



The e-Magazine for Rosslyn Park Supporters - Issue 32 2016/17 - 22 March 2017

SLINGBACKS SHOW THEIR METTLE

Welcome to Parknews. With no First XV match to report on this week's edition gives the perfect opportunity to illustrate the fact that there is much more to this great Club than just the Firsts - a theme that will be taken up at the Club Dinner on 8th April, to which everyone involved in the club is invited (full details of that event are on page 2). We have a report on the Hatters magnificent Zoo Sports Shield Play-offs win over a strong Dorking 'A' side; on Sunday our Under 12 A side retained their Middlesex Championships and the Under-11s travelled to Ealing for their round of the County Championships and all three of our teams won their pools; last but not least the Slingbacks overcame their recent string of poor results and a predominantly young and inexperienced side played their hearts out to win away at Crowthorne by 29-25. Reports on all those items follow.



The Slingbacks dressing room after the match

This Saturday

However, the First XV is the shop window of the club and it would be remiss not to remind everyone that they have an important home League match against Fylde at the Rock this Saturday, kicking off at 3:00PM. Park are currently fifth in the table, within striking distance of the third and fourth placed sides if we can put a run together. Fylde are currently eleventh - a disappointing position for them given the quality of the rugby they play.

Fylde have always been noted for a quick-running, quick-passing attacking game that sees them launch stinging attacks from anywhere on the pitch. The 4G pitch really suits their style of play. While the score of 45-34 in our away win up at Woodlands earlier in the season looks very convincing - especially in a match that has always been a bit of a 'hoodoo' for us - it disguises the fact that Fylde put us through the wringer in the second half after we'd built a decent lead. In the end they left themselves short at the back and we grabbed a try that put the match beyond doubt. But we'll need to be sound in defence if we are to do a 'double' over our friends from Lancashire for the first time in ages.

We often use the term "real rugby club" in these columns, and Fylde are very much the epitome of that concept. They are run by good solid rugby folk who always extend a warm welcome when we visit the Woodlands, so let's make sure we reciprocate this weekend - off the field anyway! Please do come along and bring your friends for what should be a feast of positive attacking rugby.

Please do come down early as we've a really cracking curtain raiser at noon in the form of a Middlesex Merit playoffs semi final against Millfield OB. In the Merit Table itself Millfield finished top and the Fours finished second, but were the only team to beat Millfield all season. If the Fours can win the competition it will be their third successive win, so please do come down early and support the Park boys in their bid to make it a treble.

Last weekend

With no Senior teams playing on the Saturday, the Editor joined the Slingbacks on their trip to play their final away match at Crowthorne RFC. In rugby terms it turned out to be one of the most rewarding afternoons of the season (if you exclude from it turning up two hours before kick off to find everything locked up and deserted for the next half hour at a quintessentially

Saturday 25 March
Fours v Millfield OB
 Middlesex Merit semi-Final
 Home (4G) KO 12:00PM
Please come early and support the 4s to the final

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

Nomads on tour
B XV no fixture
Hatters training

Sunday 26 March
Slingbacks v Crowthorne
 League
 Home (4G) KO 2:00PM
Please come along and support women's rugby at Rosslyn Park in the Slingbacks' last game of the season.
Free admission - Clubhouse open

Send all articles, reports, letters and photos to news@rosslynpark.co.uk

Parknews

English village green setting with only one essential component missing - a pub!

The Park girls had tried to get the fixture re-arranged as several mainstays of the team were unavailable, including skipper Maria Castellina, Esther King, Nadina Leigh and Jo Thompson in addition to injuries. It looked as if Park might have to forfeit the match, unable to field a team but several youngsters and newbies stepped up to the plate - and how!

The Park girls didn't just fulfil a fixture, but after weeks of disappointments put in a display of utter commitment to win by 29-25. The jubilation on the faces of the Park players at the final whistle was worth the trip on its own. There is no team at this club that wears the Park shirt with more pride than do the Slingbacks.

Clubsides

Will Thorogood reports that there was no Clubside activity at the weekend, except, maybe in the bars, pubs and hostelrys of SW London. So, game(s) for this weekend:

4's v HAC 3's Home ko Midday MMT2 Play-Off Semi-Final on 4G

Hatters training

B's TBA-probably not playing

Nomads on tour in S. Africa

Fours go for treble on Saturday

The Rosslyn Park IVs finished the season normal in a commendable 2nd place, runners-up to last season's losing finalists (against The Fours), Millfield Old Boys. Millfield's only loss this season came against The Fours. Attention now turns to the play-offs where Millfield will play Belsize Park IIs and The Fours continue their campaign to win the tournament for the third time in a row with a semi-final against HAC IIs, to be played at The Rock this Saturday with a 12pm ko as the opener to the 1s game. Please come down early and cheer on The Fours in their bid for the treble!

Hatters 27

Dorking A xv 25

Zoo Sports Shield Div 3 Play-off quarter-final

by Ali Crawford

After three fantastic wins including a long awaited away victory at Richmond the Hatters found themselves once again in the play-offs.

A perfect day for rugby saw an extremely young and fit looking Dorking team arrive on Upper Richmond Road. Fair to say if Hatters were going to win it wouldn't be due to superior speed or fitness.

With possibly one of the best squads the Hatters have seen this season it is right to say there was an air of confidence floating around during the warm-up. Unfortunately with the Hatters this usually leads to a somewhat complacent first 10 minutes, however with the words of Wigley and Longers ringing in their ears the Hatters started strong and sticking to their game plan of keeping it tight and being physical up front the likes of Foot, Burton and Ryan put in big carries.

This forward effort soon led to a rolling maul in which Kinsky found himself at the back and able to dive over for the Hatters first score.

After a shaky restart the Hatters yet again found themselves in the opposition half. With Batman, Rory and Wigley facing the full 80 their efforts in the scrum were there for all to see as their experience dominated their opposite front row. From the progressing scrum Longers with a trademark blindside break accelerated away, stepped inside the fullback and dived over for a great try.

With a penalty from Crawford all was looking pretty at 15-0.

However, having been held off, the Hatters complacency finally

Announcing

The Rosslyn Park FC Club Dinner

8 April 2017 K.O. 7.30PM

Come and celebrate all that is GREAT about Park

Dear All

To get everyone in the club together before the end of the season we are in the process of arranging The Rosslyn Park FC Club Dinner:

One Evening: One Club

That means we want to encourage all sections of the club to attend: the minis and their parents, youth players, clubsides, Slingbacks, 1st XV squad, members, supporters, former players, friends and family... everyone involved with the Park.

The dinner will be organised to celebrate all that is great about Rosslyn Park and the focus will be on you - the people that make up our diverse and vibrant community.

We are planning this to be a massive party and want to pack the clubhouse to the seams

The dinner will take place after the 1st XV home match against Kull Tonians on Saturday the 8th of April kicking off around 7.30 in the evening.

We'll be publishing further information shortly - we're currently in the process of inviting some very special guests.

Please spread the word and get in touch with Dom in the office on: 020 8876 6044 or email: dom.shabbo@rosslynpark.co.uk with ideas and to book your places.

crept in. A drop in intensity and indeed tackling ability saw the young Dorking side start to make ground. A well-placed box kick into the Hatters half, not normally a worry with the ever reliable Porter under the high ball. However clearly distracted by the 'worldy' sitting in the stands the ball slipped through his fingers and bounced nicely into the opposing wingers hands who cruised away under the posts.

Two well kicked penalties from the opposition saw the Hatters lead cut to just two points and it looked as though heads were going down with 10 minutes left on the clock and with the Hatters losing both Wilson and Jamie to injuries things weren't looking good.

However some solid yards from the forwards and another controlled scrum finally saw the Hatters backs cut loose. With Jeff now playing 12 he arched wide, with Top Shagger coming on the dummy crash line, Crawford threw the ball flat to Jeff who created space before releasing Porter and Bond for a 2 on 1 with the full back. A well-timed pass from Porter saw the ever young Bond scamper over for a fantastic team try.

Sadly the Dorking team managed to hit back in the dying seconds

of the first half to again cut the lead to just two points 20-18 Hatters.

The less said about the second half the better as some questionable decisions from the referee began to creep into the match and some scrappy ill discipline from the Dorking forwards soured the first 20 minutes of the second half. Unfortunately this all led to the Hatters dropping intensity once again and Dorking took the lead for the first time 25-20.

Thankfully with a full bench raring to come on Hatters rung the changes and whilst they weren't fresh young legs coming onto the field, this was certainly made up for in experience. With Rosser, Mason, Davies, CPR all coming on to help raise the Hatters and re-find some much needed intensity.

With the clock ticking away and sadly Crawford 'keeping the game close' with a couple of unfortunate penalty misses The Hatters were staring at a quarter final defeat.

One last throw of the dice saw a great Hatters back move result in Rosser sprinting down the wing only to be hauled just short and then what felt like 20 phases of Hatters forwards throwing themselves at the Dorking line the ball eventually came to Longers, who taking things into his own hands picked up, stepped and popped a lovely ball to the relieved Crawford to 'Crash' over from two meters out. 25-25. More relieved still looking up he realized he had crashed over directly under the posts... an easy two points! Thankfully a little chip over saw the Hatters take the lead 27-25 and see out a hard fought victory to take them into the semi-finals.

A huge squad effort and a well deserved win.

Slingbacks

The Park girls did magnificently last Sunday to land an away win at Crowthorne, despite nearly having to forfeit the match for lack of personnel. The bonus point win means that if they can get another 5-pointer this coming weekend the Slingbacks could end up level on points with Crowthorne and Sutton & Epsom, which would be a great end to a nightmare season. If this Sunday's match against the same opponents at the Rock turns out to be anything like as entertaining then spectators are in for a treat. Please do come along and support the Park girls in their last match of the season: kick off is at 2:00PM, admission is free and the clubhouse will be open.



Alice Lovatt releases Dani Williams to attack at Crowthorne

Crowthorne 25 Slingbacks 27 League

With several key players missing selecting a team to face Crowthorne was akin to completing a jigsaw puzzle. The Slingbacks put the pieces in the correct places to grab a surprise, but deserved, away win with an inspirational performance.

Probably the key was having the experienced and versatile Chrissie Ovendon cover for Maria Castellina at scrum half from where, with the equally experienced Alice Lovatt at fly half, the pair of

them controlled everything Park did.

They could not have done that without a major effort from a predominantly young and inexperienced pack, with Liz Delves - who has played for the Slingbacks in every one of their 20 seasons - playing a major role herself as well as directing the younger elements.



Liz Delves with the ball

It is invidious to pick out individuals in such a super team performance but at 8 Tammy Sebelius - whose season looked to be over when stretchered off at Reading - showed that they breed them tough in the USA with some strong tackling.

In defence the pint-sized tackling machine that is Dani Williams moved to centre and made an immense contribution as did young Anja Grant, a real talent in the making.

Park had the benefit a strong wind at their backs in the first half and comfortably withstood some early home pressure but then conceded a try for 0-5, and visions of another defeat were to the fore.



Billie Baker drives on for Park

However Chrissie and Alice were playing from a different script and Park soon had an equaliser, Alice Lovatt spotting space out wide of which lock Billie Baker took full advantage, though she had to break a determined last ditch tackle to score.

It looked as if Park would need to score at least three tries before the interval to compensate for the wind. It was Alice herself who got the second with a positive run, again exploiting space up the flank, after convincing two defenders that she was going to pass. That gave Park a lead of 10-5.

Crowthorne were no pushovers. They had a feisty talented and speedy scrum half and some good handling moves that forced the Slingbacks to make some excellent tackles. But the Slingbacks always looked positive when moving forward and a peach of a run by full-back Anja Grant saw her score just wide of the posts. Alice converted and, though Crowthorne got one back, the Park girls led by 17-10 at the changeover.

The Slingbacks fought their way to the opposition end again and after unsuccessful forays it was winger Marta Rodriguez who got past the home defence to score out wide for 22-10.



Anja Grant runs away to score

As the match developed the Park team began to get increasingly frustrated that more and more decisions were going against them. There was a feeling that the referee, in the spirit of social rugby but not that of an important League match, was evening things up a bit. It was not so much wrong decisions - though there were inevitable a few - but what he chose to see and not to see. And it certainly appeared that way from the touchline.

Decisions cost Park territory that took them back towards their own touchline, where Crowthorne scored to close the gap to 22-15. There were some knowing looks when Alice's restart kick bounced at least a foot over the ten metre line but play was brought back for a scrum to the home side.



Positively the Park players channelled their disappointment into even more determination and looked the better side as they returned and pressed inside the home 22. There was no doubting Chrissie Ovendon's determination when she battered her way past defenders and went round behind the posts, Alice converting for 29 - 15.

As the clock wound down Park again lost territory to some decisions that looked a wee bit selective. This time a penalty close to the line saw the home side get over for 29-20.

Crowthorne came back and, again, successive penalties increased Park's frustration and took them back near their own line and the home scrum half dived over for a try her own performance cer-



tainly deserved.

By now there was next to no time left but the Slingbacks left nothing to chance with some superb tackling and driving to make sure of a really impressive win that they were made to work really hard for.

Slingbacks: 1. Kirsty Batten, 2. Helen Pealing, 3. Elizabeth Delves, 4. Billie Baker, 5. Tara Brancaccio, 6. Pricilla Nascimento, 7. Amanda Burton, 8. Tammie Sebelius, 9. Christina Ovenden, 10. Alice Lovett, 11. Bella Bennett, 12. Danielle Williams, 13. Sally Wilson, 14. Marta Borg-Rodriguez, 15. Anya Grant.

Substitutes: Cat Richmond, Eugenia Stevenson

Slingbacks scorers: Baker (T), Lovatt (T, 2C), Grant (T), Ovendon (T) Rodriguez (T).

Mini and Youth Rugby

On Sunday the Park players put in some sterling work to assert their position as one of the strongest mini / junior sections in the country.

The U11s travelled to Ealing for their round of the Middlesex County Championships. With many players contesting the National Prep Schools Finals at Epsom College Alex Bark's age group had created and gelled three new teams to take on the challenge. All three teams won their pools.



The 1st team (pictured) beat Teddington A, Old Grammarians, Ealing A and Hampstead A.

Also on Sunday Park U12As retained the Middlesex Championships, winning their matches in emphatic style at Wasps. This feat means that Park will be responsible for running the Middlesex U12 League for the 6th year running.



London Floodlit 7s

This 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,

Parknews

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

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.

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.

Rosslyn Park HSBC national Schools 7s

The Rosslyn Park HSBC National Schools 7s, the largest rugby tournament in the world is now under but you can still catch some matches this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Play is continuous on no less than 23 pitches. The matches are played at four different, but adjacent, locations (see plan of site on page).

The remaining competitions are:

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.

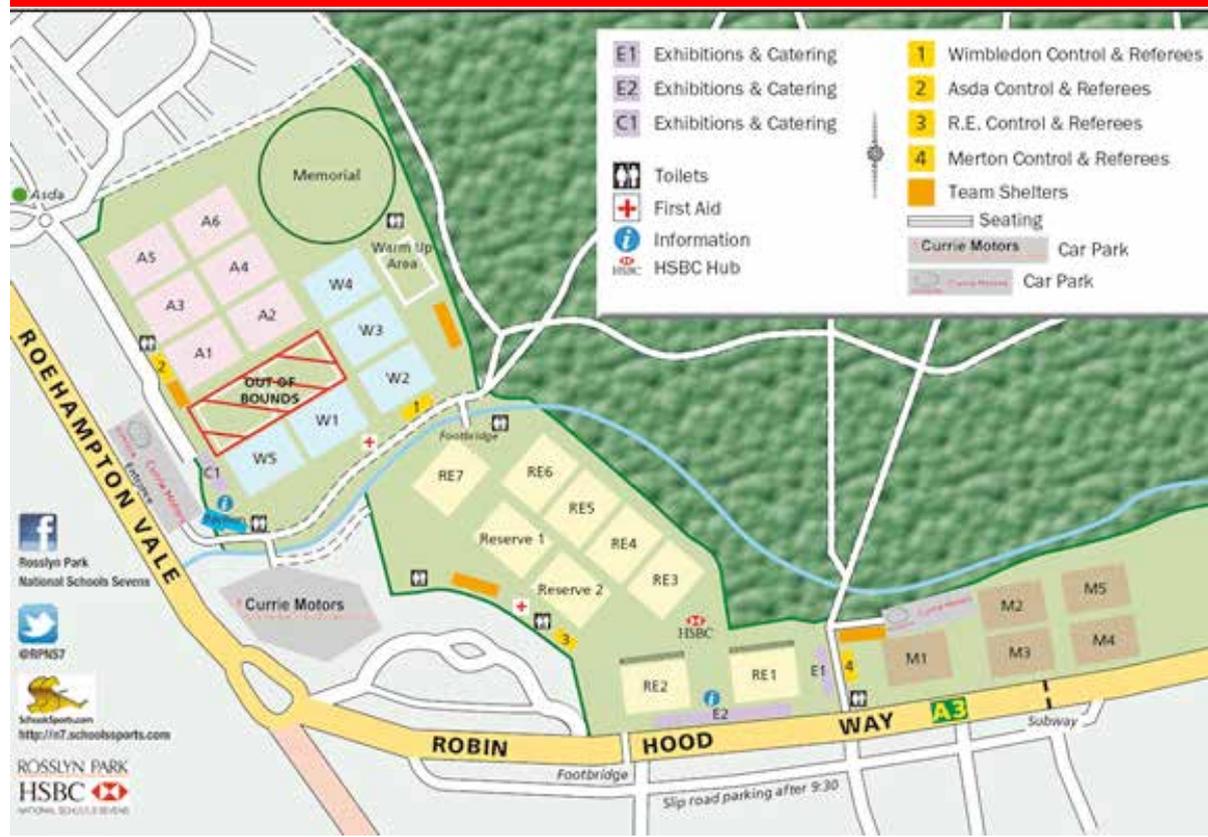
Next Parknews

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.

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.

SITE MAP FOR ROSSLYN PARK



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 Ovens	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	-	-	-	-
Will 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 Ovens	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

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)