent bus service to Blaydon from outside the station that takes about 15-20 minutes. Please note that this match will kick off at 2:30PM.

### Reader's letter

From *Nick Morgan*

**B**eing an OE member and former player, I was shocked to read of the tragic death of OE player Shawnton de Four in the Nomads game down at Blagdons last Saturday

I have sent my personal sympathies to Penny & Fergus McCarthy (Chair of the Club)

Knowing how tight that club is, it will have hit them very hard, doubtless as it has the Nomads

I was pleased to be able to let them know the gravity with which RPFCL was treating the matter within the membership by way of Park News

Thanks again, Best wishes, *Nick*

### National 1 Salary Cap

**T**here have been various rumours flying around about a proposed salary cap at National 1 level. Parknews checked what is happening with our man on the NCA Council, Bob Evans. (For the uninitiated the National Clubs Association represents the clubs playing in National Leagues below Championship level).

Bob said that John Douglas' Ill fated Adult Game Review, over a two or three year period with lots of consultations all round the country in their roadshows, came up with proposals that were effectively regionalisation of national leagues. This was almost universally rejected by the NCA and clubs. Finally RFU saw sense and withdrew the proposals.

One thing that did stay with people like Malcolm Wharton (the Chair of Community Game Board, and ironically in the present circumstances, ex Principal at Hartpury) was that there were quite a few complaints from lower down the leagues that payment of players by some clubs was causing a serious imbalance in some leagues. They set out to do something about it and, as happens in RFU Committees, a sub committee was formed. They decided to propose that all payments for playing be stopped at level 6 and below. They recognised that payments were necessary at levels 3 (National 1) 4 and 5 but decided that there should be a salary cap introduced (nb There is no such cap in Championship).

Their bizarre reasoning was that if NCA clubs paid too much then this would encourage payments lower down the league structure. Anyone who knows anything about running clubs at NCA level - which excludes everyone on this particular sub-Committee - knows that the exact reverse is the problem. A local junior club attracts someone with money, who starts splashing it around to attract better players, and clubs higher up the pyramid are forced to pay more if they are to retain their players.

Despite a lot of pressure from the NCA and unanimous rejection by the clubs affected, the RFU Council approved these proposals in principle last December. Negotiations have continued about the actual amount of cap at various levels. At our level NCA have pushed for £500k - the reasoning being that this was high enough to not affect the vast majority of clubs but would allow an ambitious club to have a real go at promotion.

Malcolm Wharton has in fact proposed a cap at Level 3 of £150k

and this is to be decided by Council next month. Lower amounts would apply for Levels 4 & 5. Sanctions for breaking cap, or for paying anything at all lower down, is withdrawal of RFU travelling allowances and right to ask RFU for loans / grants. These are not vast sums and do not even cover the actual cost of travel, nevertheless it is another financial gap to plug for clubs affected.

It appears that the way this will be policed is that four senior people within each club will have to sign to certify that they have not contravened the rules.

Not surprisingly, the effect will be (along with another proposal that promotion from National 1 to Championship be not automatic but based on a two match play off with the bottom Championship club) to effectively ring fence Premiership and Championship.

The RFU is effectively making it clear that it does not want the semi-professional game. The RFU Council is in danger of appearing like a conspiracy between the Premiership / Championship clubs and the County Blazers to screw everyone in between.

There is a problem of clubs running up unaffordable debts. But these proposals only shift more money and power to the very top of the game while returning others to the sad old days of the brown envelope. Is that really what the RFU Council was elected to do?

### National 1 Round up

**L**ast Saturday's matches removed the last mathematical chance of **Hartpury** being pipped for the title. Their 57-21 win over **Old Albanian** leaves them 28 points clear with only 5 matches remaining. The most remarkable thing about that win is that at one stage yellow cards had reduced Hartpury to only twelve players!

**Plymouth Albion** put a hefty deposit on finishing second after a 47-26 away win over **Birmingham Moseley**, the fourth placed club, in which a dream start saw them post 26 points in the first 20 minute. **Ampthill** remain third despite losing 29-19 to **Coventry**, who remain sixth - a place behind ourselves. **Blackheath** returned to winning ways with a 26-21 home win over **Darlington Mowden Park**. Those two clubs complete the top half of the table in seventh and eighth places respectively.

At the other end of the table, **Macclesfield** grabbed only their third win of the season - by 42-38 over **Loughborough**. However they remain seven points adrift of safety with only five matches remaining. The dogfight over the other relegation place was hardly resolved despite the two clubs involved playing each other. **Blaydon** looked to have cracked it with a 17-0 interval lead at **Hull Ionians**, but the home side came back to draw 17-17.

Their home defeat by ourselves leaves **Esher** just above those two, but ten competition points clear of danger. Immediately above them are our next opponents, **Fylde**, after a surprise home defeat by 46-28 by **Cambridge** who are now on equal points with them.

#### Saturday week's matches:

Ampthill v Hull Ionians  
Birmingham Moseley v Macclesfield  
Cambridge v Coventry  
Darlington Mowden Park v Hartpury  
Loughborough v Blackheath  
Old Albanian v Esher  
Plymouth Albion v Blaydon  
Rosslyn Park v Fylde

### 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.

all next week it's the largest Rugby Tournament in the world...

# The Rosslyn Park HSBC National School 7s

## Rosslyn Park HSBC national Schools 7s

The Rosslyn Park HSBC National Schools 7s, the largest rugby tournament in the world gets under way from this Monday, 20 March until Friday 24 March. Play will be continuous on no less than 23 pitches (plus two reserve pitches) from around 10:00AM to 5:00PM every day with some 7,000 boys and girls aged 13 - 18 competing. The matches are played at four different, but adjacent, locations - Asda, Richardson Evans Memorial, Merton, and Wimbledon (see plan of site on page). The whole thing is organised by Park Commercial Manager Dom Shabbo.

The tournament is always supported by the great and good of the game - it's nigh on impossible to stroll around the site and not to see a famous face or two. Strangely, few of our own Members and supporters make the brief commute. A major factor in that is, of course, that it takes place on working days but if you are retired, on holiday (or just fancy throwing a sickie!) then please do come along and enjoy some great entertainment. Admission is free.

*The schedule for the 2017 tournament is:*

**Monday 20 March Junior Waterfall Tournament (one day only)**

**Tuesday 21 March Colts Tournament commences (U16 Boys)**

**Wednesday 22 March Vase Tournament commences (U18 Boys) plus the Colts Finals**

**Thursday 23 March Cup Tournament commences (U18 Boys), U14 Tournament commences (U14 Boys) plus the Vase Finals**

**Friday 24 March Girls Tournament (U18), Girls AASE Tournament (U18) Prep School Waterfall Tournament (one day only), U14 Finals and the Cup Finals**

**Admission to the tournament is free**, and in addition to the rugby there are plenty of trade stands and refreshment outlets at the site. Please do get along if you can - you will be richly rewarded in terms of entertainment. Buses 85 and 265 pass by the venue and ample parking is available for schools and spectators. Parking for spectators costs £10 including a Rosslyn Park HSBC National Schools 7s programme. For satnav use SW15 3PQ. If you are going by bus, alight at Asda and you can see the RE pitches from the spur off the roundabout going towards the college.

## Next Parknews

Parknews generally appears on the Club website some time between Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons every week, so just remember to look out for it. Alternatively, if you would like to receive a 'tweet' when each edition is posted on the Internet, you can opt to 'follow' the @RPNoseyParker Twitterfeed. **However, with hardly anything on this coming weekend, if we end up with few or no reports there will be no Parknews, but please do check as if there is any important news to convey it will be there.**

## SITE MAP FOR ROSSLYN PARK HSBC NATIONAL SCHOOLS 7s



# THE SEASON SO FAR IN FIGURES

## 1st XV Appearances 2016-17

	Total	starts	came on	sub	went off	Pts
Andrew Henderson	24	24	-	-	3	52
Adam Frampton	22	22	-	-	5	15
Harry Leonard	22	21	1	3	-	223
Hugo Ellis	22	21	1	1	1	30
Mark Kohler	22	20	2	2	1	30
Henry Robinson	21	20	1	1	2	30
Russell Weir	19	18	7	6	7	20
Stewart Maguire	18	16	2	2	12	25
Mark Lilley	17	14	3	3	12	5
Ali Wade	17	8	9	9	6	15
Ed Milne	16	15	-	-	6	10
Paul Spivey	15	14	1	1	6	-
Jamie Harries	15	7	8	7	5	10
T.Vaughan-Edwards	15	7	8	7	1	10
Richard Boyle	14	9	5	5	6	-
James Inglis	14	11	3	3	2	-
Mo Nwakor	14	5	8	8	5	-
Charlie Piper	13	10	3	3	6	25
Andy Reay	12	10	2	3	4	10
Scott Sneddon	11	8	3	3	4	93
Will Crow	11	4	7	10	3	-
Harry Broadbent	10	6	4	4	4	-
Adam Bellamy	10	5	5	6	5	10
Jack Gash	10	5	5	6	5	5
S.Aspland-Robinson	10	10	-	-	2	-
Nick Lovell	10	6	4	2	1	-
Ollie Grove	10	7	3	4	4	-
Harry Hudson	10	9	1	1	2	25
Josh Owens	9	9	-	-	2	5
Josh Watkins	8	6	2	1	2	-
David Vincent	7	7	-	-	1	10
Rory Brand	7	4	3	3	1	25
Dom Morris	6	6	-	-	1	15
Toby Berridge	6	5	1	1	-	-
Todd Gleave	4	3	1	1	3	10
Alexis Ziana Montout	4	-	4	4	-	5
Adam Field	3	3	-	1	1	-
Frank Taggart	3	1	2	1	-	-
Rhys Crane	3	2	1	-	2	5
Dan Barnes	1	1	-	-	-	-
Neil Bowley	1	-	1	1	-	-
Fergus Farrell	1	-	1	1	-	-
Conor McGrath	1	-	1	1	-	-
Henry Spencer	1	-	1	1	-	-

## 1st XV Points scorers 2016-17

	Points
Harry Leonard	223
Scott Sneddon	93
Andrew Henderson	52
Mark Kohler	30
Henry Robinson	30
Hugo Ellis	30
Rory Brand	25
Charlie Piper	25
Harry Hudson	25
Stewart Maguire	25
Russell Weir	20
Adam Frampton	15
Dom Morris	15
Ali Wade	15
Tom Vaughan-Edwards	10
Jamie Harries	10
Adam Bellamy	10
Ed Milne	10
Andy Reay	10
Todd Gleave	10
David Vincent	10
Rhys Crane	5
Jack Gash	5
Mark Lilley	5
Alexis Ziana Montout	5
Josh Owens	5

## Kicking

Harry Leonard	104 points
53 out of 65 conversions	
31 out of 39 penalties	
Accuracy Percentage	80.77%

Scott Sneddon	33 points
14 out of 15 conversions	
19 out of 25 penalties	
Accuracy Percentage	82.5%

(only players with at least 10 attempts are included)

## Miscellaneous

### Park have scored and conceded tries as follows:

	For	Against
Home	48	28
Away	39	38
Total	87	66
First half	42	36
Second half	45	30
Minutes		
0-20	19	15
20-40	23	22
40-60	18	15
60-80	27	16

All the statistics on this page are taken from

[www.statbunker.com](http://www.statbunker.com)

If any player believes any statistic attributed to him is inaccurate please contact the editor, who will contact Statbunker

### Where tries have been scored and conceded:

	For	Against
Total tries	87	66
Backs	44	42
Forwards	40	20
Full back	9	4
Wingers	12	17
Centres	9	11
Half backs	14	10
Front row	21	5
Second row	3	4
Back row	16	11
Penalty tries	3	4

Average home attendance	618 (5th in league)
Average away attendance	528 (6th in league)