



The e-Magazine for Rosslyn Park Supporters - Issue 34 2016/17 - 05 April 2017

PARK SUFFER A LOSS AT COVENTRY



Park scrap for the ball at Coventry
[Photo: David Whittam]

Welcome to Parknews. Park returned from Coventry empty-handed but far from disgraced last Saturday. Park had the better of the first half but conceded a try on the stroke of half time to change over with only a four point lead. Coventry had the better of the second half and probably deserved to win overall, but it could have gone either way. It was a fiercely competitive match - anything but a typical end of season joust - that kept a gate of 1266 richly entertained.

Park more than matched Coventry in just about every department except - crucially - the scrum, where we were constantly under pressure and always looked likely to concede a penalty. It was eventually three penalties in the last 12 minutes that provided Coventry's winning margin. Park certainly deserved - but didn't get - a losing bonus point.

A crucial moment in the second half came when Park were denied what appeared to be a perfectly good try for 'crossing'. From where your correspondent was standing any obstruction would have been very marginal indeed and there did not appear to be a Coventry player in a position to make a tackle anyway, but to be fair the referee was a lot closer and had probably consumed a lot less beer!

This coming Saturday's match will also be a very competitive affair. Our opponents, Hull Ionians, are locked in a dogfight with Blaydon (who we play in the following match, away) over who fills the one relegation place remaining after Macclesfield's demise. Currently Hull have a 3-point lead over Blaydon, who face a tough match at home to Amptill next week. So Hull will be well aware that if they can get a result at the Rock to match the 16-14 defeat they inflicted upon us up there earlier in the season, they could put some clear water between themselves and Blaydon.

Our regular away supporters will have mixed emotions should Park prevail on Saturday. Yes, we want to win, but it would be a pity to see the away trip to their Brough ground disappear from the fixture list, as it is one of the favou-

Saturday 08 April

1st XV v Hull Ionians

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

Tonbridge Juddians v Hatters

Zoo Sports Shield Play-off Final

Away KO 2:00PM

Fours v Millfield Badgers

Middlesex Merit Play-off Final

Staines RFC KO 2:40PM

Nomads v Farnham

Surrey Championship

Home KO TBC

NB: This match may be a curtain raiser on the main pitch before the 1st XV match

B XV TBA

**Final 1st XV home match
Saturday 29 April**

1st XV v Amptill

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

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

rites. They are a really decent and friendly club, so let's hope they survive whatever the result of Saturday and that we'll be able to visit them next season.

From our own point of view, we need to win our last three matches with maximum points in order to try to get back ahead of Coventry, who leap-frogged us into fifth place as a result of last weekend's match. They travel to Old Albanian this coming Saturday, who won away at Fylde last weekend, after which they are at home to Darlington Mowden Park and then finally away to Loughborough. It should be quite a tussle this Saturday, so please do come along and add your vocal support.

Indeed none of our remaining matches could be in any way be described as 'meaningless'. Apart from our own ambitions, our trip to Blaydon will see the other half of the relegation dogfight. We have been badly burned at Blaydon often enough to know that will be a real tough one. Finally we play at home to Ampthill on 29 April, who are disputing the Runner-up spot with Plymouth Albion and so will be really up for it. There's still some good 15-a-side stuff before the London Floodlit 7s.

If you are thinking of travelling to the final away match at Blaydon, please do get in now for Advance rail tickets: it will cost a small fortune to buy a ticket on the day. 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, or you can take a cab. Please note that this match will kick off at 2:30PM, so please make allowance for that.

We hope to have a curtain raiser for you before the home match against Hull Ionians this Saturday, with the Nomads at home to Farnham (the club that produced Jonny Wilkinson before everyone else took credit). Hopefully that will kick off around noon, but Farnham have yet to confirm that those arrangements are OK for them. If not, the match will probably be played in Richmond Park.

Best of luck to two of the Clubside who play important finals this Saturday. The Hatters travel to Tonbridge Juddians to play their Twos in the Zoo Sports Shield Play-Off Final, while the Fours play in the Middlesex Merit Play-Off Final against Millfield Badgers at Staines RFC.

Coventry 36

Park 27

National 1

Park returned empty-handed from Coventry despite having the better of the first half.

Park were first on the scoreboard with a penalty from fly half Harry Leonard on 5 minutes. That was cancelled out by one from his opposite number, Will Maisey, seven minutes later.



Park on the attack [all match photos by David Whittam]

Although Park looked the more dangerous side Coventry regained the lead on 14 minutes when centre Heath Stevens picked up a chip through to score for 10-3 with Maisey's conversion.

That lasted less than five minutes when a massive Park maul was brought down illegally for a penalty try, Leonard adding the extras for 10-10.

Four minutes later home hooker Matt Price got over following a line-out for 15-10.



However, Park were not to be denied and a purple patch of attacking rugby saw wingers Sam Aspland-Robinson and Mark Kohler both run in excellent tries within three minutes of each other, Leonard converting both for 24-15.

Just as it seemed as if Park would turn round with a nine point lead, Jimmy Lichfield scored for the home side on the stroke of half time.

If Park had the better of the first half then Coventry made up for it in the second, mangling the visiting scrum to gain a useful source of penalties. Park looked to be harshly denied a try for 'crossing', but otherwise they were forced to defend very well indeed.

Maisey ran in a try on 53 minutes, converting it himself, for 27-24 to Coventry.

Leonard bagged a penalty on 64 minutes to equalise, but three fur-



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ther penalties from Maisey saw the home side secure a 37-27 win to jump over Park into fifth place in the league table.

Park Attack and defence Coach, Scott Sneddon, said, "It was a disappointing performance given how well we attacked in the first half. We simply didn't turn up in the second half and when you go away to places like Coventry a 40 minute performance is not acceptable.

"We probably played too much rugby at times and should have played in the right areas.

"We attacked well but gifted Coventry points because of exiting poorly. This meant we never had the chance to pull away in the score board.

"Credit to Coventry, they were the better team in the second 40. Errors cost in national one and we must learn from this game".

Turning to this Saturday's home match against Hull Ionians (kick off 3:00PM) he said, "Hull is going to be a huge game, they are fighting for survival and beat us earlier in the season.

"They are a well drilled side and have strong ball carriers, we must ensure we work hard this week in training and perform for 80 minutes on Saturday to ensure we get the win".

Park: Henderson, Aspland-Robinson, Crane, Barnes, Kohler, Leonard; Gash; Nwakor, Piper, Wade; Inglis, Frampton; Milne, Ovens, Ellis
Bench: Vaughan-Edwards, Lovell, Harries, Weir, Grove
Park scorers: Aspland-Robinson (T), Kohler (T), Leonard (2P, 3C), Penalty try.

Clubsides

Will Thorogood reports on a busy afternoon of fun, feasting and football of the Rugby Union kind. With a midday start, the Nomads, who had recently returned from Cape Town, appeared a little bleary eyed and travel weary, faced high flying London Exiles 2's.

I can't remember the scoring sequence, but it was a game of end to end, and spinning it wide stuff. Exiles lead 15-14 at half time. In the second half the Nomads bounced up a gear, and outscored Exiles by three tries to one. A good scalp to have! Nomads 31 Exiles 23.

As prelude to the Hatters' Zoo Sports Semi-Final Play-Off down in Tonbridge on Saturday, they matched up against Kew Occasionals on the 4G, in a friendly. Always a talented opposition, this was competed well, and a good run-out to cough out the cobwebs, having not played for a couple of weeks.

However, the Hatters' came second this time, despite their mixture of fast open rugby alongside some gritty, tight and effective forward play. In the end, Hatters 19 Kew 36. Enjoyed by all, and also the post-match barbecue. Thanks Jane, Nathalie and the Butcher... no Baker or Candlestick Maker, though!

There was a raffle for a signed Harlequins shirt, donated by Kew, for the Shawnton De Four Dependents Fund, from which £205 was raised. More fundraising events are planned after the tragic events at Old Emanuel, the other week.

Hatters 19 Kew Occasionals 36 (Friendly)

On a sunny spring afternoon, the Hatters were met at the Rock by some familiar faces from previous seasons as the old boys arrived in force to cheer from the stands and, in one case, to provide much needed reinforcement to the back line. Deprived of Wilson and Payne through injury (not to mention Kelly) with Longers and Porter away, and with more forwards on the bench than backs in the squad, there was only one game plan: keep it tight.

Crawford perhaps took this too literally as his kick-off didn't go 10 and the game started with a scrum on the halfway. Anyway, the plan worked as the ball was won against the head. This heralded a

period of sustained pressure from the Hatters as Foot, Davies and Kinsky ran crash ball after crash ball off Hughesie at scrumhalf and the front-five continued to turn the screw at the set piece.

This continued pressure allowed the Hatters to cross the white-wash through Bondie who took the ball about 15 metres out before beating two Kews players to crash over for a well-deserved try. However, while Park's tight game plan worked well when in possession, Kews were able to exploit the wide open spaces when they had the ball, crossing over for two tries of their own in the first-half. It would have been more had it not been for some excellent covering tackles from Rosser at full back. Anyway, 12-5 at the turnaround with everything to play for.

The second-half continued in the same vein with the Hatters punishing Kews both in the lineout and the scrum and making the hard yards close to the breakdown. After several phases of this with Wardie in particular running kamikaze lines into the Kews midfield, de Haan burrowed over for a good try on the right hand side of the posts. Another episode of pressure from a lineout in Kew's 22 led to Beale on his comeback from a dislocated elbow score a well-worked try in the left hand corner as Kews ran out of defenders.

However, despite maintaining such pressure for large periods of the game, Park, tiring as the game progressed, managed to leak several tries through poor communication in defence as Kews pounced on the loose ball. While the Hatters kept in touch, the lead eluded them. Special mention to Hughesie who put in an excellent performance at scrumhalf, Wisey who showed one again that he remains the quickest player in the squad despite three years' absence and being the wrong side of 40, and the man mountain Jawich who wreaked havoc on the oppo's scrum. Congratulations also to de Haan who put in yet another man of the match performance at prop and to Greg on an impressive debut for the Hatters.

While disappointing, the result did nothing to dampen post-match festivities in the sun. Particular thanks to Kew Occasionals for donating a signed Quins shirt which raised £205 in a raffle for the Shawnton de Four Dependants' Fund.

After a decent test with many positives, particularly in the tight, the Hatters will have to sharpen up for their semi-final against Tonbridge Juddians on Saturday.

Slingbacks

The Slingbacks have finished their season, winning their last two matches to dream of what might have been. They finished level sixth on points with Sutton & Epsom, having won more matches but picking up less losing bonus points. Sutton still have one match to play, but as that would be against Champions Reading Abbey, who have won the title anyway, that match is unlikely to be played.

In the final reckoning, the Slingbacks finished a point below fifth placed Crowthorne, over whom they did the double. It won't keep the Park girls awake over the summer break, but they do have a right to feel slightly aggrieved. In the away match at Crowthorne the referee was clearly doing his best to even things up in the spirit of social rugby, rather than that of an important League match. Two home tries would almost certainly not have been scored with a stricter application of the Laws. The result was the 5-try bonus point and a losing bonus point, which place them a point above the Slingbacks. A lesson there about refereeing League matches.

Mini and Youth Rugby

The Club will be running more of the popular Rosslyn Park Academy Training camps during the Easter holidays. There are two camps: a Coaching camp and an Elite camp. Both run from 10-13 April. Full details and enrolment forms are available from Dom Shabbo in the Club Office.

National 1 Review

Champions **Hartpur** continued their unbeaten run with a 40-31 win over Loughborough and are 27 points clear at the top. **Plymouth Albion** currently hold the whip hand in the battle for the Runner-up spot, but were made to fight every inch of the way against already-relegated **Macclesfield**. Macc held the lead until dropping the ball and allowing Albion to break and score. The final eight minutes took place almost exclusively in the Plymouth 22, but they held out and are 7 points ahead of **Amphill**, who won 40-17 at Blaydon.

That result leaves **Blaydon** three points adrift of our next opponents, **Hull Ionians**, 31-26 winners over **Cambridge**, in the battle over who fills the final relegation position.

Birmingham Moseley kept up the pressure in fourth place with a 32-25 away win at **Blackheath**. **Esher** continued their revival with a 50-33 win over **Darlington Mowden Park**, while **Fylde** slumped to a 17-21 home defeat by **Old Albanian**.

This weekend's matches

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

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, 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.

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](https://twitter.com/RPNoseyParker) Twitterfeed.

THE SEASON SO FAR IN FIGURES

1st XV Appearances 2016-17

	Total	starts	came on	sub	went off	Pts
Andrew Henderson	26	26	-	-	3	52
Adam Frampton	24	24	-	-	5	15
Harry Leonard	24	23	1	3	-	246
Mark Kohler	24	22	2	2	1	35
Hugo Ellis	23	22	1	1	1	30
Henry Robinson	21	20	1	1	2	30
Russell Weir	20	18	8	6	7	20
Stewart Maguire	19	17	2	2	13	25
Ali Wade	19	9	10	9	8	20
Ed Milne	18	17	-	-	6	10
Jamie Harries	18	8	10	7	5	15
Mark Lilley	17	14	3	3	12	5
T.Vaughan-Edwards	17	7	9	7	1	10
Mo Nwakor	16	8	8	8	5	-
Paul Spivey	15	14	1	1	6	-
James Inglis	15	12	3	3	2	-
Charlie Piper	15	12	3	3	7	25
Richard Boyle	14	9	5	5	6	-
Andy Reay	13	11	2	3	4	10
Jack Gash	12	7	5	6	7	5
Ollie Grove	12	7	5	4	4	-
Scott Sneddon	11	8	3	3	4	93
Will Crow	11	4	7	10	3	-
S.Aspland-Robinson	11	11	-	-	2	5
Nick Lovell	11	6	5	2	1	-
Josh Ovens	11	11	-	-	2	5
Harry Broadbent	10	6	4	4	4	-
Adam Bellamy	10	5	5	6	5	10
Harry Hudson	10	9	1	1	2	25
Josh Watkins	9	7	2	1	2	10
Rory Brand	8	4	4	3	1	25
David Vincent	7	7	-	-	1	10
Dom Morris	6	6	-	-	1	15
Toby Berridge	6	5	1	1	-	-
Rhys Crane	5	4	1	-	2	10
Todd Gleave	4	3	1	1	3	10
Alexis Ziana Montout	4	-	4	4	-	5
Frank Taggart	4	1	3	1	-	-
Adam Field	3	3	-	1	1	-
Henry Spencer	2	1	1	1	1	-
Dan Barnes	2	2	-	-	-	-
Will Bowley	1	-	1	1	-	-
Fergus Farrell	1	-	1	1	-	-
Conor McGrath	1	-	1	1	-	-

1st XV Points scorers 2016-17

	Points
Harry Leonard	223
Scott Sneddon	93
Andrew Henderson	52
Mark Kohler	35
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
Sam Aspland-Robinson	5
Rhys Crane	5
Jack Gash	5
Mark Lilley	5
Alexis Ziana Montout	5
Josh Ovens	5

Kicking

Harry Leonard	114 points
60 out of 73 conversions	
33 out of 41 penalties	
Accuracy Percentage	81.58%

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). Stat not updated since last week

Miscellaneous

Park have scored and conceded tries as follows:

	For	Against
Home	53	31
Away	42	42
Total	92	69
First half	47	40
Second half	48	32
Minutes		
0-20	20	18
20-40	27	24
40-60	19	16
60-80	29	17

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	95	73
Backs	49	44
Forwards	42	25
Full back	9	4
Wingers	16	17
Centres	10	12
Half backs	14	11
Front row	22	7
Second row	3	5
Back row	17	13
Penalty tries	4	4

Average home attendance	624 (4th in league)
Average away attendance	510 (13th in league)