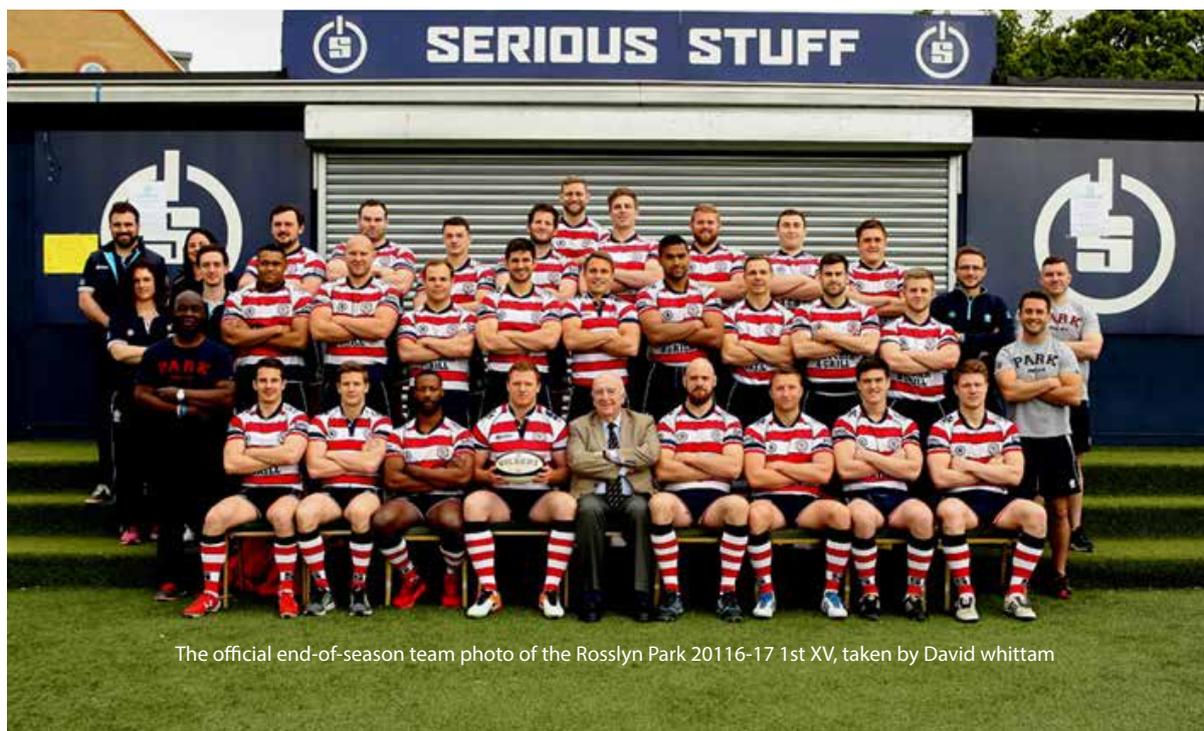




The e-Magazine for Rosslyn Park Supporters - Issue 01 2017/18 - 03 May 2017

PARK TO TAKE ON CHAMPIONSHIP SIDES



The official end-of-season team photo of the Rosslyn Park 2016-17 1st XV, taken by David Whittam

Welcome to Parknews. The players have certainly been thrown down a stiff challenge in terms of our pre-season practice matches, with two games against Championship sides. First up, at the Rock, are London Scottish on Saturday 12 August, kicking off at 3:00PM. Scots have strengthened their squad for the coming season, not least with the acquisition of Ed Milne who has decided to test himself at Championship level.

Next up, on Saturday 19 August we travel to Hartpury who played unbeaten throughout last season to stake their place in the Championship. That will be a really difficult match: even though we played well against them in both matches last season, we still couldn't beat them! Then on Friday evening 25 August we play at home to London Irish Wild Geese, who are likely to bring along some familiar faces. Their forwards are coached by Lee Starling and the backs by Pete Hodgkinson, while Harry Rowland joined last season as a player / coach.

We shall need to hit the ground running when League rugby re-starts on Saturday 2nd September. National 1 is going to be even tougher at the top this year and we simply cannot afford to repeat last year's nightmare start if we are to be knocking at the door anywhere near the top.

We are not the only side who face playing off a reduced budget this season; financial reality and the persistent lack of support for National One rugby from the RFU has affected many clubs. We have punched above our weight before and can do so again. But the sort of money Coventry - for instance - are able to lay out is simply beyond us at this stage. While income from our 4G pitch still has to go primarily to repay the generous Members who loaned the money

Next Fixtures

Saturday 12 August

1st XV v London Scottish

Practice Match
Home KO 3:00PM

Saturday 19 August

Hartpury v 1st XV

Practice Match
Away KO 3:00PM

Friday 25 August

1st XV v London Irish Wild Geese

Practice Match
Home 7:45PM

Saturday 02 September

First League match (TBA)

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

Parknews

it is really important that supporters get behind the Club's fundraising and sponsorship initiatives as far as they can afford.

Money worries are certainly not the first concern of Old Elthamians, who won the play-off at Sale to clinch the final promotion place in National 1 for next season. Their 19-14 win was actually a bit more clear-cut than the score suggests, Sale scoring their only try in the last minute. The OEs team includes our former prop Aaron Liffchak.

They are very much on an upward curve, a wealthy benefactor having apparently said that his ambition is for them to become the first 'Old Boys' club to reach the Premiership. They will shortly hear from Bromley Council whether they have planning permission for a £4 million development at the 60 acre Eltham College site that includes a 4G pitch, a 500-seater grandstand and a major upgrade of the Clubhouse. They have made it quite clear that they intend to hit National 1 running, and that their ambitions do not stop there.

Money matters

This is perhaps an apposite moment to mention a couple of things that would really help your Club during the close season, when the bills are still coming in but cash flow is greatly reduced.

Firstly, if you are a Member, please do pay your subs on time (they're due on 1st June). If you don't already pay by direct debit please consider doing so as it considerably reduces admin hassle. If you are not already a Member, please consider becoming one - as well as free admission (or reduced admission depending upon which category you choose) it gives you a say and a vote in how your club is run.

Hiring out our facilities, whether the pitch or Clubhouse, is a really useful source of close season income. If you know anyone who might be interested, be it a birthday party, a one-off match or a whole rugby tournament, then please pass on the details to Dom Shabbo in the club office (020 8876 6044).

Sponsorship is another key area of income. If everyone who reads this could find us just one sponsor (there is a wide range of packages on the website) then it would make an amazing difference to the Club's finances. Sponsoring The Park is a very cost effective way of promoting a business to our very loyal supporters and friends. We will be publishing full details of our 2017/18 sponsorship opportunities shortly.

Player Sponsorship

In the meantime, details of the very popular individual player sponsorship have just been released (see the flyer on this page). Again, Dom is the one to contact.

The following players are already re-signed and available for sponsorship. This is **not** a definitive list of the squad for next season. It does not include new signings, which will be announced nearer the start of the season when all have been completed. Nor does it include players from last season's squad who, for whatever reason, have yet to re-sign. But it does give an opportunity to get in quick to sponsor those who have already put pen to paper:

Dan Barnes
Adam Bellamy
Richard Boyle
Rhys Crane
Will Crow
Alfie Dudman-Jones
Hugo Ellis
Adam Frampton
Jamie Gray
Ollie Grove
Callum Hagggett
Jamie Harries
Andrew Henderson
Harry Hudson
Owen Hughes

ROSSLYN PARK Player Sponsorship 2017/18



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 1st XV home game of your choice

Cost: £300 + VAT per player

CONTACT

DOM SHABBO
Commercial Director
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Email: dom.shabbo@rosslynpark.co.uk
Rosslyn Park FC, Priory Lane, Upper Richmond Road,
Roehampton, London SW15 5JH



Harry Leonard
Nick Lovell
Stewart Maguire
Connor McGrath
Huw Morgan
Maurice Nwakor
Josh Ovens
Henry Robinson
Henry Spencer
Paul Spivey
Frank Taggart
Tom Vaughan-Edwards
Ali Wade
Josh Watkins
Russell Weir

The following additional players have also already been signed on an EAP dual-registration / loan basis:

Jacob Atkins
Rory Brand
Jack Cooke
Ollie Hassel-Collins
Matt Williams

Floodlit 7s

The London Floodlit 7s was won by Worcester Warriors, defeating fellow Premiership side Harlequins by 33-7 in the final. Park won their group to reach the semifinal but Worcester proved just too strong for them at that stage, prevailing by 33-7.

In their Group matches, Park beat The Army - who went on to win the bowl - by 21-14 and then London Irish by 26-5 to qualify for the semi-final. In addition to Worcester (who beat Gloucester 28-19 after losing to Loughborough by 31-28 in their first match) and Harlequins (28-17 winners over Esher and 40-0 over Bristol) the other semi-finalist were Rambling Jesters who beat Seventy 7s by 40-14 and Bath University by 19-7.

Clubsides

The Clubsides' Social 7s - excellently organised by Will Scott - provided a Friday evening full of entertainment, good rugby and a su-

per way of starting the weekend. The tournament was won by Kew Occasionals. With the gar open, Butcher & Grill running a barbecue, added to free admission this is certainly a night for everyone's diary next year.

Slingbacks

The Slingbacks held a Ball last Saturday to mark their 20th Anniversary - quite a party by all accounts. They took the opportunity to combine it with their end-of-season awards.



Winger and, latterly emergency full-back **Anja Grant** (pictured left) won the award for the most consistent player and most improved player.

Full-back-cum-Centre **Danielle Williams** was named as the Coach's player of the year.

Players' Player of the year went to the evergreen **Chrisie Ovenden**, who consistently sets the standard in terms of both excellence and commitment.

Amanda Burton won best newcomer in a competitive field.

Top scorer was powerful winger **Robyn Gordon**.



Slingbacks Club Captain **Esther King** (pictured above) was recognised for her efforts on and off the field by being awarded the Jo Starling Cup for services to the Slingbacks, received from Julia Daffy (who is in both photos).



And last but not least, **Elizabeth Delves**, won a special lifetime achievement award for playing in each of the Slingbacks 20 seasons. Diz missed the awards because she's in the States, but former Slingback Louise 'Potter' Stewart - who flew the other way across the Atlantic to be with her old mates - gladly accepted the award on her behalf.

ROSSLYN PARK RUGBY CAMPS

MON 21ST AUG TO FRI 25TH AUG 2017

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 £160 FOR 5 DAYS

ELITE CAMP

U12s to U16s

COACHED BY
NIC ROUSE
 (ex London Irish & Sale Sharks)

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

£200 FOR 5 DAYS

TO BOOK

Call: 0208 8766044
 Email: dom.shabbo@rosslynpark.co.uk

ROSSLYN PARK

ROSSLYN PARK FC, PRIORITY LANE
 UPPER RICHMOND ROAD
 ROEHAMPTON
 LONDON SW15 5JH

Academy Training Camps

We will be holding our regular Academy Training Camps in late August. Ideal for pre-season preparation, we are pleased to announce that Nic Rouse will be running our Elite Camp this summer. Please get your bookings in as soon as possible, details on the flyer above, or just ring Dom Shabbo in the Club Office.

Red Card

Supporters will recall that Will Crow was red carded for allegedly stamping on an opponent at a ruck in our final match against Ampthill. Although the incident looked not much more than traditional rucking, having reviewed the video it was decided to plead guilty rather than go to the expense and trouble of a formal appeal. The case was decided by paper submissions. The lower end penalty for 'stamping' under the RFU disciplinary code is 4 weeks. The Club would never condone 'stamping' but it would appear from the verdict of just one week's suspension that the disciplinary committee themselves found this a 'grey area' and were not entirely convinced of the decision to award red. He missed one Surrey County game and so will be available from the start of next season.



BORNE FROM THE USA

All good things come to an end, and by the time this Parknews hits the website the Slingbacks' American star, Tammie Sebelius, will have returned to her native Boston, Massachusetts. If Tammie's joining Rosslyn Park was an accident then it was a happy one all round.

She recalled "I played at Wasps with Nic Smith and Jo Emslie and through them met a few of the Slingbacks and then ended up playing some Rugby League with the Chargers, so got to know a few more of the girls. After rupturing my PCL I decided not to return to Rugby but then on a late October day this past autumn I went to watch the (Park) men's first XV and found myself agreeing to be a sub for the girls the next day. Watching and playing with the girls I sensed that they played not to be the best for themselves but to give their best for the team. It's a very supportive and nurturing attitude within the team and I was drawn to the opportunity to help the newer players grow".

It was work that brought her to London in the first place, via Switzerland, working for an organisation that brings North American students and teachers on educational tours. She worked in the US for 5 years before moving, "to Lucerne to manage support teams from the European head office. When I started talking about moving back to Boston they offered me a role managing the Regional Office in London".

Always a keen sportsperson, she played soccer from the age of 6, as well as basketball and softball through most of her adolescence. ("I also danced - ballet, tap and jazz - for about 10 years"). Tammie played Rugby for 4 years at Colby College, "but never managed to pick it up again until I moved to Lucerne, Switzerland 6 years ago where I played for the local team called the Dangels".

Player availability with the Slingbacks has led to Tammie being more than a little versatile. "I am always happy to play where I'm needed, but I played blindside flanker for 3 years with my Swiss team and I loved it as I tend to be a more defensive player - I love making tackles and actually enjoying running into contact offensively. However, when the scrum is solid and you can pick it up at the back of the scrum then 8 can be really fun."

A solid tackler, her emergency call-up to play scrum half demonstrated she also possessed some deft ball skills. "I do tend to think of myself as a bit of a workhorse - I like to tackle and I love contact so I often see my role often as creating space to give others a chance to run".

That game - at Reading - saw her stretchered off with what looked like a serious neck injury which caused the match to be abandoned. Her popularity with her team-mates could be gathered from the spontaneous cheer and chorus of "Born in the USA" on the returning team bus when news came from the hospital that it was less serious than feared.

Did she have any qualms about coming back after that injury? "I would have loved to be back on the pitch the next weekend but I've learned, especially as I've gotten older, to respect the physios, to listen to their advice and focus on strengthening the injured body part before returning. That allows you to return with confidence and that is so important: I believe when you

play with hesitancy that is when you are more likely to get injured".

If that was the worst of her Park memories, what are her best? "Scoring a try in the last game was really memorable but I loved what the Park shirt represented to me - that regardless of the score, we played our best, we supported one another, and we remained positive".

She is clear about her key Rugby influences, "There was a South African guy named Tony who used to come to our games when I was in college and we convinced him to come coach the ladies team. After two years going from wing to flanker to the centres and even a bit of full-back, he told me he wanted me to play 8. He gave me a rule book and told me to learn it and he was incredibly supportive. I captained the team during my last year at school to a record 19 wins with 1 loss and three titles - New England, Northeast and Beast of the East Champions. Also, my captain when I played in Lucerne was older than me and still gave everything and more each game, her drive and the way she bounced back up from each hit really inspired me".

Those who know and love the Slingbacks will be surprised at her response when asked about the differences between UK and USA in women's Rugby: "I really only played rugby in college in the US but there was a lot more singing - we played on Saturday and would get a keg of beer to drink with the other team and there would always be a lot of singing and boat races". More than the Slingbacks!!!? Wow!



Tammie with the ball: "I loved what the Park shirt represented to me - that regardless of the score, we played our best, we supported one another, and we remained positive".



Tammie is leaving a Slingbacks side still in a period of transition and with a lot of young and inexperienced players - does she see a brighter future them? "Absolutely, as the newer players gain more experience they will become a force to be reckoned with and will complement an already strong core of great rugger. I've heard good things about the future coaching staff as well so I'm excited for them all".

Has she enjoyed her time with Park? "Massively". And next time she is in London, "I'll be sure to get back to the Rock".

For her, parting with her Slingback mates is a bittersweet moment but, "It's been 6 years abroad now, 3 in Switzerland and now 3 in London. I miss my family and friends and want to play a bigger role in the lives of my young nephews which has been challenging to do from overseas. I've found a great new role within the company that will allow me to be based in Boston but with some European travel so you never know when I might turn up!"

She knows she will always be welcome at the Rock. In the meantime we'll miss her smashing tackles and, just as much, her smashing personality.

Breakfast with the Lions

Would you like to support The Lions in a real rugby atmosphere? Then come down to The Rock and watch all the Lions tests in the club house. We will be serving breakfast from 8am - 10am @ just £15 for a full breakfast including coffee and a pint of your choice. If you want breakfast then you will need to pre-order and pay through the club office. Contact Boothy, email: boothyda@hotmail.com or call on 020 8876 6044 to place your order.

Bart Woodall

We are sad to learn from Richard Woodall, son of Bart Woodall a former Club Captain and Vice President, that Bart has passed away aged 87.

Another Park International



Former Rosslyn Park Mini Player and son of former Hatters Captain and No 9 Nick Ford represented France in the London leg of the International Sevens on Saturday. Nick, a proud and very vocal Welshman had to come to terms with the fact that Matthew scored against the Welsh team in the Semi Final of the Challenge Trophy... Matthew's previous visit to Twickenham was in 1999 when he played for the Rosslyn Park Minis U9s team that won the National Prudential Minis Tournament that year. He was part of a squad that were unbeaten for the season securing the Surrey A and B, and Middlesex A and B Tournaments. The squad also included Will Collier who will be touring Argentina with England this summer and former England Sevens player, Christian Lewis-Pratt. Matthew is the player third from right in the front row. Nick's International career included the legendary Rosslyn Park Hatters "Cosmic Consciousness" Tours to Den Helder and Amsterdam in the mid 1980s.



ED: this information was kindly supplied by Dave Hitchcock. I think I recognise a couple of faces among the Coaches at the back!!

400 Club - more winners

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. The winners for the end of season May draw are Lindi Lawrence £400, Peter Smith £200 and Philip Ingman £100.

New signings

The club has been active in signing new players, but as is the usual policy we shall not be releasing names until everything is settled nearer the start of the season. Rest assured that we shall tell supporters through our own communications before issuing press releases, and will not be commenting on rumours. However, not commenting on rumours is no reason not to start one and the Editor is sure that when details are released everyone will be delighted at the return to the Rock of a former favourite. There's one to talk about in the pub!

Readers' Letters

The close season is always a barren time for news, so it is always even more welcome this time of year to receive readers' letters. If you have something you'd like to get off your chest then please let's hear from you. The only items we ever censor are criticisms of individuals or items so clearly libellous that even President Trump would balk at saying them.

Fixtures for next season

The Editor has seen a copy of the draft fixtures for next season, but they are at this stage only out with clubs for comment. Our NCA Representative, Club President Bob Evans, has asked that they not be given publicity yet as there could be significant changes, and it is as well to respect that. They don't usually change, because making one change tends to have a domino effect, but I do have personal experience of the perils of making that assumption, having once booked a holiday to avoid a trip to Blaydon only to miss a local derby instead - and still ended up going to Blaydon on one of the coldest days of the year!

However, if the draft fixtures remain unchanged, then our season will open on Saturday 2nd September with a visit to Old Albanian, followed by a cracking home local Derby against Blackheath the following Saturday. For away supporters, for whom the booking of advance tickets at the cheapest possible rate is an act of faith, then at the moment the first scheduled long-distance event is scheduled for 30 September at Fylde.

As soon as the fixtures are rubber stamped, we'll bring out a Parknews - even if that is the only item. It's likely to be close to the beginning of June.

Away travel

Cheap advance rail tickets should go on sale within the next week for the match at Hartpury on August 19. Gloucester (from London Paddington) is the place to book to. Legend has it that there is a bus service from there to Hartpury College, but our 'regulars' have never discovered it and rely on getting a cab. If you are travelling alone, you will almost certainly find some friendly faces in the Fountain Inn (53 Westgate Street - opens 11:00) with a view to cab sharing. At the moment we believe KO is 3:00PM, but Hartpury sometimes kick off at 14:30 so don't leave it too late!

Next Parknews

Parknews generally appears on the Club website some time between Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons every week during the season. We are now in close season mode, during which time Parknews will appear whenever there is anything significant to report, so just remember to look out for it on the Club website on a regular basis. 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.