



The e-Magazine for Rosslyn Park Supporters - Issue 35 2016/17 - 12 April 2017

HATTERS v RICHMOND IN FRIDAY NIGHT FINAL

Welcome to Parknews. Before moving on to the First XV some congratulations are due in respect of the Club sides. The **Hatters** had a tremendous 31-25 away win against a strong Tonbridge Juddian 2nd XV in their Zoo Sports Shield Play-off Semi-Final. The really good news is that they will be at home in the final, it's at the Rock, and it's a Local Derby due to take place on 22 April. Unfortunately, as there were no scheduled home fixtures that Saturday, at time of going to press the final clashes with some private lettings of the 4G. This is currently being resolved and the likely solution is to play the Final on the Friday evening. Richmond, understandably, need to check that out with their players, but we should know before the end of this week. There will not be a Parknews next (Easter) week, but we'll update the fixture panel on the right as details are to hand. **[ED the Friday night is now confirmed]** Admission will be free and the Clubhouse will be open. The First XV are away to Blaydon on the Saturday, so please do come along and support the Park boys in their effort to bring the Club some silverware. Commiserations to the **Fours** who took Millfield Badgers right to the wire in the Middlesex Merit Final at Staines last Saturday but unluckily lost by 27-22. They've had a great season, but will be gutted to have lost the final. Hopefully we'll have reports on both matches inside.



Park attack against Hull Ionians [Photo: David Whittam]

Hull Ionians

If last Saturday's final result for the Firsts was a disappointment, then there were some redeeming features in a match that swayed first one way, then the other, with the lead changing hands several times. Park have been playing for weeks with an injury list as bad as anyone can remember, but because by and large the team has been delivering the results despite those difficulties it is a situation that has largely been ignored. We've not made much of it in these columns either, because we play a squad system and to complain about injuries could seem to imply criticism of the players coming in.

Most who saw Saturday's match will probably agree that, ball in hand and going forward, Park looked significantly the better side (indeed we out-scored Ionians by four tries to three). The problem seemed to be winning enough ball to make that attacking superiority tell. Ionians arrived fired up, only three points clear of relegation and gave nothing away, clearly having an edge in the scrum. It was a hammer blow to lose skipper Hugo Ellis to the list of the injured so early in the match, which certainly didn't help.

Despite being relatively starved of quality possession, Park conjured four top notch tries but lost by a single point to a late penalty. Sometimes you lose matches you expected to win. It's sport.

Friday 21 April
Hatters v Richmond Normans
Zoo Sports Shield Play-off Final
 Home (4G) KO 7:45PM
 Free admission - Clubhouse open

Saturday 22 April
Blaydon v 1st XV
 National 1
 Away KO 2:30PM

KCS2 v Nomads
 Surrey Championship
 Away KO TBC

Fours and B XV TBA

Final 1st XV home match
Saturday 29 April
1st XV v Ampthill
 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

Blaydon away

With no match over the Easter weekend Park have two weeks to re-group, and hope for some good news from the physio room, before the final away match at Blaydon on Saturday week. That will be another tough one, as the Northumberland club are battling with Hull for survival in National One. Hull's celebrations at their win at the Rock last Saturday will have been slightly dampened by the news of Blaydon's 43-40 away win at Cambridge, with a late try having spent the closing minutes camped out on the home line. It brought a four-try bonus point to take them within two points of Hull, and was only their second away win of the season.

At their home ground Blaydon are an altogether tougher prospect, as we have found to our cost on many occasions past. We are now 7 points behind Coventry and so need to win to have any chance of finishing fifth, and are nine ahead of Blackheath in the tussle to be the top London club in National 1. But more than that we owe it to ourselves, and to the integrity of the League, to give it everything we have.

Please do come along and add your vocal support if you can. Newcastle is the nearest station, for where you can get a bus or taxi to the ground from just outside the main entrance. Please do bear in mind when making your arrangements that it's a 2:30 kick off.

Our final match in the League this season is on April 29 when we face another really tough battle against Ampt Hill who are currently in third place in the league, ten points behind Plymouth Albion and five ahead of Birmingham Moseley. The Amps, who have strong links with Saracens, will clearly be 'up' for it, while Park will be looking to sign off in style. It should be a terrific match to end the fifteen-a-side season, so please do come along and bring your friends.

Floodlit Sevens

Whilst the Ampt Hill match brings down the curtain on League rugby this season it is most certainly not the end of entertainment at the Rock this season as we still have that wonderful festive evening that is the London Floodlit Sevens, and this year's line up looks like one of the strongest for years.

This year's staging of takes place on Thursday 04 May, kicking off at 5:00PM, with the final at 10:20PM. Teams due to participate include Harlequins, Bath, Wasps, Worcester Warriors, Gloucester Rugby, London Irish, Esher, Loughborough University and the sevens specialist sides of The Army, Rambling Jesters and Seventy7s 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 to buy your tickets on the tournament website at www.londonfloodlitsevns.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.

Rosslyn Park 29

Hull Ionians 30

National 1

A match in which the lead changed hands six times ended with the visitors a point ahead thanks to a 70th minute penalty by Hull scrum half Isaac Green. Park out-scored Ionians by four tries to three, played some glorious running rugby in the backs but, struggling with injuries, were undone by their visitors' superiority in the tight.



Andy Reay puts Park ahead with 12 minutes remaining... [Match photos by David Whittam]

Green put Hull ahead on 4 minutes with a penalty.

Park replied with a super try from scrum half Jack Gash three minutes later, following up a kick through, to take a 5-3 lead, only for Green to strike another penalty on 12 minutes to pinch back the lead at 6-3.



Three minutes later full-back Henry Robinson's brilliant dummy saw him dash through to score, fly half Harry Leonard's conversion giving Park a 12-6 advantage.

However, if Park didn't already have enough trouble in the treatment room, skipper and number 8 Hugo Ellis limped off to join the injury list.

On 26 minutes the Hull pack drove over, Falkingham claiming the try, Green converting in-off-the post, to snatch back the lead at 13-12.

On the stroke of half time Leonard grabbed a first half lead of 15-13 for Park with a well-struck penalty following a period of intense pressure.

A bright start to the second half saw full back Andrew Henderson increase the lead to 22-13 with another good effort, con-



HARLEQUINS | BATH | LONDON IRISH | BRISTOL
WORCESTER WARRIORS | GLOUCESTER RUGBY
THE ARMY | LOUGHBOROUGH UNI | SEVENTY7S
RAMBLING JESTERS | ESHER | ROSSLYN PARK

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verted by Leonard for 22-13 after 50 minutes.

But Hull broke back, firstly on 55 minutes they drove back the home pack almost at will to close the gap then, four minutes later, winger Sam Wilson was not picked up by Park's defence and cruised over. Both tries were converted by Green for a 27-22 lead for Hull.



Park were not winning enough ball for their attacking superiority to tell, but on 68 minutes centre Andy Reay delivered, Leonard converting to recover a slender 29-27 lead.

It proved not to be enough when Green's penalty bisected the posts to win the match for Hull Ionians inside the last 10 minutes.

Rossllyn Park Forwards Coach, Kieran Power, said, "It was a disappointing result for us as a group as we let ourselves down in performing some of the basic skills and keeping control of our own possession.



"A lot of credit has to go to Hull, who played a very spirited and territory-driven game which kept us pinned in our half on numerous occasions. Ultimately that, with our own ill discipline, enabled them to come away with a very important win for them in their relegation battle.

"For us know we have to dust ourselves down and strip everything back before we travel to Blaydon, who are fighting for their lives - and if we don't buck up our ideas in certain areas of the game it could lead to another tough day at office".

Park: Robinson; Crane, Henderson, Barnes, Kohler; Leonard; Gash; Nwakor, Vaughan-Edwards, Lovell; Inglis, Spivey; Frampton, Taggart, Ellis

Bench: Hughes, Wade, Hudson, Brand, Reay

Park scorers: Gash (T), Robinson (T), Henderson (T), Reay (T), Leonard (P, 3C).

Clubsides

Will Thorogood reports firstly, thanks to the Hatters and Nomads for the hospitality shown at the Club Dinner on Saturday evening.

Saturday was a day of mixed fortunes, with success and disappointing defeat after a lot hard work through the season.

I don't have details of the course of the game, but I understand the 4's were narrowly pipped, 27-22, by Millfield Badgers, our tenants, in the MMT2 Final at Staines RFC.

The Hatters went to Tonbridge Juddians in the Zoo Sports 3 Play-Off Semi-Final. News filtered back of a hard fought victory, 31-25. Headgear worn, pith-helmets, bonnets, caps and rasta-wigs returned from Kent, and the merriment began at the clubhouse.

No doubt a report will be forthcoming, but the Hatters will play Richmond Normans in the final on the 22nd April at home? Details to be confirmed, however. Well done.

The Nomads, after their South African travels, had to travel up to Richmond Park for the Surrey Championship game against Farnham 2's. Farnham, unfortunately, wouldn't agree to a midday kick off so that the game could be played on the 4G as a curtain raiser to the 1's. Richmond Park was novel experience for some of the Nomads, because some of them hadn't actually play in the High Veld conditions of Deer Poo Park this season.

The Nomads were straight out of the starting blocks and had quickly established a comfortable lead, but Farnham responded and caught up with the Nomads, to 19-all. However, despite the heat and both sides dehydrating, the Nomads put on a spurt and had a 36-19 advantage at half-time.

Farnham tried to keep it tight in the second half, but the Nomads mixed their physicality up front with speed out wide, and by the final whistle had gained a 57-19 advantage.

Tonbridge Juddians 25

Hatters 31

Zoo Sports play-off semi-final

by David Beale

With the hottest day of the year came the Hatters' best performance in recent memory and a nice bit of sunburn to top it all off. Against a team whose 1st and 2nd XVs have lost only 3 league games combined this season the Hatters knew this would be the hardest game of the season. With TJ 1st XV securing the National 3 title on the adjacent pitch, TJ 2nd XV were looking to add to the glory by securing their place in the play-off final.



Match photos courtesy of Tonbridge Juddians

With 5 minutes on the clock it looked as if it would indeed be TJs playing Richmond in the final after one of the TJ outside backs cantered home out wide after good hands against an awakening Hatters' defence. Conversion missed. 5-0 TJ. The Hatters were

square after their first real attack produced a deft grubber and after a questionable pick up AA eventually bundled over. So confused must the ref have been seeing Harrow old boy and hooker Wigley using his foot he must have switched his rules to those of Harrow Football – *"Harrow Football is a gentleman's game. Ideally, there are no penalties and the game is never stopped, if it can be helped, while the ball is in play. Rules must therefore be kept for the sake of conscience, and the benefit of the doubt is habitually given to the opposition."* Conversion missed, 5-5.



TJs then started to build up phase after phase with their No. 8 and strike runners ploughing the Hatters' defensive line. Thankfully the back row trio of Ward, Kinsky and Mills returned each attack, often with interest. One phase too many and TJs were able to scurry over out wide for a 10-5 lead to TJ.

The Hatters picked up the intensity after 20 minutes with the set plays being executed perfectly and after good yards were made by the likes of Henry and Owen Davies, scrum half Longers was able to snipe over from close out. Confusingly after both touch judges raised their flags the ref decided that the kick had in fact sailed wide, 10-10. Momentum continued to swing for the remainder of the first half with TJs responding immediately to score another only for the Hatters to crash back with Kinsky touching down after a well worked line-out. Half time and a 15-17 lead to the Hatters with TJs down to 14 men for repeated infringements.

Knowing the first score after half-time would be crucial and with a man advantage the Hatters decided to make things harder than they needed by gifting TJs a try after some disjointed attacking saw a turnover and the ball being spread to their left winger who went over unopposed. Converted and a 22-17 lead to TJs.

With 14 men on the pitch TJs launched another counter resulting in a penalty in front of the sticks which took the lead to 8 points, 25-17.



The new interpretation of a high tackle saw fly half Crawford questionably sent to the bin and with 8 points down and with 14 men the Hatters' could easily have fallen away but stepped up and used the well-functioning set pieces to batter the TJs defence which saw Longers pick and step a couple of players for his second of the day. With Crawford off Longers converted his own kick, 25-24 to TJs.

Helped by TJs losing their hard running No. 8 to the sin bin and with glory so close, the Hatters launched a final minute attack from their own half with sub Mason stepping and beating 3 defenders before a series of offloads found substitute prop Rory rampaging through, seemingly desperate to finish this game and get into the shade. The ball found Porter who Porter'd it (To Porter it – definition: decide against using the overlap / easier option to score) and beat the 15 to score under the sticks with what looked like the last play. Converted and a 31-25 lead with seconds to play.

The ref confirmed the kick off would be the last play so the Hatters caught the restart and the ball found itself in touch, only for the ref to decide that he actually fancied giving TJ a final throw of the dice and the line out would need to be taken. TJs caught well and started a powerful maul only for the biggest Hatters' pack of the season to stand the maul up which finally saw a scrum awarded and the final whistle blown.

For those of us who have been with the Hatters a long time, that will go down as the best performance for years with every player putting in a serious shift. Men of the match went to Henry for countless charges and surviving a Samoan clothes-line, to Longers for his 2 tries and to Wilson for an excellent defensive display in the centres. The play-off final awaits against Richmond Normans in 2 weeks....

Slingbacks take on Snowdonia Challenge

Four Slingbacks are undertaking the Snowdonia Charity Challenge 2017 to raise money for Regain. Slingback Camilla Brue-ton told Parknews, "Annab, Annaw, Alice and myself are taking part in the Snowdonia Charity Challenge 2017 to raise money for Regain- a charity that supports people who have become paralysed due to sporting accidents.



"We're busy fundraising and training for the challenge- this weekend 3 of us (myself, Alice and Annaw) cycled to Hove to get some miles in the saddle, and catch up with [fellow Slingback] Flipflop Cat Bradley - who lives there.

"See the picture of us after we'd climbed Ditchling Beacon. I think the smiles are relief- we thought it was going to be down hill from then onwards..

"Support us and find out more here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/3flipflopsandaslingbackcyclesalesnowdonandcanoe>

Rex Booth

Simon Booth (no relation to David) contacted the Club to say his father Rex, who played for us in the fifties, has died aged 86. If anyone reading this either played with Rex or knew him and would like information about funeral arrangements Simon's number is 07939 274347.

National 1 Review

Champions **Hartpury** stretched their lead at the top to fully 30 points with a 32-14 win away to fourth-placed **Birmingham Moseley**.

In the match between the second and third placed clubs, **Plymouth Albion** had a tight 19-14 home win over **Amphill** that seems to establish the pecking order. **Coventry** could yet grab fourth place as their massive 73-8 win at **Old Albanian** sees them only two points adrift of **Birmingham Moseley**.

We may be disappointed in sixth place but the two points secured against **Hull Ionians** gives us a nine point margin over neighbours **Blackheath** who became only the fourth side to lose to relegated **Macclesfield**, who won by a tidy 24-12.

Darlington Mowden Park complete the top half of the table after a 66-22 thrashing of **Fylde** who are enduring a nightmare end to their season and are still not mathematically clear of relegation.

Esher, by contrast, are enjoying an Indian summer which continued with a 38-37 away win at **Loughborough**. **Blaydon** kept their hopes of survival alive with a bonus-point away win at **Cambridge** by 43-40.

The demise of London Welsh means no one will be relegated from the Championship this season. **Caldy** became the first club to gain certain promotion to National 1 with a 28-26 win over **Sale**, who finish runners-up in Two North and will go into a play-off against the runners-up in Two South. **Bishops Stortford** look like emerging as Champions in that division, enjoying a seven-point lead over joint runners-up **Old Elthamians** and **Chinnor**.

Matches for 15 April

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

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 regularly. However, the coming weekend being Easter there will be no Parknews next week. 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	27	27	-	-	3	52
Adam Frampton	25	25	-	-	5	15
Harry Leonard	25	24	1	3	-	255
Mark Kohler	25	24	1	3	1	35
Hugo Ellis	24	23	1	1	3	30
Henry Robinson	22	21	1	1	2	35
Russell Weir	20	18	8	6	7	20
Ali Wade	20	9	11	12	7	20
Stewart Maguire	19	17	2	2	13	25
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	8	9	10	1	10
Mo Nwakor	16	9	7	8	6	-
Paul Spivey	16	15	1	1	6	-
James Inglis	16	13	3	3	2	-
Charlie Piper	15	12	3	3	7	25
Richard Boyle	14	9	5	5	6	-
Andy Reay	14	11	3	4	4	15
Jack Gash	13	8	5	6	8	10
Ollie Grove	12	7	5	4	4	-
Nick Lovell	12	7	5	5	2	-
Scott Sneddon	11	8	3	3	4	93
Will Crow	11	4	7	10	3	-
S.Aspland-Robinson	11	11	-	-	2	5
Josh Owens	11	11	-	-	2	5
Harry Hudson	11	9	2	2	3	30
Harry Broadbent	10	6	4	4	4	-
Adam Bellamy	10	5	5	6	5	10
Josh Watkins	9	7	2	1	2	10
Rory Brand	9	4	5	5	1	25
David Vincent	7	7	-	-	1	10
Dom Morris	6	6	-	-	1	15
Toby Berridge	6	5	1	1	-	-
Rhys Crane	6	5	1	1	3	10
Frank Taggart	5	2	3	3	-	-
Todd Gleave	4	3	1	1	3	10
Alexis Ziana Montout	4	-	4	4	-	5
Adam Field	3	3	-	1	1	-
Dan Barnes	3	3	-	-	-	-
Henry Spencer	2	1	1	1	1	-
Will Bowley	1	-	1	1	-	-
Fergus Farrell	1	-	1	1	-	-
Conor McGrath	1	-	1	1	-	-
Owen Hughes	-	-	-	1	-	-

1st XV Points scorers 2016-17

	Points
Harry Leonard	255
Scott Sneddon	93
Andrew Henderson	52
Mark Kohler	35
Henry Robinson	35
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
Andy Reay	15
Tom Vaughan-Edwards	10
Jamie Harries	10
Adam Bellamy	10
Ed Milne	10
Todd Gleave	10
David Vincent	10
Rhys Crane	10
Jack Gash	10
Sam Aspland-Robinson	5
Mark Lilley	5
Alexis Ziana Montout	5
Josh Owens	5

Kicking

Harry Leonard	140 points
66 out of 80 conversions	
36 out of 45 penalties	
Accuracy Percentage	81.60%

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	57	34
Away	42	42
Total	99	76
First half	49	42
Second half	50	34
Minutes		
0-20	22	16
20-40	27	27
40-60	20	17
60-80	30	18

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	99	76
Backs	52	45
Forwards	43	27
Full back	10	5
Wingers	16	17
Centres	11	12
Half backs	15	11
Front row	22	8
Second row	3	6
Back row	18	13
Penalty tries	4	4

Average home attendance	614 (5th in league)
Average away attendance	568 (6th in league)